

# Shepherd's Bulletin

Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association

## Silver Bell Winners - Drewry & Roe

Winter 2008

The 2007 MLWP Silver Bell award winners were announced at the annual conference in December. Congratulations to Don Drewry and family for winning the Silver Bell Award, and to J.T. Roe for winning the youth Silver Bell Award.

Don & Deb Drewry and family operate Black Kettle Farms near Farmington, MN. For years, Don emphasized production records and EPDs in his Polypay flock. He had one of the top EPD flocks in the country.

In recent years, Don & Deb's children; Laura, Lisa and Donavon added a club

lamb flock to the sheep enterprise. The children have been active in 4-H, and have helped mentor other youth in the sheep project.

Don & Deb have been active leaders in the Cannon Valley Sheep Producers Association. They also sponsor many awards at the county and state fair.

The Drewry family has exemplified excellence in the production and promotion of lamb and wool, and have been a



### JT Roe at the BAA Booth

mentor to others in the sheep industry. For those reasons, they were deserving of the Silver Bell Award.

(cont. on p.2)

## President's Message - Dan Persons

I find it interesting sometimes to just sit and watch the sheep in our flock and notice how they interact with each other. They have personalities and temperaments that remind me of us humans. At the tail end of my January lambing group I was blessed with a "Grandma" ewe. She was

happy with every lamb that came her way – none of them were hers. She stole one twin lamb that I took away from her but not before she licked it off, nursed it and marked it as her own. The next morning she had stolen a set of twins from a ewe with triplets and now maybe someday she will actually

have the lambs that are kicking inside her! Then there are the ewes that want to rule the group pens and bulldoze down any lamb that comes there way. The most troubling ewes are the ones that have their lambs and walk away

(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](http://www.mlwp.org)

## President's Message - cont.

hoping someone else will take care for them.

Our industry is made up on the same kind of people. Some will claim every issue as their own and work tirelessly for the group. Others will run over the people trying to do their jobs and interfere with any progress that could be made and then there are those that like their flock but would like others to take care of the problems of the industry for them. Your Board of Directors is a very capable group of producers that have the best interest of the industry in mind and are working with limited resources to ensure our future. I would encourage all of our members to help with projects if they are requested and if you are not a member we need you to join the organization and provide us with guidance into the future.

Our industry has changed just like the rest of agriculture. We continue to see our large flocks getting larger and an influx of smaller flocks. At our last board meeting we discussed the possibility of starting a mentorship

program to target these startup flocks and get them off to a solid start so that they may someday want to grow in the future. One of the nice things about sheep is that they do not require extensive buildings or large expanses of land. There are production methods that can allow a person to handle many more sheep than we once thought.

It is exciting that we have people with an expanded vision for our industry. We all recognize the challenges that face us in the coming years – high feed, energy and supply costs and a flat production level. The real challenge for us is to look beyond these issues and see ourselves in a new future. This will mean changes in almost everything we do with our sheep from the way we feed to the genetics we use and the markets we access. There will be a steep learning curve to stay ahead of the challenges. As I was told not long ago by a wise old sheep man – “you don't have to make all the mistakes yourself”.

In the months ahead when you are having troubles and don't know what



to do, just open your membership directory and call one of your fellow producers. There are very few new problems, we just have not had the personal opportunity to experience them all yet.

Keep your pencils sharp and your minds open.

## Silver Bell Winners —Cont.

J.T Roe was this year's youth Silver Bell award winner. J.T. is the son of Kirk and Jill Roe of Blue Earth.

J.T has done a number of things to promote lamb and wool. He created several activities for the BAA Booth at the state fair, but perhaps the biggest hit was the sheep blanket with the wholesale cuts of the lamb carcass. J.T has done numerous lamb-related demonstrations. He and his family have been very active in the 4-

H sheep project. In addition, J.T. has recently applied to become a Lambassador.

J.T. has displayed the active

**Learn how to nominate  
deserving producers at  
[www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org)**

leadership qualities necessary to be a youth Silver Bell Winner.

A listing of past winners can be found at [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org). The website also lists the criteria and the nomination information. If you know a deserving producer or youth, who has not been a winner, please take the time to nominate them.

If you don't have internet access, you can contact the MLWP Silver Bell Award chairman, Foster Mooney, at 651-257-5079.

Congratulations to our winners!

## ASI/MLWP Comment in Support of Predator Management Tools—in part from ASI 1/11/08

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) filed comments on Jan. 2, 2008, to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adamantly supporting the continued registration of sodium cyanide capsules for M-44 devices and sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080) for livestock protection collars.

The EPA received a petition last year from animal rights groups requesting the agency cancel all uses of sodium cyanide capsules and Compound 1080 claiming that these substances cannot perform their intended functions without causing unreasonable adverse effect on the environment and posing an imminent hazard. The EPA requested comments from interested parties in response to this request.

ASI provided the agency with several scientific reviewed articles and studies pertaining to predator management and lethal controls

including research findings stating that the lack of adequate control results in a 29 percent death loss of lambs.

ASI strongly cautioned the agency on any use of the petitioners data given the gross inaccuracies and misrepresentations present in their information. An example is the petitioners claim that the effectiveness of M-44s is miniscule. ASI relayed that M-44s are the second most effective coyote control tool in America. With coyotes being the dominant predator of sheep, the impact of losing this tool would have a significant impact.

Industry comments also corrected the petitioners' use of the USDA Livestock Loss reports. ASI clarified that these reports show the number of sheep and cattle losses to predators with current predator controls in place and yet hundreds of thousands of livestock are killed by predators.

MLWP also signed on to the letter of support for these predator control tools. Although these products are currently not legal to use in Minnesota, we felt it was important to support their continued use in other states. This way it may someday be possible to change the laws in MN and make these products available to producers here.

