MLWPA Selects DanPersons as the Silver Bell Award Winner

Dan Persons and his wife, Kayleen, are big supporters of the sheep industry. The Kensington producers have given several tours of their Rafter P Ranch to Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producer members and to production management groups. Dan often mentors new producers on sheep production methods.

He’s supported and promoted the industry by serving two terms as MLWP president and represented the American Sheep Industry several times in Washington, D.C.

The Persons were recently awarded MLWP’s Silver Bell Award. The award is given to shepherds who excel in lamb or wool production and promotion.

Persons started raising beef after moving to the ranch. As they added sheep, they quit beef and continued to increase their Polypay flock.

They had 50 ewes for their first lambing in 2002 and increased it to 250 the next year and 450 ewes by the third lambing. "I knew I would be building the flock, but I didn't know I would be building it this much," he said. "When I got to half this size, I knew it would be doable."

The Persons have 1,000 ewes and keep replacement lambs. Their farm site is home to most of the flock except for the finishing lambs, which are kept on another farm.

First I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me as president of the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producer Association. It will be an honor to represent you and our organization.

I would also at this time like to thank Kirk Rowe not only for serving the past year as president but also for his hard work and dedication he gave to Minnesota lamb and wool. He will truly be missed.

The Shepherd’s Holiday went very well. For those of you that could not attend you missed some great workshops, a good meal, and time spent visiting with fellow sheep growers. Congratulations to Dan Persons for being named as this year’s Silver Bell recipient. Dan truly is an example of being a leader in the industry. I know that should I ever need advice with my sheep program, Dan would on the top of my list to go to and I know he would take the time to help me.

As I am writing this two major events happened in Washington DC. Congress
MLWPA Board Election Results

Board and officer elections were held during the business meeting at the 2012 Shepherd’s Holiday in Mankato on Dec. 1. The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates:

- **President**—John Dvorak
- **1st Vice-President**—Melanie Pamp
- **2nd Vice-President**—Travis Fowler
- **Secretary**—Jeremy Geske
- **Treasurer**—Glennette Sperry
- **NE Director**—Steve Froehlich
- **NW Director**—Karen Stormo
- **SE Director**—Steve Scheffert
- **SW Director**—Mike Haubrich
- **WC Director**—Randy Kinney
- **Metro Director**—Mary Radermacher
- **Past Presidents (2)** - Don Adelmann and Dan Persons

There were no additional nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded for nominations to cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of candidates. Motion carried.

Congratulations to John Dvorak on being elected President of the organization. John and his family own a small purebred Dorset flock near Webster. New to the board is Travis Fowler. Travis and his wife Jeanine have been active in the organization as the trade show and auction coordinators for the last few years. The Fowers have a commercial flock near Truman.

[Ed. Note: due to the resignation of President Kirk Roe, the terms of Past Presidents Adelmann and Persons will be extended one additional year.]

Silver Bell — cont.

Almost all the sheep graze except replacement ewes, which are kept on dry lot. There are 220 acres in the rotational grazing system. Alfalfa is interseeded into the grass on 10 to 20 acres each year.

The Persons are thankful their banker has been willing to work with him through the tough times, he said. Dakota Lamb Growers has been a sound market, offering fairly good contracts above the cash market over the last two years, Dan said.

Flock management is also key to making the operation profitable. This year he has added Radio Frequency Identification ear tags. The total electronic monitoring system gives him important information about each animal. He can monitor all the production data from birth to death, rates of gains and genetics. The hand-held device comes in handy when sorting animals, he said. He can tell if a sheep has been tagged for culling and can then move the sheep to the correct pen.

"It has really simplified the data collection where it is really seamless now," he said. "...I think it will take us to where we will have a much better handle on our top producing ewes and will help us to produce even better females."

The Persons have focused on production performance genetics with a goal of selling lambs almost year-round. They lamb multiple times annually and strive to increase lambing percentages and breeding aids.

Persons tells the family's story on the farm's website and his Facebook page. Several weeks ago he posted a picture of sheep grazing in the farmyard titling it "Weed and Feed."

"About 80 percent of my Facebook friends are people who aren't on the farm," he said. "I don't know how much they are reading about the farm and they may not comment every time, but I think it's a good way for people to contact others and to inform them about what we do. It at least gives them a snippet of information."

Days after receiving the award, they were back to work at the ranch and in the community. Kay and daughter, Rachel, work at a local bank while Rachel's husband, Brent Volker, runs the grocery store in Hoffman. Their daughter, Laura, works out of state and hopes to return to the farm some day.

The Persons were nominated by several producers. The group noted the couple's work to promote the industry and help others.

"They are the ultimate example of what the sheep industry needs," they wrote. "They have excelled in both production and promotion for the industry. Their leadership, commitment and dedication has been astounding." [Ed. Note: A well-deserved honor!]
Shepherd's Holiday Recap

The 2012 Shepherd's Holiday was a smashing success with well over 100 shepherds, MIWW contestants and sheep enthusiasts in attendance. The facilities, though a little cramped, worked well. The speakers did an excellent job, the banquet was superb, and most importantly—the fellowship of sheep producers was outstanding.


Special thank-yous to the MN Soybean Research and Promotion Council for sponsoring the Silver Bell Luncheon and to the MN Corn Growers Association for sponsoring the Annual Banquet.

Congratulations to Dan Persons on receiving the Silver Bell award—a well-deserved recognition for your dedication to the sheep industry. Congratulations to the 2012 MIWW winners (refer to article on page 4); and thanks Glenette for coordinating that contest.

Plans are underway for the 2013 Shepherd's Holiday to be held in a Northern MN location yet to be determined. Based on input from the annual meeting, last year’s Shepherd’s Holiday will include a Friday evening social event with a full Saturday of activities.

Be sure to thank our other sponsors, including: Big Gain Feeds—Mankato, Munson

MLWPA Board Meeting Minutes - Jeremy Geske

The MLWPA board meeting was held on Friday, Nov. 30, 2012 at the Country Inn & Suites in Mankato.


The meeting was called to order at 7:29pm by acting President John Dvorak. The agenda was approved as amended. The minutes from the Sept, 2012 meeting were read by Jeremy. Randy moved, Melanie 2nd to approve as read – motion carried.

Glenette distributed a treasurer’s report since Sept. Total checking and savings $67,066.61. Also the year end report and the budget were distributed. Jeremy moved, Don 2nd to approve – motion carried.

Old business – Randy reported on the updated Silver Bell award. Request from Pipestone Lamb & Wool program for $300 sponsorship of lambing time bus tour. Randy moved, Don 2nd to approve the sponsorship. Motion carried.

