FROEHLICH FAMILY RECEIVES SILVER BELL AWARD

Each year, MLWPA honors producers who have demonstrated excellence in sheep production, a commitment to lamb and wool promotion, and encouraging others within the sheep industry with the Silver Bell Award. [Go to mlwp.org for a list of past winners.]

The 2017 winners are the Froehlich family from Grasston, MN. Accepting the award at the joint MLWPA/NDLWPA conference are Steve and Jean Froehlich. The Froehlichs raise a flock of Lincolns, with a unique emphasis on wool and grazing. The Froehlich family, including son, Eric and daughter, Kelly are actively involved in the sheep business as well.

The Froehlichs have been committed to educating the public about the sheep industry, with a huge presence at the state fair BAA Booth for several year, as well as other events, such as the Shepherd’s Harvest Festival and the U of M Ag Awareness Day.

For several years, Kelly provided leadership to MLWPA’s youth program. Her efforts got many youth involved in promoting lamb and wool.

Steve has served on the MLWPA board of directors for several years. He started as the NE regional director and now serves as the 2nd Vice-President. Join us in congratulating the Froehlich family!

President Kinney Presents the Silver Bell Award to Steve & Jean Froehlich

PREsIDENT’S MESSAGE - RANDY KINNEY

I would like to start off by thanking everyone that was involved or attended our joint MN-ND annual conference in Fargo in December. What a great success that was! To have 2 tour buses full and feed almost 200 people for Saturday lunch was far beyond what we imagined when our joint team starting the planning months ago. A big thank you to Travis Hoffman for all of the organizing he accomplished and Skip for the tour arrangements, and to our sponsors and donors for their contributions in making this great event possible.

My understanding is that it was 25 years ago that Minnesota and North Dakota last had a joint conference. Maybe we will do this again in 3 or 4 years? And welcome Kay Edberg to the board, our new NE director.

I just returned from our ASI convention in San Antonio, Texas. This is just my second time of attending, but what a difference a year makes in people’s attitudes and optimism for our industry. Yes, there seems to be a delay in some of the USDA appointments and committee assignments, but...
I hope as I am writing this letter this finds all our producers doing well. I am sure that by now many of you are into lambing and hopefully all is going well. I am writing this article after returning from my trip to San Antonio, Texas where ASI held their National Convention. It was nice to see the large delegation that represented Minnesota. Thank you to all that attended.

I would like to congratulate Jeremy Geske on his nomination to the National Sheep Improvement Center. That appointment was made by Secretary Perdue earlier last week. I am confident that Jeremy will do his best to serve on that committee and look forward to have Jeremy represent Minnesota.

My week at the convention was full of meetings. I had the opportunity to sit in and listen to several speakers and presentations on various sheep issues. One speaker was Under Secretary Ibach. He had some encouraging news on sheep issues. He is hopeful that this new administration will cut back on some of the government regulations that are now affecting the sheep industry. He sees the need to find new ways to protect animal health, enhance Bio Technology, and develop new technologies to combat diseases and parasites in sheep. He would like to see government agencies work together on issues so that one agency knows what the other agency is doing. The Undersecretary also informed us that the USDA is working on bringing back the M-44 device so sheep producers will be allowed to use it during the upcoming lambing season and beyond. He also stated that USDA will keep funding the scrapie program and work on providing tags for identifying sheep. The point was also brought to his attention that the sheep industry would prefer plastic tags over metal tags. Work is also continuing on the ELD issue and hopefully the comment period will be extended.

The farm bill was also discussed, but it is a long way from being put together and we were told it would probably be extended into next year.

All in all, I was able to come away with hopes that the sheep industry is moving forward in the right direction. In less than a month I will be in Washington DC for the annual ASI spring trip. We will be visiting with the different Ag agencies and make visits to our state Congressmen and Congresswomen.

As always feel free to contact me should you have any question or concerns. Your continued involvement with Minnesota Lamb and Wool, along with the American Sheep Industry is what helps keep our sheep industry moving forward. I cannot thank each of you enough.

Best of luck to all you producers in the coming year.

John Dvorak
Shepherd's News
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SPRING SHEEP WORKSHOP - APRIL 7 - KENSINGTON

Dan and Kayleen Persons of Kensington, MN will once again host the Spring Sheep Workshop on their farm. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 7 and plan to attend.

Participants will rotate through 5 different stations. These activities are which are tentatively planned to include:

- Electronic ID / Handling demo (automated sorting, data recording, vaccinating, tattooing)
- Lamb/ewe necropsy
- Hoof care (tilt table, trimming demo, trimming tools)
- Shearing/wool handling (set-up, chute design, wool grading - participants can bring samples)
- Lambing barn (layout, sheep flow, processing, orphan lambs)

Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather, being in the barn and handling sheep.

A special thank you to Superior Farms for sponsoring a significant portion of the lunch (pulled lamb)!

We are in the processing of developing registration materials. Those will be mailed and emailed to members, as well as posted on our website (mlwp.org) and our Facebook page (Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association) in the near future.

MLWPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - JEREMY GESKE

The MLWPA met on 1/20/18 at the Pizza Ranch in Litchfield.

Roll call: President—Randy Kinney, Travis Fowler, Glenette Sperry, Doug Mathias, Daryl Boehm, Don Drewry, Jeremy Geske, Al Hendrickx, Steve Froehlich, Kay Edberg, and guest: Jeanine Fowler.

The meeting was called to order and the agenda approved.

The secretary’s report was emailed out prior to the meeting. Moved/2nd to approve the secretary’s report as amended—carried.

The treasurer’s report was distributed and discussed. The total balance as of Nov. 1 = $49,532.52. Discussion on OPP project expense, convention income/expenses, and budget. Moved/2nd to approve – carried.

