Celebrate Lamb Social to kick off the 2013 ML WP Conference

Join us for lamb cooking demonstrations and sampling with Chef Ben McCallum, sheep cheese sampling from Shepherd’s Way Farms, wine tasting from local winery—Carlos Creek, and a wool fashion display at the Celebrate Lamb social on Friday evening, Nov. 15 at the Thumper Pond Resort in Otter Tail, MN. The Celebrate Lamb social is sponsored by: The Minnesota Corn Growers Association, the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council and the Minnesota Grown program.

Day 2 of the Shepherd’s Holiday will feature a full line-up of educational seminars (including marketing, health, fiber classes, youth programs, and more), the Make It With Wool contest and Fashion Show, the Silver Bell awards luncheon, annual business meeting, trade show and fundraiser auction. A full agenda and all the registration information will be posted on the MLWP website by early October. Go to www.mlwp.org for the latest updates.

Bring the entire family

Cont. on p. 2

As I write this message, the weather has just given us a little break from the hot summer days that we expect this time of year. A brief cool spell sure did feel good.

By this time most of the County Fairs are going on and with the fairs come the sheep shows. In mid July we had our Rice County Fair and had a good open class sheep show. The county fair also hosted the State Suffolk Show. Hats off to the Minnesota Suffolk Sheep Association. They always put on a great show. They had over a hundred sheep in their open show, and over 50 more in their Junior Show. I think shows are a great way to advertise the sheep industry. They always attract people that stop to see what is going on and ask a lot of questions.

Hopefully they go away with a better understanding about our industry. Sheep producers can also benefit from showing their sheep by using it as a tool to judge were they are with their sheep and thus help

Cont. on p. 2
to enjoy the waterpark. We left Sunday open for family
time at Thumper Pond.

At Thumper Pond, splashy fun isn’t limited only to
the summer months! Our Minnesota indoor waterpark is
open year-round, featuring over 12,000 square feet of
fun. This Northwoods-themed waterpark features a
number of splash-worthy attractions for guests of all
ages, from a three-story tower with two slides that twist
and turn outside the waterpark to a beach entry pool
with water geysers, toddler slide, water bucket and
water geysers for children. Dive into the activity pool,
equipped with two basketball hoops. Adults will enjoy
the lazy river and the 18-person whirlpool with a
relaxing waterfall. [Ed note: 4 waterpark passes are
included with your room reservation.]

Weather permitting, enjoy a round of golf at their
championship course. Designed by Eric Niskanen and
carved out of 90,000 Red Pine trees, the Thumper
Pond golf course blends natural beauty and challenging
play. Each of the 18 holes is designed for the enjoyment
of all players of every level, from first-timers to
seasoned pros. Lush fairways and emerald greens
make the course at our Central Minnesota golf
resort a pure delight.

Go to www.thumperpond.com for more information on
all the accommodations. MLWPA will be offering
reduced rates for spouses and children to attend the Shepherd’s
Holiday.
**ENTER THE 2013 MIWW CONTEST**

You could be the next winner in the Minnesota “Make It With Wool” contest! A luxurious piece of Pendleton wool, sewing products or one of the many other prizes could be yours for participating. The State contest will be held on November 16, 2013 at Thumper Pond in Ottertail, MN.

The purpose of the “Make It With Wool” contest is to focus attention on the beauty and versatility of wool, and encourage the use of wool fabric or yarn in sewing, knitting or crocheting fashionable garments by offering individuals the opportunity to compete for valuable prizes and gain recognition for their talents.

Contestants must select, construct (sew, knit or crochet) and model their garments. The material must be made of a minimum of 60 percent wool. There are four age categories: Preteen (ages 12 and under), Junior (ages 13-16), Seniors (ages 17-24), Adults (25+). Ages as of December 31, 2013.

Junior and Senior winners of the contest are eligible to go to the National “Make It With Wool” garment competition which will be held January 2014 in Charleston, South Carolina.

Also Minnesota hosts a Quilt, Afghan and Novelty contest. Open to all ages. So if you have a wool quilt/afghan, mittens, scarves or any other novelty item that is made from wool consider entering. This is a Minnesota only contest.

Entry deadline is October 14, 2013. To request a brochure and entry forms please contact Glenette Sperry 651-257-6735 or you can email at gtsperry@frontiernet.net.

Also, check out the website for more about the contest at www.mlwp.org and click on the “Make It With Wool “ tab. You can also find us on Facebook under Minnesota Make It With Wool.

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**MLWPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - JEREMY GESKE**


The meeting on 6/15/13 was called to order by John D. The amended agenda was approved. The secretary’s report was approved as submitted.

Jeremy G. gave a membership report (286 members in all classes) and reported that the directories were done and the newsletter will come out in August.

Glennette gave a treasurer’s report, with a total balance of $68, 209.78. An additional expense for the Miracle of Birth Center was approved. The Treasurer’s report was approved as presented.

John D. discussed the Spring Sheep Workshop held at the George Warrant farm near Kassota. Though not well attended, the event was a fantastic learning opportunity and drew in several potential new members. Thanks to George Warrant and Charlotte Hanson for hosting the tour!

