

# Shepherd's Bulletin



Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association

## MIWW National Winners Chosen at ASI

Winter 2007

Jean Olson of Woodbury, was named the 2007 National Make It With Wool Adult Winner. She paired cranberry-red Pendleton wool with a classic black pin-stripe fabric for her two-piece outfit. She modeled a jacket with the styling of a denim jacket but dressed it up with some silver buttons and matching topstitching in addition to a pair of gauchos that feature a shaped waistband, front slash pockets and hemline cuffs. Olson won an all-expense-paid trip to the national competition, a sheep pelt sponsored by the ASI Women and a Brother

sewing machine from Brother International and Wool Fabric.

Alyssa Nelson of Jackson, won First Runner-Up Junior Division. Nelson constructed a 100-percent wool boucle, spice-colored plaid coat in addition to a wool gabardine, chocolate brown skirt and a pumpkin-colored, slouch neck shirt. Nelson earned a Singer 9920 sewing machine from Singer Sewing Co., a \$250 savings bond from The Fabrics Network, a mohair throw from Producers' Marketing Cooperative and Texas Wool and Mohair, a compact stem iron from



(L to R) Jean Olson, Alyssa Nelson, and Sheilina Sperry

Rowenta, Inc., the "Creative Serging" book from Palmer/Pletsch

(cont. on p.2)

### MLWP Officers & Directors

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- *Metro Dir. & Membership*  
*Chair - Patty Anderson*  
952-447-4184
- *Satellite Reps are listed on*  
*the web site:*

**www.mlwp.org**

## President's Message - Jeremy Geske

After spending the last few weeks with below zero temperatures, I sit in my lambing barn and wonder if we don't need more global warming. All kidding aside, I enjoy lambing season despite the cold as it is the first sign if my selection decisions worked as I hoped they would.

I attended the ASI annual meeting in San Antonio. There were a number of good sessions, and I particularly enjoyed the legislative action committee meeting. There was a lot of discussion on raising the wool LDP loan rate from \$1.00 to \$1.20 in the next Farm Bill. Having Congressman Collin

Peterson as chair of the House Ag Committee and both Senators Coleman and Klobuchar on the Senate Ag Committee puts MN in a strong position when it comes to developing the new Farm Bill.

Congressman Peterson has been a strong supporter (cont. on p.2)

## President's Message - cont.

of the sheep industry, and we need to make sure he hears our concerns, especially from sheep producers in his district. We also need to remember to thank him for his past support.

Another hot topic is the possibility of including a ewe lamb retention payment in the disaster assistance bill. I believe the ND Senators Conrad and Dorgan are working on a disaster bill, and that Senator Coleman has also been involved. If it would be included, and the bill pass, it would

likely go to producers living in or contiguous to disaster counties. At least it would be some relief for those affected by the drought.

Other issues included animal identification, scrapie, grey wolf de-listing and much more. I enjoyed representing Minnesota at the ASI meetings.

I'll close with a congratulations to the MN contestants who did very well in the MIWW contest.



## MIWW Winners Chosen —Cont.

Publishing, the Women's Boutique Pattern Software from Wild Ginger Software and fabric from Britannia, Pendleton or Woolrich.

Sheilina Sperry of Center City, was third runner-up in the Senior division. Sheilina's outfit was a black and white jacket with a black, 100% wool flannel pant. Her hot pink top was 100% Merino wool. Sheilina received a \$250 cash Claire Shaeffer Pattern Award, Berina 700D Overlock machine, a \$100 savings

bond from 1<sup>st</sup> Interstate Bank, the "Creative Serging" book from Palmer/Pletsch Publishing, a Kwik

**Find out how to enter  
next year's contest at  
[www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org)**

Sew pattern gift certificate, an Edge Craft scissors sharpener, 4 skeins of yarn from Blu Sky Alpacas, the Women's Boutique Pattern Software

from Wild Ginger Software, and fabric from Pendleton.