2017 joint convention wrap-up. Conference call to handle financial details. Excellent attendance, speakers, tours. Roughly equal participation from ND & MN. – suggestion for Jeremy to send thank you to ND board to working together on convention. Travis F working on one last donor (Compeer Financial).

Other reports: State Fair convention / mtg. Glenette, John, Jeremy attended. Scrapie grant – received. Mentor grant has been submitted. Wool trust fund – has been submitted. ASI Committees/ conference calls: Randy & Jeremy updated on calls. Travis H. – has been in role for 18 months. Jeremy will draft a letter of support for Randy to complete, sign and submit. Marketing committee – Randy/ Glenette – table top display. Membership – Jeremy will send out dues notices ASAP. Newsletter – early Feb.

Spring sheep workshop – location: Dan Persons’ farm. April 7.

2018 annual conference / Shepherd’s Holiday. Check for location in the Winona/Rochester area. Dates: Nov 30 / Dec 1. Will include tours on Friday.

OLD BUSINESS:
- Website/ blogs / FB page – Randy will assign & write posts
- MN Grown grant: Sherry getting paperwork for final report (OPP project).
- Wolf Depredation prevention grant – deadline extended (many more producers applied). Twice as many applications as money available. Randy represented MLWPA on scoring committee. About 30 produces received funds.
- SEMSPA meeting 1st Saturday in January.

NEW BUSINESS:
- 2018 committee assignments – Randy emailed draft list. Much discussion. Randy will distribute final list.
- ASI to DC trip – March 5-7. John D, Steve S, Dan L – maybe Steve F.
- 4-H Celebration of Ag – 2 representatives: Don D, Kay E?
- Pipestone lambing seminar Feb 10-11. Moved/2nd to reimburse Randy for registration fee – carried.
- Sustainable Fiber Workshop – Fosston – Al H will attend.
- U of M – Ag Awareness Day – Jeremy will attend – April 10.
- ASI Committee nominations – expect soon.

Next meeting – Conference call Thursday 3/22 8pm
Mtg adjourned 3:16
The National “Make It With Wool” contest was held at the Marriott Rivercenter, San Antonio Texas, February 1-3, 2018 in conjunction with the American Sheep Industry’s Annual Conference. There were 49 entries from 33 states in two age divisions. Some 626 contestants nationwide entered competitions at the state level and utilized more than 2,022 yards of beautiful wool fabric and 230 skeins of yarn to create their garments.

The National contestants from Minnesota were:
- Junior (age 13-16): Ceceilia Voss, Apple Valley, finished 1st place winner for the best use of Mohair. Award was a cash prize sponsored by the Mohair Counsel.
- Senior (age 17-24): Kia Legred, Briclyn,

The purpose of the “Make It With Wool” contest is to focus attention on the beauty and versatility of wool, to encourage the use of wool fabric or yarn in sewing, knitting or crocheting fashionable garments. Contestants must use fabric or yarn of at least 60% wool. Beautiful wool prizes along with sewing machines, saving bonds and scholarship were awarded to each of the winning contestants. The national director is Mary Roediger of Ohio and Minnesota’s director is Glenette Sperry of Center City, MN.

### Market Update - [These prices are from 1/31/18]

**Feeder Prices** ($/cwt.), San Angelo: 70-90 lbs. $208-$214; 92 lbs. $204.
**Slaughter Prices** - Negotiated 144-175 lbs. $133.29 per cwt.
**Slaughter Prices - Formula** 82.30 lbs. carcass weight $262.35 per cwt.
**Slaughter Prices *Comprehensive Information* - Formula & Negotiated** 80.40 lbs. carcass weight $262.28 per cwt.
**Equity Electronic Auction**, No sales.
**Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value**, $325.45 per cwt.
**Carcass Price, Choice and Prime**,YG 1-4, weighted average prices ($/cwt.), No prices reported.
**Exported Adult Sheep**, 0 head

**Wool**, ($/pound clean), delivered, From nine Weeks Ago: 18 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 19 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 20 micron (Grade 70s) NA, 21 micron (Grade 64-70s) NA, 22 micron (Grade 64s) 4.34-4.66, 23 micron (Grade 62s) 3.89-4.41, 24 micron (Grade 60-62s) 3.56, 25 micron (Grade 58s) 3.23, 26 micron (Grade 56-58s) 3.05, 27 micron (Grade 56s) NA, 28 micron (Grade 54s) NA, 29 micron (Grade 50-54s) 1.69, 30-34 micron (Grade 44-50s) NA.

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**Ft. Collins, CO** Feeder Lambs $177.50 - $240/cwt, Slaughter lambs $137.50 - $177.50/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $55 - $105/cwt.
**Zumbrota, MN** Feeder Lambs $110 - $220/cwt, Slaughter lambs $110 - $160/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $10 - $77.50/cwt.
**Fargo, ND** Feeder Lambs $159 - $175/cwt, Slaughter lambs $127 - $161/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $54 - $76/cwt.
**Pipestone, MN** Feeder Lambs $147.50-$222.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs $126 - $146/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $56 - $90/cwt.
**Sioux Falls, SD** Feeder Lambs $172.50 - $220/cwt, Slaughter lambs $126 - $158/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $69-$85/cwt.
**Mt Hope, OH** Feeder Lambs $170 - $347.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs $117.50 - $207.50/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $60- $107.50/cwt.
**Manchester, MI** Feeder Lambs $150 - $320/cwt, Slaughter lambs $135 - $160/cwt; Ewes & Bucks $70- $100/cwt.
**Escalon, CA** Feeder Lambs $140 - $200/cwt, Slaughter lambs $135 - $150/cwt; Ewes & Bucks $25- $225/hd.
**Billings, MT** Feeder Lambs $185 - $235/cwt, Slaughter lambs $146 - $184.50/cwt; Ewes & Bucks $58 - $70.50/cwt.
**Kalona, IA** Feeder Lambs $185 - $282.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs $126 - $156/cwt; Ewes & Bucks $62.50 - $92.50/cwt.
**Fennimore, WI** Feeder Lambs $150 - $195/cwt, Slaughter lambs $125 - $130/cwt; Ewes & Bucks $50 - $61/cwt.
**Equity (WI)** Feeder Lambs $145/cwt & down, Slaughter lambs $130/cwt & down; Ewes & Bucks $45/cwt & down.
American Lamb Brings Curriculamb to Culinary Schools and Chefs

In an effort to educate culinary students and chefs, the American Lamb Board has developed a variety of tools – from posters showing the most common lamb cuts used in foodservice to step-by-step lamb fabrication sheets.

