MLWPA Members Mike Caskey, Juanita Reed-Boniface Honored

Long-time MLWPA member (and Past-President), Mike Caskey was honored by the Minnesota State Fair with the 50 Year award this past summer. Caskey started exhibiting sheep at the MN State Fair at the age of 12 in 4-H. Caskey is a Hampshire and Dorset breeder from Holland, and heads up the Pipestone Sheep Program.

Also honored was Juanita Reed-Boniface. Juanita (& her husband Dick) have been long-time supporters of the sheep industry. Caskey and Reed-Boniface were among 11 honored at this year’s MN State Fair.

Mike Caskey Accepts the 50 Year award from Jim Foss, MN

President’s Message - John Dvorak

Greeting’s all:
I hope everybody had a
good summer. Hard to
believe that fall is here.
The 2013 fair season is
now history. I hope
everybody did well. By now
most producers are busy
breeding for early lambs
and others are holding off
for March and April lambs.
I hope everybody has a
good breeding season
with huge success.

Field activity is slowly
starting in our area. Some
early soybeans are being
combined and some high
moisture corn is being
harvested. Most hay crops
are baled and with any
hope and some much
needed rain we will try to
harvest a late crop after a
hard frost. This summer
did have its challenges
with first a late and wet
spring that followed with a
hot and dry summer. It is
sure to affect feed cost.

This year the
Minnesota Lamb and Wool
Producers have new and
exciting programs. Our
mentor program is now
underway where a new
producer will be matched
up with an existing

Cont. on p. 2
Nov. 15 marks the deadline for the submission of nominations for the annual American Sheep Industry Association awards.

There are three award categories available for nomination:

The **McClure Silver Ram Award** is dedicated to volunteer commitment and service and is presented to a sheep producer who has made substantial contributions to the sheep industry and its organizations in his/her state, region or nation. The award may recognize a lifetime of achievement or may recognize a noteworthy, shorter-term commitment and service to the industry. Nominees should be recognized as industry leaders with nominations spelling out the candidates' contributions to the industry and its producers. Producers should be actively involved in sheep production and may or may not produce sheep as their sole income. However, their nominations should not be based in any part on a paid position serving the sheep industry.

The **Camptender Award** recognizes industry contributions from a professional in a position or field related to sheep production. Nominees should show a strong commitment and a significant contribution to the sheep industry, its organizations and its producers above and beyond what is called for in his/her professional capacity. Nominees should be well respected in their fields by their peers and by sheep producers. Nominees may be involved with the industry as teachers, consultants, scientists, youth leaders, promoters, event managers, journalists or any other position directly related to the sheep industry, enabling the nominee to affect the sheep industry in a positive and long-lasting way. Nominees may be recognized for lifetime service to the sheep industry or may be recognized for a shorter-term commitment that resulted in significant benefits for the sheep industry.

The **Shepherd's Voice Award** for Media recognizes outstanding year-long coverage of the sheep industry in either print or broadcast. The award excludes all publications and affiliates related solely to the sheep industry, allowing for recognition of outlets with general coverage for excellence in covering sheep industry issues. Nominations may be publications, networks or specific reporters exhibiting a strong commitment to balanced reporting and consistent coverage of the sheep industry locally, statewide and/or nationally.

Nominations must be postmarked by Nov. 15. (Please note that past award recipients are not eligible.) Awards will be presented at the ASI Convention, Jan. 22-25, 2014, in Charleston, S.C.

To receive a nomination application, call or email ASI: (303) 771-3500; info@sheepusa.org. The one-page nomination form can also be downloaded from ASI's website, www.sheepusa.org, by clicking on the "2014 Awards Program" link located on the home page. [Ed. Note: If you know someone who is deserving of one of these awards and want MLWPA to nominate them, please email your suggestion to President John Dvorak at bjdorak81@hotmail.com.]
**Youth Report—Kelly Froehlich**

Fall is finally here as we are wrapping up the year. In addition to the previous spring and summer activities we had MLWP junior members partake in promoting the sheep industry at the MN state fair baa booth.