## Wildlife Damage Claims Pour in

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) administers funds to reimburse producers who suffer livestock losses from wolves and crop damage from elk. Over the past 10 years, they receive an average of just over \$70,000 in validated claims per year.

During the first six months of this year, those claims are way up. In a normal year, they receive about 55 wolf claims for just under \$69,000. Through the first half of this fiscal year, they have had 67 wolf claims

totaling over \$67,000. In an average year, they get 2-3 elk damage claims for about \$1,500. Through the first half of this year, they have had 5 claims for over \$18,000.

The result of the increase in depredation means the funds will likely run out soon. If producers submit claims after the funds run out, MDA will hold those claims until money is appropriated the following year. Producers will get reimbursed, it just may take some time.

The problem with holding the claims is that the money could run out even earlier the following year. MDA is currently working with the DNR to understand why more depredation is occurring, and determine steps to mitigate that damage. In addition, MDA may seek to increase the money in this fund. If that happens, MDA will likely rely on groups like ours to ask the legislature for more funds.

**[There are no funds for livestock and crop losses caused by other species.]**

## Producers Taking Advantage of LRP-Lamb - Amy Trinidad, ASI

After five months of sales, the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is pleased with the sales and the acceptance by the industry of the Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb (LRP-Lamb) product.

The LRP-Lamb pilot program was created by ASI to protect feeders and producers from unexpected lamb price declines. In addition, ASI created an insurance agency, Food and Fiber Risk Managers LLC (FFRM), to provide sheep producers with an avenue to purchase LRP-Lamb and to help ensure the success of the program. Producers who purchase LRP-Lamb coverage through FFRM not only receive protection for their lambs but are also investing back into the industry by supporting ASI.

"Since this is a pilot program, this plan of insurance must show good sales in order to remain an option for our industry's use," comments Burdell Johnson, ASI president and chairman of the association's insurance agency, FFRM.

Both ASI and the FFRM agency have been active in assisting interested lamb owners and helping them

understand how LRP-Lamb can help them protect against unexpected declines in market prices.

"LRP-Lamb is a great tool for producers and feeders to balance out the lows and highs of the lamb market. I suggest producers with questions about this new product speak with the staff at FFRM. They will be able to assist you in deciding which insurance policy best fits the needs of your livestock operation," explains Johnson.

Sheep producers may select 13-week, 26-week or 39-week insurance periods as well as coverage levels ranging from 80 percent to 95 percent of the expected ending value to correspond with their general feeding, production and marketing practices. LRP-Lamb may be purchased on Monday each week (as long as rates and coverage prices are available) with sales beginning at approximately 10 a.m. on Monday morning when rates and coverage prices are released and ending on that same day at 7 p.m. Central time. Preliminary rates and coverage prices may be released the Friday evening prior to the day of sales for viewing over the weekend. LRP-

Lamb must be purchased through an insurance agent. Producers may access the current rates and coverage prices and all policy materials, including premium calculation instructions, on the RMA Web site at [www.rma.usda.gov/livestock](http://www.rma.usda.gov/livestock).

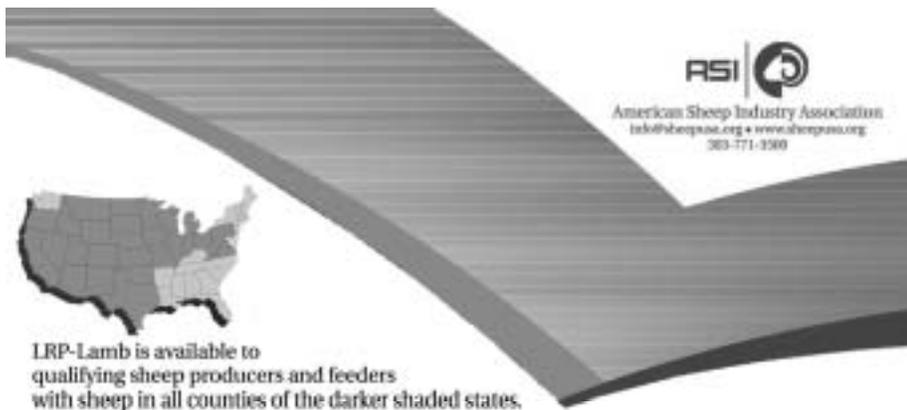
LRP-Lamb is available to sheep producers with lambs located in all counties of the following 27 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, **Minnesota**, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

In addition, ASI developed an online educational/training course detailing the features of LRP-Lamb which is available at [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org). It is designed as a tool for producers and agents to learn more about the product and to offer scenarios to assist with the decision to purchase the insurance.

## Pipestone Lamb & Wool Facility Tour

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program is planning to conduct their first Facility Tour on June 9th, 2008. The facility tour will be a full day tour, visiting multiple Pipestone Lamb and Wool producers with new and remodeled facilities. The tour will include state of the art lambing barns, hoop barns, cold housing structures, remodeled lambing barns, handling facilities and fence line feeding systems. The tour will begin and end at the Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Pipestone. Enrollment will be limited to 50 participants so plan ahead and register today. The tour details, registration form and a few pictures will be posted on the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program web page [www.pipestonesheep.com](http://www.pipestonesheep.com).

For additional information contact Phone: 507-825-6806, Email: [philip.berg@mnwest.edu](mailto:philip.berg@mnwest.edu) or [mike.caskey@mnwest.edu](mailto:mike.caskey@mnwest.edu).



## Food and Fiber Risk Managers Now Offering LRP-Lamb

FFRM is an insurance agency set up by the American Sheep Industry Association to serve the U.S. sheep industry. By purchasing the insurance product from FFRM, you are investing back into the industry.