A total of 55 junior and senior finalists representing 29 states modeled their creations at the national competition. Some 947 contestants nationwide entered competitions at the state level. Marie Lehfeldt of Lavina, MT, coordinated the event for the 12th consecutive year. Glenette Sperry is the Minnesota coordinator.

## Wolves Move Off Endangered Species List

Effective March 12, 2007, the western Great Lakes population of gray wolves will be removed from the list of threatened and endangered species, according to a Federal Register published on Thursday. The threats to the gray wolf in this region have been reduced or eliminated and greatly exceed the numerical recovery criteria established in the recovery plan. The area includes all of

Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan as well as parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

The recovery plan identified 1,250 to 1,400 as a population goal for Minnesota. The state's wolf population has exceeded that level since 1992.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will now manage the state's wolf population according to their comprehensive wolf management plan. Having the plan in place was one of the criteria needed for delisting to occur.

"The long overdue delisting has finally happened thanks to the persistence of livestock producers and farm groups," said Minnesota Lamb

## Wolves - cont.

& Wool Producers Association President Jeremy Geske. "We owe thanks to the sheep producers who participated in the wolf roundtable that helped pass the wolf management law in 2000."

There is a mandatory five-year monitoring plan to ensure wolf populations do not fall below the federal recovery goal. The plan also includes provisions for management of problem wolves, management for habitat and prey, enforcement of laws, education, staffing and research.

"We hope this will provide producers with more options for protecting their livestock from wolf depredation," said Geske. "Wolves and other predators cause serious economic losses for sheep producers in Minnesota."

According to USDA data, over 3,100 sheep were killed by predators in MN (a loss of over \$263,000) in 2004. Of those, 20-25% were attributed to "other predators" of

which the wolf is the primary culprit. Over 1,200 cattle and calves were killed by predators in MN (a loss of over \$385,000) in 2000. Of those, over 50% were attributed to "other predators" of which the wolf is the primary culprit.

The goal of this management plan is to ensure the long-term survival of wolves in

Minnesota while addressing wolf-human conflicts that inevitably result when wolves and people live in the same vicinity. This plan was developed by holding 12 public meetings throughout the state in January 1998, convening a wolf management roundtable that held 8 days of meetings to develop consensus recommendations, and

utilizing the wealth of biological, sociological, cultural, and economic data, reports, and experience available

to the DNR. The plan divides the state into two zones. The "wolf zone" will be north and east of a meandering line from Hinckley to west of Roseau. In that zone, wolves will still be well protected. The rest of the state will be the "agriculture zone". Producers in that zone will have more options for preventing wolf depredation. To learn more about the DNR plan for wolf management in



Minnesota, go to [www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/wolves/mgmt.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/wolves/mgmt.html).

Wolves have been protected under Federal endangered species laws since 1974.

## ND SHEEPMAN ELECTED ASI PRESIDENT—*from ASI 2/6/07*

Burdell Johnson of Tuttle, N.D., was elected president of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) at the 2007 ASI/National Lamb Feeders Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 27, 2007. Johnson is a fourth-generation lamb and wool producer who raises Columbia and Hampshire ewes and feeds sheep through the family business, Diamond J Livestock. He also raises cattle and grows several crops, including wheat, corn, barley, oats and sunflowers.

He is a former ASI Executive Board representative for Region IV, which is comprised of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota. He has also served on numerous ASI committees including resolutions, predator management, nominating, strategic planning, 2002 and goat. He served as co-chair of ASI's Legislative Action Council and currently chairs the Industry Task Force Committee.

Commenting on his election to the office, Johnson says, "It is a great pleasure to work with and for the great people of the American sheep industry. This is a united industry, and together, I believe we can only make it better. In the upcoming months, we will continue to work on the Farm Bill and disaster programs along with putting together the LRP-Lamb insurance programs to benefit our industry."