New of this year, we had a bar of soap felting demonstration which was a big hit for younger kids, as were the lamb tattoos. Those activities drew many families into the baa booth.

If anyone is interested in participating as a youth member or have any ideas for youth events please send me an email at kellyssheep@gmail.com.

We will be having a youth meeting at Shepherd’s Holiday November 16th at 11am, to discuss new ideas for the coming year and a few presentations from youth on how they have promoted the sheep industry the past year.

**MLWPA Board Meeting Minutes - Jeremy Geske**

The MLWPA board meeting was held on Saturday, September 14, 2013 at the Pizza Ranch in Litchfield. Present: John Dvorak, VP Melanie Pamp, Dan Persons, Glnette Sperry, Don Adelmann, Steve Scheffert, Randy Kinney, Jeremy Geske, Steve Froehlich, Mike Haubrich, Mary Rademacher, Travis & Jeanine Fowler, guests: Kelly Froehlich, Sherry Stirling, Judy Lewman (Bret Oelke via phone).

The meeting was called to order at 12:33pm by President John Dvorak. Melanie moved to approve the updated agenda as amended, seconded by Travis, motion carried.

Jeremy presented the Secretary’s report from the June meeting. Dan moved /Don seconded – to approve as submitted – motion carried.

Glnette presented the treasurer’s report. Total in all accounts: $88,197.57; does not include all state fair expenses for the commercial booth. Also included is a report from Loretta Pederson on the commercial booth – sales were down due to the hot weather affecting fair attendance. Total sales just over $39,000. Melanie moved Steve F Seconded to approve treasurer’s report as submitted.

Jeremy gave a newsletter report – deadline for articles is: Oct. 5. (also discussion on separate mailing for conference registration).

Kelly gave a youth report: Fillmore co fair – mini Baa booth. State fair demonstrations on soap and spinning – the kids enjoyed. There will be a youth meeting at the Shepherd’s Holiday. Having sheep and/or activities out at the Baa booth draws people in.

ASI/ALB report: conference call upcoming for legislative action committee.

Mentor program report: John will send report in today. Mentor program needs to be on the website.

Mike gave an update on the wool trust fund report he submitted with help from several MLWP board members.

OPP study - Judy Lewman made a presentation to the board on a proposed pilot project study. The object would be to evaluate a new test that has less incidences of false positives than past tests. There could also be a genetic susceptibility component to the project. Roughly 14 flocks have expressed interest in participating. Much discussion – would be a 3-yr project. If we decide to support, would likely need to budget $2500 for year 1 and $1500 each for years 2 and 3. (includes $500 per year for genetic testing on rams). Yrs 2 and 3 = testing of replacement ewe lambs only. Limit is 100 ewes per producer. Potential start date: as soon as possible. Dan P moved we approve $2500 for first year, and it will be an addition expense for years 2 & 3. Seconded by Randy. Motion carried.

Shepherd’s Harvest Festival – we need a rep to attend our January board meeting.

Muzzle incident ay state fair – lambs in open class. State fair asked for our support, John gave it. State fair will address it with a rule.

Bret Oelke called in to discuss Baa Booth: do we continue as is – changes are needed if we do, or go to an “unmanned” booth. Shift focus more towards public education. Much discussion on future ideas for improvement. Talk with Holly N. to use the ewes before they go to MOB. More discussion at our January meeting.

Shepherd’s Holiday – discussion on agenda & seminars. Several good ideas. Jeremy will follow up. Much good discussion on the Celebrate Lamb Social.

Silver bell – we have 3 nominations this year. The committee will review.

Scrapie eradication grant from ASI – do we want to apply? Mike moved/Don seconded to fill out application. Motion carried.

Budget discussion/planning. Glnette will enter the proposed budget and email out prior to the next meeting. Mary Rademacher – try to get into blue ribbon coupon book at the state fair (for commercial booth), 30% off on the ear muffs. Jeremy moved, travis seconded to have Mary and Glnette fill out the application. Motion carried.