For more information contact Alex Glann at FFRM.

**Food and Fiber Risk Managers, LLC**

www.fafirm.com • aglann@fafirm.com • Fax: (515) 957-9091  
Alex Glann: 1-877-957-9339 • Carol Sorvik: 1-877-957-8006  
3160 8th Street SW, Suite F, Altoona, IA 50009

*FFRM is a wholly owned subsidiary of ASI. Its goal is to provide top service to sheep producers and feeders, and make the LRP-Lamb pilot program a success.*

### Lamb Check-off News

#### “Lean on Lamb” Paper Available

The A White Paper titled "Lamb: It's Place in the U.S. Diet" has been developed to help educate registered dietitians and nutrition educators about the health benefits of eating lamb. The paper was written by Jo Ann S. Carson, PHD, RD, LD, from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and G.G. Hilton and D.L. VanOverbeke, from Oklahoma State University. The White Paper provides a summary and analysis of current lamb nutrient composition information and sources for all available research and data related to lamb nutrition.

#### American Lamb Makes Splash in FL

In April, The American Lamb Board's promotion with retailer Winn-Dixie in Florida contributed to an increase of 75,000 pounds in American Lamb sales during a six-month period compared to the previous year. The promotion combined local publicity efforts, partnerships with local celebrity chefs, participation at the South Beach Food and Wine Show, and a retail promotion supported by advertising and point-of-sale materials.

## Indianhead Sheep Breeders Association Spring Sale

Indianhead Sheep Breeders Association will be holding its annual Spring Sale on Sunday, April 6th, 2008 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Mann Valley Farm. The sale, conducted by auctioneer Jon Mork, will feature over 60 head of high quality club lambs and purebred breeding stock from some of the top breeders in Wisconsin and Minnesota. A youth clinic will be presented prior to the sale and a silent auction of donated products will be taking place. A food stand will be available. ISBA youth members will receive a complimentary feed pail or halter with a lamb purchase. Association memberships will be available at the sale. This sale is a primary source for county and state fair market class lambs in northwest Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota with several county fair champions sold every year.

The UW-River Falls Mann Valley Farm is west of River Falls, 2.5 miles west of Main Street on County Hwy. MM and north on S. Glover Road. Viewing and weighing will begin at 11:00 a.m., the youth clinic will be held at 12:00 p.m. and the sale will begin at 1:00 p.m. Cash or good checks with picture identification will be accepted. Please visit our website at [www.indianheadsheep.com](http://www.indianheadsheep.com) or contact Linda Mullendore at 715-268-9190 or [mully@amerytel.net](mailto:mully@amerytel.net) for details.

# SHEPHERD'S HARVEST - Sheep and Wool Festival

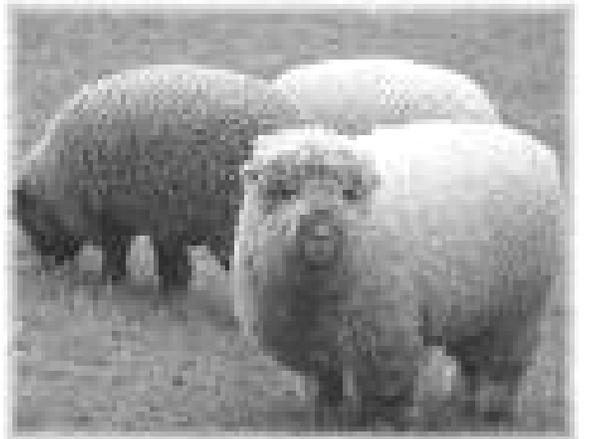
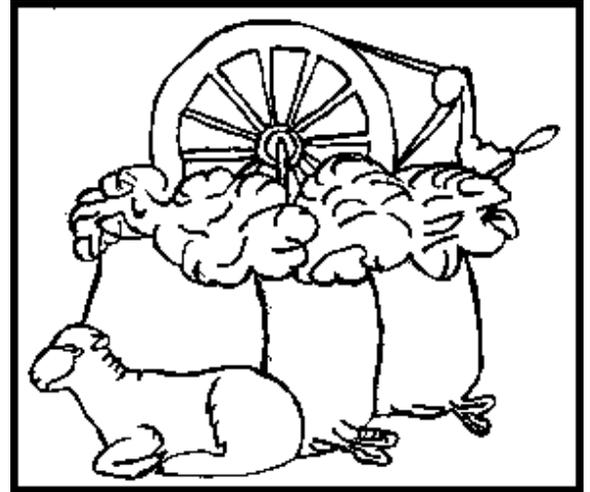
**May 10 & 11, 2008**

**Washington County Fairgrounds, Lake Elmo, MN**

9:00 to 5:00 Saturday 10:00 to 4:00 Sunday

**FREE Admission - FREE Parking**

- **Vendors of exclusive fibers, yarns and supplies**
- **Sheep shearing demonstrations**
- **Wool & alpaca fleece competitions**
- **Working stock dogs demonstration**
- **Children's activities**
- **Lamb burgers and brats and more**
- **Management tips for small flock owners**
- **Sheep breeds display**
- **Classes for fiber lovers**
- **Fiber and photography contests**
- **Also on the fair grounds:           Llama Magic**



The Shepherd's Harvest Festival is an opportunity for rural and urban people to meet and share information about sheep, sheep products and other fiber-producing critters.

