

# SHEPHERD'S NEWS

Winter 2011

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## GOELZ RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Auctioneer, sheep producer and dedicated supporter of the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association (MLWPA), John Goelz, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award at the 2010 MLWPA Shepherd's Holiday. For many years, John has donated his time and talents towards the MLWPA fundraiser auction at the annual meeting; raising thousands of dollars annually to support the organization and its members (not to mention keeping us entertained with an endless supply of Ole and Lena jokes).

The Goelz family is truly committed to the



MLWP President Don Adelman congratulates John Goelz

sheep industry. John and Alice attend the Shepherd's Holiday virtually every year, regardless of the location. Their son, Dr. Larry Goelz (Pipestone Vet Clinic) shares his

expertise on sheep health at conferences and events throughout the year.

The MLPWA board of directors congratulates a very deserving John Goelz!



Sarah Olson - Woodbury, MN wins at the National Make it With Wool contest

- \$500 cash, Sew News Magazine Exemplary Construction Award
- \$250 cash, Claire Shaeffer Pattern Award

MLWPA congratulates Sarah!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - DON ADELMANN

It was good to see so many of you at the Shepherd's Holiday. Thank you to the vendors, speakers and all that helped. Thank you also to the MN Corn Growers Assoc., MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council,

AgStar Financial Services and all the other sponsors. I hope everyone had a good time. Save the weekend of December 3-4 for this year's Shepherd's Holiday to be held at Jackpot Junction.

Please call me with

nominations for the Silver Bell award at 952-466-2451.

As the grass starts to green up please plan to attend the spring workshop April 2, 2011 at Dan Persons ranch near Kensington. Hope to see you there.

## LEE / GESKE HONORED AS 2010 SILVER BELL AWARD WINNERS

*"I am humbled and honored to receive the award," said Geske.*

*"There are so many deserving people."*

*"I'm really excited, it's a nice surprise," said Lee.*

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association gave their adult Silver Bell Award to Jeremy Geske, past president of the group. This is his 11th year serving on the MLWP board of directors.

"Without his help, the Minnesota Lamb and

Wool Producers would not be as efficient as it is now," said president Don Adelman during the award presentation Dec. 5, the final event of the group's two-day annual conference in Morton.

Geske started raising sheep at nine years old, when he picked a couple of ewes from his father's

flock. All 35 sheep he owns today have genetics that can trace back to his father's sheep. Geske purchased a farm this past spring south of New Prague and plans to grow his flock to expand his seed stock business, JMG Suffolks.

As an employee with Minnesota Farm Bureau, he focuses on public policy relating to animal agriculture issues.

He and his wife, Tracy, have two children, Michael, 7, and Milly, 4.

Mercedes Lee, 19, from Perley was picked for the junior Silver Bell Award.

Lee has promoted American lamb and wool as a "lambassador" for MLWP since 2007, has helped start the MLWP Junior committee and organizes that group's activities. She serves on

the American Sheep Industry's Youth Task Force.

The daughter of Wayne and Lynn Lee is double majoring in crop and weed science and management communication at North Dakota State University. She has a flock of 26 registered Hampshire sheep and recently had her first fall lamb crop.

The Silver Bell awards recognize role models in the association. The adult award goes to a member who has excelled as a producer and has worked to improve the industry. The junior award honors members up to age 21 who have their own flock, promote the industry and get others involved.

**[Photo and story by Agri News staff writer Heather Thorstensen]**



**2010 Silver Bell winners Mercedes Lee & Jeremy Geske**

### Choosing the right wine with your lamb

Acclaimed wine expert Karen MacNeil recommends:

- Stews and shanks - a saturated rich Shiraz
- Rack of lamb - a well-structured cabernet sauvignon or merlot
- Lamb in a salad - sauvignon blanc
- Grilled lamb kebobs - a well-chilled dry rose

Learn more at: [www.americanlamb.com](http://www.americanlamb.com)

## NAHMS SHEEP STUDY 2011

Minnesota animal health officials will soon begin contacting sheep producers who previously indicated an interest in participating in this year's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) study. The study typically consists of one or more questionnaires and might include collection of biological samples (such as blood, feces, milk, feed) related to the study

objectives.