Next mtg date – Nov. 15 – Thumper Pond in Otter Tail. 5pm. Email agenda items to John.
**Recent Ram Sale Updates (Unofficial)**

**Montana Ram Sale**
Sept. 13—291 rams sold. Three studs brought $3000+, include the high-selling Targhee ram at $3400. 284 range rams averaged over $790.

**Newell Ram Sale**
Like many sales the last two years, buyers were willing to pay decent money for good quality sheep. Demand for lesser quality sheep was very soft.

Ewes: Select Suffolk & Hampshire ewes brought $500-$750, prices for white-face ewes were soft. High-selling ewe was a Suffolk yearling from Dave Pearson (ND).


Targhee: demand was soft, many no sales, yearling rams—$300-$400. Rambouillet: Leonard Chapman (SD) had high-selling ram at $1300. Several studs brought $1000-$1200 including the champion from Don Lawson (ND). Demand for Rambouillet range rams was strong with most selling for $500-$800.

Columbia: Demand was soft, other than the Champion from Don Lawson (ND) and Reserve from Borcher Sheep Company (WY) that each brought $1250, the rest had trouble getting $300.

Hampshire: The Supreme Champion ram from Tim Coss (MN) brought $850. Most rams brought $400-$600, demand was strong.

Suffolk: The Champion ram from Jeremy Geske (MN) brought $775, with a handful of other top rams bringing $600-800. demand for range rams was moderate ranging from $300-$500.

Other breeds: the numbers were too low to really determine demand.

**Hawkeye Suffolk Sale**
10 rams averaged $380 ($250—$750). 7 ewes averaged $419 ($275-$1000).

**Utah Ram Sale**
98 yearling range rams averaged $772. 6 Stud rams averaged $1408.

---

**Market Update - [These Prices are from 9/30/13]**

**Feeder Prices.** San Angelo: 40-60 lbs. for 115-132 $/cwt.; 60-100 lbs. for 115-131 $/cwt., 100-120 lbs. 110-132 $/cwt.

**Slaughter Prices.** Negotiated, Live, wooled and shorn 77-163 lbs. for 110.43-138 $/cwt. (wtd. ave. 121.39)

**Slaughter Prices.** Formula1, 2,577 head at 227.38-252.45 $/cwt. for 61.70 ave. lbs.; 4,480 head at 215.47-255.62 $/cwt. for 68.90 ave. lbs.

**Equity Electronic Auction,** shorn and woolled 140 lbs. for $130/cwt.

**Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value2.** $249.32/cwt.

**Carcass Price.** Choice and Prime, YG 1-4, $/cwt., weighted averages, 1,666 head at 55-65 lbs. for 264.15, 2,636 head at 65-75 lbs. for 253.56, 1,429 head at 75-85 lbs. for 246.76, 442 head at 85 lbs. and up for 242.92.

**Boxed Lamb.** weighted average prices ($/cwt.), Trimmed 4" Loins 457.97, Rack, roast-ready, frenched 1,083.83, Leg, trotter-off, partial boneless 448.51, Ground lamb 515.56, Shoulder, square-cut 227.72.

**Exported** Adult Sheep, 300

**Wool.** Price ($/pound) From 11 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.

---


Equity Livestock, WI: Feeder lambs $135/cwt & down, Fed lambs: $130 cwt & down, Ewes & bucks: $20-$30/cwt

Sioux Falls, SD: Feeder lambs: $115-$152/cwt, Fed lambs: $87.50-$135.50/cwt, Ewes: $30-$51/cwt


St. Onge, SD: Feeder lambs: $141-177/cwt, Fed lambs: $123-$142/cwt, Ewes: $20-$29/cwt

The 2013 Menu Trends Study was commissioned by the American Lamb Board to track lamb use on menus. Datassential MenuTrends data comes from menu analysis of more than 1,000 fine-dining restaurant menus and 4,800 chain and independent restaurant menus. The report noted chefs/menus specifying the origin of lamb continues to grow in popularity on menus. Among fine-dining operators offering lamb, more than 22 percent specify it as domestic while imported lamb sources are mentioned by about 9 percent of restaurants. The report noted the percentage of fine-dining restaurants that menu lamb had dropped slightly in recent years, yet concludes "lamb remains synonymous with fine dining and offers an alternative to more common proteins." About two out of three fine-dining restaurants (65 percent) menu lamb.