Shepherd’s Holiday was discussed. Dan, Jeremy and Randy will go to Thumper Pond and meet with their staff to finalize event details. Jeremy will seek additional sponsorship dollars for the Lamb Social on Friday night. The goal would be to have lamb cooking demos/sampling, sheep cheese samples, and a wool fashion display. We will partner with a local winery, and invite a number of special guests.

Mary R. gave a report on the Shepherd’s Harvest Festival. We will invite a SHF committee member to a future meeting to discuss our continued relationship with this event.

John D applied for as ASI mentorship grant for MLWPA and we have received it. A plan to utilize the funds is being developed.

BAA Booth—Bret Oelke will set up. Dan P. will coordinate the volunteer schedule with board members.

Commercial Booth—Mary R. reported that inventory is in process and she is looking for new products and vendors.

MIWW—Glenna—entry forms went out.

Youth—Kelly F. reported on all MLWPA youth activities. Caroline S. reported on her experience at the MN Ag Ambassador Institute.

Steve S., Randy K. and John D. gave an update on the ASI spring trip to DC. Jeremy G. followed up with a legislative update: MLWPA signed on to a coalition letter opposing the HSUS/UEP agreement being included in the farm bill.

OPP trial—MLWPA has been asked to contribute funds for an OPP study. After much discussion, we decided to invite the people requesting funds to our next meeting for additional discussion.

MLWPA photo contest—Melanie P. will work out details for the photo contest and write an article for the newsletter.

Silver Bell nominations—Jeremy will put an article in the next newsletter asking for nominations.

The next meeting was set for Sept. 14 at the Pizza Ranch in Litchfield. Meeting adjourned.

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2012 MIWW Winners
Jean Olson, Adult
Sarah Thelen, Senior
Jacklyn Oelke, Junior
Lamb markets – Is there an app for that? Well, yes, as a matter of fact there is. Producers can tap into auctions and prices at any time - while checking on the sheep, between meetings or during lunch.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) has launched its first mobile application providing lamb and wool market information to anyone with a smartphone or tablet. The free market app is available for both Apple and Android operating systems.

"ASI is pleased to offer market information to anyone in the industry with a smartphone," remarks Peter Orwick, ASI executive director.

ASI worked closely with Randy Hammerstrom, officer in charge at the Greeley U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News division, to hand-select the portions of the USDA reports to offer in this first version of the industry market app.

"The app offers a good variety of national reports as well as market results from seven auction barns from around the country," emphasizes Hammerstrom. "Producers can access price data as the information is made available by USDA."

"This app will provide the industry with the convenience of valuable market data anywhere, anytime," says AMS Administrator Anne Alonzo. "Partnerships between USDA and the sheep industry are a critical component to supporting American producers."

The app is titled ASI Market News which can be downloaded from Apple's App Store or the Android Store. From the front page, users can select to search national reports or action reports.

"Producers' thoughts on the usefulness of this tool as well as any ideas on additional information that would be valuable to access from the app is appreciated," says Orwick. "This is a work in progress and we want to provide you with the best possible product."

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**Market Update - [These prices are from 7/26/13]**

**Feeder Prices.** San Angelo: 55-70 lbs. for 105-112 $/cwt., 70-110 lbs. for 100-110 $/cwt.

**Slaughter Prices - Negotiated, Live, wooled and shorn** 125-157 lbs. for 110.26-138 $/cwt. (wtd. ave. 117.78); 199-206 lbs. for $112/cwt.

**Slaughter Prices - Formula1, 3,887 head at 211.18-280 $/cwt. for 69.20 ave. lbs.; 2,882 head at 200-274.25 $/cwt. for 79.60 ave. lbs.**

**Equity Electronic Auction, No sale.**

**Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value2, $251.42/cwt.**

**Carcass Price, Choice and Prime, YG 1-4, $/cwt., weighted averages, 2,006 head at 55-65 lbs. for 262.80, 2,390 head at 65-75 lbs. for 255.80, 1,144 head at 75-85 lbs. for 243.09, 1,162 head at 85 lbs. and up for 211.42.**

**Exported Adult Sheep.** 660

**Wool, Price ($/pound) From 3 weeks ago: Clean, Delivered, 18 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 19 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 20 micron (Grade 70s) NA, 21 micron (Grade 64-70s) 3.75, 22 micron (Grade 64s) 3.68-4.02, 23 micron (Grade 62s) 3.68, 24 micron (Grade 60-62s) 3.25, 25 micron (Grade 58s) 2.82, 26 micron (Grade 56-58s) NA, 27 micron (Grade 56s) NA, 28 micron (Grade 54s) NA, 29 micron (Grade 50-54s) NA, 30-34 micron (Grade 44-50s) 1.29. Ungraded wool—$0.46/lb