**Burdell Johnson**

## **OPP Pilot Study for SFCP Flocks**

### ***Test & Control Program Up and Running in Minnesota!***

Followers of the discussion to offer OPP testing as an optional add-on component to the voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) will recall Dr. Cleon Kimberling's proposal for a national sheep health program, which he introduced in the early '90s while chairing the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) health committee. While the ASI proposal never materialized, the OPP Society has made several attempts to assist in bringing Cleon's dream to fruition.

In 1998, we submitted a petition to the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Sheep and Goats. That effort resulted in a resolution urging USDA to develop a standardization and check system for serological tests of importance to the sheep and goat industries (OPP, Johnes, CL, and B. ovis), which was seen as a necessary first step for development and implementation of a health program.

In the fall of 2005, we returned to USAHA, this time with a prepared draft for a voluntary OPP test and control program (again addressing the test standardization issue as one of several goals) that could serve as a model for adoption by individual states as an add-on to the SFCP. This time the USAHA Sheep and Goat Committee recommended that the OPP Society develop a pilot project, and that all state and federal animal health authorities support the pilot. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health then unanimously approved a 4-year OPP pilot study and we were on our way.

The OPP Pilot has evolved as a truly cooperative effort with invaluable assistance coming from the MN Board of Animal Health, State Veterinarian, and State Scrapie Epidemiologist; U of MN Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; the USDA Area Veterinarian-in-Charge, Veterinary Services Scrapie Field Team, and the State Scrapie Board; as well as the USDA Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, WA, and the OPP Pilot Study Working Group.

Since OPPv does not present a threat to human health and its economic importance is still being debated, the challenge was to develop and administer a meaningful program without funding. Pilot Study enrolled producers understand that all costs associated with annual AGID testing will be their responsibility. Further, they are required to submit their annual SFCP flock inventories electronically and agree to communicate via email.

In return for producers doing their own SFCP data entry, Minnesota's Scrapie Field Team is assisting with the collection of samples for OPP testing when individual animals are being handled for routine SFCP inspections or scrapie genotyping. Producers are also expected to pre-label blood collection tubes, have extra help on hand for SFCP inspections, and assist to streamline the inspection/blood collection process. Producers then deliver samples promptly to their local flock veterinarian.

All samples are submitted to the diagnostic lab by the local flock veterinarian, who will also assist the producer with development of an eradication and/or control plan in the event of positive test results. The OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society provides educational literature to all enrolled producers and their veterinarians and is also available for consultation on request.

With the exception of the initial application and an annual flock status report, the OPP Pilot is a paperless program. Electronic OPP test reports are checked against electronic SFCP annual inventories by volunteer members of the State Scrapie Board.

## Swiss Researchers Pursue OPP as a RISK FACTOR IN THE TRANSMISSION OF SCRAPIE

*by Mark Lelli, DVM*

The path being taken for scrapie eradication in the U.S., a headlong rush toward RR genotype, addresses only one of a multitude of risk factors that allow a protease-resistant transformed protein that does not contain agent-specific nucleic acid encoding of its own constituents to behave as a contagious disease. I'm concerned that we are spending a lot of money removing otherwise valuable genetics and, in the end, may not eliminate the disease. Regarding this concern, I recently wrote the following to the OPP Pilot Study working group:

Some of you may or may not be aware of ongoing research of Prof. Adriano Aguzzi and others at the Institute of Neuropathology, University Hospital of Zurich. They have clearly demonstrated the production and excretion of prions in excretory (renal) tissues in mice with chronic lymphocytic nephritis. More specifically, mice infected with diseases that characteristically cause lymphotoxin up-regulation and ectopic induction of FDC-M1+ cells. These animals when co-infected with scrapie, excreted PrPSc in their urine. Of importance to us is the fact that OPPv can cause the same chronic lymphocytic inflammatory response in the mammary tissue of infected sheep.