This year's NAHMS study will be on sheep. Participation in the study is free, and names, addresses, and animal identification information obtained over the course of the study will remain confidential. General study results will be made available to the public; specific flock and individual animal results will be available solely to

the flock owner.

**[Ed. note: if you are asked to participate - please do so. Farm information is confidential and the results will not only benefit your flock but the entire sheep industry. Who wouldn't want lots of free health testing done?]**

## MLWPA UNVEILS NEW LOGO

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association unveiled its new logo at the annual meeting in December (see color version on front cover). The design combines the simplistic appeal of the original logo with a more modern look.

The Board of directors is committed to fulfilling our brand promise that "The MN Lamb and Wool Producers Association is



a dynamic, inclusive, organization that helps me succeed with my flock." The logo will be incorporated into all of our communications

and our website. The actions of the organization will demonstrate this commitment to sheep producers of all types.

*"MLWPA welcomes your input. Share your comments and concerns with your regional director or any board member."*

## RESTORING CONSUMER TRUST - FROM "THE VOICE OF AGRICULTURE" BY JEREMY GESKE

Speakers at the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Annual Meeting in Atlanta in January addressed farmers, animal care and consumers. Their messages centered around re-connecting with consumers, which is what Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) leaders, members and staff have been working towards and implementing programs on for some time. Below are some highlights from a couple of those presentations.

Dr. Janice Swanson of the Michigan State University Department of Animal Science stated that consumer demands for animal care and sustainable livestock production are not the opposing forces they

sometimes appear to be. Farmers and ranchers are often at a disadvantage in shaping opinion and ultimately policy. However, armed with an understanding of consumers' core values about animal care, producers can lead the way in making changes that will not threaten the sustainability of their livelihoods. Those consumer values include caring about the way animals are treated and recognizing that animals have emotions and feel pain.

"Consumers evaluate the animal production system according to their ethics, not yours," said Swanson.

Mike Rowe of "Dirty Jobs" stated that

American farmers are surrounded by angry activist groups, each with its own agenda.

"Our country is asking you to do more with less every single year, and I see a lot of other agendas pushing at you. The rest of the country needs to understand what you guys do on a day-to-day basis. We are not sufficiently astounded that you guys feed [the world] every day," said Rowe.

Rather than a spokesman, agriculture needs lots of advocates, Rowe said. These advocates can each use their talents to tell their story. Saying he was flattered at having been asked to be a spokesman for agriculture, he told

Farm Bureau members, "I do believe in my heart of hearts that you are your own best spokesmen."

America's farmers and ranchers are positively embracing consumers like never before. The adversaries of today's agriculture will discover a new assertive attitude in farm country, according to Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

In a spirited annual address, Stallman said farmers and ranchers are using new tools to share their personal stories like never before. A new-found attitude of unity and assertiveness exists throughout agriculture, in part, "to counterbalance those who are hell-bent on misleading consumers."

## CAPITOL CONNECTION

### 2011 MN Legislative Session begins

The overriding issue for Minnesota legislators, Governor Dayton and organizations such as Farm Bureau during the 2011 Minnesota legislative session will be dealing with a projected \$6.2 billion deficit in the state General Fund. General Fund spending for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is less than one-half of one percent of the total state budget. Even though MDA plays a small role in the bigger picture, it is expected all state agencies will be asked to make budget cuts.

The November 2010 election brought about big changes to government in Minnesota, with the Republicans controlling both bodies of the legislature and the DFL controlling the Governor's office. In addition, there are many new legislators and top agency personnel. Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations have a track record with working with legislators from both sides of the aisle and this will continue in 2011.

### MN House & Senate Ag Committees

The MN House and Senate agriculture committees continue to receive overviews of the programs and budgets of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute.