The report also noted that more interesting protein options such as lamb have increased on menus across foodservice segments. In fact, menuing of lamb on chain and independent restaurants has thrived, with a 10 percent increase in penetration over the last five years. More than 16 percent of chains and independents now menu lamb, and lamb is being menued more frequently as a burger protein option. In addition, the popularity of Mediterranean and Indian cuisine is helping to bring menu items such as gyros, kebobs and curry dishes to non-ethnic menus.

For more information about the report or for a copy of the full report, contact the American Lamb Board office at 866-327-5262 or email info@americanlambboard.org.

### Slow Cooker Moroccan Lamb Stew

**Servings:** 6  
**Preparation Time:** 5 Minutes  
**Cook Time:** 3 to 4 Hours on high 5 to 6 Hours on low

**Ingredients**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil  
- Salt and pepper  
- 2-1/2 pounds American Lamb shoulder chops, bones removed and visible fat trimmed, cut into 1-inch chunks  
- 1 medium onion, chopped  
- 4 garlic cloves, minced  
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger root  
- 1 tablespoon cumin  
- 2 teaspoons coriander  
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon  
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne  
- 1-1/2 cups low sodium chicken broth  
- 1 can diced tomatoes, do not drain  
- 1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed  
- 1/4 cup raisins  
- 6 ounces Swiss chard, spinach or kale, rough chopped

**Directions:**

In a large nonstick skillet over medium heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Season lamb with salt and pepper. Cook, in batches if necessary, until browned on all sides, about 6 minutes. Transfer browned lamb to slow cooker insert.

Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil to pan (if necessary); add onion, garlic, ginger, cumin, coriander, cinnamon and cayenne. Cook until softened, about 8 minutes. Add broth and tomatoes; bring to a boil. Add mixture to slow cooker along with chickpeas and raisins. Cover and cook on low for 5 to 6 hours, or high for 3 to 4 hours.

Remove lid; stir in chopped greens until wilted, about 1 minute. Serve with whole wheat couscous and a dollop of Greek yogurt.
The goal of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and the U.S. sheep industry is to eradicate scrapie from our borders by 2017. In addition, it is the objective to have the United States recognized as scrapie free in accordance with the World Organization for Animal Health.

Since 2004, the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and the U.S.D.A.’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have entered into an annual cooperative agreement to aid in the eradication of scrapie in the US.

According to John Clifford, DVM, deputy administrator for Veterinary Services, the measured prevalence of scrapie has been reduced by 96 percent since 2003. The prevalence of scrapie is now .006 percent or, more clearly stated, only one in every 20,000 sheep is inflicted with scrapie.

The purpose of the cooperative agreements is to facilitate the rapid eradication of scrapie by providing education to producers to encourage compliance with the identification, record keeping and movement requirements of the program and to enhance the ability of producers to identify and report affected animals. APHIS and ASI cooperate in the development of educational materials that is overseen by ASI.

Under this agreement, each of the ASI state-member organizations is eligible to apply for funding to assist with the eradication of scrapie at the state level. States typically received $1,000. [Ed. Note: MLWPA uses the funds for speakers, educational articles, and we are considering an option to incentivize the submission of heads from mature sheep that die on your farm. Watch for more details.]

### Federal Tagging Requirements

Federal and state requirements mandate that the following groups of sheep and goats need an official scrapie USDA-approved eartag or other official identification before change of ownership regardless of whether they are being shipped in-state or out-of-state:

- **All breeding sheep and goats and potential breeding sheep and goats regardless of age except low-risk commercial goats.**
- **All sheep 18 months and older.**
- **All sheep and goats for exhibition except for wethers.**
- **All scrapie-exposed, suspect, tested-positive and high-risk animals.**
- **Sheep under 18 months of age in slaughter channels that are females that are pregnant or have aborted or sexually intact animals from a scrapie infected or source flock.**

Some states have additional requirements and some states have exempted certain classes of animals while moving within the state.

