



Minnesota Lamb & Wool
Producers Association

Shepherds' Bulletin

Winter 2004

MLWPA Officers

President – Bob Padula (320) 269-7973
1st VP - Jeremy Geske (952) 758-7938
2nd VP – Todd Schmidt (507) 377-1045
Treasurer - Jean Stark (320) 251-4237
Secretary - Sherry Stirling (651) 257-0827

MLWPA Regional Directors

North East – Werner Johnson (651) 257-0827
North West – Charles Stark (320) 251-4237
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

Minnesota Suffolk Sheep Association

Jerry Baumgartner (507) 335- 7739

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

Country Meadow Farms Cooperative

Charles Christians (651) 633-7598

MLWPA Web Address:

www.mlwp.org

President's Notes - Bob Padula

The announcement of a case of BSE in the United States had me concerned about the impact on the sheep industry. Previously, the BSE issue in cattle resulted in news media focusing on the sheep industry and scrapie. This time, there was little attention given to the sheep disease. Aside from a few erroneous reports that mentioned a link between scrapie infected sheep and the cause of BSE in cattle, the sheep industry was “underneath the radar screen” - out of public attention. Whew.

Sometimes it's nice to be underneath the radar screen and not the center of attention. For the most part, sheep are not included in all the negative reports like other livestock industries, particularly in Minnesota. We are a small industry, and as such, pretty much go our own way without a lot of fuss or attention paid to us.

But this is not good thing all of the time. Look at what has happened to our sheep industry infrastructure over the past 10 years. Slowly, it has eroded to the point where we do not have much support. The U of M no longer has a sheep researcher or viable sheep program. The U of M Extension Service has not had a sheep specialist for years nearly 10 years. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture doesn't seem to recognize us either – they took Wisconsin sheep to Cuba, and rarely mention sheep as livestock produced in Minnesota.

We can sit back and complain about not getting support – but that isn't going to help. If all we do is complain and whine, who would want to help us? We need to become more active in positive promotion of our industry. Sheep production is positive for Agriculture, we to promote this.

We should at least be a “blip” on the MN radar screen.

Ewe Lamb Retention Program Announced

(Source American Sheep Industry Association)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Bill Hawks thrilled participants at the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) annual convention by announcing a one-year extension of the retained ewe lamb program. Secretary Hawks delivered the decision of USDA to fund the \$18.85 million ewe-lamb retention program for fiscal year 2004 to the 300 participants in the sheep industry meeting.

The popular retained ewe-lamb program was part of the Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance package (LMAAP) that ended in 2003. To assist the sheep industry, USDA offered a program to encourage ewe-lamb replacement and retention. Unfortunately, extreme drought conditions that reduced pasture carrying capacity and the lack of availability of forage caused many producers to be reluctant or unable to participate in this program during the initial time period.

Guy Flora, ASI president, acknowledged the enormous value of this announcement. "This initiative has been a priority for ASI. We believe we have stabilized the U.S. sheep breeding herd and now have an opportunity to expand it with the ewe-lamb program as a key component," said Flora. "The ewe-lamb extension will go a long way in assisting producers with the task of flock recovery as well as adapt to the considerable structural changes in domestic markets over the last few years. We applaud the Administration's efforts to extend this program, which benefits the entire industry from farm to processor," concluded Flora.

Producers will be notified about the particulars of the program by local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices when details are finalized and offices are prepared to accept and process applications.

Matching Grant Proposals totaling over \$35,000 Approved by the American Lamb Board including Minnesota Grant

The American Lamb Board (ALB) at its January 2004 Annual Board Meeting in Sacramento approved seven matching grant proposals totaling \$35,824.06. The ALB developed the Matching Grant Program to expand their marketing and promotions activities by working collaboratively with non-profit industry organizations. The Matching Grant Proposals that were approved include:

Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers - On-farm training sessions to educate "lamb ambassadors" who will then conduct in-store demonstrations at cooperative retail establishments.

Colorado Wool Growers Association – Lamb Industry Tour for Colorado culinary professionals and two informational mailings to Colorado producers regarding ALB activities. Indiana Sheep Association – Wine tasting event at the Indiana State Fair. Valley Wool Growers of North Dakota – High School Home Economics program. California Sheep Commission – Education program for non-vocational culinary schools throughout California. Iowa Sheep Industry Association – Retail education and promotion. Agri-business Council of Oregon – *Buy Summer Lamb* promotion.

University of Minnesota Professor Emeritus Dr. Robert M. Jordan Passes Away



Minnesota livestock producers lost a giant in their industry with the unexpected death of Dr. Robert Jordan at the Jordan home near Stillwater on Friday, December 19, 2003.