Senate Roster:

*Chair: Doug Magnus*  
*Vice Chair: Gary Dahms*  
*DFL Lead: Gary Kubly*  
*Michelle Benson*  
*David Brown*  
*Kenneth Kelash*  
*Carla Nelson*  
*Sean Nienow*  
*Julie Rosen*

*Tom Saxhaug*

*Rod Skoe*

*LeRoy Stumpf*

House Roster:

*Chair: Rod Hamilton*

*Vice Chair: Paul Anderson*

*DFL Lead: Kent Eken*

*Bruce Anderson*

*Patti Fritz*

*Larry Hosch*

*Kory Kath*

*Debra Kiel*

*Mike LeMieur*

*Carolyn McElfratrick*

*Terry Morrow*

*John Persell*

*Jeanne Poppe*

*Joe Schomacker*

*Ron Shimanski*

*Chris Swedzinski*

*Paul Torkelson*

*Bruce Vogel*

*John Ward*

### Fredrickson Appointed Commissioner of Agriculture

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) congratulates Dave Frederickson on being appointed by Governor-elect Mark Dayton to serve as the next commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

"Dave Frederickson brings a wealth of experience to the post of Commissioner of Agriculture," said MFBF President Kevin Paap. "We have seen firsthand Dave's ability to work with all farmers and the organizations that represent them."

"In addition to actively running a farm, Mr. Frederickson has been engaged on the local, state, national and international level with farmers, agricultural organizations and elected officials," said Paap. "His real world experiences will serve him well



as he works to fulfill the MDA's mission of enhancing Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment and the strength of our agricultural economy."

"Dave Frederickson is a well-respected, dedicated advocate for agriculture and the environment," said Paap. "We look forward to working with him in his new role."

### MDA to adopt Wolf Damage rule changes

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is intending to adopt amendments to the rules governing compensation for wolf damage. (Rules 1515.3000 to 1515.3800). MLWP and other farm organizations are reviewing the proposed changes.

Questions or comments can be directed to Carol Milligan at [carol.milligan@state.mn.us](mailto:carol.milligan@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6606. Comments are due March 2.

### 112th Congress Begins

The new congress brings many new faces to Washington, D.C. with 96 new members in the U.S. House of Representatives and 16 new members of the U.S. Senate. Now is a key time for Farm Bureau members to connect with their elected officials and their staff either in Washington, D.C. or in a district office. Your voice and the relationships you develop do make a difference! With only six members of Congress listing farmer as their occupation, you play a critical role in ensuring that Minnesota's members of Congress have a personal connection to farmers and ranchers.

## CAPITOL CONNECTION - CONT.

### Peterson, Walz on Ag Committee

Congressman Colin Peterson (D-MN) will be the ranking member on the House Ag Committee.

Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN) will also be on the committee. Chairman of the House Ag Committee is Frank Lucas (R-OK).

### U.S. House Passes Health Care Reform Bill

The U.S. House passed, 245-189, Farm Bureau supported H.R. 2 to repeal the health care reform law passed by Congress in 2010. Three Democrats joined all Republicans in voting for the legislation. They were Dan Boren (D-OK), Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.) and Mike Ross (D-AK).

The next day, the House passed H. Res. 9, 253-175, to instruct committees with health care jurisdiction to begin preparing legislative alternatives for health care reform. During consideration, the House adopted, 421-1, an amendment offered by Rep. Jim Matheson (DUtah), calling for a permanent Medicare physician payment schedule that does not require periodic legislation in order to avoid steep cuts in Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors (Doc Fix).

While repeal of health care reform is not expected to advance in the Senate, this week's House action will set off a series of health care reform legislation to make specific changes to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

### Tax Package Signed Into Law

The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010, which extends tax cuts to all Americans, was approved December 15 by the U.S. Senate, was passed on December 16 by the U.S. House of Representatives and was signed into law on December 17.

This legislation addresses a critical issue for farmers and ranchers, the federal estate tax. The measure establishes for two-years a \$5 million federal estate tax exemption at a maximum rate of 35 percent with stepped up basis and is indexed for inflation.

MN Congressmen/women who voted for the bill: Senator Klobuchar, Senator Franken, Chairman Peterson, Chairman Oberstar, Congressman Kline, Congressman Paulsen and Congressman Walz.

### Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Funding

The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Dean's advisory committee meeting in December focused primarily on funding for the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL). The VDL is located within the CVM, but also performs a number of diagnostic functions for state agencies. Learn more at [www.vdl.umn.edu/](http://www.vdl.umn.edu/). Jeremy Geske serves on the Dean's advisory committee.