To request free official eartags call toll free 866-873-2824. To learn about state specific requirements, go to www.eradicatescrapie.org/State%20ID%20Requirements.html.

### Submitting Mature Heads

APHIS provides shipping boxes and labels for the submission of heads for scrapie testing at no cost to producers. Many veterinary diagnostic laboratories also accept heads for scrapie testing. To request a box or more information on sample submission, contact the veterinary services area office for your state. State contact information is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices. Area offices can also be reached through the toll free number, 866-873-2824.

### Clinical Signs of Scrapie

- Behavioral changes
- Itching and rubbing
- Wool pulling
- Loss of coordination
- Swaying of back end
- Tremor
- Weakness
- Biting at legs
- Lip smacking
- Weight loss
- Down and unable to stand
- Bunny-hop movement of rear legs
- Increased sensitivity to noise and movement
- Death

### What is Scrapie?

- Classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)
- Fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep
- No cure or treatment
- Incubation period of 2 to 5 years
- Attacks the brain, leaving holes like a sponge
Bridging the Gap between animal Health and Human Health

Concerned about the growing debate about what some call the egregious misuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture? You should be. The outcome could take the sensible use of important medicines out of your hands. Laws have already been proposed and minds have already been made up. Both of them - the laws and minds - are being settled based on rumor, innuendo and good intentions in an almost fact-free environment.

Dr. Nevil Speer, B.S., M.S., Ph.D., Director of MA Leadership Dynamics Program at Western Kentucky University is chaired a Symposium that might introduce some science into the debate. It's a project backed by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture called "Bridging the Gap Between Animal Health and Human Health."

Speer certainly has the credentials and the contacts to pull it all together. The list of speakers is certainly impressive; people like Symposium Moderator Dr. Richard Raymond, and Dr. Craig Lewis Dr. Mike Apley and Dr. Dave Dargatz. The subjects to be discussed ‘bridge the gap,” too. It will be an important event that can, hopefully, put animal antibiotics in the proper, non-sensationalistic framework.

The Symposium takes place November 12-14 at the Kansas City International Airport Marriott.

HSUS Loses Lawsuit over ‘Pork, the Other White Meat’

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Humane Society of the United States that challenged several issues including the National Pork Board’s purchase of the “Pork, The Other White Meat” trademark from the National Pork Producers Council.

The HSUS, which was joined in the suit by an Iowa pork producer and the Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, sued the U.S.D.A. and Secretary Vilsack over approval of the trademark purchase and the Pork Board’s annual payments to NPPC.

The HSUS argued the sale and payments were unlawful since the Pork Board is prohibited from using checkoff dollars to influence legislation. U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson dismissed the suit and said the plaintiffs lacked a legal standing to challenge the popular checkoff program and how its funds are spent.

The plaintiffs failed to prove they “suffered an injury in fact that was caused by the Secretary’s actions and can be redressed by this lawsuit,” the judge said.

Randy Spronk, a Minnesota pork producer who heads the National Pork Producers Council, called the HSUS lawsuit “frivolous and a waste of the taxpayers’ money.” “This is clearly a vendetta against the U.S. pork industry by the leadership of HSUS, which has made their mission to permanently end animal agriculture very clear,” he said.

FSIS Inspectors Still at Work During Government Shutdown

The good news: USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service in-plant inspectors are unaffected by the budget-induced government shutdown, as are laboratory personnel who test for microbes and even their equipment maintenance staff.

The bad news: a host of other USDA functions, including the agency’s website and reports that industry players depend on, will not be issued until Congress agrees to a budget and government offices reopen. Also affected are a number of Food and Drug Administration functions, including establishment inspections.

According to documents outlining contingency plans for the shutdown, 8,407 of the 9,633 FSIS employees will stay on the job. That’s 87 percent of the agency’s workforce, which includes all in-plant inspectors.