*[www.shepherdsharvestfestival.org](http://www.shepherdsharvestfestival.org)*

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

**Ad space is still available in the 2008 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 April 1**

**(952-758-7938, [jgeske@fbmn.org](mailto:jgeske@fbmn.org))**

**MLWP members can place an ad on our 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 April 1**

**(952-758-7938, [jgeske@fbmn.org](mailto:jgeske@fbmn.org))**

**Checks payable to: MLWP**

## **Promote your products at the Shepherd's Harvest Festival!**

MLWPA will have a booth at the SHF. MLWPA members are welcome and encouraged to advertise their sheep products at our booth. There will be a place for members to drop off business cards/flyers/brochures at the booth. MLWPA is dedicated to promoting the lamb and wool products of all of our members. To learn more about the MLWPA booth at the SHF, contact Sherry Stirling or Patty Anderson (numbers on page 1).



## Shepherd's Clinic

Saturday, May 10, 2008

9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Washington County Fairgrounds

Lake Elmo, Minnesota

4H Building in the southeast  
corner near the display garden

### **Also happening on this date:**

Shepherd's Harvest Fiber Festival  
with vendors, demonstrations,  
entertainment, and classes.  
Alpaca & Wool Fleece Contests

### **Tentative Program:**

**Promoting your products using the Minnesota Grown program & website**

Paul Hugunin, MN Grown Program, Minnesota Dept of Agriculture

**Loans for youth (ages 10 -20)** Steve Hillbrand, Farm Loan Manager, Farm Service Agency

**Principles of FAMANCHA parasite monitoring system & preventative strategies**

Susan McClanahan, DVM, Assistant Clinical Professor of Small Ruminant/Beef Medicine at  
the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

**On-hands session screening for parasites using the FAMANCHA eye chart**

Brenda Postels, Associate Program Director, Minnesota Extension Service

**Lamb lead showmanship - Ways for you and your ewe to look your best!**

Ashley Schiefelbein, Lambassador and MLWP Youth Program Facilitator

**Getting started and small flock management including marketing techniques**

Patricia Anderson & Sherry Stirling - small flock owners *Class will be 3:30 pm-5:00 pm*

Beverages & cookies provided. Ample time will be allowed for lunch break on site.

### **MLWPA**

**Shepherd's Clinic**

**May 8, 2008**

Send registration to:

MLWP/Stirling

PO Box 839

Lindstrom, MN 55045

**More information:**

Phone: 651-257-0827

Fax: 651-257-5603

Email:stirling@tc.umn.edu

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment  Check  
 Visa  MasterCard

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Registration Form**

	Fee	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> General Registration	\$15 person	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> MLWP Member Registration	\$10 person	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> All registration after May 2nd	\$20 person	<input type="text"/>
Make check payable to: <b>MLWP</b>	<b>Total:</b>	_____

Signature if using credit card \_\_\_\_\_

## Legislative Update

### \$935 Million State Budget Deficit

The February state budget forecast released on February 28 now pegs the state budget deficit for the current biennium at \$935 million, 2.7 percent of the total general fund spending. This is up from the \$373 million deficit projected last November. State revenues are projected to drop by \$530 million more than previously expected, and state expenditures are projected to increase \$64 million more than previously expected. In addition, state finance officials projected a \$1.1 billion shortfall for the 2010-2011 biennium.

Based on early reaction to the news, the Governor and legislative leaders are expected to propose spending cuts to meet a constitutional requirement of a balanced the state budget. Both the Governor and legislative leaders have not proposed any increases in taxes as yet.

### Pesticide Recordkeeping Req's

HF 2459, authored by Rep. Ken Tschumper, DFL-LaCrescent, passed the House Housing Policy and Public Health Finance Division on Tuesday, Feb. 26. The bill was amended and now includes the following provisions that will apply to commercial applicators, noncommercial applicators and private applicators applying pesticides to potatoes and hybrid poplars:

- Applicators will be required to post application site information 48 hours in advance of application on a website developed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA);
- Applicators will be required to place red flags two feet by two feet in size on six-foot poles

around the perimeter of the application site 48 hours in advance of application;

- Applicators will be required to file records of all applications monthly with MDA electronically or by mail;
- MDA must send this information monthly to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH);
- Application information would be public information and can not be used for data mining or commercial purposes; and
- The current MDA authority to enter an applicator's place of business to conduct investigations would also be extended to MDH.

Currently, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture must work with licensed physicians and veterinarians to obtain and provide application information in response to valid medical concerns.

HF 2459 will next be heard in the House Environmental Policy committee. A hearing date has not been set at this time.

### Transportation Funding Bill

The transportation funding bill authored by Rep. Bernie Lieder, DFL-Crookston and Sen. Steve Murphy, DFL-Red Wing, passed the MN House and Senate on Thursday, Feb. 21. The Governor vetoed this legislation on Friday, Feb. 22. The House and Senate voted on February 25 to override the Governor's veto. The vote in the House was 91-41 and the vote in the Senate was 47-20.

The state gas tax will increase two cents per gallon on April 1, from 20 cents per gallon to 22 cents per gallon. The state gas tax will increase an



additional three cents per gallon on October 1, from 22 cents per gallon to 25 cents per gallon. A provision to index the state gas tax to inflation was removed from the legislation. This tax applies to both gasoline and undyed diesel fuel.

A one-half cent per gallon of gasoline debt service surcharge will go into effect on August 1. The debt service surcharge will be adjusted annually and can go no higher than 3.5 cents per gallon of gasoline. Revenue from the debt service surcharge must be used to pay off trunk highway bonds. Motor vehicle sales registration tax (license tab fees) will increase on purchases of new vehicles beginning September 1.

Metropolitan counties, upon action of county commissioner, may impose a metropolitan transportation sales tax of 0.25 percent and a motor vehicle sales excise tax of \$20. This revenue must be used to fund transit projects in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Counties in greater Minnesota may impose a local transportation sales tax of 0.5 percent and a motor vehicle sales excise tax of \$20. Taxes imposed under this section are subject to approval by a majority of the voters of the county or counties at a general election who vote on the question and can only be used to fund specific transportation projects.