**Zumbrota, MN:** Feeder lambs: $90—$115/cwt, Fed Lambs: $105-$112/cwt, ewes: $20-$40/cwt

**Equity Livestock, WI:** Feeder lambs $105/cwt & down, Fed lambs: $114/cwt & down, Ewes & bucks: $20-$25/cwt

**Sioux Falls, SD:** Feeder lambs: $92-$118/cwt, Fed lambs: $108-$125/cwt, Ewes: $31-$160/hd

**Kalona, IA:** Feeder lambs: $96-$102.50/cwt , Fed Lambs: $92.50-$127.50/cwt, Ewes: $35-$47.50/cwt

**Pipestone, MN:** Feeder Lambs: $101-$119/cwt, Fed Lambs: $81-$96/cwt, Ewes: $35-$64/cwt

**Ft Collins, CO:** Feeder lambs: $99-$135/cwt, Fed lambs: $112-$113.50/cwt, Ewes: $24-$72/cwt

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**Crossroads of the West sale— from Kent Gwilliam**

Suffolk Yearling rams ave. $669, fall rams ave. $1125, ram lambs ave. $250, Ewes ave. $298

Hampshire yearling rams ave. $467, fall rams ave. $250, ram lambs ave. $560, Ewes ave. $446

Columbia yearling rams ave. $400, ram lambs—all NS, Ewes ave. $288
Making the Connection from Pasture to Plate

There’s a story behind every bite of American lamb you take. Before it ever makes it to your table, American lamb is raised by dedicated producers with a shared connection to the land, the animals, and the local communities they serve across America. But who exactly are the folks raising and cooking your food today? They’re both urban and rural, they are both men and women, and they hold advanced degrees. They range from first-to-fourth-generation farmers and they’re passionate stewards of the environment. They’re family-focused, entrepreneurial and adventurous. And most notably, they are food artisans who care deeply about the origin and nature of their products—real people with real passion for what they do and the final product they deliver. When it comes to the ingredients that are bound for your table, you can rest assured that the individuals raising and preparing American lamb are invested in the entire process, from start to finish.

Learn more at: www.americanlambboard.com

Juicy Grilled American Lamb Burger with Caramelized Onion, Fennel and Lemon Relish

Relish
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 red onion, cut into thick slices
1 fennel bulb, cut into 1/4-inch slices
Salt and pepper, as needed
1 teaspoon minced rosemary
Zest of 2 lemons (pith removed, the rest finely chopped)
1 teaspoon honey
1 pinch red chile flakes

Preheat grill to medium-high. Brush onion and fennel slices with oil; season generously with salt and pepper. Grill over medium-high heat until onion and fennel caramelize and soften, showing grill marks. Reduce heat; continue cooking onion and fennel until soft. Remove; cool then finely chop. In a bowl, add grilled onion and fennel, rosemary, lemon zest, lemon, honey and chile flakes. Season to taste.

Lamb Burgers
2 pounds ground American Lamb
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
8 dinner rolls, or 4 large buns
Mayonnaise, as needed
Arugula leaves, as needed

Gently form the lamb into 8 burgers; make sure meat is not compressed. Season generously with salt and pepper; grill to desired doneness.

Remove some of the bread from the rolls to make a better bread-to-burger ratio. Grill rolls briefly; cool. Spread both sides of rolls with mayonnaise, spoon on some of the onion relish, some arugula leaves and the cooked lamb burger.
CRP Acres to be opened for Emergency Haying/Grazing

USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director (SED) Debra Crusoe announced today that Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in 19 Minnesota counties have been authorized for emergency haying and grazing due to excessive precipitation that caused a severe shortage of forage. Emergency grazing of CRP may begin immediately, while emergency haying of CRP cannot begin until August 2, 2013.

Counties approved for emergency haying and grazing of CRP include: Blue Earth, Carver, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Jackson, Le Sueur, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Scott, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona.

Emergency haying and grazing of CRP may only be conducted on specific eligible conservation practices, and is limited to 50 percent of the field for haying or 75 percent of the field for grazing. To initiate emergency haying and grazing, producers must contact their local FSA office to apply before any haying or grazing begins. Producers must sign a modified conservation plan to allow haying and grazing. Fields containing or near environmentally sensitive areas may have further restrictions placed on haying and grazing activities. Haying or grazing cannot occur within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body, or on acres devoted to trees.


For more information, contact the Minnesota FSA State Office at 651-602-7702.

Sheep Nose Bots - Dr. G.F. Kennedy, Pipestone Vet Clinic

Every year and generally starting on a warm day in February I get calls from people saying my sheep are acting strangely. They are stomping their feet and holding their heads down, shaking their heads and running from place to place and occasionally sneezing. Generally during the warmer hours of the day.

We have Sheep Nose Bots and the flies are attempting to deposit larvae in the nose of the sheep. Once deposited they develop in the nasal passages and sinuses and when mature drop out, burrow in to soil, pupate and later on the fly emerges and the process repeats itself. The whole process is more of an irritation than an economic threat and is seldom life threatening.

Fortunately the use of ivermectin type wormers are highly effective against all larvae stages. The use of these wormers reduces incidence of the condition which is an annoyance at most.

Replacement Ewe Lambs - Dr. J.L. Goelz, Pipestone Vet

Replacement ewes are a primary part of all lambing operations. For years, older ewes could be reasonably purchased from the sheep flocks in the west as they became too old to perform on the range and yet were fine for a couple more years in farm flocks. That source continues to shrink so the serious shepherd had to come up with an alternative plan.