### Agriculture Coalition Expresses Opposition to Judge with Animal Activist Ties

The Farm Animal Welfare Coalition, which includes the American Farm Bureau Federation, is expressing concern with the nomination of a federal judge, claiming she has ties to animal activists. Judge Benita Pearson has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. The nomination is currently being considered by Congress.

Judge Pearson allegedly has ties to the animal activist group, Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF). ALDF is an organization that advocates giving animals the same legal rights as humans. In a letter to senators, FAWC says, "Ms. Pearson's membership in ALDF demonstrates the willingness of a prospective jurist to go beyond the academic or

philosophical contemplation of the legal and political issues of animal rights. Her membership in ALDF translates her personal philosophy into implicit action in support of the goals of the animal rights movement."

### CWD Found in SE MN Deer

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that a wild white-tailed deer in Olmsted County tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). As a result of the DNR's finding, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health has established a 10-mile radius CWD-endemic area in southeastern Minnesota.

All captive deer and elk herds within the CWD-endemic area will have movement restrictions. Farms within this area must maintain their animals in such a way that ensures commingling of farmed and wild cervidae does not happen.

For more information on CWD and the BAH, visit their website at [www.bah.state.mn.us](http://www.bah.state.mn.us).

### MLWPA signs on to Letter of Support to delist the Gray Wolf

On January 26, Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT.) introduced a bill, H.R.509, "to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that Act shall not apply to the gray wolf (*canis lupus*)". Cosponsors of the bill came from both sides of the aisle and from a broad range of states, from Utah to Georgia (including John Kline, R-MN).

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association/Public Lands Council drafted a letter of support for the bill, working with ASI. State affiliates of NCBA and ASI have been asked to sign on the support letter. MLWPA, Minnesota Farm Bureau and the Minnesota State Cattleman's Association have signed on.

## ARLINGTON SHEEP DAY FEATURES SHEEP EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Arlington Sheep Day will be held on **March 5**, at the Public Events Facility of the Arlington Research Station. With record lamb prices in 2010, speakers will focus on opportunities and challenges to expansion of commercial sheep production. Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, the Small Ruminant Extension Specialist from Michigan State University Extension will address the topics of "Is accelerated lambing production is a good fit for your operation?" and "Overcoming expansion barriers in commercial sheep production". In addition to his role with the university, Dr. Ehrhardt manages a commercial flock of 500 ewes and utilizes an accelerated lambing system.

Cody Heimke and Greg Ahart will address the topic of the current record lamb prices, reasons for these prices, and national and international trends in lamb supply and demand. Greg Ahart is the

National Director of Producer Relations for Superior Farms, one of the nation's primary suppliers of American and imported lamb. Cody Heimke is a commercial sheep producer from Stoughton, WI and meat procurement specialist for Niman Ranch, one of the nation's largest natural meat companies. Mr. Heimke's wide experience includes serving on the American Lamb Board. Todd Taylor, Arlington Research Station Shepherd, will demonstrate the use of production data and estimated progeny differences (EPDs) to improve production in commercial sheep.

During these educational sessions, a beginner and youth session will be held concurrently, featuring a Sheep Skillathon. Todd Taylor will host a program on sheep selection and terminology for showing and judging. Please register at the Public Events Facility before proceeding to the Sheep Unit.

Following the morning

educational session, the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative will hold its annual WSBC Recognition Dinner beginning at 12:30 pm, followed by the annual members meeting beginning at 1:30 pm. A youth program will be held during the annual meeting.

Educational sessions begin at 8:30 am and pre-registration is required by February 18, 2011. The cost to attend the educational sessions of the Arlington Sheep Day is \$5 and the cost to attend the WSBC Annual Recognition Dinner is \$10. All are welcome at the recognition Dinner. Please register for the event through the WSBC website (<http://www.wisbc.com/annualmeeting.php>) or the University of Wisconsin Sheep and Goat Extension Website (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/programs/>). For more information, contact Todd Taylor at 608-846-5858 or [toddtaylor@wisc.edu](mailto:toddtaylor@wisc.edu).