These materials as well as sheep industry information, various videos and a slide show have been combined in an online culinary education program called Curriculamb.

The Curriculamb is designed to support culinary school courses in purchasing and receiving, nutrition, meat fabrication, cooking techniques and menu planning. The Curriculamb has also been approved by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) for 4.5 continuing education hours.

To date, more than 400 ACF chefs have completed the Curriculamb quiz and evaluation to receive these continuing education hours which are used for initial ACF certification or recertification. On average, the chefs have ranked the Curriculamb program as 4.7 on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being excellent.

“Overall, the feedback from chefs and culinary educators has been very positive,” said Megan Wortman of the American Lamb Board. “We monitor their comments and some suggestions made by the chefs led to some minor recent edits to the program.”

Below are some comments from chefs who completed the Curriculamb:

“I learned many more uses for lamb on my menus.”

“I especially appreciated the focus on pointing out that American lamb is fresher, and often local, which is so true - I hope this influences other chef's to seek out and purchase from their local lamb farmers, and support their communities.”

“The test itself is a great review for students after lamb fabrication and food prep ii courses.”

“It teaches techniques that are not readily shown now days. Everyone buys pre-cut items.”

“Very well written and thought out; the progression of the lessons was spot on.”

“I learned the benefits of domestic lamb.”

“Easy to read and understand; loved the glossary of terms.”

“I'd like to see more ideas of how to incorporate lamb into menus.”

“I like the videos. I like the charts. I will share with my students!”

“I liked the course. It surprised me that I wanted to watch/read all of the materials not just as necessary for the test. If I was presenting to a class, I would have liked the slide show.”

“I enjoyed learning about American Lamb in particular, we buy New Zealand lamb often. But learning how American Lamb are raised and how much fresher it is, it seems a great menu option.”

“The videos were very detailed and informative and just the right length to hold attention.”

“Free samples. I watched and read all the materials and was starving by the time I finished!”

“I thought the most beneficial part were the recipes. The statistics were also interesting.”

“Good to see the lamb industry provide refreshers for cooks; I procure 7-9 whole lambs each year for my meat identification course.”

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Easy Lamb Fajitas

**Ingredients**
- 4 American lamb shoulder steaks
- 2 tablespoons cumin
- Salt and pepper
- Olive oil

**Roasted Vegetables**
- 3 bell peppers, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon sumac
- Dukkah
- Olive Oil

**Harissa Yogurt Sauce**
- 1 cup of plain yogurt
- 1-2 tablespoons harissa
- 1 clove of garlic, minced

**Additional Fajita ingredients**
- Tortillas, Guacamole, Cilantro + any of your favorite fajita toppings

**Directions**

Bring your lamb to room temperature and season it generously with salt, pepper, and cumin. Cook your steaks in a skillet or on a grill until internal temperature reaches 145 degrees F. Let your meat rest for 5 minutes before you slice your steak.

While you are cooking your steak, scatter your veggies on a sheet pan and drizzle them with olive oil.

Season them with salt, pepper, sumac, and dukkah. Broil your veggies on high until they start to soften and char.

To make your harissa yogurt sauce, combine all three ingredients in a bowl and mix until well combined.
**Superior Farms Secures USDA Approval for Industry’s First Camera Grading Technology**

Superior Farms, North America’s largest lamb processor, announced that it has received approval from the USDA to begin grading carcasses with the VSS2000 System camera (Electronic Grading), the first digital camera to be approved for use in the US lamb industry. The new digital camera was installed in October 2015, and Superior Farms has worked hand-in-hand with the USDA to secure approval since then.

Rick Stott, President and CEO of Superior Farms said of the launch; “Our team worked closely with the USDA for two years validating the camera’s algorithms to assure accurate full carcass measurements of both yield and quality grades. Combining Electronic Grading with our Producer Portal will allow unprecedented access to carcass information by our producer partners that will allow every segment of our industry to continue to produce a better product.”

This Electronic Grading system will provide Superior Farms producers detailed meat information about their lambs. “We will now be able to share this detailed information with our producer partners through our Producer Portal. This information includes the USDA Yield Grade and Quality Grade, as well as the Ovine Cutability Calculation (OCC), the primal weights (leg, loin, shoulder, rack, breast, trotters, and neck) and two digital images of each lamb carcass processed,” said Lesa Eidman, Director of Producer Resources and Sustainability for Superior Farms.

“This technology will provide our producers unprecedented amount of information about the meat and carcass characteristics of their lambs. Ultimately, producers will be able to make genetic and production changes to provide US lamb customers with the highest quality, most consistent product we can deliver,” added Eidman.

The next steps are to, first, pair this information with the Electronic Identification (EID) tags so that producers can see the data on an individual lamb basis. Second, to implement the technology in Superior Farms’ Denver facility.

“Now that we have received approval from the USDA for the camera grading, we can begin implementing the technology in our Denver facility,” Stott noted. “We look forward to working with the USDA to expedite the approval process so that both of our facilities have this state of the art technology.” The USDA grader will remain onsite to verify that the technology remains accurate and in-line with the USDA grading standards.