### Biodiesel Legislation

## Legislative Update - cont.

HF 2987, authored by Rep. Al Juhnke, DFL-Willmar and SF 2724, authored by Sen. Jim Vickerman, DFL-Tracy, would increase the current B2 biodiesel requirement to B5, move that requirement to B20 over time providing certain procedures and criteria are met, provide grants for investments in biodiesel blending equipment and clearly defines what biodiesel is.

### Livestock Investment Grants

HF 2942, authored by Rep. Al Juhnke, DFL-Willmar, would establish a statewide livestock grant program for Minnesota livestock farmers.

The commissioner of agriculture may award a livestock investment grant to a person who raises livestock in this state equal to ten percent of the first \$500,000 of qualifying expenditures, provided the person makes qualifying expenditures of at least \$40,000. The commissioner may award multiple livestock investment grants to a person over the life of the program as long as the cumulative amount does not exceed \$50,000.

“Livestock” means beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, poultry, goats, mules, farmed cervidae, ratitae, bison, llamas, and sheep. **[Sheep were inadvertently left out of the original bill. Thanks to MN Farm Bureau lobbyist Chris Radatz for noticing the oversight and contacting Rep. Junke to make sure the bill was amended to include sheep.]**

"Qualifying expenditures" means the amount spent for: the acquisition, construction, or improvement of buildings or facilities for the production of livestock or livestock products; or the acquisition of equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding, and waste management including, but not limited

to, the following: freestall barns; watering facilities; feed storage and handling equipment; milking parlors; robotic equipment; scales; milk storage and cooling facilities; bulk tanks; computer hardware and software and associated equipment used to monitor the productivity and feeding of livestock; manure pumping and storage facilities; swine farrowing facilities; swine and cattle finishing barns; calving facilities; digesters; equipment used to produce energy; and on-farm processing facilities and equipment.

Qualifying expenditures only include amounts that are allowed to be capitalized and deducted under either section 167 or 179 of the Internal Revenue Code in computing federal taxable income. Qualifying expenditures do not include an amount paid to refinance existing debt.

Eligibility. To be eligible for a livestock investment grant, a person must: be a resident of Minnesota or an entity authorized to farm in this state under section 500.24, subdivision 3; be the principal operator of the farm; hold an appropriate feedlot registration; and apply to the commissioner on forms prescribed by the commissioner including a statement of the qualifying expenditures of at least \$40,000 made during the qualifying period along with any proof or other documentation the commissioner may require. The \$50,000 maximum grant applies at the entity level for partnerships, S corporations, trusts, and estates as well as at the individual level. In the case of married individuals, the grant is limited to \$50,000 for a married couple. **[Due to the \$935 mil budget deficit, it is unlikely that bills that require significant additional funding will pass this year.]**

### Farm Bill

In spite of published reports about an imminent deal on the Farm Bill between key congressional leaders, there remains a great deal of ground left to cover, even for negotiators to agree on a spending number for any Farm Bill deal. News reports are saying the final spending deal could settle in the \$9-billion-over-baseline area.

In addition, there are other significant hurdles to jump, such as how to make the policy provisions square with the final proposed spending figure, according to American Farm Bureau's Tara Smith. Another key factor that has not yet been factored into congressional negotiations is how members of Congress will sell the deal to the administration, which has continued to hold a firm line at \$6 billion over 10 years above the current Congressional Budget Office baseline of \$596.6 billion.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Tom Harkin (D-IA) told the Brownfield Network he believes extending the current farm bill through at least the end of 2009 is increasingly inevitable, and he "put the blame squarely upon the Bush administration" for the current stalemate. However, he also said he will continue to push for a farm bill deal to be completed by March 15. **[Both the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill included an increase in the LDP rate for wool. We'll see what happens in conference.]**

### MLWP nominates 3 for ASI committees

- Jeremy Geske—Legislative
- Bob Padula—Seedstock
- Dr. Cindy Wolf—Health

## Don't Miss Out on the 2008 Membership Directory!

There are quite a few of you who have been members of MLWP that **have not yet paid** your 2008 **membership dues**. We are now in the process of compiling the 2008 MLWP membership directory. In order to **get your flock and contact information listed in the directory**, you must **pay your dues by April 1**. If you aren't sure if you have paid dues for 2008, 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 2008 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.



\$

### Bovine TB Found in an 11th NW MN Beef Herd

As part of the ongoing efforts to eradicate bovine TB from MN, animal health officials have found a positive animal in a fourth herd in the last four months (making 11 total herds). With four positives in less than 12 months, Minnesota's TB status will be downgraded, resulting in additional testing requirements for beef and dairy producers.

Since the investigation began, the DNR has also found 17 positive deer. The DNR is working with the Board of Animal Health and the MN Dept. of Ag to eradicate TB from cattle and deer.

North Dakota has placed additional testing requirements on beef cattle, dairy cattle, bison, farmed cervidae, camelids, and goats from Minnesota. Other states may take similar actions.

Although bovine TB could potentially affect sheep, there is no reliable test for TB in sheep. Therefore, no additional requirements are being placed on sheep. To learn more about bovine TB, go to [www.bah.state.mn.us](http://www.bah.state.mn.us).

## March 14 Deadline for 2008 Wool LDP Program

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 authorized commodity loan and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for 2008 crop wool and mohair, and LDPs for unshorn pelts. The 2008 wool and mohair loan rates remain the same as the 2007 rates. The Act extends the program only through March 15, 2008. Because March 15 is a Saturday, producers must file their request no later than March 14, 2008.