New Business – Officer elections – A slate of candidates will be presented at the annual meeting. Travis Fowler was asked to run for an open position of second VP – he accepted. Bret Oelke thanked the board for the honorarium for set-up/take-down of the Baa Booth and is willing to work with the board again next year. Other discussion items: Miracle of Birth Center, Ag Awareness Day, Faribault Woolen Mills, Wool Council Report, BBQ Boot Camp.

Glenette gave a MIWW report – 40 contestants with 50 entries. The biggest contest since Glenette has been in charge. Discussed a grievance committee to assist if there are DQs – Melanie, Don and Steve S were appointed. MN will be hosting the national adult contest on Dec. 29 in Linstrom. 27 entries from all over the US are entered.

ASI conference in San Antonio. Glenette and Dan planning to go. Steve moved, Don 2nd for Dan P.to be ASI delegate – motion carried.

2013 annual meeting location. Consider possibilities: Bemidji, Fergus Falls, Hinkley, Duluth, Brainerd. Several board members are gathering proposals to be discussed at the next meeting.

A lengthy discussion on the budget ensued, comparing last years actual income and expenses with the budgeted amount and discussing potential changes for the upcoming year. A proposed budget was agreed upon. Jeremy moved, Melanie 2nd to present the proposed budget at the annual meeting. Motion carried.

Next meeting date – Feb. 2 – Pizza Ranch in Litchfield.

Karen Stormo gave a regional director report.

Meeting adjourned.
The NLFA Board feels an educational letter needs to go out to the sheep industry that, in their opinion, will explain what has happened to our industry, marketwise, in the last two years.

In 2011 there was a world shortage of sheep meat — Therefore, a shortage of wool, shearingskins and meat. This shortage was partially caused by a rebuilding of the Australian flock and a terrible storm that killed upwards of a million lambs in New Zealand.

The US numbers had also been reduced lowering the lambs available for harvest. We saw record wool prices, shearingskin prices and lamb meat and sheep meat prices.

As we moved into 2012, we saw major drought from California through the mountain states into the corn belt creating shortages of pasture, corn, hay and soybeans, and record high prices. In June, corn went from $5.50/bu to almost $8.00/bu. in 30 days. We also saw record fuel, fertilizer and food prices.

A downturn in the European economy and slow recovery of the US economy, affected the demand for high end pelts for fashion garments, worldwide. The major world tanners were choking on a very expensive skin inventory. In June, the Chinese pulled out of the Australian skin market. The US skin market collapsed from a $30 + skin to a minus $12 skin.

We all know that lambs in 2011 were bringing anywhere from $1.50 - $2.30, and today from $.70 - $1.10. Many producers are asking WHY? Most lamb feeders know why and definitely lamb processors know why.

Lamb feeders and processors took tremendous losses on livestock inventories as well as cold storage inventories. The livestock losses have been as high as $200/hd for lambs. The cold storage inventory, depending on accounting procedures has either been written down and the losses taken, or the losses are yet to be recognized in the future.

Why were the losses so high?
1. Most of the plants could not get the lambs harvested fast enough, because they were trying to recapture the record high cost of goods and tried to pass the cost on to their customers.
2. Because the cost of gain was higher than the live market.
3. The pelt market fell apart.
   Why did the processor hold the market so long at the level they did?

Because they could. Remember, there are only five major plants in the US and really only two that sell carcass lamb. The buyers of carcass lamb must be careful when supply is short, or they may not receive what they need. Therefore, it is necessary to pay the price the packer demands, in order to supply the market.

Also, the processor was trying to recapture losses due to paying too much for the livestock.

In 2011, we had record live prices, due to lack of adequate supply and processor trying to meet demands and customer needs. Sales fell away and most consumers could not afford the lamb meat. Sales volumes at wholesale, dropped about 20%. Average lamb carcass weights went to record highs.

We are slowly coming out of this terrible situation. The industry is at a new price level. Carcass weights are coming down and sales are increasing.

We hope that the sales people and CEO's at the plant level have learned a real lesson. You can price lamb and lamb cuts too high. We also know that lamb feeders can pay too much for feeder lambs and that will affect how and if they are in the market the year after a wreck like we had in 2012.

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**Market Update** - [These prices are from 1/04/13]


**Graded wool--Clean $/lb:**<br> - 18.6 Micron $3.88, 18.6-19.5 $3.38, 19.6-20.5 $2.94, 20.6-22.0 $2.72, 22.1-23.5 $2.56, 23.6-25.9 $2.33, 26.0-28.9 $1.78, > 29 Micron $1.38; **Grease wool--ungraded $/lb:** $0.49;

**Market Summary, Week ending January 4, 2013**

**Feeder Prices.** From 3 weeks ago: San Angelo: 90-115 lbs, for 93.50-95 $/cwt.

**Slaughter Prices - Negotiated**, Live, woolled and shorn 130-160 lbs. for 94.13-120 $/cwt. (wtd. ave. 106.69)

**Slaughter Prices - Formula1**, 3,135 head at 220-230 $/cwt. for 77.60 ave. lbs.; 4,264 head at 189.92-224.66 $/cwt. for 92.50 ave. lbs.

**Equity Electronic Auction**, From 3 weeks ago: woolled 145 lbs. for $96.50/cwt.

**Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value2**, $267.41/cwt.

**Highlights from unofficial reports from selected auctions:**

**St Onge SD 1/10/13** - Lambs 61-97 lbs $136.00 - $146.00/cwt, Lambs 100-140 lbs $112.00 - $131.00/cwt

Ewes: 164-235 lbs $40.00 - $47.00/cwt

**Waverly IA 1/14/13** - Lambs 44 - 110 lbs $105.00 - $156.00/cwt, Lambs 115 - 150 lbs $106.00 - $114.00/cwt, Ewes and Bucks $40.00 - $66.00/cwt, replacement ewes $68.00-$86.00/cwt

**Sioux Falls SD 1/2/13** - Lambs 67 - 90 lbs $119.00 - $128.00/cwt, Lambs 102 - 174 lbs $98.50 - $114.00/cwt

Ewes 116 - 207 lbs $42.00 - $61.00/cwt

**Zumbrota MN 1/7/13** - Feeder lambs $100 - $140/cwt, Fed lambs $102 - $110/cwt, Ewes $40-$70/cwt
American Lamb Board News

ALB Helps Feed Displaced New Yorkers After Hurricane Sandy

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the American Lamb Board teamed up with New York City's Meatball Shop to feed thousands of residents who were left without power, heat and, in some cases, homes in the Rockaways, a hard hit area of New York City. Meatball Shop owners Daniel Holzman and Michael Chernow devoted many days to helping Rockaway residents, bringing hot food to the neighborhood daily along with blankets donated by patrons of their restaurants. ALB was proud to help with their efforts by donating 150 pounds of lamb on behalf of lamb producers across America, enough to provide meatballs for hundreds of people.