That approach would be retaining ewe lambs. There is now an opportunity for the flock owner to control and contribute to the value of his product. The process to be cost effective requires thought, records, soundness and management.

In the upper Midwest, lambs may never see grass, are creep fed, weaned at approximately eight weeks and full fed to be marketed in 120 to 140 days weighing 120 pounds and up depending on breed type. If there is extra grass, we run more ewes. How can we raise cost-effective replacement ewes?

First ewe lambs are selected from some of the most productive ewes that have been bred to maternal sires. In order to do this records may be kept NSIP style or they may be barn records held in a note-book. Records are essential.

The next step is to remove them from full feed by the time they weigh 80 pounds. Excess feeding allows fat to be deposited in the udder reducing future milk production. They are then offered good quality hay and a half to a pound of grain depending on condition. Ideally they are kept in dry lot till fall. Later in summer pasture can be utilized but they should still receive grain. If they go to pasture, parasites are a concern.

They are now run as a separate unit until they lamb at of an age in excess of 12 months the following year. The biggest mistake that a lot of people make is to run them with the mature ewes.

These ewe lambs when run in dry lot won’t require worming until they are vaccinated for Vibrio 30 days prior to breeding.
Illinois bill protects hunters from PETA and its drones

A bill passed by the Illinois House and Senate will prevent PETA members from using unmanned aerial surveillance to disrupt hunters in the state.

PETA announced plans in April to use drones to monitor farmers and hunters for any illegal activity. If signed by Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, the bill prohibits anyone from flying unmanned aircraft over state hunting grounds with intent to disrupt hunters.

Rep. Mike Bost told the Associated Press anti-hunting groups have unique ways to stop and disrupt hunting. "It's everything, deer hunting, goose hunting, duck hunting. They use these drones to interfere with that, and this (bill) basically makes that illegal."

Anyone violating the proposed wildlife bill faces a misdemeanor charge for using a drone to interfere with legal hunting and fishing activities.

PETA president Ingrid Newkirk said the PETA drones will be used to save lives. PETA Spokeswoman Alicia Woempner says the bill won't disrupt her organization's objectives. "The program we're designing is meant to monitor and report on illegal hunting activities such as hunting with illegal firearms or ammunition, using spot lights or food and other tricks to lure in animals," Woempner told the Associated Press.

Canada Adopts Pig Care Code

After three years of intense negotiation, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) has welcomed the release of the draft Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs.

Confidential until 1 June, the CFHS worked tirelessly to negotiate directly with farmers for the past three years to improve the welfare for pigs in Canada. The draft Code of Practice sets standards for the care of the 27 million pigs raised on Canadian farms.

Canada’s Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals lay out national expectations for animal welfare as arrived at by consensus between the farmers, veterinarians, scientists, government agencies, and SPCAs and humane societies who are members of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). The CFHS hopes to receive broad input from the general public, industry and other stakeholders during the 60 day comment period to ensure it improves animal welfare and reflects the values of Canadians.

Government Efforts to Curb Threat From Livestock Waste Bog Down

As factory farms in Minnesota and elsewhere take over more and more of the nation's livestock production, a major environmental threat has emerged: pollution from the waste produced by the immense crush of animals. Just last month, a Minnesota dairy farm spilled up to 1 million gallons of manure, fouling two nearby trout streams.

Minnesota is one of five states that together have more than one-quarter of the nation's estimated 20,000 massive livestock farms, known as "concentrated animal feeding operations."

MinnPost, 6/4/2013

[Ed. Note: While I disagree strongly with the Author of this story—It is important that we as producers are aware of what people are saying about us. You can view the whole story at the MinnPost website. www.minnpost.com]

Hidden cameras discovered in NSW piggery

The owners of a piggery in Young say they are considering taking further action against the people who placed hidden cameras in their pig sheds. The camera's were accidentally discovered by a worker about a month ago at Blantyre Farms, outside of Young.

"We were mortified, so rattled to think that someone has been into our place, onto our farm. You know it just makes you feel sick in the stomach," said part-owner Edwina Beveridge.

She decided to take her story to the media, after trespassers activated alarms on their farm on Saturday night. She believes the cameras are the work of an animal activist group.

Local police were called in when the cameras were first discovered and were again called to the farm when alarms were set off on the weekend. They have been unable to press charges due to lack of evidence. But this will not stop the piggery owners, who are considering further action to ensure their family and animals safety and comfort.

"I believe we can take extra legal action. and that is something we are are considering. "I don't know what the punishment would be for these people. It will probably be a slap on the wrist. "I would it was a lot more and I'd like to think that the laws and people might have to toughen up on this a lot more."

Blantyre Farms is a 2,220-sow piggery, which means there could be 25,000 pigs on hand at any one time. It is accredited under a quality assurance program.

Last year, the operation became the first farm in Australia to generate carbon credits.
CAPITOL CONNECTION

2013 MN Legislative Session Review (MN Farm Bureau)

State Estate Tax
Legislation passed clarifying the qualified farm property definitions used to determine eligibility for an additional $4 million exemption from the state estate tax. Qualifying farm property has a total exemption of $5 million from the state estate tax.