A&W to Require Beef Suppliers to be Free from Antibiotics, Hormones

Beef cattle raised for A&W on ranches in Canada, the United States and Australia are isolated from conventionally raised cattle to ensure that they are not exposed to growth promoters, said chief marketing officer Susan Senecal.

“It was a real challenge to make this happen. We wanted to make sure we achieved perfect isolation ... through their entire life cycle,” she said. "We wanted to ensure we would be able to track this, and that took a long time.”

Some local restaurants and burger bars, such as Vera’s Burger Shack, Crave and the Burger Bus, offer organic beef burgers, which are required to be free of hormones, steroids and medications. Romer’s Burgers serves only local range-fed beef raised with similar restrictions.

The Canadian Medical Association has called on the federal government to stop the use of antibiotics in the agriculture except by prescription from a veterinarian, citing concerns that antibiotic misuse is “rampant” and that the practice could give rise to antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Critics of hormone use in beef rearing fear that residues in the meat could increase the risk of cancer in humans who consume it, although scientific evidence is weak and mixed. Hormones commonly used in Canada and the United States have also been the subject of a decades-long battle with the European Union, which has long sought import restrictions on beef raised using hormones.
**Capitol Connection**

**Lamb Exports to Japan**

ASJ and the US Meat Export Federation sent a letter to USDA Secretary Vilsak urging the reopening of the Japan market for US lamb exports.

Japan banned imports of US lamb back in 2003 when the first case of BSE was discovered in the US cattle herd. Although Japan has resumed importing US beef, the ban on lamb imports has not been lifted.

With Japan being included in the pending Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement, the time is right for Japan to remove this non-scientific ban on lamb imports from the US. ASI estimates that if the Japan market were reopened to US lamb, it could mean up to $13 million in lamb exports.

**Government Shutdown**

As the clock ticked past midnight on the morning of October 1, the federal government began to shut down for the first time in 17 years. After passing a continuing resolution back-and-forth between the two chambers, Congress failed to come to an agreement to keep the government open beyond the September 30 end of the fiscal year. The main point of contention was the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The House's continuing resolution would delay implementation for a year and repeal a tax that would fund the ACA, provisions the Senate rejected.

A continuing resolution would have kept the federal government's money and paychecks coming at the 2012 level, giving lawmakers time to approve the annual spending bills. Without that funding, only essential personnel will be working.

The shutdown will last as long as it takes the House and Senate to agree on a continuing resolution measure. Lawmakers must also decide by October 17 what to do about raising the debt ceiling. If they do nothing, the U.S. defaults on its debts.

The American Farm Bureau Federation joined nearly 200 other organizations in calling on Congress to resolve these critical financial problems.

Daily transactions between livestock producers, as well as purchases of meat products, are contained in USDA market reports, which are not currently available during the shutdown. The lack of market reports will likely affect the ability of the sheep industry to offer Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb insurance next week. The now one-page USDA website indicated that statistical reports widely followed in the industry would not likely return immediately after the shutdown ends.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is closely tracking the lack of market reporting as an area of major concern. Companies are still submitting mandatory price reports but that information is not publicly available during the shutdown.

ASI Executive Director Peter Orwick remarked, "This is entirely new territory with no mandatory or voluntary reports available to the industry. Several years ago, we had a couple of weeks with no mandatory reports, but at least the information from the voluntary side of market news reporting was available."

**Farm Bill**

The current extension of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 expired on September 30, leaving farmers once again without a farm bill. Exactly one year ago, agriculture found themselves in the same situation, so unfortunately this is nothing new.

Although the Senate passed its farm bill in June and the House passed a partial bill, work on a new five-year farm bill has been on hold until this week. On September 28, just two days before the extension expired, the House reconnected the "farm only" bill with a recently passed nutrition title, finally putting the bill back on track for a conference with the Senate.

Without a current farm bill, there is no authority for funding the Market Access Program or the Foreign Market Development Program. There also will be no new enrollments in the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program. The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program will be closed until a new farm bill or extension is passed.