ALB Announces Grand Prize Winner of American Lamb Family Favorite Holiday Recipe Contest

The American Lamb Board is excited to announce their winner of the American Lamb Family Favorite Holiday Recipe Contest! A panel of lamb-lovin' chefs choose, Sharon Damante for her family's favorite recipe Moroccan Spiced, Herb Crusted Rack of Lamb with Mixed Berry Mint Chutney. Sharon received a $500 gift certificate to her favorite local restaurant that serves American Lamb - Chef Michael Chirarello's Bottega.

Why Sharon Loves American Lamb -- "This is by far my most requested dish at family gatherings or when friends ask me to "bring something delicious." Even those (few) folks who say they don't like lamb LOVE this dish and I'm pleased to say I've converted every one of them on the spot. It's a virtually fail proof dish as well, as the coating assures a beautiful presentation every time and because it is just as good at room temp as it is served hot. The prep is easy enough to engage young cooks in the process and it's fun for them to dip their "lollipops" in "jelly".

Washington, D.C., Lamb Blogger Burger Bash

This fall, the American Lamb Board hosted their first Lamb Blogger Burger Bash challenge at Washington DC's new Union Market.

Moroccan Spiced, Herb Crusted Rack of Lamb with Mixed Berry Mint Chutney - Sharon Damante

Ingredients

For the Lamb:
- 1 – Lemon, juice and zest
- 1 – tsp Balsamic Vinegar
- sea Salt Cracked Pepper to taste

For the Chutney:
- 2 Racks of American Lamb (16 lollipops)
- 2- cups Panko bread crumbs
- ½ - cup Chopped Parsley
- ½- cup Fresh Mint, leaves removed / chopped
- 2 tbsp Moroccan Seasoning: Ras El Hanout
- 1 pint Fresh Blackberries (or frozen)
- 1 cup Seedless Raspberry Jam
- Olive Oil

Preheat oven to 350°. Trim excess fat or silver-skin from the lamb racks. Coat each rack in 1 tbsp of the Moroccan Seasoning. Sprinkle both racks with Sea Salt and Cracked Pepper. Sear the racks over med-high heat in a cast iron pan or oven-ready skillet in a tbsp of olive oil until browned. Remove from heat, set aside. Chop the Parsley and Fresh Mint and mix with the Panko Bread Crumbs, set aside. Coat each rack with the Stone Ground Mustard. Coat with the bread crumb mixture, patting the breading evenly around the racks. Place back into the pan, rack tips to rack tips, so meat rests against the pan bottom. Drizzle with olive oil and place in the oven for approximately 25 minutes for medium rare. In a saucepan over medium heat, combine the fresh Berries, Jam, Lemon juice, Balsamic Vinegar and a pinch of Sea Salt and Cracked pepper; cook for 7-10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in most of the chopped mint, reserving a little for garnish. Remove the lamb racks from oven and let rest 5 minutes. Slice into single lollipops. Serve on a platter with the chutney in a side bowl and a sprinkling of the mint as garnish.
Company adopts new lamb milk replacer formulation - 
Article & Photo by Andrea Johnson, Minnesota Farm Guide

As lambing season approaches, it’s time for sheep producers to stock up on milk replacer. Producers have a new Land O’ Lakes Animal Milk Products lamb milk replacer available to them this year.

The Shoreview, MN company is transitioning to a new formulation. Land O’ Lakes Animal Milk Products Ultra Fresh Lamb Milk Replacer is being replaced with Ultra Fresh Optimum Lamb Milk Replacer.

Following colostrum feedings, each bottle lamb needs about 25 pounds of milk replacer - fed via bottle, pail or automatic feeder - over the course of about 30 days.

“If there is a message that I would like to get out to all sheep producers, it’s this. Lambs are the future of the operation and long-term production is impacted by early nutrition; therefore, selecting a high-quality milk replacer is a key component to a successful flock,” said Larry Van Roekel, Land O’ Lakes Animal Milk Products director of marketing.

Several factors led to the development of the new milk replacer, he said. First, the traditional dry powder formulation relies heavily on dried whey, which is in demand for sports shakes and power bars. Human consumption of powdered whey has increased dramatically. Whey is the watery part of milk that remains after cheese making. Athletes are eating whey because it offers protein, sugars, vitamins and minerals to build or repair muscles.

“Whey products have become very expensive, so that has had a direct impact on milk replacer prices,” said Van Roekel.

Second, researchers have learned more about lamb nutritional requirements. While the old formulation is good, the new formulation is adjusted to help lambs thrive based on newer research data. Cow’s milk, doe’s milk and ewe’s milk are dramatically different in nutritional content. Therefore, it’s essential to the future health of the flock to select a milk replacer that was designed specifically for lambs.

Compared to cow’s milk, sheep’s milk has a greater percentage of dry matter, fat, albumin globulin, casein, lactose, calcium, vitamin A, vitamin E, and vitamin C. Sheep’s milk also has more calories but less sodium than cow’s milk.

Ultra Fresh Lamb Milk Replacer was based on 24 percent protein and 35 percent fat. Because fat is expensive, company researchers wanted to see if they could reduce the fat content.

Then the researchers began looking at the fatty acid profile needed by lambs. They wanted to see if there were ways to substitute animal fat for the dried milk whey to make the product less expensive.

The researchers found they could use refined animal fat and vegetable fat while retaining the nutritional value in the lamb milk replacer. Using homogenization, the researchers created a product with a very small micron size to make a very digestible product.

Land O’ Lakes Animal Milk Products new milk replacer formulation is 25 percent protein and 30 percent fat. It more closely mimics the balance of ewe’s milk than the mid-1990s version, said Van Roekel. In addition, the new formulation has Digestarom – a mix of essential oils, herbs, spices, extracts and natural flavors that can support gut health, feed-to-gain ratio and overall growth in ruminants.

“Our new formula is more efficiently used by the lamb, because of that new protein/fat profile and the fatty acid chains, and it’s less expensive,” he said. “We can pass on some savings to the producers, and offer them as good or better performance.”