The American Lamb Board has been a vital participant in bringing this development to fruition. Most importantly, the board funded electronic grading research conducted by The Center for Meat Safety and Quality, Department of Animal Sciences, Colorado State University. In their study titled “Industry Implications and Economics of Implementation of Lamb Instrument Grading,” The CSU found overwhelming evidence of the value of the camera technology and concluded: “... unprecedented information about lamb carcass composition and value will be collected and available. True production management decisions can be made by U.S. sheep producers with conveyance of product attributes of harvested lambs.”
The Next Sin Tax – Meat

In America, we have abdicated our personal responsibility regarding food to the government. With FDA and USDA we are guided by bans, subsidies, and taxes, lest we be rudderless about how to eat breakfast. Our parameters are food pyramids and nutritional guidelines and IARC warnings and activist groups promoting scary agrichemical stories and newspapers touting miracle vegetables. But evidence? That’s lacking.

In 2008, Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), told us if we ate less meat global warming would be halted. Meat was 18 percent of human-induced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, he solemnly noted for the audience at Compassion in World Farming conference, and IPCC figured that would double by 2050. Dozens of other groups had repeated the same thing and there were thousands of articles lamenting that carnivores were doing the planet. There was just one problem. It was made up.

The UN was forced to admit the source, “Livestock’s Long Shadow” was fundamentally wrong, so why is this still coming up? That’s what activists do. Repeat a lie often enough and get it retweeted and published in Mother Jones and it becomes truth for people who major in Confirmation Bias at Google University.

That can be the only explanation for why Farm Animal Investment Risk and Return (FAIRR), which is basically an anti-meat investment group, released a new executive summary hoping that regulators were going to put a “sin” tax on meat. The sins they accuse meat-eaters of committing are:

1) Enormous greenhouse gas emissions; they cite the debunked 18 percent of total emissions rubbish from “Livestock’s Long Shadow” that the UN had to retract.
2) Global obesity; Big Sugar will be happy they are off the hook for this one.
3) Antibiotic resistance; who are these ranchers wasting their money on unnecessary antibiotics and bribing veterinarians to risk losing their license to prescribe them unnecessarily? I can’t find any. In the real world of agriculture, if a railroad car full of steers has any animal with detectable antibiotics, the whole car is rejected. Since activists insist all non-organic farmers are evil capitalists who only care about money, why are they throwing away their wealth like that?

What are activists vehemently opposed to? Agricultural science.

What do they support? Excommunication for people who won’t subscribe to their food beliefs, and sin taxes to force heretics to comply. By Hank Campbell, American Council of Science and Health, 2018

GQ's Meat I.Q.

GQ recently did a nice job with a lengthy article that contained the magazine's top ten meat hacks.

Under natural conditions, cattle are an almost perfectly beneficial part of a regenerative agricultural system. Their waste feeds the fields on which they’re pastured; carbon is sequestered in that grass; and their meat, in limited quantities, is good for us, good for the land, and good for the community of farmers, ranchers, butchers, and the variety of small businesses that raise, butcher, and sell it."

If a marketer hired a PR firm to promote its product, it’d be tough to come up with a more powerful statement than that one.

Electronic Logging Device Rule Could Hurt Livestock Industry

Truckers hauling livestock have received a 90–day waiver from the Electronic Logging Device, or ELD, mandate, but the industry is hoping for a longer-term solution.

The rule went into effect on Dec. 18 for most operators, but the U.S. Department of Transportation delayed the regulation for those transporting livestock until mid-March. The new regulations require certain drivers to install Electronic Logging Devices on their trucks. Also included are hours of service restrictions on truckers, limiting them to 11 hours of driving daily, after 10 hours off duty. Plus, the ELD rules restrict truckers on-duty time to 14 consecutive hours, which includes non–driving time.

South Dakota Farm Bureau President and Volga, S.D., livestock producer Scott VanderWal says they have concerns about the ELD regulations.

"If a trucker hauling livestock runs out of hours, they could be parked along the side of the road with a load of livestock," he says. "That's just not appropriate."

The Egg (and Veal and Pork) Lawsuit

Indiana Atty. Gen. Curtis Hill, and the attorneys general from 12 other states, are suing Massachusetts to keep them from imposing agricultural regulations on our farmers. The other states include Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The suit was filed in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Massachusetts law resulted from a 2016 referendum, which means it was the will of the people to make that law.

Last week, Indiana sued California, along with 12 other states, to challenge a law requiring egg producers in all other states to comply with California’s farming regulations regarding housing of poultry in order to sell eggs there.
WOTUS Delayed until 2020
United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a final rule adding an applicability date to the 2015 Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule to avoid needless regulatory uncertainty and legal risk for countless farmers, ranchers, developers, small businesses and other land owners. This action does not establish any new regulatory requirements but simply ensures that the geographic scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) remains consistent nationwide as the agencies continue to engage in substantive rulemaking to reconsider the definition of "waters of the United States."

The addition of an applicability date gives the agencies two years to engage in the two-step process required to reconsider and revise the WOTUS rule. In the meantime, the 2015 WOTUS rule does not apply. State rules and the pre-existing WOTUS rule will protect waters.

Perdue Unveils Interactive Website for Farmers
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue unveiled a new interactive one-stop USDA website for farmers. Farmers.gov is now live but will have multiple features added over the coming months to allow farmers to make appointments with USDA offices, file forms and apply for USDA programs.

The website gathers together the three agencies that comprise USDA’s Farm Production and Conservation mission area: the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

President Signs Rural Broadband Executive Order
President Trump signed an Executive Order that streamlines the deployment of rural broadband on federal lands.