## *EFFECTS OF CACHE VALLEY VIRUS DURING LAMBING SEASON*

Sheep producers busy during this lambing season should be aware of the potential for Cache Valley virus, or CVV, to affect their lambing crop. That's according to South Dakota Cooperative Extension Sheep Specialist Jeff Held, who said CVV reports are higher this year.

"The winter lambing season is well underway, and in addition to dealing with snow and cold temperatures, many flock owners have reported an unusual number of lambs born with skeletal and other developmental deformities," Held said. "Diagnostic laboratories including the South Dakota State University Animal and Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (ADRDL) at Brookings have confirmed CVV-affected newborn lambs."

"Mosquitoes cause CVV infection in sheep, and last fall during the early breeding season (August through September) there remained a high population of these pests following the warm, wet summer," Held said. "In addition, sheep-flock owners have reported a higher incidence of open ewes and lower lambing rate this winter, and we often associate lower ewe reproductive efficiency, low lambing rates, and higher percentage of open ewes with ram fertility, nutritional status at breeding, and weather induced embryonic death losses. However, CVV also can contribute to reduced ewe reproductive efficiency."

Ewe infections early in gestation result in fetal reabsorption, but Held said the most critical period is between days 28 and 45 of

gestation. "Infection at this stage of pregnancy has the highest risk of CVV-related neonatal developmental abnormalities," said Held. "After day 45 of gestation, a CVV infection is not expected to cause abnormalities in lambs." Ewes bred later in the fall after the mosquito activity had declined are expected to have lower risk to deliver lambs with clinical CVV induced abnormalities and return to normal flock lambing rates. The virus is not contagious. There is no vaccine, and no treatment.

Sheep producers suspecting CVV should contact a veterinarian in order to rule out other causes of birth defects, miscarriages, or infertility. If you have more questions about CVV, contact Dr. Cindy Wolf - [wolfx006@umn.edu](mailto:wolfx006@umn.edu) or (507) 450-5453.

# HOOF HEALTH - *BY J.L. GOELZ, D.V.M, PIPESTONE VET CLINIC*

In most flocks hoof health becomes neglected. Most shepherds have numerous management tasks to do and it is easy for hoof health to be on the bottom of the list, especially since hoof health has only indirect effects on production. For example, the last lame ewe that comes up for grain is not in a life or death health situation. She will live; however, she is at a competitive disadvantage to the rest of the flock. She will perform poorly and be less economical. So how does a busy manager find time to monitor hoof health? My suggestion is to schedule hoof health tasks in the less busy time of the year. Get them on the calendar so they get done.

The first topic is maintenance hoof trims. The best managers that I work with trim once a year. This is usually in mid to late summer. We usually have space in the lots, the sheep are dry and easy to work with and the weather is nice. Basic hoof trimming should involve visually identifying lame sheep as they are corralled. These sheep should be given special attention. All four feet of all sheep should be trimmed. Have a comfortable hoof shears. It does need to be expensive but does need to be comfortable in your hand. My best recommendation is to trim deep enough that you hit blood on about one out of 10 feet. If you never hit blood you are not trimming aggressively enough. Late summer is an excellent time as the sheep can then be sorted into breeding groups,

dewormed (if necessary) and, there is enough time for sheep that were trimmed too short to recover before flushing and breeding.

If we assume that hoof health is good in a given flock, a once annual hoof trim may be all that is necessary. If other hoof health problems exist much more labor is required. I will briefly discuss the four most common sheep hoof health issues focusing mostly on control, treatment and prevention.

## Infectious contagious footrot

Footrot in sheep is different from cattle in that it is contagious. It is usually introduced to farms through purchased sheep. Sheep acquire footrot from ground that is contaminated by infected sheep. Footrot causes severe lameness in one or more hooves. Trimming is absolutely essential to open the tissues to air which will kill the bacterial cause. Be sure to be aggressive with trimming. Additional control measures which should be included with trimming are:

- Vaccination (Footvax, 2 times a year)
- Splitting the flock into infected and non infected sheep
- Frequent use of formaldehyde or zinc footbath
- Pasture rotation (it only lives in the soil for less than 2 weeks)
- Dry well drained pastures

Never wrap a sheep's hoof. This will make any infection worse. Feed grade antibiotics, iodine and zinc have little benefit in controlling footrot in sheep. If you currently do not have footrot in your flock you need to have a plan in place to prevent introduction.