In 2012, the company tested both products at a large dairy sheep farm. The research trial was conducted at Dream Valley Farm in Strum, WI, where about 450 lambs are born each spring. The flock includes East Fresian/ Lacaune dairy ewes. Lambs are raised on automated feeders – with 60 to 80 lambs per pen. For the trial, the lambs were split into two treatment groups at birth.

Following colostrum feeding, one group received 35 percent fat and 24 percent protein milk replacer. The other group received the new 30 percent fat and 25 percent protein milk replacer that included the enhanced fatty acid profile.

At the end of the four-week trial, lambs receiving the previous formulation weighed an average of 38.03 pounds, and had an average daily gain of 0.74 pounds. Lambs fed the new formulation had a slightly higher average weaning weight of 38.56 pounds with an average daily gain of 0.78 pounds.

They concluded that lambs used the new formulation more effectively than the previous formulation. The new product was also easy to mix and keep in suspension.

“The biggest impact is we have optimized the components in the formula to make it more efficient,” said Van Roekel. “The lambs are better at using the nutrients made available because we have fine-tuned that fatty acid profile.”

[Ed. Note: MLWPA does not endorse any specific brand of Milk Replacer.]
Humane Society CEO Drops Icahn-Backed Bid for Tyson Board

Humane Society of the U.S. Chief Executive Officer Wayne Pacelle, who is trying to pressure Tyson Foods Inc. (TSN) to phase out gestation crates for sows, dropped a plan to seek a seat on the company’s board. Tyson, the second-largest U.S. pork processor, has a dual-class share structure that allows the Springdale, Arkansas-based company to reject his bid, Pacelle said.

More Regulation On Antibiotics

To sum up the debate over antibiotics in food animals, try this – the more we expose organisms to antibiotics in animals, the more opportunity there is to develop resistance to antibiotics and, ultimately, to affect human health.

That linear thinking has been the source of decades of debate about the extent, antibiotics should be used in animals. At the center of the debate is the use of low-level antibiotics for growth promotion and feed efficiency.

Here’s the rub: “While it’s plausible, there is simply no hard evidence that connects human cases of infection with a resistant bacteria and the use of antimicrobials in animals,” says Ron DeHaven, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) executive vice president. “Further, there is little evidence at this point to suggest that eliminating or greatly reducing the use of antimicrobials in food animals improves human health or results in less antimicrobial resistance in humans.”

He points to Denmark as an example. That country banned the use of antibiotics for growth promotion and feed efficiency in pigs in 2000. Following the ban, Danish hog produces reported significant animal health problems, particularly in the early stages. As a result, veterinarians had to resort to greater use of therapeutic doses of antibiotics to maintain animal health and welfare.

“That ban has been in place for quite some time and yet there has been no improvement in terms of the increased frequency of antimicrobial resistance seen in humans,” DeHaven says. “Indeed, some evidence suggests there’s been an increasing prevalence of antimicrobial-resistant infections in people since the ban.”

Hurd vs. Consumer Reports

Consumer Reports has been busy this year putting out its pseudo-science and recommendations for the public on what/how they should eat and where they should get it. Scott Hurd, DVM, PhD, has no problem taking them to task on their shaky data.

In Hurd’s Food Safety and Animal Health blog, he says after Consumer Reports’ most recent article about pork safety, “What’s in that pork?”, he has “lost confidence in their ability to provide unbiased, scientific information.”

In that article that questions the safety of pork, Hurd says there are numerous issues with scientific credibility including poor sample size, lack of information on study methodology, and no other published studies.

“Although the results are weak and relatively meaningless, the title, headings and tone of the article serve to frighten readers and create anxiety,” writes Hurd. “Contrary to the article’s tone and title, the report does not reveal anything alarming about pork safety.”

But, the damage is already done when scaremongering information gets published to a wide audience who put their trust in an entity such as Consumer Reports.

And this is not its first misstep on reporting about meat. Or maybe it’s not a misstep at all but just an obvious bias. Earlier this year “Meat On Drugs” appeared in Consumer Reports and their conclusion was to buy your meat from Whole Foods or Trader Joe’s.

Hurd also wrote about the “Meat without Drugs” campaign and how that may actually be inhumane to animals suffering from a disease that needed treatment, if treatment was withheld.

“I think the bigger problem is that a campaign such as ‘Meat without Drugs’ could mean that veterinarians have no way to treat sick animals or prevent epidemic diseases,” Hurd wrote. “It is not possible to raise children without antibiotics. How do people expect us to raise these baby chicks, piglets and calves into wholesome meat, dairy and egg products without the assistance of modern medicine?”

Humane Society Wants Egg Lawsuit Quashed

HSUS has filed a motion to intervene in and dismiss a state court lawsuit challenging Proposition 2, the 2008 California voter-approved law regulating egg-laying hen cages. Last month, the Association of California Egg Farmers filed suit in Fresno Superior Court seeking a determination that Proposition 2 is unconstitutionally vague. [Ed. Note: Read more at: www.sacbee.com]
CA Voters reject Proposition 37

Voters in California rejected a ballot initiative opposed by agriculture groups. Proposition 37, that would have mandated genetically modified foods (GM) to be labeled as such. Proposition 37 was defeated 53 percent to 47 percent.

Opposition to Prop 37 came from a host of companies and individuals – many from outside the state – who injected $46 million into defeating the initiative. Those supporting the measure raised $9.2 million.

Supporters of Prop 37 relied on social media and a strong grass-roots campaign in an effort to sway voters to adopt the nation’s first GMO food labeling law. The state-wide battle was a high-profile fight because it pitted businesses against businesses. Big natural-food companies, celebrity chefs and several organic farmers supported Prop 37, while a variety of traditional farmers and chemical, seed and processed-food firms opposed the measure.

Proposition 37 gained significant exposure outside California, with many new-age food writers and celebrities supporting the measure. People such as The New York Times’ Mark Bittman urged Californians to vote for Prop 37, saying, “even if there were a way to guarantee that food produced with GMO ingredients is not directly bad for you, it remains clear that such food is in general bad for all of us, based on the collateral damage from producing it.”

But such arguments lost steam when local California writers such as The Los Angeles Times Alexandra Le Tellier questioned the science behind some anti-GMO research. “Is it (research) credible?” she asked. “Or is it science for the sake of fulfilling an agenda?” After noting that much of the criticism of GMO foods centered around pesticides, Le Tellier asked, “If the problem is the pesticides, then why isn’t the Proposition 37 labeling initiative about that?”

ND Voters Defeat Measure 5

North Dakota voters rejected HSUS-supported Measure 5, the proposal that that would have created a felony penalty for malicious cruelty to a dog, cat or horse. Measure 5 was defeated 67 percent to 33 percent.