The Executive Order reduces the bureaucratic red tape private companies encounter while building out the infrastructure to deploy broadband services on federal lands. This Executive Order directs the General Services Administration (GSA) to develop a common form and master contract for wireless facility locations on buildings and other property owned by the federal government within 180 days. Additionally, all federal property managing agencies shall provide a quarterly report to the GSA on the number of applications, approvals and rejections based on the newly developed common form application.

The Executive Order does not provide any funding for the deployment of broadband to rural areas but expedites the approval process for companies that want to deploy broadband infrastructure in rural areas near or on federal lands.

ASI Joins Stakeholders on Hours of Service Exemption
The American Sheep Industry Association has been working with other livestock and agricultural stakeholders to ensure producers have access to livestock haulers and that necessary exemptions remain in place during the transition from paper to electronic logging. While the coalition has made progress to ensure congressionally mandated exemptions to Hours of Service regulations are included in the final rules from the Federal Motor Carrier Administration, concerns still remain regarding a number of provisions. Specifically, issues about when and where the clock actually starts.

Since 1995, there has been an agricultural exemption to FMCSA’s Hours of Service regulation. This exemption is necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of sheep and other livestock being transported. Our nation’s livestock transporters have an unparalleled highway safety record. The welfare of sheep, and that of the motoring public, remain the top priorities for the industry.

The coalition has been able to secure a 90-day waiver from the Hours of Service regulations pertaining to the Electronic Logging Mandate through the agency and language in the transportation appropriations bill, which gives producers immediate relief from these provisions. While the 90-day waiver has removed the immediate threat, the industry is continuing to seek a year-long delay, which is clearly needed to settle remaining issues and give the agency time to educate enforcement personnel.

While the coalition continues to work with the agency and Congress to solve further issues that have been raised, ASI joined with more than 20 additional stakeholders to request an extension of the comment period regarding proposed regulatory guidance concerning the transportation of agricultural commodities. ASI will continue to remain engaged in these discussions to ensure producers have access to livestock transportation and that livestock haulers are not hindered by regulations that jeopardize animal welfare without any corresponding benefit to highway safety.

CERCLA Reporting
The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) require facilities to report releases of hazardous substances that are equal to or greater than their reportable...
quantities within any 24-hour period.
On December 18, 2008, EPA published a final rule that exempted most farms from certain release reporting requirements in CERCLA and EPCRA. Specifically, the rule exempted farms releasing hazardous substances (ammonia or hydrogen sulfide) from animal waste to the air above threshold levels from reporting under CERCLA. For EPCRA reporting, the rule exempted reporting of such releases if the farm had fewer animals than a large concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO). On April 11, 2017, the Court struck down the final rule, eliminating the reporting exemptions for farms. EPA sought additional time from the Court to delay the effective date so that EPA could develop guidance materials to help farmers understand their reporting obligations.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued an order further delaying the official "mandate" of it April 2017 ruling. This means that CERCLA/EPCRA reporting requirements for livestock and poultry farmers are stayed until May 1, 2018. No reporting is necessary until the mandate is issued which will not take place before May 1, 2018.

**Expect Final Version of MDA's Nitrogen Rule Later This Year**

The Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule under development by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is undergoing revisions and should be available for public comment late this spring.

Farmers and other interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the final form of the rule before it is implemented. There is also the possibility of a petition requiring that the rule be reviewed by an administrative law judge. The MDA has previously reported that they expect to implement phase 1 of the rule, which included a prohibition of fall applied commercial nitrogen fertilizer on all vulnerable soils, this coming fall.

**Proposed MN Property Taxes 2018**

Minnesotans are receiving their 2018 Proposed Property Tax Statements. For years Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) has worked on options to assist agricultural land owners with escalating property taxes. In 2017, the Minnesota Legislature passed a 40 percent credit on the portion of agricultural land that goes towards school debt bond levies. The 2018 proposed tax statements reflects the 40 percent credit as related to school bond levies.

Check the school building bond credit to see your membership dollars at work. MFBF will continue to work with everyone involved to find sustainable solutions addressing property taxes and the stresses it places on agricultural landowners, while maintaining strong schools.

More information about the School Building Bond Agricultural Credit:
- This credit applies to all property classified as agricultural land, rural vacant land and managed forest land, excluding the house, garage and surrounding one acre of land of an agricultural homestead.
- The credit is 40 percent of the tax on the property attributed to school district-bonded debt levies.
- The credit applies to all school debt bond levies, both past and current, and will be applied to future levies.
- The credit is first available for your 2018 property taxes and is in place for future years.

**Beginning Farmer Tax Credit**

On May 30, Governor Mark Dayton signed into law a Tax Credit for Minnesota beginning farmers. The new law will provide tax credits for the rent or sale of farm land or a variety of farm assets to beginning farmers. Minnesota will become the first state to provide incentives for the sale of farm land.

Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/bftc.aspx (Minnesota Department of Agriculture) for more information and fact sheets.

**GOP: Expect Trump, Pence to visit Minnesota this year**

President Trump told national Republicans last week that he will make an election-year stop in Minnesota, Minnesota GOP Chair Jennifer Carnahan confirmed. Vice President Mike Pence is likely to come well before Trump, she added. No specific dates were given for either visit.

Trump came closer than most Republican presidential candidates to winning Minnesota, falling short by less than 2 percentage points statewide but winning a majority in 78 of 87 counties.

“His support is still very high in Minnesota and that we would encourage him to come out. It’s kind of coming out of continued asks,” Carnahan said. “He did say, ‘I will be there.’” He said ‘I will be there’ in July when I was in the Oval Office. So it will just be, I think, a matter of time for what works best into his political schedule.” Carnahan said she expects Pence to campaign in the state sooner than Trump.