Dr. Jordan was nationally and internationally known for his research work and expertise in the feeding of lambs and sheep. In later years, he was recognized for his work with horses and Angora goats. Dr. Jordan was a tireless worker. He authored over six hundred scientific and popular press articles, wrote chapters in six books, and invited to speak in 16 states and Canada on various aspects of sheep production.

Robert M. Jordan was born in Minneapolis on February 13, 1920, and was reared in Morris, Minnesota. His parents were Phillip and Imadee Jordan. He was active in the 4-H Club, winning state honors in livestock judging, showmanship and sheep projects. He acquired an early interest in livestock, having grown to adulthood in the environs of the University of Minnesota's West Central Experiment Station, where his father was an animal scientist.

Dr. Jordan received his B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1942. He was a member of Sigma Xi and Gamma Sigma Delta honorary societies and the Alpha Gamma Rho social fraternity. He served in the United States Navy and taught two years in a state agricultural school. In 1947, he joined the animal husbandry staff at South Dakota State University as a graduate student and part-time instructor. He received his M.S. degree in 1949 and did further graduate work at Kansas State University and received his Ph.D. degree in animal science in 1953. He then returned to South Dakota State University as associate professor.

In 1954, Jordan joined the Department of Animal Science at the University of Minnesota to teach animal science courses and coach the livestock judging team, which he did for 14 years. He initiated the first sheep nutrition and management research at the St. Paul campus, and coordinated and helped plan the sheep research at the West Central Experiment Station. In 1966, Dr. Jordan developed a course in horse production and served as horse extension specialist. He also served as superintendent of the Minnesota State Fair Sheep Show for 32 years. Toward the end of his University career, Jordan acquired considerable knowledge about fallow and red deer farming. He was frequently consulted on various aspects of deer nutrition and management. Jordan retired from the University of Minnesota in 1990 after 36 years of dedicated service.

Honors and accolades bestowed on Jordan would include his receiving the Pipestone Sheep Project Award, honorary reporter for Feedstuff Magazine, honorary FFA State Farmer Award, Friend of Minnesota 4-H Horse Projects, Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Silver Bell Award, the R.E. Jacobs Livestock Extension Award, and in 1983 was awarded The American Society of Animal Sciences Animal Management and Honorary Fellow Awards. In 1987, he was inducted into the Pipestone Sheep Hall of Fame. In 1988, both the State 4-H Show and the Morris Sheep and Lamb Feeders Day was dedicated to him.

He was inducted into the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame in 1990. In the year 2000, the Morris sheep facility was dedicated to Dr. Jordan and Professor Harley Hanke. Also in 2000, Jordan was awarded the prestigious "Horseman of the Year" award by the Minnesota Horse Council.

Livestock producers will miss his enthusiasm and expertise.

A Robert M. Jordan Memorial Fund is being established at the University of Minnesota. For further information or to make a contribution, please contact Dr. Alfredo DiCostanzo at 612-624-1272 or dicos001@umn.edu.

Spring Sheep Workshop

Saturday, March 6, 2004
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

John Dvorak Farm
Webster, MN

Sponsored by:

Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers
B&B Vet Supply, Montgomery
Pipestone Vet Clinic

Schedule:

9:00 a.m. – Registration

9:30 a.m. – Sheep Quality Assurance

Dr. Deb Roeber, U of MN

10:15 a.m. – Baby Lamb Management

John Dvorak & Jeremy Geske, producers

11:00 a.m. – Selecting Lambs for Show

Jeremy Geske, judging team coach

11:45 a.m. – Lunch

1:30 p.m. – Drawing Blood

Dr. Susan McClanahan, DVM, U of MN

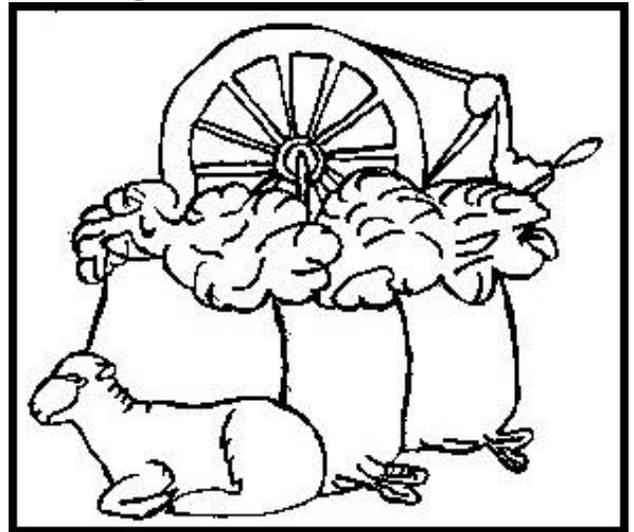
2:15 p.m. – Hoop Barns for Sheep

John Dvorak & others

This is an excellent educational program for producers of all ages and experience levels. We will be on a farm, in a barn, so dress appropriately. The registration fee ranges from \$10 to \$30, as youth, MLWP members and people who pre-register get a discount.