On the North Dakota Animal Health Committee chair.

The sheep industry is pleased that the identification system currently required as a part of the National Scrapie Eradication Program will be recognized as compliant with the new animal disease traceability regulations,” said Jim Logan, DVM, American Sheep Industry Association Animal Health Committee chair.

The final rule meets the diverse needs of the countryside where states and tribes can develop systems for tracking animals that work best for them and their producers, while addressing any gaps in our overall disease response efforts. Over the past several years, USDA has listened carefully to America’s farmers and ranchers, working collaboratively to establish a system of tools and safeguards that will help us target when and where animal diseases occur, and help us respond quickly.”

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The Obama administration is seen as having backed off broad-scale climate change actions spearheaded by the EPA as the ag industry and industry in general have counter attacked with their concerns about regulatory overreach.

Jackson was challenged repeatedly by Congress and often by the Republican majority in the House. In the Times article by John Broder, he wrote, “She was frequently subjected to harsh questioning that at times bordered on the disrespectful.” [Ed. Note: I wonder if Mr. Broder noted the disrespectful way Jackson disregarded directives from...]

On the Stewards website, Jason Schmidt, North Dakota Stockmen’s Association president and a fourth-generation Medina, N.D., farmer and rancher, says “It is poorly worded by design to give animal rights groups like the HSUS a foothold in North Dakota to make more sweeping changes later, like they’ve done in places like Missouri, California and other states.”

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CAPITOL CONNECTION - cont.

Congress?

There have been a number of proposed actions by the EPA that have concerned and/or angered segments of agriculture during Jackson's reign, and the ag industry is wondering what the environmental and regulatory agenda will be during President Obama's second term.

Census of Ag Forms

In early January, you received the 2012 Census of Ag survey from by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Conducted every five years, the census is a complete count of all U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them.

"The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) utilizes this data as it prepares briefs and comments about the industry," commented Margaret Soulen Hinson, ASI president. "As we answer questions from the media, members of Congress and state and federal agencies, the census is the main source of information that we rely on, so I encourage all operations, regardless of size, to respond."

Completed forms are due by Feb. 4, 2013. Upon receipt of the form, producers can either fill out the form and mail it back or fill out the census online via a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Livestock Industry Needs to be Prepared for FMD

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in livestock is currently in more than 100 countries so it is not a matter of if it will occur again in the United States, it is a matter of when it will occur, said to Paul Sundberg, vice president of science and technology at the National Pork Council.

The last outbreak of FMD in the United States occurred in 1929, but the next outbreak could occur at any moment and we must be prepared to act quickly, Sundberg said.

The disease, which affects cloven-hoofed animals, is "very difficult" to control because there are seven different serotypes and 60 subtypes of the FMD virus, he noted.

"All FMD viruses aren't the same. We can't use a common vaccine," Sundberg said, adding the virus strains are constantly evolving so the vaccines the industry has developed aren't always effective.

In addition, an FMD vaccine is not in high demand in the United States because if there is an outbreak, it is doubtful that enough vaccine could be made and distributed quickly.

"Vaccines have a shelf life. They can't be stockpiled," he said.

However, Harrisvaccines, an Ames, Iowa, company, may have the answer to that. It was recently awarded $1.114 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate to develop an RNA Particle (RP) vaccine to potentially protect the United States from FMD, according to a press release from the company.

The company's RP platform technology allows the vaccine to be manufactured without handling the infectious FMD virus because only a gene sequence from the virus is needed to prepare the vaccine.

Kurt Kamrud, said their "rapid response technology allows us to produce large amounts of vaccine quickly."

USDA to allow more meat, grains in school lunches

The Agriculture Department is responding to criticism over new school lunch rules by allowing more grains and meat in kids' meals. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told members of Congress that the department will do away with daily and weekly limits of meats and grains. Several lawmakers wrote the department after the new rules went into effect in September saying kids aren't getting enough to eat.

Note: Thanks to all of you who submitted comments to USDA—you made a difference!

2012 MN Election Update

The Democrats have regained control of both the Minnesota House and Senate, giving them control of all three bodies for the next two years. The last time the Democrats controlled the Governor's office and both legislative bodies was 1990. The Democrats picked up eleven seats in the House to now control the body 73-61, while they were also successful in picking up nine seats in the Senate to hold a 39-28 majority.

The new Speaker of the House is Rep. Paul Thissen (Minneapolis). Chair of the House Ag Policy committee is Rep. Jeanne Poppe (Austin); however, Ag Finance Committee was combined with Environment, and the Chair is Rep. Jean Wagenius (Minneapolis). [Ed. Note: This is not good news for Ag—Wagenius has an anti-farmer track record. The policy committee can't do much without funding.]

Sandy Pappas (St. Paul) was elected President of the Senate. The Ag Policy Committee Chair is Dan Sparks (Austin), and the Ag and Environment Finance Committee Chair is David Tomassoni (Chisoml). [Ed. Note: The majority of committee chairs are from the Metro area. Even if all the rural Democrats and Republicans work together, they don't have enough votes to counter the Metro-area legislators.]

Session starts January 8. The question remains how aggressive will Governor Dayton be, now that Democrats control both houses?

On the Congressional side, Senator Klobuchar easily won re-election. In only change was in the 8th District where incumbent Chip Cravaack (R) was defeated by Rick Nolan (D).
**HSUS’s Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**

Two developments emerged recently that could be body-blows to the Humane Society of the United States and its deceptive practices of raising money from pet loving Americans who are deceived into giving to the group.

First, news broke this morning that the ASPCA has agreed to pay Feld Entertainment, owner of the Ringling Bros. Circus, nearly $10 million as part of a settlement in a federal racketeering lawsuit. Feld will continue its litigation against other defendants, including HSUS and two of its attorneys. HSUS could be on the hook for millions upon millions in damages. And for anyone who may have been thinking this lawsuit didn’t have merit, the fact that ASPCA was worried enough to shell out almost $10 million just to make it go away should make them think again.

Meanwhile, whenever HSUS is exposed for getting a “D” grade from the respected American Institute of Philanthropy, HSUS hides behind its “accreditation” from the Better Business Bureau. But as USA Today reports this morning, the BBB’s charity rating arm is under fire for taking money from some of the charities it rates (including HSUS). In fact, HSUS had to pay BBB $15,000 in order to use the BBB seal on their marketing materials. U.S. Senator and former Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal says this practice “unquestionably” has implications for the BBB’s “credibility and possible conflicts of interest.”