DFL Party Chair Ken Martin said he’d also roll out the welcome mat.

“I don’t think there is anyone who would fire up Minnesota Democrats more than a visit by Donald Trump,”

“We would welcome him here any time — him or Vice President Pence.”

Both parties are seeing a great amount of enthusiasm in their political bases, Martin said.

He called Minnesota “the epicenter of 2018 elections” given the number of targeted races on the ballot — from the governor’s race and a U.S. Senate seat on down to state House races.
Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) is a full service ecological restoration company that has been restoring and enhancing ecosystems in Central Minnesota since 1998. MNL’s services range from wetland and streambank restoration to prescribed fires for ecological and wildfire mitigation goals, and has several large-scale native seed production farms.

In 2017 MNL developed the Conservation Grazing Outfit in order to provide comprehensive land management services in the region. Through the use of various classes and species of livestock, including sheep, MNL manages large and small tracts of land, both public and privately owned, for various ecological goals. The Conservation Grazing Outfit takes an integrated and holistic approach to heritage breed conservation as well as regenerative land management, employing the appropriate livestock species and class to achieve our customer’s ecological, conservation, and production goals.

MNL has the capacity to custom graze large numbers of sheep for the 2018 grazing season, roughly May through October. Various classes of sheep can be grazed together for any term throughout the 2018 grazing season, and biosecurity needs can be addressed as needed. Any size flock can enter the outfit, and will be incorporated into a larger flock, based on the outfit’s and the livestock owner’s needs.

MNL has a full time Grazing Coordinator guaranteeing that the outfit is always on fresh, high quality pastures throughout the grazing season. The Grazing Coordinator organizes all transport logistics, grazing plans, overall program management, and daily management.

MNL’s team is trained in low-stress animal handling. All handling events are planned with low-stress in mind. MNL has professional mobile facilities to seamlessly move animals as necessary and address any animal handling needs.

Holistically-Planned Management

Intensive Rotational Grazing is used to rotate each flock through various sites, with daily paddock moves providing fresh forage every day. Electric sheep netting is used for cross-fencing within each site. The goal always being the health of the livestock and the health of the land.

Each grazing site is different; however, the majority of the sites for the 2018 grazing season have been planted in MNL’s custom Native Prairie mixes with local ecotypes that thrive naturally in the various soil types of Central Minnesota. The newly restored prairies are a polyculture of native prairie grasses, sedges, and forbs providing the true nutritional flavor of Minnesota Native Landscapes. Grazing is used as a tool to knock back remnant plant species allowing for the native species to thrive. Utmost attention is paid to the nutritional demands of each flock, with considerations for flock class, and performance goals.

Some sites have wells, tested and approved for livestock use, while on other sites water is hauled in. Each flock always has access to multiple fresh, clean water troughs with floats via gravity fed or pressurized water lines. Certain sites may have steams, lakes, or ponds that are used for watering, in these rare cases the water will be confirmed to be safe for livestock, and livestock will not be exposed to marsh, bog, or excessive wetland conditions.

Tractor trailer sheep pots are used for transport, with load numbers based on industry standards for class and weight. MNL uses professional handling equipment (Porta-Yard) imported from New Zealand to efficiently and safely load and unload all sheep to and from each grazing site in a low stress manner.

Many sites have full 6’ predator-proof fencing, and each flock is rotated through grazing sites using electrified sheep netting from PremierOne, providing both protection from predation and containment for precision grazing goals. Additionally, MNL’s in-house dog kennel, Pata de Perro, breeds Livestock Guard Dogs (LGDs) for their disposition and guarding abilities. MNL’s LGD breed of choice is the Colorado Mountain Dog (CMD), a newly developed composite breed and a member of the American Rare Breed Association. CMD’s are a cross of 75% Pyranees and 25% Anatolian Shepard. CMDs are fiercely protective of their livestock charges, but also kind, gentle and well suited for human interaction. Some of the grazing sites have occasional interaction with the public.

MNL runs a very flexible Custom Conservation Grazing outfit based on a $ amount/head/day basis. Prices are competitive with industry standard. Please contact us directly for 2018 pricing.

MNL is currently developing a label and distribution network for Minnesota Grown 100% Native Prairie-Fed lamb. A grass/prairie-finishing program is currently being developed in conjunction with the sales, marketing, and distribution needs. More details to come as this exciting program develops.

For more information, contact Michael at (859) 652-4588 or MichaelB@MNLcorp.com.
MAKE IT WITH WOOL WINNERS

Advancing to nationals: (L to R): Sr. Kia L.; Adult—Marcella M.; Jr. Cecelia V.

Preteen winners: Lydia V., Gretta L. Natalee M.

Preteen sewing machine winner: Anna M

Sr Winner: Kia L.

Jr winner: Cecelia V.

Adult winner & runner up: Marcella M. & Ann L.

BONIFACES RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AG AWARD

Dick Boniface and Juanita Reed Boniface were awarded the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation’s Annual Meeting. This is the most prestigious award given by MFBF.

“This is quite an honor for a couple of country kids who spent their careers as a wool buyer and an Extension Educator in 4-H. We are thankful to have worked in a field where we got to know many of the best people in this world – farmers and ranchers working with and for them,” said Dick and Juanita. “We both grew up with parents and others who were part of the ‘Greatest Generation’ as described by Tom Brokow – with an underlying philosophy to do our best, to be trustworthy to be involved and of service to others and to our community.”
MLWPA honored Mike Caskey with a Distinguished Service award at the 2017 Annual Convention in Fargo, ND. Caskey recently retired from his Pipestone Sheep Program Instructor position. In addition to the Pipestone program, Caskey has been a leader with MN Lamb and Wool and in the Hampshire breed.