## Foot scald

This is an infection not in the hoof itself but in the skin directly above the hoof. This is a direct result

of wet pastures and muddy lots. Mud becomes packed around the hoof and causes a mild irritation to the skin. Sheep will have a normal hoof but will have a red to gray, pasty lesion between the claws. Foot scald is not contagious. It is caused by a normal barnyard bacterium and has a much better flock prognosis. Usually a few trips through a foot bath and moving to a dry pasture or lot clears it up in a few weeks.

## Foot abscesses

These are commonly called "bumblefoot" due to the swelling that you will see above the hoof. These are usually caused by grazing rough forages such as wheat stubble or corn stover. Treatment with antibiotics such as LA-200 or long acting tetracycline are successful. Squeezing the gland between the toes will give some pain relief as it is often plugged by the swelling.

## Laminitis (founder)

This is a result of sheep consuming too much grain when they were not adapted to it. This is uncommon in sheep but is the major cause of accelerated hoof growth and lameness in both front legs. Minor cases result in minor temporary lameness in the front feet that responds to flunixin (Banamine). Severe cases are untreatable and the sheep should be culled.



# Calendar of Events

**Have an idea for the newsletter? Send it to:**

Jeremy Geske - editor  
31307 171st Ave  
New Prague, MN 56071

Phone: 612-756-1200  
E-mail: [jgeske@fbmn.org](mailto:jgeske@fbmn.org)



Shepherding Success™



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952-466-2451

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507-526-5845

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507-835-3951

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651-257-4871

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320-554-6495

*ME Dir. - Patty Anderson*  
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952-447-4184

*Past Presidents:*  
Dan Persons - [rafterp@runestone.net](mailto:rafterp@runestone.net)  
Jeremy Geske - [jgeske@fbmn.org](mailto:jgeske@fbmn.org)

2011 Date	Title	Location	Contact
Mar. 5	Arlington Sheep Day	Arlington, WI	C. Mikolayunas
Mar. 12	Northern Plains Livestock Expo	Mahnomen, MN	Deb Scott
Mar. 12-14	Beginner Shearing School	Norris, MT	Peggy Kelley
Mar. 15-17	Advanced Shearing School	Norris, MT	Peggy Kelley
Apr. 2	<a href="#">Spring Sheep Workshop</a>	Kensington, MN	John Dvorak
Apr. 11-14	Nat. Inst. for Animal Ag conference	San Antonio, TX	Kati Ambrose
April 22-23	WI All-breeds Invitational sale	Jefferson, WI	
Apr. 24-26	Shearing School	Hutchinson, MN	Doug Rathke
Apr. 29-30	National Corn Belt Sale	Des Moines, IA	
May 2-5	ASI trip to DC	Washington D.C.	Peter Orwick
May 7-8	Shepherd's Harvest Festival	Lake Elmo, MN	Winnie Johnson
May 12-15	National Suffolk Sale	Eaton, OH	
July 23-24	MN Suffolk Show & Sale	Faribault, MN	Jeremy Geske
July 29-30	Center of the Nation NSIP sale	Spencer, IA	
Aug. 2-4	Farm Fest	Redwood Falls, MN	
Sep. 13-20	National Sheep Dog Finals	Carbondale, CO	
Dec. 3-4	<a href="#">MLWP Shepherd's Holiday</a>	Morton, MN	Jeremy Geske



**Nineteen farmers attended the University of Minnesota Extension "Forage Basics" workshop in Jordan on January 22.**

## DO YOU WANT MORE LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY NEWS MORE OFTEN?

"Capitol Corner" in the MLWP newsletter contains excerpts from the MN Farm Bureau legislative updates. To get the complete information on a weekly basis - join your county Farm Bureau and become part of the most influential grassroots farm organization in the country. Timely electronic updates are a benefit of your Farm Bureau membership. If you are already a member - thanks!

- **Weekly electronic legislative & regulatory updates**
- **Participate in Day on the Hill events in St. Paul**
- **Attend Farmers to DC trips**
- **Participate in grass-roots efforts to shape and implement agricultural policy**



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651-768-2100  
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