One issue is that the BBB excuses accounting practices that allow charities to classify fundraising costs as “educational” costs. HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle musters up a lame excuse for USA Today that HSUS has nebulous “influence,” as if that should excuse or take precedence over the organization’s practices.

Fortunately, others aren’t buying what Pacelle’s shoveling: “If you like getting those mailings and want to pay for more of them, support the Humane Society,” says [American Institute of Philanthropy head David] Borochoff. “It you want to give more for programs or services that benefit animals and advocate better rules and protections for animals, they are not a good target because the portion of their budget they give to these programs is too small."

Nathan Winograd, an author and prominent advocate of "no-kill" animal shelters, says the disagreement is emblematic of a larger problem with HSUS. "Only the leadership of HSUS could contrive fundraising letters as program expenses," Winograd says. "If they actually spent as much time, energy and money on saving animals as they now only pretend to, not only would they not have to cover up their failures to do so with these kind of mental gymnastics, they could truly be the heroes they now only pretend to be."

Wayne Pacelle can’t talk his way out of every problem. Today’s double-whammy could take a good chunk out of Wayne’s façade of running a legitimate, worthy charity rating arm and help end inhumane practices in the pork industry,” said Joe Maxwell, VP of outreach and engagement at The HSUS.

"HSUS’ continuous attacks against America's farmers and ranchers not only hurt the thousands of farm families who dedicate their lives to the care and well-being of their animals, but it also intentionally misleads consumers about modern food production to promote its extremist agenda," said Animal Ag Alliance CEO Kay Johnson Smith.

“The HSUS decision to target young children is no surprise given the cynical ‘all-or-nothing’ approach this group takes to political issues,” said Steve Kopperud, executive VP at Policy Directions.

“The naive and short-sighted approach of Hollywood is also no surprise given the HSUS’ courting of those who facilitate these attacks with little care for the facts and reasons for on-farm practices.

“Having said that, farmers and ranchers — and industries which rely upon them — can’t afford to abandon consumer audiences to this kind of political propaganda and needs to step up its game in talking to the public at all age levels. Unfortunately, if such efforts are underway, they’re not as apparent and consistent as they need to be,” Kopperud added.

**HSUS Targets Children with Animated Video on Hog Farming**

In an animated video that anthropomorphizes food animals, the Humane Society of the United States is aiming its opposition to hog production practices at children.

HSUS produced a four-minute animated children’s film titled “A Pig’s Tail” to “expose problems with factory farming from the perspective of a piglet named Ginger.”

The film was released to coincide with Food Day, a national effort created by the Center for Science in the Public Interest to change the way Americans eat and think about food.

“We hope ‘A Pig’s Tail’ will launch a conversation about how food gets to the table and help end inhumane factory farming from the perspective of a piglet named Ginger.”

In an animated video that anthropomorphizes food animals, the Humane Society of the United States is aiming its opposition to hog production practices at children.

“Having said that, farmers and ranchers — and industries which rely upon them — can’t afford to abandon consumer audiences to this kind of political propaganda and needs to step up its game in talking to the public at all age levels. Unfortunately, if such efforts are underway, they’re not as apparent and consistent as they need to be,” Kopperud added.
Drought and Economy Plague Sheep Farmers

Reprinted from - Jack Healy, NY Times

Since he was a boy in western Colorado, John Bartmann seemed destined to become a sheep man. He raised lambs with the local 4-H club and sheared them for elderly German farmers. His office is lined with paintings of sheep and a plaque honoring him for “promoting culinary excellence” in lambs.

But over the last few years, skyrocketing costs, a brutal drought and plunging lamb prices have battered Mr. Bartmann and the 80,000 ranchers across the county who raise sheep. It is the latest threat to shadow a Western way of life that still relies on the whims of summer rains, lonely immigrant sheep herders and old grazing trails into the mountains.

“For the sheep industry, it’s the perfect storm,” Mr. Bartmann said, glancing out his office window here at a bleating sea of wool. “The money is just not there.”

Many ranchers are laying off employees, cutting their flocks and selling at a loss, and a handful have abandoned the business entirely. Mr. Bartmann has trimmed his flock of 2,000 by one-third. With prices down more than half since last year and higher costs for gasoline and corn, Mr. Bartmann said he expected to lose about $100 for every lamb sold.

“Even in the good years, you don’t make that much money,” he said. “We can’t take that kind of hit.”

Weather and economics take big shares of the blame. The drought withered grazing grounds, killed off young lambs and dried up irrigation ditches, and a glut of meat and imported lambs from New Zealand helped send prices plummeting.

But some ranchers and officials in Washington believe that the deck was stacked against the sheep ranchers by the small number of feedlots that buy lambs, slaughter them and sell them to grocery stores and restaurants. Even as prices farmers received fell to 85 cents a pound, consumers at supermarkets were paying $7 or more a pound for the same meat.

As animals make their way from the ranch to kitchen tables, many of them end up in a matrix of feedlots, and meatpacking facilities where a few companies control a vast share of the market. The top four companies control about 65 percent of the market for lamb.

This fall, several Western senators and ranchers’ groups wrote to the Agriculture Department saying they suspected that meatpackers had been hoarding sheep in feedlots and keeping prices artificially low. The agency that oversees stockyards said it would investigate.

“We’re going to force a lot of people in the lamb industry out of that business,” said Senator Jon Tester, Democrat of Montana. “You want competition that’s fair. If you have manipulation, that’s a whole different story.”

In Kaycee, WY, Lisa Cunningham said she and other sheep ranchers watched with astonishment as their prices soared and then crashed over the course of the last two years. Ms. Cunningham said she was lucky to get $1 a pound for young lambs, down from more than $2.

“You can’t hardly get anyone to buy your lamb,” she said.

Still, even some sheep ranchers do not blame the packers and say they believe that the declines are related to shifts in the market.

Federal insurance has helped blunt the blow, as have government programs to buy lamb from ranchers.

It is the latest twist in a brutal year for thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country. In a slow-motion disaster, a drought covering more than 60 percent of the country scorched corn stalks into parchment, dried up irrigation ponds and turned farm fields into brittle crust. Farmers begged local governments to let them tap aquifers. Scores of ranchers dumped their livestock at drought auctions.

Farmers say they are still paying near-record prices for corn and hay to feed their livestock through the winter. And if abundant snows do not come to replenish streams and coax new grass from the ground, they worry that next summer could be even worse than last.

“The drought plays into everything,” said Fred Roberts, a sheep rancher in Rock Springs, WY. “We have absolutely no feed. We’re feeding as much corn to the sheep as they can eat, and you can imagine how expensive that is. Nothing grew here last year.”