In a recent communication with Dr. Christina Sigurdson, an associate of Dr. Aguzzi and one of the co-authors of a recent study demonstrating folded prions in the saliva and blood of CWD infected deer, while discussing risk factors involved in the transmission of TSEs, I asked about sheep co-infected with chronic lymphocytic inflammatory latent diseases, (OPPv/Johne's) and scrapie. To this she replied the following:

"The possibility of concurrent disease increasing risk for TSE transmission seems very likely. We have performed coinfections with maedi-visna and scrapie in sheep and have found PrPSc in the mastitic mammary gland. We are next trying to determine whether the milk could contain infectious prions that could be transmitted to naive lambs."

This work is extremely important as it may demonstrate OPPv as a direct risk for the horizontal and lateral transmission of PrPSc in co-infected flocks. Not only would this show yet another hidden liability of OPPv in infected flocks, but should this work be completed, the OPPv pilot program should become mandatory for all scrapie traceback flocks on a national level.

### **MTI Sheep Scales on Sale**

MTI Weigh Systems is a family owned company that sells a complete line of scales and weighing related components. We are currently offering a great deal on a small animal scale.

The AW420 features a 42" X 22" weighing surface and weighs up to 550 lb. accurate to 0.2 lb! This scale comes pre-calibrated to a digital display designed specifically for livestock weighing with the "motion hold" feature. Once you receive the scale, simply plug it in and your ready to weigh!

We are currently overstocked on these scales. We typically sell them for \$650.00 + freight. We are now offering them for \$495.00 to reduce an oversupply in inventory. You can view this scale and its complete specification sheet by clicking on our direct link [www.mtiweigh.com](http://www.mtiweigh.com).

We accept all forms of payment including all major credit cards. We can be reached at:

Toll-free:	1-888-mti-weigh (684-9344),	Phone:	1.401.583.0096,
Fax:	1.401.583-0096	E-mail:	sb@mtiweigh.com

## Ag Statistics Service Releases MN Sheep & Goat Data

*Douglas Hartwig, Director, USDA, NASS*

Minnesota's January 1, 2007 sheep and lamb inventory was down 3 percent from last year to 150,000 head, according to USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Breeding stock numbers were down 5 percent at 105,000. The remaining inventory of 45,000 market lambs and sheep was unchanged from last year. Of the 45,000 total lambs and sheep for slaughter market, 2,000 were mature sheep (1 year old and older) and the remaining 43,000 were lambs under 1 year. Market lambs by weight group were estimated as follows: under 65 pounds: 9,000; 65-84 pounds: 8,000; 85-105 pounds: 14,000; over 105 pounds: 12,000.



Minnesota's 2006 lamb crop totaled 135,000 head, down 4 percent from the previous year. The 2006 lambing rate was 159 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2006, compared with 175 per 100 ewes in 2005.

Minnesota's 2006 wool output decreased 6 percent with production totaling 910,000 pounds compared with 970,000 pounds in 2005. Minnesota is ranked 12th in 2006 U.S. wool production. The 140,000 sheep and lambs shorn in 2006 were down 7 percent from 2005. Fleece weight averaged 6.5 pounds, unchanged from the previous year. Value of the state's

2006 wool production was \$309,000, down 16 percent from the previous year's value of \$369,000. Average price per pound for 2006 was 34 cents, down 4 cents from the 2005 price.

Minnesota's January 1, 2007 meat and other goat inventory, at 12,300, was up 23 percent from the January 1, 2006 figure. The milk goat inventory, at 6,400, was up 7 percent from 2006, while angora goats, at 1,300, were up 30 percent from last year.



### Advertise Your Flock and/or Business with MLWP

Ad space is still available in the 2007 MLWP membership directory.

Full page (5.5" x 8.5") = \$75    1/2 page (5.5" x 4.2") = \$50

If interested, contact Jeremy Geske before March 1 (952-758-7938, geskesheep@aol.com)

MLWP members can place an ad on the MLWP website for only \$25/yr.

Check out the existing ads at [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org) (click on breeder ads)

If interested, contact Jeremy Geske before March 1 (952-758-7938, geskesheep@aol.com)

Checks payable to: MLWP

## UC Davis Seeking Help with Foot and Mouth Survey

*Pelayo Alvarez*

*UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS*

*Email: [pealvarez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pealvarez@ucdavis.edu)*

*phone: (530) 297-4621*

Dear Livestock Owner/Manager,

### Did you know?

By being a member of MLWPA, you can get the ASI Weekly News by email for free? Just contact ASI for information on getting your email account set up.