- The property consists of agricultural land and is owned by a person or entity that is either not subject to or is in compliance with Minnesota's Corporate Farm Law.
- The property must be classified as class 2a property for property taxes payable in the taxable year of the decedent's death.
- It must also be classified as agricultural homestead, agriculture relative homestead or special agriculture homestead.
- The property must remain classified class 2a property for property tax purposes for three years following the date of death of the decedent.
- These clarifications are effective retroactively for estates of decedents dying after June 30, 2011.
- Qualified farm property held in family farm trusts, LLCs or LLPs will qualify the additional exemption.

Farm Bureau supported this legislation.

Water Appropriation Permit Fee
Legislation was moving along until the last days of the session that would have more than doubled the fee for a water appropriations permit and would have eliminated the current maximum cap for this fee.

In the end, the legislature did not raise this fee. They did appropriate approximately $6 million from the General Fund to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for additional research and monitoring of groundwater availability and sustainability.

Farm Bureau opposed a large increase in the water appropriation permit fee.

Overtime Pay
The current threshold in Minnesota for overtime pay is 48 hours. Legislation was introduced lowering this threshold to 40 hours. The legislation that passed the Senate did not include the lower threshold. House legislation included the lower threshold but exempted agriculture workers from the lower threshold. These provisions were contained in legislation raising the minimum wage in Minnesota. The House and Senate could not come to agreement on the minimum wage issue and no action was taken, and the overtime pay threshold remains at 48 hours.

Farm Bureau opposed lowering the overtime pay threshold.

County Fair Funding
$1 million is appropriated each of the next two fiscal years from the Agriculture, Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) program for distribution in equal amounts to each of the state's county fairs to enhance arts access and education and to preserve and promote Minnesota's history and cultural heritage. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is the fiscal agent and administers this program.

This was part of a Senate proposal that appeared in the last several weeks of the session. The language said that repairing and maintaining commercial and industrial machinery and equipment would be subject to
the state sales tax. We asked if this proposal would apply to farm machinery, and we were told it would not. The language did not specifically exempt farm machinery, but the intent was not to include it.

The Tax Bill was available on the second to last day of session. It became apparent the way the bill was written labor on farm machinery repair was included. There was some scrambling on the Senate side the last day of session to fix this, but time ran out.

Senators have pledged to fix this situation next session. Their advice to farmers it to keep good records on any sales tax they may pay on this, and hopefully there will be a credit available next year if we are successful in reversing this proposal.

Farm Bureau opposes expanding the state sales tax to labor on farm machinery repair.

2014 Session
The Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate will convene the 2014 legislative session at noon, Tuesday, February 25, 2014.

Farm Bill
The news this week on the farm bill front, was yesterday House Agriculture Chairman Lucas (R-OK) announced that an agreement had been reach on an agreement to cut $40 billion over 10 years from U.S. domestic food aid programs. The majority of these cuts it is anticipated will come from the former food stamp program now called the SNAP program. The saving to the nutrition title that were in the House Agriculture Committees original farm bill were $20.5 billion over 10 years. The Senate passed farm bill calls to a reduction in SNAP of $4 billion over 10 years. The House majority leaders has indicated that a nutrition only title to the farm bill will be brought to the House floor when they return in September. I believe it is safe to say that this proposal will not receive any Democratic votes in the House, therefore if it is to pass it will have to pass on Republican votes alone. 62 Republicans voted against the farm bill that had $20 billion cut in the SNAP program. As Chairman Lucas said yesterday, “If 60-something members thought apparently $20 billion wasn’t enough we’ll see if they change their minds.”

Chairman Lucas also said yesterday that he has been ready to go to conference with the Senate for a year but cannot until the House appoints conferees. House Speaker Boehner said recently that the House will appoint conferees to the farm bill early in September. Until then the House and Senate staff can only prepare through pre-conference discussions. The Senate named their Conferees to the farm bill conference last evening they are; Democrats- Chairman Stabenow (D-MI), Senator Leahy (D-VT), Senator Harkin (D-IA), Senator Baucus (D-MT), Senator Brown (D-OH), Senator Klobuchar (D-MN), Senator Bennet (D-CO), and the Republican Ranking member Cochran (R-MS), Senator Roberts (R-KS), Senator Chambliss (R-GA), Senator Boozman (R-AK), and Senator Hoeven (R-ND).

The current farm bill extension expires at the end of September.

Immigration Reform
The conventional wisdom that the Senate passing an Immigration Bill with close to 70 votes would pressure House Republicans into passing a comprehensive bill has proven to be wrong. The new reality is, the House will do the opposite of what the Senate thinks it will. At this time, House Republicans feel very little pressure to act on immigration reform. With huge legislative fights over funding the government and Debt Ceiling ahead of them, there is only so many tough votes House Republicans will be willing to take. There is still a chance that the House moves a piecemeal Immigration approach to the Floor, which now the House Democrats say they would not be opposed to. However, many conservative Republicans fear that their yes votes on piecemeal Immigration will be traded for Democratic votes after a theoretical Senate and House Conference report is brought to the Floor. This issue is very much undecided with all groups those that favor immigration reform and those that do not gearing up and taking their arguments back to the individual House districts this August at town hall meetings and member forums. What the volume and tone of constituents heard by Republican members of Congress during the August district work period will most likely decide if we have any immigration reform during this session of Congress or not.