Here in the northern Colorado town of Severance, Mr. Bartmann, a man with a master’s degree in animal production, spends his days managing a lamb feedlot increasingly surrounded by high-end subdivisions.

Even before “the wreck” in prices, he said, his business had been growing increasingly tenuous. A few years ago, he lost big areas of grazing land because it was declared potential habitat for wild bighorn sheep. The summer drought claimed even more grassland. Now, many of his sheep are spending the winter on a Kansas feedlot. A few hundred others are here, munching hay under gray skies. Mr. Bartmann climbed into a battered pickup truck to check on them one recent morning, unsure what the next season would bring.

“It just keeps pulling everything down,” he said. “After a while, you say it isn’t worth it.”
The National “Make It With Wool” contest was held at Hyatt Regency in San Antonio Texas on January 24-26, 2013 in conjunction with the American Sheep Industry’s Annual Conference. There were 63 entries from 33 states in two age divisions. Some 685 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.

Advancing to the Nationals from Minnesota were:
Junior (age 13-16): Jackie Oelke of Barrett.
Senior (age 17-24): Sarah Thelen, Oakdale
Adult: (age 25-over): Jean Olson, Woodbury, finished 2nd runner-up in the Nation.

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. National director is Marie Leehfeldt of Montana and Minnesota’s director is Glenette Sperry of Center City, MN.

[Ed. Note: On behalf of the entire MLWPA board, congratulations Jean, Sarah and Jackie! Thank you for promoting wool here in MN and representing us well at the National competition.]

Jean Olson, Sarah Thelen and Jackie Oelke represented MN at the National MIWW contest in San Antonio, TX

2013 MIWW—Nov. 16

MLWPA is pleased to announce that Kelly Froehlich has agreed to serve as coordinator of MLWPA youth activities for 2013. Kelly is a past MLWPA Youth Silver Bell award winner, a former MLWPA “Lambassador” and a dedicated youth leader within the organization.

Kelly will be a liaison to the board and work closely with selected board members to ensure youth participation at MLWPA events.

Contact Kelly to learn more about youth involvement and the incentive program described above. Kelly’s email is kellyssheep@gmail.com.

Thank you Kelly for stepping forward and agreeing to provide additional oversight to the youth program.

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association junior committee is off to a good start this year planning promotional events for the coming year. The following events are being planned for this coming spring:

- FFA booth at the St. Paul UMN campus
- Shepherd’s Harvest at Lake Elmo
- University of Minnesota Agriculture Awareness Day
- We also will be participating at the baa booth at the Minnesota State Fair. The junior committee is open to any youth interested in promoting the sheep industry. If any youth are interested in being a part of the activities and planning, please contact Kelly Froehlich at kellyssheep@gmail.com. The board and youth coordinator are working on a compensation package for time spent helping and promoting the sheep industry.
ANTIBIOTICS AND ANIMALS RAISED FOR FOOD: LIES, DAMN LIES AND STATISTICS - BY DR. RICHARD RAYMOND | FOOD SAFETY NEWS

It appears to me that the next big fight over agriculture’s ability to provide consumers with plentiful, safe and affordable meat and poultry products will focus on the use of antibiotics in animals raised for food. And it also appears to me that the information being provided through media outlets is not designed to inform, but to misinform and play on the public’s lack of detailed knowledge about the use of antibiotics in animals raised for food. And it also appears to me that the main thrust of the attack will be eliminating the use of antibiotics needed to maintain healthy animals in Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs.

Eliminating antibiotics to control or prevent infections in our herds and flocks will eliminate many CAFOs and drive up the cost of protein to the point where many will have to look elsewhere for this portion of their diets. And many opponents of the use of antibiotics in animals say: “And that would be a good thing.”

So is the agenda to protect me from multi-drug resistant bacteria, or is it to reduce the amount of animal products we consume? To answer that question I want to supply the readers with some facts, facts that I will provide links for and can be repeated as the truth, if anyone cares to listen to you.

First, a statistic often repeated by the crowd calling for change is that 80 percent of all antibiotics sold in the U.S. are used in animals. The 80 percent number is meant to be a distortion from the real truth. In truth, the numbers posted on the FDA’s website, titled 2010 SUMMARY REPORT on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals, are in total kilograms of drugs sold. The listing is not indicative of what the antibiotics were used for, nor is it an accurate reflection of illnesses treated vs. prevented, etc. For instance, a 2,500 pound prize bull with pneumonia is going to be treated with a much larger dosage of an antibiotic than an 8 pound newborn with the same bacterial infection. But the numbers are the best we have for animal antibiotic use, so I will use them.

For human use of antibiotics, the same caveat about weight applies. The antibiotic numbers sold for human use that I will use for this discussion come from a letter to Congresswoman Slaughter from the FDA dated April 19, 2011, citing the IMS Health, IMS National Sales Perspectives data Year 2009.

According to the FDA report, 28 percent of all antibiotics sold for animal use in 2010 were Ionophores. Ionophores have never been approved for use in human medicine. Several other drugs sold for use in animals are also not approved for use in human medicine. When they are combined with the Ionophore total, the percentage of antibiotics sold for use in animals but having no place in human disease treatment reaches 45 percent.

The largest class overall of antibiotics sold or distributed for use in animals in 2010 was the tetracycline class. They accounted for nearly 42 percent of total sales. Tetracycline use in human medicine comprises about 1 percent of the total amount sold based on weight. Tetracycline used to be widely prescribed, but is now limited in use to treating the sexually transmitted disease caused by Chlamydia, Mycoplasma infections and Rickettsial diseases like Lyme and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

For these illnesses, there are antibiotics superior to tetracycline. These other antibiotics, generally in the class called Macrolides, are the first line of therapy. So the FDA statistics show that 87 percent of antibiotics used in animals are never, or rarely, used in human medicine.

Antibiotics critical to human health includes the cephalosporin and the fluoroquinolone classes. These two classes of antibiotics made up 24 percent of all human antibiotics sold in 2009, but combined, they only represented 0.3 percent of all antibiotics sold for use in animal health. The reason for this disparity is that the FDA has already used its regulatory authority to limit these two categories of antibiotics to full therapeutic use to treat disease states in animals, limiting bacterial exposure to these antibiotics of critical importance to human health.

So when you read a report funded by the Pew Charitable Trust, or Consumers Union, stating that they found Salmonella sp. bacteria resistant to Cipro (a fluoroquinolone), where do you think that resistance came from? From the 11,000 kilograms used in animals, or from the 304,741 kilograms prescribed to treat humans?