[info@sheepusa.org](mailto:info@sheepusa.org)

The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is asking for your help to protect America's livestock industry from an accidental or terrorist-caused outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Economic losses from the 2001 FMD epidemic in the United Kingdom exceeded \$15 billion, and more than 6 million animals were slaughtered.

At the bottom of this email, you will find the link to our online survey where you are asked to provide information about your livestock management practices. The survey is anonymous and all responses will be strictly confidential and used for research and modeling purposes ONLY.

Understanding how FMD might spread among our country's diverse animal populations will allow us to target specific strategies for prevention and control of the disease epidemics.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this survey. Please feel free to pass on information about the survey to other livestock owners and managers and encourage their participation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me as listed below.

To take the survey go to <http://survey.euro.confirmit.com/wix/p34177541.aspx>  
or <http://www.cadms.ucdavis.edu>

Sincerely,

Pelayo Alvarez

### 2006 MLWP Annual Conference Wrap Up

The Shepherd's Holiday was held in Pipestone the first weekend in December. Although attendance was lower than expected with all the producers in SW MN, we had an excellent program of speakers.

The conference was made a success due in part to the sponsors. The major sponsor was Biogenetic Services Inc. The sponsors included: Gene Check Inc., Minnesota Soybean Growers, Pipestone Vet Clinic, and Riverside Stock Farms. Supporters were: McLeod Coop Power Assoc., AgStar Financial, and Sheep and Farm Life.

The trade show portion of the conference had twelve booths. Representing the following businesses Sydell Sheep Equip., Shepherd Choice Farm, USDA-NASS MN Field Office, Riverside Stock Farms Inc., B & B Vet, GreyStone Construction Co., Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers, T & B Sales, Southwest MN K-Fence, Pipestone Vet Clinic, Prairie Trailer, and Siremax.

This year's conference will be in Rochester Dec. 7-8, at the Best Western. The 2008 conference will be in Hutchinson. For 2009, we are exploring sites in NW MN. Please contact any state board member if you have any suggestions for speakers/topics you would like to see at future conferences.

## Legislative Update

### Horse Slaughter

The Horse Slaughter Prevention Act passed the House last fall by a wide margin, but did not come up for a vote in the Senate. It was introduced again in both the House and Senate. The bill would ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption and the transport of horses to slaughter.

Agricultural organizations and most livestock producers are opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- The unaddressed issue is the growing number of abandoned and neglected horses in the U.S., now estimated at 70,000-80,000 animals a year.
- About 60,000 horses move to USDA-regulated and inspected processing facilities each year are hauled in trucks regulated by USDA's humane transport rules, and are euthanized under regulations of the Federal Humane Slaughter Act. In contrast, there are no humane standards governing the care of horses which end up in so-called "rescue" or "retirement" facilities.
- To ban slaughter is to compromise the welfare of abandoned or neglected horses. Opponents argue unwanted horses can move to "adoption" facilities. The average capacity of a horse adoption facility in the U.S. is 30 animals. This means in the first year alone, the U.S. would need an additional 2,700 such facilities, according to the American Association of Equine Practitioners.
- The Humane Society of the U.S. says the standards of horse care at existing "adoption" facilities "are less well established than cat and dog shelters."
- It would cost \$1,900 per year to house each unwanted and abandoned horse, not including veterinary or farrier services. It will cost \$127 million to properly care for these animals if this legislation is enacted. Who will pay the costs since these facilities receive no public money?
- There are no provisions in the amendment addressing disposal of 70,000 unwanted horses. Improper disposal of these animals, i.e. burying or landfill, will lead to issues with water contamination, human exposure to zoonotic disease and related problems.
- Congress is not the appropriate venue to be deciding the cultural acceptability of horse slaughter and consumption. The precedent of banning a legitimate livestock product for reasons other than food safety or public health is dangerous. There is no scientific basis for this action.
- The main supporter of a federal ban on horse slaughter is the Humane Society of the U.S., which is the nation's largest animal rights – not protection or even welfare – organization. HSUS is on record attacking modern livestock and poultry production, and the push to ban horse slaughter is a precedent HSUS believes it needs to further attacks on other species raised for food.
- If they can ban the slaughter of horses, how long before they try to ban the slaughter of sheep and other livestock?
- Banning horses from slaughter infringes on producers' rights to manage livestock according to commonly accepted agricultural practices and sets a dangerous precedent for banning other foods for reasons other than food safety or public health.