Wolf Appointed to Animal Health Advisory Committee
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the members USDA Advisory Committee on Animal Health who will serve through Aug. 21, 2014. ASI’s recommendation was Cindy Wolf, DVM, a sheep and cattle farmer and small ruminant specialist from Minnesota, who was appointed to the committee.

The committee will provide public and industry perspectives on USDA strategies, policies and programs to prevent, control and/or eradicate animal health diseases. The committee will also lead broader dialogue on public health concerns and the stability of the livestock economies.
MLWPA 2013 SHEEP PHOTO CONTEST

Grab your cameras and start clicking! The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers are holding their First Annual Photo Contest. Our contest is open to all members of MLWP and all photographs must include sheep.

There are four categories, you may enter two photographs per category, you may only enter said photographs in one category. These categories are:

- **Action**—Photographs of activities such as shearing; wool classing/skirting/baling; moving/trailing sheep; lambing; working sheep; showing; feeding, etc.

- **Scenic South**—Photographs of sheep outdoors located south of Interstate 94, these photographs are for animals only, no people allowed in the photo.

- **Scenic North**—Photographs of sheep outdoors located north of Interstate 94, these photographs are for animals only, no people allowed in the photo.

- **Open Category**—Photographs with subject matter that does not fall into the three categories listed above.

All entries judged on composition, appeal, content and clarity. A grand-prize winner, first runner-up and second runner-up will be awarded in each of the four categories. Winning photos will be featured in the fall newsletter and will be available in the Gallery on the MLWP website.

- Only the grand-prize winner, first and second runners-up will be notified of their winning. Prizes include camera bags, free one year membership for MLWP and $30 gift cards. Winning photos will be printed in a calendar for 2014 that will be available for sale at the 2013 MLWP Shepherds’ Holiday and on our website.

- Contest rules
  - All photographs MUST include sheep.
  - MLWP may use or reproduce all entries at the discretion of MLWP, entries will not be returned.
  - MLWP is not required to notify photographers when photos are used in materials.
  - Pictures should be submitted via hardcopy or electronically with a jpg or tiff file extension.
  - All entries must be at least 4”x6” color, black and white or sepia high-resolution pictures (at least 300dpi).
  - Entries must be submitted in the name of the person who took the photograph.
  - Photographs taken within the last two years are eligible.
  - Photographs entered in ASI Photo contest are not eligible nor may photographs be re-entered in another year.

Each photo must be titled; category listed; photographer’s name, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address and approximate location and date of photo.

Please mail your entries to:
MLWP Photo Contest; Attn: M. Pamp;
1237 290th Ave; Garvin, MN 56132
or e-mailed to prairiedesigns@pampfarms.com with the subject line of MLWP Photo Contest. Entries must be postmarked or sent no later than September 30, 2013.

SDSGA ANNUAL CONVENTION—SEPT. 27-28—BROOKINGS

The South Dakota Sheep growers Association would like to invite MLWPA members to attend our annual convention in Brookings SD. Friday’s highlight is an evening “Taste of Lamb” event with several chefs. Saturday includes a number of educational seminars and trade show.

For more information or to receive a registration brochure, contact Patty DeZeeuw at 605-690-5639 or sdsheepgrowers@yahoo.com. For general convention information, contact Dr. Jeff Held at 605-690-7033.

The Days Inn Hotel & Convention Center will be the headquarters for the convention. 605-692-9471.

Registrations are due Sept. 9.
MLWPA SEeks Silver Bell Nominations

The Silver Bell Award has awarded annually to one or two Minnesota shepherds who have excelled in modern sheep, lamb, or wool production and promotion. There are categories for adult and youth nominees.

Nominees must be paid members of MLWPA and be shining examples of sheep production and promotion. More information on the award can be found at www.mlwp.org.

Past winners include:
1976 DuWayne Swenson and John Larson
1977 John Wichern and Milo Mastny
1978 Curtis Roos and Orin G. Green
1979 Doug Ness and Arne Stoen
1980 Ernest Haehnel
1981 Lee McEvilly
1983 Jim Perkins and Paul M. Westerberg
1984 John Schrier and LeRoy Christianson
1985 Joel Rehm and LaVerne Martin
1986 Wayne & Betty Geppert and Richard & Mary Wishart
1987 Roger O. Green and Robert J. Burns and Peter & Charles Bobendrier
1988 Ian Tamara Cunningham
1989 Rodney Eldevik family and Dale Billberg family
1990 Randy Dombek
1991 Chris Aubart and John & Dorle Bailey
1992 Susan Zenk and Roger Karstens and Jim & Linda Hove and Brad Meyers
1993 Wayne Busch and R & K Shepherds and Shane Wishart
1994 Ryan Dostal and Pat Anderson and Foster Mooney
1995 Randy & Jewel Noble
1996 Kelley O’Neill and Dr. Cindy Wolf
1997 Paul & Dr. Holly Neaton
1998 Janet McNally
2000 Paul & Jan Anderson and Joel & Pat Friedrich
2002 Gene & Gail Christians
2003 Bob Padula
2004 Mike Haubrich Family & Dale Carter Family
2005 Mike & Carrie Caskey Family
2006 George & Jackie Mead
2007 Don & Deb Drewry Family
2008 — No Nominations
2009 Dr. Chuck Christians
2010 Jeremy Geske
2011 Dan Lippert & Mike Lippert
2012 Dan Persons