Mike and his family operate Pine Lawn Farms—a purebred Hampshire and Dorset sheep farm. Join us in congratulating Mike Caskey!

**BE A LEADER FOR THE INDUSTRY**

Travis Hoffman, Extension Sheep Specialist
NDSU/UofM Travis.Hoffman@ndsu.edu

Hello Minnesota lamb and wool producers, I am excited for a thrilling 2018 ahead. This past year has been filled with opportunity for me to be a part of building our sheep industry. Most importantly, new producers are looking to be grow operations, and established operators are finding ways to diversify and/or add value to their lamb and wool products.

We have a phenomenal group of fiber enthusiasts that remind me about telling the story to merchandise wool and fiber products in a variety of venues. The fine wool market is setting records and I am inspired by producer’s creativity in marketing their fiber arts. We are in the most joyous times as we approach or are in the middle of lambing and the rewards of your planned breeding programs.

The marketing of lamb appears stable in the short term. The approval of instrument grading in the Superior Farms Dixon (CA) plant provides great optimism for future information regarding lamb quality and value. Further, I have a project funded that will collect carcass data for producers from the 2018 lamb crop with lamb delivery dates from August to October. Please let me know if you are interested in participating to learn more about your lamb crop. Restaurant features for American lamb are trending up, and direct and ethnic marketing of lamb in Minnesota holds great promise.

Lastly, I challenge everyone to work with surrounding youth that have an inspiration to be a part of the lamb and wool industry. Be a Leader! So many producers thirst for knowledge and our best asset is colleagues that may serve as mentors. Feel free to contact me if I can ever be of assistance. I look forward to a tremendous MLWP Spring Workshop and hope to see you there and at upcoming events in Minnesota. Charge on!

**INVEST IN THE BEST**

SYDELL INC.
46935 SD HWY 50, BURBANK, SD 57010
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1369 PHONE: (605) 624-4538 FAX: (605) 624-3233
WEBSITE: www.sydell.com EMAIL: sydell@sydell.com
**Why is Vitamin E Important?**

*Dr. G.F. Kennedy, Pipestone Vet Clinic*

Vitamin E is an essential part of sheep production. Recently there were some source problems with mfg, resulting in a shortage in supply that is now resulting in increased costs of Vitamin E. In sheep production fast growing lambs deprived of selenium or vitamin or both can develop white muscle disease which may affect a few animals or I have seen instances after forced exercise, vaccination, it involves almost the entire group. In view of the shortage, it may be prudent to revalue your use of Vitamin E. Vitamin E lasts in grain and dry hay products about ninety days after harvest, animals are capable of storing Vitamin E for an additional ninety days. So what I am suggesting, that under normal situations, ewes in the north country should start receiving supplementation in January. Farther south this may become necessary later or perhaps never. Animals on grass don’t need Vitamin E supplementation. Selenium and iodine are always essential and are easily supplied through free choice salt as can Vitamin E when necessary. Fast growing lambs in a dry lot will require selenium and Vitamin E.

Ewes held in dry lot year round will require additional Vitamin E depending on age of feed source. Sheep being fed poor quality forage will require more Vitamin E than those fed good quality roughage. Goats have similar requirements but are less of a problem with kids because they don’t grow as fast.

**Pregnancy Disease**

I am receiving a lot of questions about heavily pregnant ewes failing to eat and clinically depressed. In the broad definition, this could be determined to be pregnancy disease, probably not quite that simple. In my younger days, much younger and years ago I called it Iowa cornfield disease. Ewes were turned into a picked corn field and left to graze. They become overly fat and about the time they needed more nutrition to advance their pregnancy they were out of feed. Pregnancy disease is a result of ewes being too fat at breeding time and these fat deposits limit their rumen capacity and so they can’t meet their energy requirements in late pregnancy.

Sounds simple, but not all ewes that go off feed in late pregnancy can be classified as typical pregnancy disease. They may have dead fetuses and are trying to abort, could have hydrops amnion, excessive fluid in one or more of the unborn lambs, maybe multiple fetuses, more than ewe can handle, maybe old or in declining health and can’t nutritionally keep up. What I haven’t diagnosed that occasionally occurs in dairy cattle is hypocalcemia, I don’t believe it happens in sheep. The calcium solutions used to treat hypocalcemia in cattle contain dextrose and may be helpful in treating pregnancy toxemia. I like to use the words pregnancy toxemia, broader and inclusive.

Treatment: Standard treatment involves oral use of propylene glycol, 6 to 8 oz. twice daily and 1cc Banamine once daily. Injections of fortified Vit B complex may help. This is one situation where Banamine may have value, I believe it, for the most part, is overused but there was some work done in Israel a few years back that showed ewes treated with Banamine only had a higher survival rate than those treated with propylene glycol and other standard treatments. Dr. Jay Bobb suggests trying to get the ewe to drink milk replacer, very helpful if they will drink it. If it’s true pregnancy disease these things all help but treatment is often unrewarding. The use of Dexamethasone 10cc to end the pregnancy is the last resort, if very close to due date live lambs may be born. Dexamethasone does help with lung development in fetus. Once the ewe lambs, if she has had pregnancy disease I would give Dexamethasone which stimulates appetite and helps them to return to normal.

Prevention: Don’t allow ewes to be too fat at the breeding time. Meet energy requirements the last trimester of pregnancy. This will include feeding better quality hay, feeding half to a pound of corn a day and eliminating silage. Probably should be dry hay other than bailage. After they lamb rumen capacity is greatly increased and they can accommodate silage and bailage. Hay should be in medium protein range, alfalfa grass combination ideal, dairy-quality hay prior to lambing can affect early milk flow. After they lambed is ok. Older and timid ewes should be fed as a separate unit. First-time ewe lambs should be managed as a separate unit until they lamb. If you are dealing with ewes that were allowed to become too fat you have to keep them that way because backing off energy requirements at this time will precipitate more problems.