Producers normally are required to file the CCC-633 EZ page 1, LDP application prior to loss of beneficial interest. However, for applications filed by March 14, LDP requests may be filed after loss of beneficial interest. For those cases, the LDP rate will be based on the rate in effect on the date that beneficial interest was lost.

Producers can file both the CCC-633 EZ page 1, and the CCC-633 EZ page 4, Request for LDP, at the same time.

To be eligible for a loan or LDP on wool or mohair, a producer must:

- \* have owned the sheep or goats for not less than 30 calendar days before shearing
- \* sheared the wool or mohair in calendar year 2008;
- \* report all cropland acreage on the applicable farms where the wool or mohair was produced;
- \* have beneficial interest in the wool or mohair.

To be eligible for an LDP on unshorn pelts, a producer must:

- \* have owned the unshorn lambs for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and filing the LDP application;
- \* sold the unshorn lambs for immediate slaughter in calendar year 2008;
- \* report all cropland acreage on the applicable farms where the unshorn lambs were produced;
- \* have beneficial interest in the unshorn lambs.

Wool and mohair producers interested in the 2008 program should contact the staff at the local county FSA office that maintains their farm program records for additional details.

## MLWPA Comments on Proposed MPCA feedlot fee increases

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency recently announced a proposal to raise water quality permit fees associated with livestock feedlot permits. A number of agricultural organizations submitted comments in opposition to the proposed increase. Below is a summary of comments from President Dan Persons:

On behalf of MLWPA, we are expressing our strong opposition to the proposed increase in water permit fees and the proposed fee increase associated with an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). As we understand the proposal, the suggested new water permit fee associated with an animal feedlot is a more than 700 % increase.

Livestock farmers are facing skyrocketing increases in input cost and profit margins are being reduced by record amounts. At the same time many small communities rely on these farmers for a significant portion of their business activity. These farmers need to have a business climate that allows them to remain competitive with their peers. A favorable business climate will help these producers maintain a reasonable return on their investment.

The proposed increase in water permit fees and the requirements for EAWs will place an unfair burden on new and expanding livestock farms. This action will send a message to many producers that they should begin

to look for other locations for their businesses and some expansion projects may never materialize due to more layers of regulation.

We respectfully request that the MPCA revisit the proposed fee increases and significantly reduce or eliminate them altogether. This reduction is needed to lessen the effect on an already struggling livestock sector. We ask your help in creating a business climate that allows Minnesota livestock producers to remain competitive, progressive and profitable.



## National Make It With Wool Winners - Sheep Industry News 3/08

The Make It With Wool competition celebrated its 60th birthday at the 2008 convention of the American Sheep Industry Association. The designers taking top honors at this year's national competition were Emily Ellsworth of Frankfort, Ind., and Gabrielle Augustine of Palmerton, Pa.

Carrie Holter of Jefferson, Md., and Sheilina Nohner of Watkin, Minn., won First Runner-Up Junior Division and Senior Division, respectively. Nohner created a four-piece grey wool suit featuring red pin stripping.

Nohner won a "Project Runway" sewing machine from Brother International; a \$250 savings bond from Center of the National Wool Inc.; the "Pants for Any Body" book from Palmer/Pletsch Publishing; electric scissors sharpener from EdgeCraft Corp.; a "Easy Zippers" DVD from Islander Sewing Systems; the "Women's Boutique 4" pattern software from Wild Ginger Software; and fabric from Pendleton or Woolrich. Congratulations Sheilina!



**Sheilina Nohner, Watkins, MN**

**Sr. Div. 1st runner-up**

Dianne Galloway of Sandusky, Ohio, was named the 2008 National

Make It With Wool Adult Winner. Winner of the Fashion/Apparel Design Award was Vi Vi Hua, a fashion/apparel design student at Houston Community College in Texas, who designed a long, black military style jacket worn over a high-waisted pencil skirt lined in geometric color blocks.

A total of 62 junior and senior finalists representing 31 states modeled their creations at the national competition. Some 926 contestants nationwide entered competitions at the state level and utilized more than 2,800 yards of wool fabric and 952 skeins of yarn to create their garments.

Alyssa Nelson of Jackson, MN finished in the top 13 in the Jr. Division. Marcella Mathais of Cottonwood, MN was an honorable mention in the adult division.

Minnesota was well represented at the national MIWW contest. To learn more about participating in next year's MIWW contest, go to [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org) and click on MIWW.

## Scrapie Eradication Efforts are Succeeding - from Sheep & Goat Health Report fall/winter 2007

"We are succeeding in our goal of substantially eradicating classical scrapie from the nation's sheep flocks and goat herds by the end of 2010," reported Dr. Diane Sutton (USDA APHIS national scrapie eradication program coordinator).

She went on to explain that we have had a 34% decrease in the number of scrapie positive black face sheep sampled at slaughter this past

year. The industry has also seen a 38% decrease in new infected flocks.

Critical research is being done on the rare NOR98-like scrapie of which 5 cases have been found in the US. This rare strain can infect sheep that are genetically resistant to classical scrapie. We have a lot to learn about NOR98-like scrapie.

A study is currently underway to get a better handle on the prevalence of

scrapie in the US goat population. The study will focus primarily on samples at slaughtering facilities.

### **Rectal Biopsy Test for Scrapie**

In an effort to discover a better live animal test for scrapie, researchers are focusing on rectal biopsy as a possibility. Preliminary results indicate that rectal biopsy seems to be more accurate than the third eyelid test, and easier for the sheep to tolerate.