To nominate someone for the Silver Bell Award, email a short nomination letter to Don Adelmann (sadelmann@att.net) detailing the individuals commitment and contribution to the sheep industry. Nominees will be evaluated by a committee of 2 past Presidents and one member at large. Nominations are Due by Oct. 15, 2013.

MLWP Youth Update—Kelly Froehlich

Spring was really busy for the MLWP junior committee. Four different educational booths were hosted included at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Awareness Day on the Minneapolis campus, MN State FFA convention, Shepherd’s Harvest at Lake Elmo, and a career fair at the Richmond elementary school. A couple of new junior members were recruited and we are also seen other youths take up promoting the sheep industry at the county fair levels, most notable a mini baa booth will be set up at the Cottonwood county fair! If any youth member is interested in getting involved by helping out with future events or doing their own promotional/educational event please send me an email at kellysheep@gmail.com. Coming up soon; we are always looking for help at the MN state fair baa booth August 22-29.

< U of M Ag Awareness Day
Effect of Sorting and Feeding Management Practices on Finished Lamb Shrink Loss

K. Manthei, J.E. Held, A. Kolthoff and K. Bruns
South Dakota State University, Brookings

Background

In the Upper Midwest, public auction sale barns and direct marketing (packer buying stations) are the primary methods to sell sheep and lambs. They generally are sold on a live weight basis (pounds) with prices reported in dollars per hundredweight (cwt). Therefore the economic return to the producer is based on the live weight at the point of sale.

Typically, sheep are transported to a location and weighed immediately before being sold; this is referred to as the pay weight or final weight. Public auction barns typically have a time lag between delivery and weighing, which ranges from an overnight stand to a few hours after arrival at the sale facility. With packer buying stations, the animals are off-loaded, then moved directly to a weigh scale. Using either marketing option is expected to result in a fair market value of the animal, or “price discovery.”

Yet another common denominator between these marketing options is a natural phenomenon called shrink loss. Further defined, shrink loss is the difference measured between the initial body weight at the farm and the pay weight. Because pay weight is used to compute the value of the animal, minimizing loss is imperative to maximize animal market value. The sources of shrink loss include excrement, body fluids and tissue dehydration.

Industry experts estimate shrink loss for market-ready lambs (120 to 150 pounds) at approximately 4 percent, but a wide array of factors results in a range of 1 to 6 percent.

Studies focused on livestock shrink loss have determined that distance traveled is a significant factor, with most shrink loss expected to occur in the initial 25 to 50 miles of transport. Yet little information is published evaluating the impact of common pre-marketing sorting, comingling and feed management practices on shrink loss for finished-weight lambs. Thus, a study was designed to measure the effect of common pre-marketing management practices on shrink loss in finished-weight lambs before and after transport.

Objectives

The objective of this study was to determine the effect of common pre-marketing sorting and feeding management practices on finished-lamb shrink loss.

Procedures

Objects and Discussion

Results for shrink loss due to changes in sorting and feed management are shown in Table 2. No difference (P = 0.73) was shown for total shrink loss in lambs that were sorted to different pens, then given access to the lamb-finishing diet ad libitum (SF) compared with those having ad libitum access to hay (SH). The total shrink loss was 3.5 vs. 3.7 percent for SF and SH lambs, respectively.

Because the SF lamb-finishing diet was identical to that offered for the past 60 days with proven nutritional qualities and high palatability characteristics compared with the modest-quality hay offered to SH lambs, we were surprised to find no difference due to feed management treatment.

A summary of the economic relevance of the total shrink loss can
MAWRC Announces Green Star Farms Initiative

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center (MAWRC) has launched the Green Star Farm Initiative, a voluntary education program that raises awareness regarding water quality issues and the generally accepted conservation practices utilized by farmers and ranchers.

Administered by MAWRC, the Green Star Farm Initiative provides an environmental assessment tool designed to assist farmers and ranchers in evaluating their agricultural practices – either on their own or with guidance from the MAWRC’s field staff.

“Farmers and ranchers want to do the right thing in safeguarding their land and our natural resources and the entire country benefits from the water-quality practices they are using,” said Duane Alberts, MAWRC Chairman. “Sound conservation practices are already being employed by many farmers and ranchers, protecting water quality, reducing soil erosion, and providing wildlife habitat. The Green Star Initiative will help us inventory the good practices already in place and accelerate the adoption of advanced stewardship practices.”