To receive a registration brochure, go to www.mlwp.org and click on the calendar of events page or contact Jeremy Geske at (952) 758-7938 or geskesheep@aol.com

Shepherds Harvest Sheep & Wool Festival



May 8 & 9, 2004

Washington County Fairgrounds-Lake
Elmo, MN

- ❖ Classes for Fiber Lovers & Shepherds
- ❖ Fiber Bazaar: wool, llama, alpaca, angora, mohair
- ❖ Vendors of yarns, spinning, knitting, felting supplies
- ❖ Demonstrations –sheep shearing, spinning and more
- ❖ sheep breeds display,
- ❖ Musical entertainment
- ❖ Lamburgers and more

More information:

<http://burroak.hypermart.net/festival.htm>

2004 MLWPA Membership Information

The deadline for listing in the 2004 MLWPA membership directory has passed. Last fall, every sheep producer that received a USDA sheep payment was sent the newsletter. However, we still do not have nearly enough members in our Association – less than 25% of those receiving payments. If you know a sheep producer that is not a member, please ask them to join. The USDA Ewe Retention Program is a good talking point.

Siremax Commercial Terminal Sires

Ten year records of weight gain, fat depth and eye muscle area. These are not show sheep; these are sheep that excel in lean growth.

Look at www.siremax.com or call 507 925 4415 or 507 453 9543 for more information.

MLWP honors 2003 Silver Bell winners

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool producers recognized the some special guests at the 2003 Silver Bell Luncheon held in conjunction with the MLWP annual conference in Hutchinson. Following presentations by Darcy Karstens, and Gene Christians, last year's Silver Bell winners, plaques were presented to this year's winners.

There were two outstanding nominees in the youth division. Evan Dee of Northfield was chosen as the 2003 Silver Bell winner in the youth division. Evan and his brother manage a small club lamb flock. He has been very successful in the 4-H and FFA Sheep projects, but the committee was especially impressed with his efforts to promote the sheep industry by speaking to urban grade school classes. Evan has also helped several 4-H members in Dakota and surrounding counties get started with market lamb projects.



Evan Dee accepts the 2003 Junior Silver Bell award from Roger Karstens.



Bob Padula of the PM Ranch in Montevideo was the Silver Bell winner in the purebred producer division. Bob raises registered Targhee sheep, and for years his selection program has emphasized outstanding production records for both maternal growth traits and wool. Bob has also been very active in MLWPA and with the ASI. He is on the Board of Directors for the US Targhee Sheep Association and is active in the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP).

Nomination forms and criteria for the Silver Bell awards are posted on the MLWP website (www.mlwp.org). If you know someone who deserves this award, consider nominating that person for next year.

Information submitted by Jeremy Geske, 1st Vice President.

Don't Forget to Sign up for the Wool Marketing Loan Program

With shearing taking place across Minnesota, producers need to remember to participate in the USDA Wool Marketing Loan Program. You don't need to take out a loan on your wool to participate; you can simply file for the Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). At press time, the ungraded wool LDP is 24 cents per pound. This is a significant improvement from this time last year, when the LDP rate was between 4 and 6 cents. Contact your local FSA office for details.

2003 MLWP Annual Conference Highlights

The 2003 Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association annual conference was a smashing success. Over 80 people pre-registered, and many others paid at the door. Overall, comments about this year's line-up of speakers and topics were very positive. Although less than half the attendees filled out their evaluation, the results are important. When asked how much they learned and if they would make management changes as a result, 55% said they learned a lot, and 45% said they would definitely be making management changes as a result of what they learned. Almost all the topics received at least one vote as the most valuable session; however, the presentations on scrapie and cooking with lamb seemed to be the most popular. Several people offered suggestions for speakers and topics they would like to see next year. As to the timing of the conference, 56% voted to keep it the weekend before Thanksgiving, and 33% wanted to move it back to the first week in December.

Thanks to all the board members for working hard on an excellent conference. Jeremy Geske and Foster Mooney did much of the planning and contacting speakers. Roger Karstens made arrangements for the sale barn, and to have sheep for the hands-on workshops. Gene Holmquist organized the trade show and sponsors. Robin and Todd Schmidt coordinated registration and meal tickets. Sue Ross headed up the fiber classes. The staff and facilities at the Best Western Victorian Inn in Hutchinson were wonderful (and they were relatively inexpensive!). Everybody pitched in as needed.