## Legislative Update - cont.

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, H.R. 503/S. 311, continues to attract cosponsors. There are 114 cosponsors in the House (Congressman Ramstad and Congresswoman McCollum are currently cosponsors) and 19 in the Senate.

If enacted, H.R. 503/S. 311 would close the equine processing facilities currently operating in the U.S., eliminating the only market for unwanted, unmanageable and neglected horses. About 100,000 horses were processed last year as food for zoos and human consumption outside the U.S. A study funded by the Animal Welfare Council shows a ban on horse processing would reduce the value of all horses by \$304 per head.

*Contact your Congressman and Senators Coleman and Klobuchar and urge them to oppose the Horse Slaughter Prevention Act.*

### Disaster Aid

Senate Democrats Kent Conrad (N.D.) and Tim Johnson (S.D.) reintroduced their \$4.5 billion farm disaster assistance package on February 15 in hopes it may be attached to the upcoming Iraq war supplemental spending bill.

The measure is almost identical to drought aid legislation Conrad and Johnson introduced last year, including comprehensive crop disaster assistance, livestock provisions and other measures.

Meanwhile in the House of Representatives, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson said Thursday he would try to attach a more modest drought aid package, one based on the last ag disaster relief bill that made it through Congress in 2004, to the Iraq war supplemental.

*There is a chance that a retention ewe lamb payment could be included in a disaster bill. If it is, only producers in or contiguous to disaster counties would likely qualify.*

### Superfund/CERCLA Bill in the Works

It is expected that a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund) soon will be introduced to clarify that livestock manure is not a hazardous substance or pollutant subject to regulation under the law.

The bill is being pushed by House Ag Committee Chairman Colin Peterson and Rep. Ralph Hall (R-Texas). The House bill is expected to be nearly identical to a measure introduced during the last session of Congress, except it will likely include a new definition of livestock that would take in even more types of farm-raised animals.

*There have been efforts by some environmental groups to classify manure as a hazardous material.*

## Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School

The 2007 leadership school, sponsored by the National Lamb Feeders Association, is now open to receive applications. This year students will meet in Sioux Falls, SD, June 22–25, for three days of tours and sheep industry discussions. Mike Caskey is the 2007 school coordinator.

To apply, interested sheep men and women must complete a brief application and submit a short essay explaining their experience in the sheep industry and what they would like to learn. Applications must be received by May 1. To get more information, or request an application, call the NLFA office (503) 364-5462 visit: [www.nlfa-sheep.org](http://www.nlfa-sheep.org).

## Don't Miss Out on the 2007 Membership Directory!

There are quite a few of you who have been members of MLWP that **have not yet paid** your 2007 **membership dues**. We are now in the process of compiling the 2007 MLWP membership directory. In order to **get your flock and contact information listed in the directory**, you must **pay your dues by March 15**. If you aren't sure if you have paid dues for 2007, contact our membership chair, Patty Anderson at 952-447-4184 or PatMeadow@integraonline.com.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Flock Description: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 year family membership = \$35
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 year family membership = \$100
- \_\_\_\_\_ Youth only membership (21 and under) = \$10
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friend of the Industry membership = \$25
- \_\_\_\_\_ Associate membership = \$100