## Fixing Broken Legs - Dr. Larry Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic

Despite our efforts to provide a safe environment for sheep, injuries occur. The flock instinct and jumping habit of some sheep coupled with overanxious mothering or just bad luck result in broken legs. Some are easily treated, some can't be treated and some will heal on their own.

Broken legs are generally the most obvious of injuries. The leg is bending where it isn't supposed to bend. To confirm a broken leg hold the joint above and below the suspected break and try to wiggle it. The prognosis for broken legs depends on the location, the age of the sheep and the severity.

If the bone has not penetrated through the skin the fracture can usually be successfully cast or splinted and the prognosis for recovery is good. If the bone is showing through the skin and it is contaminated with dirt or manure you need to either think about butchering immediately or euthanasia. Contaminated bones do not heal and to treat bone infections you are looking at antibiotic therapy for weeks to months.

If the fracture is below the knee or the hock casting or splinting generally

is successful. On baby lambs I like to splint the legs as the splint can be removed in two weeks and reapplied to allow growth. Generally 3 weeks in a splint and the lamb will be healed. I will usually cast older lambs or ewes with fractures because the casting material is more durable than the splint. When casting or splinting you must immobilize the joint above and below the fracture. If you don't the splint or cast will act like a pendulum and make the fracture worse.

Because you cannot immobilize the stifle or the elbow casting or splinting only works if the fracture is below the hock or the knee. If the fracture is above the knee or hock I usually fold the leg and wrap it up to the body with vetwrap. This will immobilize the leg until it heals. It will take 3-4 weeks for the lamb to use that leg but eventually it will start using it more and more. In ewes fractures above the knee and hock are unfixable and euthanasia is the best option.

Splinting is an easy procedure that most shepherds can do themselves.

Splints that veterinary clinics carry are

usually light and made out of plastic. I also have seen homemade splints made out of lath or 1/3 diameter PVC pipe. Have the splint long enough to immobilize the bone above and below the fracture, pad the skin with some roll cotton or cloth, apply the splint and wrap with vetwrap (or duct tape). The splint should be snug and tight but not impair circulation. Leave the toes exposed to the air so you can be sure they aren't swelling. Never wrap the entire foot or you will have footrot or foot scald. I usually give Penicillin and banamine (flunixin) for a few days and lambs with splints. After two or three days the lambs are generally moving well on all four legs. Baby lambs need only to have the leg splinted for 2-3 weeks. Ewes will need the leg immobilized for 4-6 weeks. Always have the splinted sheep in a well bedded, dry pen.

Casting is a little more involved and probably will need a Veterinarian. If you have lots of broken legs have your Veterinarian show you how to cast or splint.

## Reliability of B. Ovis test - from Sheep & Goat Health Report fall/winter 2007

Several states require *brucella ovis* tests for rams. A serious problem arose two years ago when a reagent used in the test was producing inaccurate results.

The National Veterinary Services Lab (NVSL) in Ames, IA is working on improving the reliability of B. ovis tests. The first step was finding a new

reagent - which seems to be working well.

Another problem is the inconsistencies in procedures among various testing labs. NVSL is working on a set of standard operating procedures (SOP). If all labs will follow the same SOP, we should get better reliability on B. ovis testing.

### 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.**

## Targeted Grazing Workshops Offered

Interested parties can learn the techniques to implement a targeted grazing program at one of three Targeted Grazing Workshops offered this spring. The workshops will be held March 28-29, Albuquerque, N.M.; April 8-9, Pennsylvania Furnace, Pa.; and April 17-18, Boise, Idaho. The \$50 registration fee covers lunch, refreshments and other educational materials.

Targeted grazing represents the application of a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation and landscape enhancement goals. Effective grazing programs for weed control require planning and specialized knowledge in order to eliminate the target plants while improving the health of the desired plants. Applying the

knowledge necessary to create an environment where the grazing animal prefers the target plant and applying the grazing at the proper duration and intensity represent the key ingredients to a successful targeted grazing effort.

The workshops are sponsored by the NRCS, ASI, and many other groups. For more information or to register, contact Rochelle Oxarango (208-436-1113 or [targetgraze@pmt.org](mailto:targetgraze@pmt.org)).

### 4-H Sheep Workshop

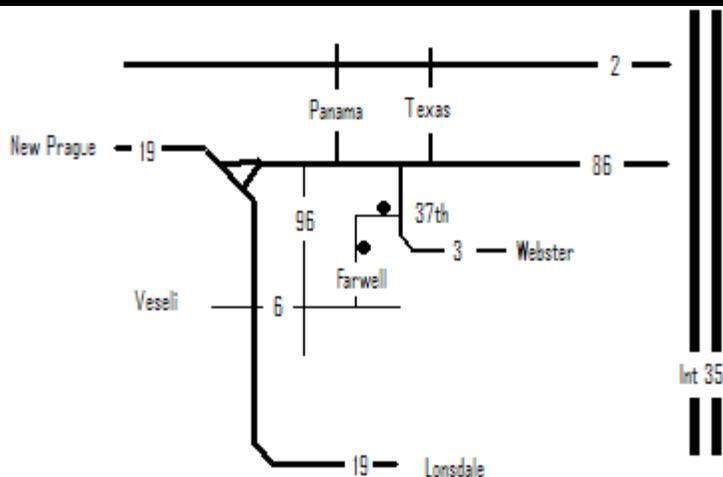
April 19

Webster, MN

A 4-H sheep workshop has been scheduled for Saturday, April 19 in Webster MN. The event will start at 9 am at the Holy Cross School (6100 37th St W). The cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door (includes lunch).

The afternoon hands-on sessions will be held at the John Dvorak farm (4325 Farwell Ave). Topics for the day include: *Sheep nutrition and alternative feeds, sheep health, sheep facilities*, and more.