The 2004, 2005, and 2006 MLWP annual conferences will be the weekend before Thanksgiving. We will be at the Best Western in Mankato in 2004, and at the Best Western in Fergus Falls for 2005. The 2006 location is not set yet. We have votes for Duluth, St. Cloud, Morton, and Rochester; but none were an overwhelming choice. If you would like to have your community host the 2006 MLWP annual conference, or if you have suggestions for speakers or topics for any future conference, contact Jeremy Geske (952-758-7938 or geskesheep@aol.com), or any of the board members. Jeremy Geske *MLWPA 1st-Vice President*

American Polypay Sheep Association Free Starter Flock

This is no gimmick! Receive 3-free registered Polypay ewes plus \$100.00 buying credit at next year's National Polypay Sale toward the purchase of another ewe or ram. This program is for any FFA or 4-H youth in the United States between the ages of 8 and 19 years old. Entries in the contest are due by March 1, 2004.

The Polypay breed website (www.polypay.org) contains additional information on this free starter flock program. The 2004 National Polypay Show and Sale are scheduled for June 17 – 19, 2004, in Springfield, Illinois. For more information on the starter flock program or the Polypay breeder contact:

Gordon Sammons / Sammons Polypays
 17295 Highway 82
 Geneseo, IL 61254
 (309) 994 – 3692
sammons@theinter.com
www.polypay.org

MLWPA Volunteers List

Below is a partial listing of some committees, projects and activities the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association is involved with during the year. Volunteer leaders listed in parenthesis. Please contact these volunteers for more information on the projects and ways you become more involved in sheep promotion efforts in Minnesota through the MLWPA.

American Lamb Board Proposal (Dr. Charles Christians & George Mead)

Wool Committee (Sherry Sterling, Doug Mathias, Bob Padula)

Communications

- Newsletter (Bob Padula & Karen Geske)
- Web-site (Jerry Ryan & Jeremy Geske)

Membership (Patty Anderson & Regional directors)

- Producer members
- Association memberships (Mike Haubrich, Gene Holmquist)
- Friends of the Industry
- Sheep shearers (Doug Mathias)

MLWPA Directory (Jean Stark & Cheryl Hoffman)

Minnesota State Fair

- Commercial Booth (Patty Anderson & Roger Karstens)
- Baa Booth (Bob Padula, Doris Mold)
- State Fair Agriculture Booth

Youth Programs (Gene Holmquist & Todd Schmidt)

- Starter Flocks
- Ag Ambassadors

Harvest Festival (Winnie Johnson, Pat Ryan, Patty Anderson)

Annual Meeting & Convention

- Meeting & Program (Jeremy Geske, Todd Schmidt, Sue Ross)
- Vendors (Gene Holmquist)

Legislative Issues (Bob Padula, Roger Karstens)

Make It Yourself with Wool (MIYWW) (Jeremy Geske, Donna Geisler)

MnFrac (Sandy Stokesbarry, Jeremy Geske)

MN Livestock Breeders (Gene Holmquist)

MN State Fair Sheep Shows

- 4-H Liaison - (Geske)
- FFA Liaison – (Julie Sievert)
- Open Class Liaison – (Bob Padula, Breed Organization Representatives)

Awards (Past President - Chair)

- Silver Bell
- Friend of the Industry
- Dedicated Service

Spring Sheep Workshop (Jeremy Geske)

American Wool Council -- Wool Outreach Program (Mike Haubrich)

Historians (Dick Boniface, Mike Caskey)

Don't see an activity listed that you feel MLWPA should be involved with? Contact your regional director or an officer and ask for our assistance.

Calendar of Events Year 2004

- March 6 Spring Sheep Workshop
John Dvorak Farm - Webster, MN
Contact Jeremy Geske
- April 15 - 17 Sheep Shearing School -
Hutchinson, MN
Contact Doug Rathke (320) 587-
6094
- May 8 - 9 Shepherds Harvest Wool Festival
Washington Co. Fairgrounds
Lake Elmo, MN
- June 11 - 12 National Columbia Show & Sale
Wooster, OH
- June 17 - 19 National Polypay Show & Sale
Springfield Illinois
- July 17 - 23 7th World Sheep & Wool Congress
Quebec City, Canada
- Aug 26 - Sept 6 Minnesota State Fair
- Nov 19-20 2004 MLWPA Convention & Trade
Show Best Western Inn --- Mankato, MN

Year 2005

- January ASI Annual Convention - Reno, NV
- Nov 18 - 19 2005 MLWPA Convention & Trade
Show Fergus Falls, MN

Future Newsletter Schedule:

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

If you have a calendar item or news releases that you

*MLWPA Newsletter
1507 7th St NE
New Prague, MN 56071*