Speaking of resistance in bacteria, penicillin was discovered in 1943; by 1950, just 7 short years later, 40 percent of all Staph isolates from US hospital intensive care units were resistant to penicillin. By 1960 that number was 80 percent. Methicillin was discovered in 1959. In 1960 the first case of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) was found in England. CAFOs did not cause this rapidly developing resistance. Human use did.

What about the other antibiotics of importance to human medicine, like penicillin and the macrolide class? It is on these drugs that I think the discussion should be focused,

Performance-tested rams for sale: Weaning and post-weaning weights, ADG and NSIP data, RR rams and select ewe lambs. Available starting in April. Jeremy (jeremy.geske@gmail.com or 612-756-1200)

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)

ANTIBIOTICS—CONT.

realizing that the great majority of antibiotics used in animals are of little or no importance to me as a physician or grandparent, and the two critical categories I mentioned are already tightly regulated.

The FDA has approved four uses of antibiotics in animals: therapeutic, disease preventative, disease control and growth promotion through improved feed efficiency. Congresswoman Slaughter’s PAMTA act and the proposals from many other organizations, well intended or not, would eliminate all antibiotic use in animals except for the treatment of actual infections, even though 87 percent of antibiotics used are not critical to your and my health.

Before anyone espouses such a radical change in policy, they should carefully review the statistics that followed Denmark’s broad restrictions of antibiotic use in animals. The total amount of antibiotics prescribed for treating animal infections is up, and animal mortality is also up. When one treats an infection, not all the bacteria are always killed. Some survive by mutating and becoming antibiotic resistant.

I ask the question, “What produces more resistant bacteria – treating major infections with large dose, long term antibiotics, or with short term, low dose antibiotics to prevent the bacteria from multiplying in the first place?” I don’t have the answer, but someone had better find it before they potentially create an even worse problem through bad policy. [Ed. Note: Dr. Singer, U of M, has a compelling argument that high-dose treatment creates more resistance than low-dose prevention.]

AHI estimates that somewhere around 12-15 percent are used in the growth promotion category. This is where the FDA is focusing its latest efforts to keep our antibiotics working.

In June 2012, the FDA released its Guidance for Industry (GFI) 209, draft GFI 213 and the Veterinary Feed Directive proposed rule. These documents provide principles limiting the use of “medically important antibiotics” to judicious use only, translated means for prevention, control and treatment. Injudicious use of these antibiotics important to human medicine would be for performance (growth promotion), would voluntarily cease within three years and would be accompanied by a marketing status change from over the counter to prescription only. [Ed. Note: read the rest of the article and links at: www.ellinghuysen.com/news/articles/140288.shtml]
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 8-9</td>
<td>Pipestone Lambing Time Short Course</td>
<td>Pipestone, MN</td>
<td>Phil Berg <a href="mailto:Philip.Berg@mnwest.edu">Philip.Berg@mnwest.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 13</td>
<td>Lincoln University Shearing School</td>
<td>Jefferson City, MO</td>
<td>Vonna Kesel 573-681-5312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 26-27</td>
<td>National Corn Belt Sale</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>309-785-5058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 19-21</td>
<td>MN Sheep Shearing School</td>
<td>Hutchinson, MN</td>
<td>Doug Rathke 320-587-6094</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 30-May 1</td>
<td>Stars of the North on-line sale</td>
<td>on-line</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske <a href="mailto:jeremy.geske@gmail.com">jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3-5</td>
<td>Maryland Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>Frederick, MD</td>
<td>John Dvorak <a href="mailto:bjdvorak81@hotmail.com">bjdvorak81@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6-8</td>
<td>ASI Spring Legislative Trip</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>309-785-5058</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9-11</td>
<td>Big Ohio Sale / Ohio Suffolk Sale</td>
<td>Eaton Ohio</td>
<td>Julie Mackenzie (612) 961-9625</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11-12</td>
<td>Shepherd’s Harvest Festival</td>
<td>Lake Elmo, MN</td>
<td>John Dvorak <a href="mailto:bjdvorak81@hotmail.com">bjdvorak81@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Spring Sheep Workshop</td>
<td>Kasota, MN</td>
<td>309-785-5058</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30-Jun 1</td>
<td>Nugget All American Sheep Sale</td>
<td>Sparks, NV</td>
<td>Mickey Burch <a href="mailto:info@iowasheep.com">info@iowasheep.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>MLWPA Starter Flock application deadline</td>
<td>Adel, IA</td>
<td>Tayler Wolff <a href="mailto:wolff.tayler@gmail.com">wolff.tayler@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8-9</td>
<td>Iowa Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>East Lansing, MI</td>
<td>503.364.5462</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24-29</td>
<td>Midwest Stud Ram Sale/Nat. Suffolk Sale</td>
<td>Sedalia, MO</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske <a href="mailto:jeremy.geske@gmail.com">jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4-7</td>
<td>UJSSA National Junior Suffolk Show</td>
<td>East Lansing, MI</td>
<td>Sara Saul <a href="mailto:saramsaull@gmail.com">saramsaull@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4-7</td>
<td>All American Junior Sheep Show</td>
<td>East Lansing, MI</td>
<td>Jill Alf <a href="mailto:wisbc@centurytel.net">wisbc@centurytel.net</a></td>
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</table>
| July 14-17| NLFA Howard Wymann Leadership School       | San Angelo, TX | SYDELL IS PROUD TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING DISCOUNTS TO MEMBERS OF THE MLWP.  
| July 20   | MN Suffolk Sheep Assoc. State Show         | Faribault, MN  | • ORDERS FROM $1000-$5000 WILL RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT      |
| July 21   | MN Suffolk Sheep Assoc State Jr. Show      | Faribault, MN  | • ORDERS OVER $5000 WILL RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT              |
| Sept. 6-8 | Wisonsin Sheep & Wool Festival             | Jefferson, WI  | IN ADDITION TO THESE DISCOUNTS SYDELL WILL DONATE 3% OF THE NET EQUIPMENT SALES FROM MLWP MEMBERS BACK TO THE ASSOCIATION TO BE USED FOR PROJECTS WHICH BENEFIT THE SHEEP INDUSTRY (DOES NOT INCLUDE SUPPLIES) |
| Sept. 19-20| Newell Ram Sale                            | Newell, SD     | PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL SYDELL FOR A CURRENT CATALOG ON OVER 500 PRODUCTS. |

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

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New Date & location for the 2013 Shepherd’s Holiday
Nov. 15-16—Thumper Pond Resort
Ottertail, MN

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: jeremy.geske@gmail.com