



Minnesota Lamb & Wool  
Producers Association

# Shepherds' Bulletin

Winter 2003

## MLWPA Officers

President – Gene Holmquist (507) 853-4409  
1st VP - Jeremy Geske (952) 758-7938  
2nd VP - Foster Mooney (651) 257-5079  
Treasurer - Jean Stark 320-251-4237  
Secretary - Julie Sievert (507) 834-6851

## MLWPA Regional Directors

North East - Sherry Stirling 651-257-0827  
North West – Tom Scepaniak (320) 573-2641  
West Central – Mike Haubrich (320) 826-2526  
South West - Doug Mathias (507) 376-9665  
South East - Robin Schmidt (507) 377-1045  
Metro - Patricia Anderson (952) 447-4148

## Satellite Association Contacts

### *Cannon Valley Sheep Producers*

Karen Geske (952) 758-7938

### *Crow River Lamb & Wool Producers*

George Mead (763) 682-4626

### *Des Moines Valley Lamb & Wool*

Gene Holmquist (507) 853-4409

### *Minnesota Hampshire Association*

Jim Hickman (763) 682-3519

### *South East Minnesota Sheep Producers*

Todd Schmidt (507) 377-1045

### *Upper Midwest Dynamic Dorsets*

Deric Sievert (507) 834-6851

### *West Central Sheep Producers*

Judy Johnston (320) 589-1243

## MLWPA Web Address:

**www.mlwp.org**

## Presidents Scrubbings – by Gene Holmquist

It must be time to lamb as the cold weather is coming with the weatherman saying it is going to be below zero. I don't know if we can take the cold as most all of December & January had been in the 40's & 50's.

I want to convey my thanks to Jeremy Geske for taking charge of the winter conference. Also thank you to all sponsors and vendors for their help in making the conference a success. I hope all that came enjoyed the speakers and hope to see an even better attendance November 21 & 22. Plans for the next conference include a lamb cooking demonstration. Jeremy and I would appreciate any ideas you may have for speakers or topics for the November conference.

The 2004 conference is scheduled for Mankato on November 19 & 20. The 2005 conference is scheduled for November 18 & 19. Locations we are considering include Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Shooting Star Casino at Mahnomen. Please let me know your preference at [mod51@frontiernet.net](mailto:mod51@frontiernet.net)

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Association extend our sincere thanks for the years of service Mike Haubrich and Sheryl Hoffman provided as president and treasurer.

If any past or present members and board members have any articles to add to the history of the association, contact Mike Caskey or Dick Boniface. They will be compiling a history of the association.

Anyone having ideas for the youth division should contact Don Drewry ([drewry@pclink.com](mailto:drewry@pclink.com)). You would also need to contact Don for scholarship forms.

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**Presidents Scrubbings (continued)**

Roger Karstens attended the Governor's breakfast on behalf of Minnesota Lamb and Wool. He asked that we contact our legislators to for assistance in the livestock industry.

The Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers are members of the Minnesota Livestock Breeder Association (MLBA). What is this association and why are we members? We work together to make things known to the legislators and the University of Minnesota. At the last meeting, Dr, Charles Muscoplat apologized for not contacting MLWPA and the MLBA prior to making the livestock cuts, but it cost the U of M \$250,000 to haul

manure. He had to look at all agricultural programs and more people are interested in turf grass than livestock. MLBA handles the livestock auction at the State Fair and administers the Lyle Lamphere & McKerrow scholarships. If you have someone looking for a scholarship, please feel free to contact me. The MLBA also conducts training for the judges for county fairs and works with the 4-H & FFA livestock programs. This year's judging conference is for swine. Winners in F.F.A. for sheep proficiency and market lamb included Matthew Weyschield of Staples/Motley and Corey Thompson of Mable/Canton. Three other programs MLBA assists with are the Minnesota Ag Academy, Barn Tours at the state fair, and Ag in the Classroom.

***Friends of the Minnesota Sheep Industry***

For only \$25, your local businesses, banks, cooperatives, feed stores and other businesses can help the sheep growing community in Minnesota. Friends of the Minnesota Sheep Industry will receive a certificate they can display showing their support of the sheep industry. In addition, they will receive the MLWPA Newsletter, and will be listed in the membership directory.