The centerpiece of the Green Star Farm Initiative is a web-based assessment worksheet that can be utilized by farmers and ranchers to identify and assess their conservation practices. The primary objective is to gather water quality information under “real-world” conditions – providing credible, site-specific information regarding water-quality management decisions.

The results of the self-assessment will guide farmers to sources of additional information and resources to address environmental concerns. When completing the worksheet, farmers and ranchers are encouraged to involve their crop consultant or other advisors who play a role in management decisions.

The Green Star Farm Initiative allows for the reporting of aggregated environmental assessment performance of participating farmers who agree to have their information included in summary reports. Aggregating assessments across a watershed or industry sector provides a measure of the extent to which good conservation practices are applied on Minnesota farms and ranches.

Aggregated environmental assessment information also provides guidance for future research and education programs.

Additional information regarding the Green Star Initiative can be found at greenstarfarms.org/ or by contacting Jeremy Geske, MAWRC Watershed Education Specialist at 612-756-1200 or Jeremy@mawrc.org.

Farmers Demonstrating Their Commitment to Improving Water Quality
**The Hickman’s**

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**Classification 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)

**Mistakes in the 2013 Membership Directory**

On the Sheep Shearers list—p. 15: Larry Kiewel’s email address should be:

l.mkiewel@frontier.com

On the Northstar Bred Ewe Sale ad—p. 77: Dorper and wether dam should be removed, Katahdin and Southdown should be added.

**Wanted: Merino Waste Wool**

Do you have fairly clean waste wool (noils) you’re willing to sell? Looking for large quantities, will take whatever you’ve got!

Contact Lynn: StoneSoupToys.info@gmail.com

**SHRINK—cont from p. 12**

be illustrated by computing the effect on lamb return ($/head). Using current live finished lamb prices at $106/cwt, the SF and SH lambs would return $4 to $5 less per head, respectively, than C lambs due to differences in shrink loss. Another method to express the economic impact of shrink loss is to determine the finished-lamb prices for SF ($113/cwt) and SH ($117/cwt) lambs that equal the return when C lambs are priced at $106/cwt.

**Conclusions**

Based on data from this study, the management practice that results in the least lamb shrink loss is sorting and loading immediately prior to transportation to a marketing destination. Conversely, when lambs are sorted into a different pen overnight, expect substantially higher shrink loss independent of feed management decisions. Although transport is an important source of shrink loss, we have shown that on-farm management decisions can have the greatest impact.
# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 22 - Sept. 2</td>
<td>MN State Fair</td>
<td>St Paul, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 23</td>
<td>MN state fair 4-H Sheep Show</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.worldsheepfest.com">www.worldsheepfest.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 31-Sep. 1</td>
<td>World Sheep &amp; Fiber Arts Festival</td>
<td>Bethel, MO</td>
<td>Jill Alf  <a href="mailto:wisbc@centurytel.net">wisbc@centurytel.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6-8</td>
<td>Wisconsin Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>Jefferson, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Autumn Fare</td>
<td>Jordan, MN</td>
<td>Lori Pint  <a href="mailto:lori54@bevcomm.net">lori54@bevcomm.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 19-20</td>
<td>Newell Ram Sale</td>
<td>Newell, SD</td>
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<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>IHSBA Shearing School</td>
<td>Augusta, WI</td>
<td>Duane Klindworth  <a href="mailto:drklindworth@aol.com">drklindworth@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27-28</td>
<td>SD Wool Growers Assoc Convention</td>
<td>Brookings, SD</td>
<td>Dr. Jeff Held  605-690-7033</td>
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<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>American Royal Livestock Show</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.americanroyal.com">www.americanroyal.com</a></td>
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<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>North Star Bred Ewe Sale</td>
<td>Pipestone, MN</td>
<td>Pipestone Vet Clinic  507-825-4211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 9-22</td>
<td>NAILE</td>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td><a href="http://www.livestockexpo.org">www.livestockexpo.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nov.15-16</strong></td>
<td>MLWP Shepherd’s Holiday</td>
<td>Thumper Pond - Ottertail, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske  <a href="mailto:jeremy.geske@gmail.com">jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Celebrate Lamb Social</td>
<td>Thumper Pond - Ottertail, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske  <a href="mailto:jeremy.geske@gmail.com">jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>MN MIWW Contest</td>
<td>Thumper Pond - Ottertail, MN</td>
<td>Glenette Sperry  <a href="mailto:gtsperry@frontier.net">gtsperry@frontier.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>MN Bred Ewe Sale</td>
<td>Rochester, MN</td>
<td>Bruce Bakken  507-845-2113</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan _____</td>
<td>ASI Annual Convention</td>
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April 28-29  Stars of the North on-line Stud Ram & Ewe Sale  On-line  Jeremy Geske  jeremy.geske@gmail.com
Open to all breeds—must be a member of MLWPA, MN Suffolk Sheep Assoc or MN Hampshire Sheep Assoc.

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

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rafterp@runestone.net

Don Adelmann
952-466-2451

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:
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31307 171st Ave
New Prague, MN 56071

Phone: 612-756-1200
E-mail: jeremy.geske@gmail.com