Learn more at www.pipevet.com (800) 658-2523
Classified Ads

Do you have breeding stock, fleeces, guard dogs, used sheep equipment, or other sheep-related items to sell?

(Place your classified ad here: $20/3 lines + $5/additional line)

For Sale: Suffolk Rams and ewes
NSIP tested, Nationally Competitive, RR. Improve your flock with genetics from JMG Suffolks. 612-756-1200
Jeremy.geske@gmail.com  http://jmgsuffolks.webs.com

MN/ND Joint Convention a Huge Success!

If you didn’t attend the annual convention in Fargo, you missed a great event. Over 80 people attended the Friday tours (Buskohl Feedlots, Dakota Fiber Mill, NDSU meats lab and NDSU sheep unit). [Note: it was such a success, we will have optional tours as part of the 2018 Shepherd’s Holiday as well.] Over 100 participated in the educational seminars. Attendance was roughly equal between ND and MN producers—and we had a few from SD and WI as well. A special thanks to Skip Anderson (tour coordinator), the planning committee (ND/MN boards), all of the sponsors (major sponsors included: MN Corn Growers, Dakota Lamb Growers Co-op, ND Corn Council, Groenwold Fur & Wool, Superior Farms & several others) and especially Travis Hoffman for all the work in organizing this event. Convention photos by Heidi Geske.
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9-10</td>
<td>Pipestone Lambing Short Course</td>
<td>Pipestone, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pipestonsheep.com">www.pipestonsheep.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 14-15</td>
<td>SFA Soil Health Summit</td>
<td>Fergus Falls, MN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@sfa-mn.org">info@sfa-mn.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Rural Legislative Forum</td>
<td>Mankato, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.centerofagriculture.org/events/rural-legislative-forum">www.centerofagriculture.org/events/rural-legislative-forum</a></td>
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<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Small Scale Sustainable Sheep Event</td>
<td>Fosston, MN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sustainablesheep@gmail.com">sustainablesheep@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 5-7</td>
<td>ASI to DC</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
<td>sheepusa.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 22</td>
<td>MN Livestock Breeders Hall or Fame mtg</td>
<td>St Paul, MN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremy.geske@gmail.com">jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 7</td>
<td>Spring Sheep Workshop</td>
<td>Kensington, MN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kinneylamb@gmail.com">kinneylamb@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 24</td>
<td>Stars of the North online sale</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wlivestock.com">www.wlivestock.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremy.geske@gmail.com">jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 26</td>
<td>United Suffolk Sheep Assoc. online sale</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wlivestock.com">www.wlivestock.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@u-s-s-a.org">info@u-s-s-a.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 27-29</td>
<td>MN Shearing School</td>
<td>Hutchinson, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lambshoppe.com">www.lambshoppe.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10-12</td>
<td>Big Ohio Sale</td>
<td>Eaton, OH</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bannersheepmagazine.com">http://www.bannersheepmagazine.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12-13</td>
<td>Shepherd’s Harvest Festival</td>
<td>Lake Elmo, MN</td>
<td>shepherdsharvestfestival.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31-June 2</td>
<td>Nugget All-American Sale</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wlivestock.com">www.wlivestock.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 25-20</td>
<td>MW Stud Ram Sale</td>
<td>Sedalia, MO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.midwestsale.com">www.midwestsale.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5-8</td>
<td>USSA National Jr Suffolk Show</td>
<td>Boone Co Fair, IN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.u-s-s-a.org">www.u-s-s-a.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5-8</td>
<td>All-American Jr Show</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.countrylovin.com/AAJSS">www.countrylovin.com/AAJSS</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20-22</td>
<td>MN State Suffolk Show</td>
<td>Faribault, MN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremy.geske@gmail.com">jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>Center of the Nation NSIP sale</td>
<td>Spencer, IA</td>
<td>nsip.org/home/events/center-of-the-nation-nsip-sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 24</td>
<td>MN State Fair 4-H Sheep Show</td>
<td>St Paul, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mnstatefair.org/competition/4-h.html">www.mnstatefair.org/competition/4-h.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 13-14</td>
<td>Newell Ram Sale</td>
<td>Newell, SD</td>
<td>newellramsale.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 30-Dec. 1</td>
<td>MLWPA Shepherd’s Holiday</td>
<td>Rochester, MN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremy.geske@gmail.com">jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Make it With Wool Contest</td>
<td>Rochester, MN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gtperry@frontiernet.net">gtperry@frontiernet.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Have an item for the calendar — email it to Jeremy.*

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**MLWPA would like to thank the many sponsors of the 2017 annual conference (with ND Lamb & Wool):**

- MN Corn Growers Association
- Dakota Lamb Growers Co-op
- ND Corn Council
- Groenwold Fur & Wool
- Superior Farms
- NDSU Hettinger Research and Extension Center
- Monson Lakes Nutrition
- Pipestone Vet Clinic
- Blue Earth Stock Yards
- Fowler Family Farms
- Big Gain Feeds
- Dekalb/Asgrow Seeds (Keith Hartmann)
- Elm Creek Agronomy
- Weiss Milling
- Hendrickx Mfg
- Sydell Mfg
- Yeager Implement
- Arnold’s Implement
- Buchan-Bremer Insurance
- Hendrickson Seed/Chemical
- Farm Bureau Insurance (David Huset)
- Land O’ Lakes
- Famo Feeds
- Legend Seeds
- LaCross Seeds
- Central Livestock (Zumbrota and West Fargo)
- Schauer Farms
- Performance Dorsets
- Wendell/Sandy Hansen

If we missed any on this list—our sincerest apologies!

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*See you at the 2018 Shepherd’s Holiday in Rochester!*