The most significant ramifications of the expiration of the farm bill will not occur until about January 1, when USDA would be required to start taking steps under permanent law to increase prices for milk and some commodity prices.

**Immigrant Workers Needed by Many Sheep Producers**

America's sheep industry isn't among the segments of the country's agricultural sector lobbying for new immigration laws as much as codifying its existing program in the proposed new legislation.

American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) Executive Director Peter Orwick said that over the past 50 years, America's sheep producers have found ways to adapt to existing immigration laws. As the potential for immigration legislation reform hovers on the horizon, Orwick and his colleagues are making sure their
legislators know that the industry needs to hang on to some of the directives now governing employment of foreign workers.

"Under the H-2A program, sheep producers have been able to maintain a legal work force," Orwick said. "We had to find a way to make H-2A work for us when it was put in place in the 1950s. At that time, we found that Americans had no interest in working as shepherders and foreign labor was our only resolution for that situation. Because shepherders are needed year-round and the current law allows them to work on a three-year contract, the provisions of H-2A fit this industry's immigration labor needs."

Early in 2013, in consideration of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 (S. 744), Sen. Michael Enzi (R-Wyo.) spoke on the Senate floor in support of the special shepherder provisions allowed to the sheep industry for more than 50 years.

"The special procedures play an important role in protecting the future of American agriculture," Enzi said. "I am pleased the [proposed] immigration bill allows occupations such as shepherding to operate under the new program as it has operated for the past 50 years. In addition, I am pleased that the legislation recognizes a specific need to address the unique wage, housing and operational components of the special procedure programs. Finally, it is vital that rulemaking requires agency consultation with stakeholders when drafting policies for the special procedure program."

Special provisions in current immigration laws make it possible for sheep producers to abide by laws related to mobile housing, length of stay outside the United States and wage surveys.

"These special procedures are the reason why the H-2A program has worked so well for our industry for many years," Orwick said. "ASI strongly supports legislation to codify these provisions to insure the H-2A program continues successfully for the nation's lamb and wool producing farm and ranch families."

Over 500 sheep operations, representing one-third of the nation's sheep production, depend on foreign shepherders for their operation. Over 2,500 herders, mostly coming from Peru, Chile and Mexico, work in the United States continuously.

The U.S. sheep industry has a $1.7 billion annual impact on the nation's economy. Any negative impact on the industry would flow through to slaughter plants, wool warehouses and textile mills.

"Our industry doesn't represent a large share of this country's foreign work force," Orwick said. "But we've probably been one of the most stable segments of foreign labor for many years. Recently, with all the publicity about illegal workers having a chance to get legal work papers after immigration reform, we've seen some foreign workers who have broken their contract and gone illegal thinking the penalties won't be that severe. The drawn-out media coverage about immigration reform has had a negative impact on us."

"We don't want the provisions we have to be lost in the rush for making immigration laws work for other parts of the ag industry," Orwick said. "The proposed multi-year contracts for year-round workers that are of interest to dairy and livestock are similar to what sheep producers use today. One-third of the sheep industry is reliant on foreign labor resources. Losing the ability to bring them here in a timely and effective manner would devastate the lamb and wool business."

The entirety of Enzi's comments are available at www.sheepusa.org/ASI_Positions under the H-2A heading.

**FTC Proposes Changes to Wool Products Labeling Rules**

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is seeking public comment on proposed changes to its Wool Products Labeling Rules.

The rules require that labels on wool products disclose the manufacturer's or marketer's name, the country where the product was processed or manufactured and information about the fiber content. The FTC first issued the rules under the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939, known as the Wool Act. The agency completed its last review of the rules in 1998 and modified them in 1998 and 2000. In 2006, the Wool Act was amended by the Wool Suit Fabric Labeling Fairness and International Standards Conforming Act, which provides that wool products identified as cashmere or as containing very fine wools are misbranded unless they have no more than the average fiber diameter specified in the act.