For information Contact John Dvorak at 612 916 5121 or email at [bjdvorak81@hotmail.com](mailto:bjdvorak81@hotmail.com). Mail registration payment to John at 4325 Farwell Ave, Webster, MN 55088.



## Editorial - Meetings with U of M = Frustrating - Jeremy Geske

Since the coalition of agricultural organizations released a report critical of the University of Minnesota's support for agriculture, the U of M has made efforts to seek input from farm groups. One strategy was to hire an outside firm (Informa) to gather information on how the U can best meet the needs of Minnesota farmers.

When Informa met with MN Farm Bureau, I tried to take the opportunity to explain the needs of the sheep producers in MN. However, one

representative from Informa quickly interrupted me, explaining that in his view the sheep industry was dying, and that no one eats lamb, making it clear he was not concerned about our needs.

I mentioned that MN ranked highly in the number of sheep producers (around 2,800 - MN has about 4 times as many sheep farms as turkey farms), that demand for lamb has been increasing, and that lamb prices are as high or higher than they have been in decades, but he didn't want to listen.

A couple weeks ago, I was invited (along with many ag groups) to a breakfast with U of M President Bruininks. At that meeting I learned about several Ag positions that were being filled at the U. While that is great for the industries those positions will serve, none of them will be working with sheep producers.

The states around us each have multiple sheep specialists, but all we get is a contact person who has very limited knowledge of the sheep.

## Exerts from the 2005 NASS Sheep & Goat Death loss Report

Sheep and lamb losses from animal predators and non-predator causes in the United States totaled 600,300. This report provides detailed breakouts of sheep and lamb losses after docking by predators and non-predator causes, as well as data on non-lethal predator control measures.

Sheep and lamb losses from animal predators totaled 224,200. This represented 37.3 percent of the total losses from all causes and resulted in a loss of \$18.3 million to farmers and ranchers. Coyotes and dogs caused the majority of sheep and lamb losses accounting for 60.5 percent and 13.3

percent respectively.

Sheep and lamb losses from non-predator causes totaled 376,100 or 62.7 percent of the total losses. Respiratory problems was the leading cause of non-predator deaths accounting for 17.5 percent, followed by digestive problems at 17.1 percent.

Farmers and ranchers throughout the United States spent 9.8 million dollars on non-lethal methods to control predators. Fencing was the most frequently used method at 52.5 percent. Night penning, guard dogs, and lamb sheds were the next most



commonly used methods of preventing sheep and lamb losses at 32.9 percent, 31.8 percent, and 30.8 percent respectively.

Below are some statistics just from Minnesota.

### Losses of Sheep and Lambs: By All Causes, Predators and Non-Predators, Number by State and United States, 2004

State	All Causes		Predators		Non-Predators	
	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs
	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>
MN	8,000	17,000	1,200	1,900	6,800	15,100

### Losses of Sheep and Lambs from Predators and Non-Predators: Total Value per Head and Total Value, by State and United States, 2004

State	Value per Head		Total Value Predator Losses		Total Value Non-Predator Losses	
	Sheep <sup>1</sup>	Lambs <sup>2</sup>	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
MN	129.00	57.00	155	108	877	861

### Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Number and Percent by Coyotes and Dogs by State and United States, 2004

State	Coyotes				Dogs			
	Sheep	% Total Predator	Lambs	% Total Predator	Sheep	% Total Predator	Lambs	% Total Predator
	<i>Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>
MN	200	16.7	400	21.1	700	58.3	1,000	52.6

MN also lost 100 lambs to bears (5.3% of total predator loss), and 300 sheep (25%) and 400 lambs (21.1%) to other predator (primarily wolves).

The complete report can be viewed at: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/sgdl/sgdl-05-06-2005.pdf>.

## Calendar of Events

### 2008

April 1	Deadline to get in the MLWP directory	
April 6	Indianhead Sheep Breeders Sale	River Falls, WI
April 12	MLWP Board of Directors Meeting	Glencoe, MN
April 19	4-H Sheep Workshop	Webster, MN
May 7-9	ASI Spring Trip to DC	Washington, D.C.
May 10-11	Shepherd's Harvest Festival	Lake Elmo, MN
May 10	Shepherd's Clinic	Lake Elmo, MN
May 23-24	Cornbelt Sale	Des Moines, IA
June 9	Pipestone lamb & wool facility tour	Pipestone, MN
June 23-28	MW Stud Ram Show & Sale	Sedalia, MO
June 14	Iowa Sheep Producers annual mtg	Adel, IA
July 13-16	NLFA Sheep Leadership School	Dixon, CA
July 19	MN State Suffolk Show	Faribault, MN
July 20	MN Jr. Suffolk Show	Faribault, MN
July 20	MN State Suffolk Sale	Faribault, MN
Aug 21-Sep 1	MN State Fair	St. Paul, MN
Sep. 19	Newell Ram Sale	Newell, SD
Dec. 5-6	MLWP Annual Conference	Hutchinson, MN

*If you have a calendar item or news releases that you would like included, please send information to:*

*Jeremy Geske  
901 Horizon Dr. SE  
New Prague, MN 56071  
jgeske@fbmn.org*

*We're on the  
web!  
[www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org)*

### Natural Lamb Regulations

For several years now, many producers have marketed "natural" raised lamb. Unlike the strict organic standards, there are not a lot of regulations as to what constitutes "natural". All USDA asked was that the seller include a brief statement as to what they mean by "natural."

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is now considering regulations for "natural" meat labeling. One of the proposed regulations that could impact sheep producers is that to be considered "natural," you could not use coccidiostats (or growth promotants, antibiotics).

Learn more at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-23103.htm>.