**FRIEND OF THE MINNESOTA SHEEP INDUSTRY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Web-site Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Make \$25 check payable to MLWPA & Mail to:  
MLWPA  
C/o Patty Anderson  
4145 200th St. E.  
Prior Lake, MN 55372**

## MLWPA Annual Conference & Trade Show a Success

The 2002 MLWPA Annual Conference was held in Rochester, MN at the Kaehler Hotel on December 6 and 7. Approximately 100 producers attended the event, which featured speakers on a wide variety of sheep management topics, a trade show, and awards presentations.

Friday's highlights included: *Farm Bill 2002* – Larry Bremer, FSA; *Prevention & Control of Coccidiosis and Pneumonia in Lambs* – Dr. Larry Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic, *Marketing Your Product* – Mike Caskey and Dale Carter, Pipestone Program; a wool panel discussion; and a producer panel on seasonal lambing. Guy Flora, ASI Vice-President, was the keynote speaker at the Banquet. John Goelz even had brand new jokes for this year's auction.

Saturday's highlights included: *Scrapie Update* – Dr. Cindy Wolf; *Increasing Ewe Productivity and reducing Feed Costs* – Dr. Dave Thomas, University of Wisconsin; the annual business meeting, the Silver Bell Luncheon, and *Ask the Vet* – Dr. Paula Holthus, Animal Medical Center.

Thanks to the Kaehler hotel for having us, and to all the people who helped make the conference a huge success: Steven Read for helping me plan and coordinate the conference, Todd and Robin Schmidt and SEMSPA for helping with registration, the Cannon Valley Sheep Producers who helped with the auction, the MLWP board members for all their work, Gene Holmquist for coordinating the trade show, all the sponsors, all the speakers who didn't charge us much, and anyone else whom I've forgotten.

We would like to thank all of the contributors and vendors for helping make the conference and trade show a success:

BIG GAIN INC. Jerry Treptow, B & B VET SUPPLY Ken Bicak & Deb Shambour, MN AGR'L STATISTICS SERVICE Kerry Sickman, ADM Leo Windschitl, ELLISON SHEEP FARM Nancy Ellison, THE SHEPHERD MAGAZINE Guy Flora, JUAQUETTA HOLCOMB, HIGH POINTE COVERINGS Lloyd Peterson, SHEPERD CHOICE Kathy Pususta, PATTY ANDERSON, ST PETER WOOLEN MILLS Pat Johnson, SYDELL Steve Thiesen, U OF M EXT. Jeremy Geske. The winners of the door prizes at the conference are as follows.

CONTRIBUTORS	ITEM DONATED	WINNERS
LIVESTOCK CONCEPTS	SHEEP NUTRI DRENCH	ROBIN SCHMIDT, ROSI HOLMES
LIVESTOCK CONCEPTS	LAMB PULLER	JEAN STARK
LIVESTOCK CONCEPTS	SYRINGE	BERNIE WOOD
JEFFERS	\$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE	DERIC SIEVERT
MID STATES WOOL	SWEATSHIRTS	J. GESKE, DARCEY KARSTENS, GENE HOLMQUIST
VERL SCHUCH	GARST CAP	LISA SKALA
CANNON VALLEY	NURSEMATE	GARY HOLMES
CANNON VALLEY	SELENIUM E-GEL	FOSTER MOONEY
CANNON VALLEY	IODINE WOUND SPRAY	ROGER KARSTENS
B & B VET	LID OFF	S. DOERING, KATHY PUSUSTA, BRUCE BAKKER
B & B VET	ICE CREAM MAKER	HOLLY NEATON
PIPESTONE VET SUPPLY	LAMB STRENGTH	MARY KRITZCHMAR, JOE MCGRATH
PIPESTONE VET SUPPLY	OVI SPRAY	JACKIE MEAD
UNKNOWN	CANDY	DONNIE DREWRY
BIG GAIN	50 LB LAMB FEED	KIM FOLSTAD, ROBERT TSCHUMPER
U OF M Extension Service	SHEEP CARE TEXT	EUGENE WINKELMAN
ZABEBA (Red Snap'r)	CONTROLLER	BLAKE MESHKE
SYDELL	POLY TROUGH	JAN ANDERSON
SYDELL	HAY BASKET	ROGER BASSNESS
MARY LUE'S	WOOL FILLED PILLOW	CAROLYN BASSNESS
SHEPHERD CHOICE	SHEPHERDS POUCH	JEANNE DOOLEY
PATTY ANDERSON	ROVING	AL AMANN
JUAQUETTA HOLCOMB	SCARF	WARNER JOHNSON
SHEPHERD MAG.	YEAR SUBSCRIPTION	NANCY ELLISON, LAVERNE DOERING
ELLISON SHEEP FARM	HOOKING BOOK & HOOK	BOB DER

## Promote your flock on the MLWPA website

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association has a website ([www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org)) for sheep producers. On this website, you can find a lot of valuable information like a calendar of upcoming sheep-related events, a directory of officers, the discount buying program, Silver Bell award, and links to other sheep sites. There is also a section for MLWPA members to advertise their flocks.