**Don't be left out of the 2007 MLWP membership directory!**

Make checks payable to: **MLWP**

Send your check and this completed form to: Patty Anderson, 4145 200<sup>th</sup> St E., Prior Lake, MN 55372

**You can still place an ad in the membership directory—refer to p. 6 for details.**

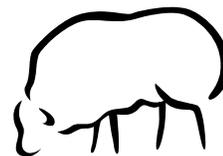
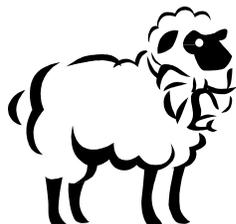
**Suffolk Scholarships**

The MN Suffolk Association is offering 4 - \$100 scholarships to be used towards the purchase of a Suffolk at either the MN State Suffolk Sale in Faribault in July, or at the Rochester Bred Ewe Sale in November. All youth are eligible to apply by submitting an essay to Rick Manthei by July 1. Contact Rick for details at: 507-648-3730 or MANTHEI@rrcnet.org.

\$

**Animal ID Update**

As you have probably heard, USDA has clearly stated that the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) will remain a voluntary program. Only about 26% of MN livestock producers have registered their premises with NAIS. A disease control program doesn't work too well when only 1 out of 4 participate. The state animal ID advisory board has recommended that the Board of Animal Health (BAH) move ahead with updating their state premises data base in order to effectively protect our livestock. For those of us who already participate in programs such as the scrapie program, this won't affect us as the BAH will simply verify information they already have to make sure their data is accurate. All they need to know is the location your animals are kept, what species of animals you raise, and who to contact.



**Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association**  
**Spring Workshop**  
**March 24, 2007**  
**Lindstrom, MN High School**  
**10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

The workshop is will help both adults and 4-H youth learn more about providing the best nutrition, selecting breeds for commercial and show animals, and managing pastureland to maximize forage nutrients, including setting up rotational grazing systems.

Each portion of the program will be presented twice- once to 4-H youth and once to adults/parents.

**Topics:**

**Nutrition Management for  
Growth & Profit**

Philip Berg,  
Pipestone Technical College

**Breed Selection for the Commercial Herd  
& for Show Animals**

Dale Carter  
Hampshire & Commercial Breeder

**Pasture Management & Rotational Grazing**

John Zinn  
USDA/NRCS Grazing Specialist  
Grand Rapids

Cost: \$10/person, with lunch provided.

Pre-Registration helpful for lunch count.

For more information or to register, please call:

Wayne Martin at 612-625-6224 or email at marti067@umn.edu or

Warner Johnson at 651-257-0827 or email at stirling@tc.umn.edu

12 **Calendar of Events**

<b>2007</b>		
March 24	Spring Sheep Workshop	Lindstrom, MN
April 20-22	Shearing School	Hutchinson, MN
May 2-4	ASI Spring Trip to DC	Washington, D.C.
May 12-13	Shepherd's Harvest Festival	Lake Elmo, MN
June 2-3	MN Goat Expo	
June 22-25	NLFA Leadership School	Sioux Falls, SD
July 21	MN State Suffolk Show	Faribault, MN
July 22	MN State Suffolk Sale	Faribault, MN
Aug 24	MN State Fair 4-H Sheep Show	St. Paul, MN
Sept. 21	Newell Ram Sale	Newell, SD

Nov. 17-19	MN Farm Bureau Annual Mtg Bloomington
Dec. 7-8	MLWP Annual Conference Best Western Rochester, MN
Dec. 8	Make It With Wool contest Rochester, MN
Future Newsletter Schedule:	
Winter	Conference Highlights / Legislative Issues
Spring	Events & Issues
Summer	State Fair Issue
Fall	Conference and Trade Show
<i>If you have a calendar item or news releases that you would like included, please send information to:</i>	
<i>Jeremy Geske</i>	
<i>1507 7<sup>th</sup> Street NE</i>	
<i>New Prague, MN 56071</i>	
<i>geskesheep@aol.com</i>	

## Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association

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