For the low cost of \$25, you can purchase ad space on the MLWPA website for one year (ads can be purchased any time during the year, and will stay posted until that year's annual conference). Ads may include a picture, graphics, and/or text, and should fit on approximately ½ sheet of paper. If possible e-mail you ad to Jeremy Geske at [geske002@umn.edu](mailto:geske002@umn.edu). Otherwise you can mail a hard copy to Jeremy at 4100 220<sup>th</sup> St W., Farmington, MN 55024. Send your check made payable to MLWP to Jeremy at the above address, and your ad will be posted shortly after payment is received.

## MLWPA Membership – Patty Anderson, Chair

The Goal of the Membership committee is to have the 2003 MLWPA Directory completed and mailed by late Mid March 2003. Don't forget you can purchase adds for your farm or business.

In January over 1600 membership applications were sent out to sheep producers to encourage them to become members. Many of these 1600 sheep producers received USDA Farm program payments specifically for sheep producers. We are seeing increases in membership because of this.

<b>6th annual Shepherd's Harvest Festival</b> Washington Co. Fairgrounds, Lake Elmo, MN.	
May 10 & 11, 2003 Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	
<b>FREE PARKING!</b> <b>FREE ADMISSION!</b>	
More information at: <a href="http://bur oak.hypermart.net/festival.htm">http://bur oak.hypermart.net/festival.htm</a>	
<b>Summer Sheep Workshop</b> Will be held Saturday, May 10, in conjunction with the Shepherd's Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival.	

## Wool Marketing Opportunity:

Dear ranchers and affiliated people within the sheep and lamb industry in Minnesota,

As the last fully-integrated woolen mill left in America, located right here in Faribault, I have an idea to run by all of you. Our mill has made military academy blankets for Norwich Military Academy for as long as our records show. Ironically, their colors are identical to those of the University of Minnesota.

My reason for this brief contact is that we truly believe the students and alumni of the U of M would greatly appreciate and want a blanket in the University's colors that would last a lifetime. Any help that anyone can provide via personal contacts within the U of M would be greatly appreciated. From our standpoint, the ideal project would be for to utilize your 62's or finer wool for this. Let me hear your comments.

My best,

Michael P. Harris  
 Chairman, President & CEO  
 Faribault Woolen Mills, Inc.  
 1500 2nd Ave NW  
 Faribault, MN 55021  
 507-333-4733  
 507-332-2936-fax  
[mharris@faribowool.com](mailto:mharris@faribowool.com)

## Wool Marketing Loan Program

The USDA now has a safety net program for wool producers and it is similar to other commodity crops. Producers can use their wool as collateral for a low interest loan. Ungraded wool is valued at 40 cents a pound, while wool that has been core tested, has variable rates depending on fiber diameter.

If growers do not want to take out a loan, they can collect the difference between the Loan Rate and the Government Announced Repayment – known as a Loan Deficiency Payment or LDP. When market prices are low, the safety net or LDP is in effect. If prices are high – there is now need for Government assistance and no LDP.

The American Sheep Industry Association Web-site ([www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org)) has a presentation available explaining the program. Or contact your Local FSA office. Links available at the MLWPA site.

## MLWPA honors 2002 Silver Bell winners

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association recognized the some special guests at the 2002 Silver Bell Luncheon held in conjunction with the MLWPA Annual Conference and Trade Show in Rochester, on Dec. 6 and 7, 2002. Following a presentation by Stacie Busch, last year's Silver Bell winner in the youth division, plaques were presented to this year's winners.

The 2002 Silver Bell award for "Distinguished Service" went to Bob Kiewel of Belle Plaine. Bob was the superintendent of the Scott County Fair sheep show for many years. He helped numerous 4-H members in Scott, Carver, and LeSueur Counties get started with sheep. Bob was also a sheep shearer for the many small flocks in the area. Unfortunately, Bob passed away shortly after the Scott County fair last summer. His family was present to accept the award on his behalf. He certainly will be missed.

Gene and Gail Christians of Waltham were winners in the commercial producer division. They have been raising sheep for 45 years, and have been active members of the South Eastern Minnesota Sheep Producers Association. The selection committee was impressed by their excellent production records, and by their efforts to support the sheep industry.

We had two outstanding nominees in the youth division. Darcy Karstens of Hutchinson was chosen as the 2002 Silver Bell winner in the youth division. Darcy manages a flock of 40 Dorset ewes. She has been very successful in the 4-H and FFA sheep projects, but the committee was especially impressed with her efforts to promote the sheep industry at the Baa Booth, with the Crow River Lamb and Wool Producers, and at school activities. Billy Minnehan of Farmington was an honorable mention in the youth division.

Nomination forms and criteria for the Silver Bell awards are posted on the MLWPA website ([www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org)). If you know someone who deserves, consider nominating him or her for next year.

## MLWPA Board Meeting Highlights Thursday, Dec. 5, 2002

Julie Sievert read the secretary's report from the last meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Treasurer Sheryl Hoffman went over the 2001-02 budget and the proposed (revised) budget for 2002-03, which was accepted by the board.

**Associate members** – It was decided that people or businesses who gave \$100 donation for the conference would become associate members.

**Officer Nominations** are:  
President: Gene Holmquist  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Jeremy Geske

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Foster Mooney  
Secretary: Julie Sievert  
Treasurer: Jean Stark and Randy Arnt

**Auction:** The board decided to purchase \$250 worth of items for the auction from vendors at the trade show with the auction proceeds going to the directory, Baa Booth, and Make it Yourself with Wool contest.

**New Business:** Request by Bob Padula that the MLWPA support legislative efforts to require state funded agencies and institutions to purchase wool products made in Minnesota. Board recommended supporting these efforts and present it to the membership at the annual meeting for support.

**Mission Statement:** Todd and Robin Schmidt presented several potential mission statements for the MLWP organization. The mission statement reads "To support, assist, and educate MN sheep producers and the sheep industry in the production and promotion of superior sheep products."

## **MLWPA Annual Meeting Highlights Sat. Dec. 7, 2002**

**Mission Statement:** Todd Schmidt presented a potential mission statement for MLWPA. There was discussion on including profitability. MLWPA Mission statement “To support, assist and educate Minnesota sheep producers and the sheep industry in the profitable production and in the promotion of superior sheep products.”

**Secretary report:** Correction made by Dale Carter to indicate that \$250 budgeted to NSA, not ASI. Secretary’s report as amended was passed.

**Treasurers Report:** Both 2001-2002 budget & financial report and a proposed budget for 2002-03 were presented. Both the report and 2002-03 budget were approved by the membership with no changes.

**Legislative Concerns:** The MLWPA agreed to support legislative efforts to require state funded agencies and institutions to purchase wool products made in Minnesota.

**Election results:** President – Gene Holmquist; 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Jeremy Geske; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Foster Mooney; Treasurer – Jean Stark and Secretary – Julie Sievert.

**Announcement:** 2002-03 conference will be in St. Cloud Nov. 21-22, 2003 (the weekend before Thanksgiving.) Future conferences will be rotated around the state.

Dick Boniface suggested extending an invitation to the MN Cattlemen’s Association to host a joint conference in the future. He also thanked MLWPA for our annual donation to MNFRAC. Dick spoke regarding the history of MLWPA and is having some difficulty with compiling the history. He would like MLWPA to have a committee work on the history with him.

Don Drewry spoke regarding 4-H and FFA awards and with MLWPA sponsorship at the \$500 level. He also suggested having a junior membership with low dues, which could pay for the sponsorship and help encourage youth participation. A Committee was formed including Don Drewry, Karen Geske and Roger Karstens.

## **MLWP Board Meeting Highlights Jan. 11, 2003**

Present: Gene Holmquist, Pat Anderson, George Mead, Mike Haubrich, Chuck and Jan Stark, Foster Mooney, Julie Sievert, Sheryl Hoffmann, and Roger Karstens.

Julie Sievert read the secretary’s report that was approved as read.

Sheryl Hoffman read the treasurer’s report including a breakdown of income and expenses from 2002 Conference and Trade Show; report was approved. It was noted that the MN Suffolk Association has not paid association dues for 3 years and has not had a representative attend MLWPA board meetings for 2 years.

### **Committee reports:**

**Commercial Booth:** Pat Anderson spoke on the commercial booth at the State Fair. She will work with Bob Padula and Cathy Postusta. She has spoken to Mike Harris from Faribault Woolen Mill and he will be our working contact with that business. Roger Karstens will continue to be the liaison with the State Fair Staff.

MLWP Board Meeting Highlights Jan. 11, 2003 (Continued)

**Baa Booth:** Tom McDowell and Cyndi Schneider will be contacted to ask if they would be interested in being on the committee. It is hoped that Bob Padula will continue with the committee.

**Conference 2003, 2004, and 2005:** Complaints were entertained regarding F. Abel Ponce de Leon's presentation at conference 2002. For 2004 Conference, Jackpot Junction's prices are not very favorable right now. The Mankato Holiday Inn has contacted us about potentially hosting our conference in the future. Locations for conference 2005 were discussed (Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn, Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomon, Fergus Falls, Metro Area, Rochester) The Northwest region of the state was the general consensus, leaving options open for sites. A potential conflict with the Louisville Livestock Show was mentioned for the 2003 convention. It was decided to go through with the dates previously set for conference 2003, and see if this affects attendance. Board members discussed focusing some programs towards purebred breeders, since we have been focusing very much towards commercial breeders up to now.

**Newsletter:** Anything that needs to be in the next newsletter, get it to Bob Padula by Jan. 20, 2003.

**Audit:** Charlie Worm will serve as an auditor for or financial records and will work with the new treasurer - Jean Stark.

**Directory:** Mike Haubrich will serve as the West Central director. Future directories will include an up-to-date list of Silver Bell winners. In addition, an informative write-up to supplement the list of former winners will be included in the directory explaining the Silver Bell awards.

**Legislative:** Bob Padula and Roger Karstens will remain on this committee. Roger attended the Governor's Breakfast in Hutchinson. There was sheep shearing and cow milking demonstrations at the luncheon and that agriculture was well represented. Board agreed to pay for the \$5 ticket for the Governor's Breakfast.

**Membership:** Patti has 361 names from past years with some new names from conference. She will give lists to Region Directors to help contact people. They must have information back by March 1<sup>st</sup> to be in this year's directory.

**Youth Division:** Don Drewry will chair this committee along with Roger and Darcy Karstens. A meeting will be held and reported on at the next meeting. By-laws include a junior division and dues-setting power.

**History:** Mike Caskey will work with Dick Boniface on the history; they need a copy of the original charter.

**Directors:** Sherri Stirling will serve as NE and Mike Haubrich as the West Central District directors.

**Agri-Growth Council Membership:** MLWPA will join the Agri-Growth council as an organization instead having someone join as an individual member. This is already budgeted for.

**MIYWW:** Two youth from Minnesota will be going to National Make it Yourself With Wool contest. \$200 was approved to help sponsor them to go to nationals.

**Mission Statement:** the mission statement is done and on the website.

**ASI Funding:** MLWP, as a state association, will receive Wool Outreach Funds after filling out the application. Mike Haubrich volunteered work on this project and asked for pictures and info from our activities.

**Shepherd's Harvest Festival:** Susan Paul from Princeton will now be heading up this festival. It will be held Mother's Day weekend.

**Next meeting:** April 5, 2003 10:00 am - Pizza Ranch, Glencoe

## Calendar of Events Year 2003

March 1 Spring Sheep Workshop, U of Mn  
Ext. Ser  
Contact Jeremy Geske (651) 480-  
7702

March 31 Sign-up deadline for 2002 Wool Clip  
USDA Wool Marketing Loan Program  
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FSA OFFICE

April 10-12 Shearing School - Hutchinson, MN  
Contact Doug Rathke (320) 587-  
6094

May 3-4 MD Sheep and Wool Festival

May 10-11 Shepherds Harvest Wool Festival

June 12-14 National Columbia Show and Sale  
Rapid City, SD

June 23-28 Midwest Stud Ram Sale - Sedalia,  
MO

Aug 21 - Sept 1 Minnesota State Fair

Nov 21-22 MLWPA Annual Conference and  
Trade Show

### Future Newsletter Schedule:

April Spring Issue  
July State Fair Issue  
Sept/Oct Conference and Trade Show  
Dec/Jan Conference Highlights and  
Incoming Legislative Issues

*MLWPA Newsletter*  
*Rt. #5 Box 69*  
*Montevideo, MN 56265*