In January 2012, the FTC sought comment on the rules. In response to the comments received, the FTC proposes changes designed to clarify and update the rules to make them more flexible and to align them with the commission's proposed amendments to the textile rules. The proposed changes include incorporating the Wool Act's new definitions for cashmere and very fine wools, clarifying descriptions of products containing virgin or new wool and revising the rules to allow certain hang-tags disclosing fiber trademarks and performance even if they do not disclose the product's full fiber content.

Comments must be received on or before Nov. 25. Complete details are available in the Federal Register at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22919.htm.
MLWPA 2013 Sheep Photo Contest Extended

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).

If your photo is chosen as best overall—you’ll receive a free 1-year membership to MLWPA.

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 October 31, 2013.

Visit MLWPA.org for more information.

Win a free 1-year MLWPA membership!

"Local" is one of the many buzzwords consumers face when grocery shopping. While consumer translations of these words vary, a study pinned down the most common definition.

Two University of Kentucky agricultural economists found consumers have a preferred distance limit on the distance a product can travel to be considered "local." The survey included 1,013 Canadian beef consumers, ages 19 to 74. Findings from the report show consumers were less strict than the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in defining local beef. While the CFIA requires local beef to originate from a farm less than 30 miles away, Canadian consumers were just as likely to select beef labeled "local," meeting CFIA requirements, as they were selecting beef with a "100 miles" label. The CFIA local beef was preferred over the beef with a "200 miles" label.

Regardless of the distance, local labels were preferred to products with labels identifying the beef as a product made in Canada or the United States. The survey showed 69 percent of the Canadian consumers would select local over one labeled as a product of Canada and 84 percent would select a local product over one marked "Made in the USA."
Minnesota is a far cry from Texas or New York, but it’s home to Jason and Maria Kohnhorst, owners of Northland Woolens. They live in Alexandria and commute a short seven miles to their business north of Nelson.

Maria had travelled a lot, moving from Texas to New York City and back to Texas. For a time, she worked as a costumer with a circus. She took other summer jobs, one of which brought her to Alexandria and Theater L’Homme Dieu.

“It was a wonderful job where I did not work a million hours and got to enjoy the area,” she said.

She returned to Texas after a different job and met Jason. She continued to travel for work, going back to Texas often to see him. Together, they decided to move to Minnesota, living first in Minneapolis. They took another step west by moving to St. Cloud. Jason’s job there involved travel to Alexandria.

“We both just really liked Alex, so we moved here,” Maria said.

“I had sold insurance for five years and wanted to find something I was happy with,” said Jason.

He joined the law enforcement program at Alexandria Technical College, while Maria worked as a photographer.

“One of my clients took me out to Northland Woolens,” she said, and she was soon working there.

When previous owner Vicki Johnston wanted to retire, Maria told herself, “She can’t just close the doors.”

“Vicki asked Maria if she wanted to buy, which meant we were purchasing a business,” Jason said. “Instead of buying a home when we got married, we bought this.”

Jason finished his program at Alex Tech first, rising at 5 a.m. to go to the gym and then classes. He would be at the business until at least 11 p.m. during his last semester.

“We had purchased the name of the business, some of the inventory and the contacts,” Maria said. “There was a lot of work moving things and cleaning.”

During their first year, Johnston helped them “with everything — ordering, running and maintaining the machines,” Maria said. Hats and scarves are made on Scott and Williams circular knitting machines from the 1940s and 1950s. They can hold up to 12 cones of yarn, each cone weighing up to five pounds. Socks are made on Bentley Komet knitting machines.

Jason and Maria like to reuse wool sweaters, making them into “twice-baked” mittens and hats.

These items are made with some part of a reused wool sweater,” said Jason. “Twice-baked” is anything that has recycled wool sweaters in it.” In the past three years, they have made more than 20,000 pairs of mittens.

Custom-made items are available too. Past orders have been sent to Japan and Canada.

“People send us sweaters that used to belong to someone very special to them and they ask Maria to make something for them and for family members as gifts,” Jason said. “Maria turns them into mittens or hats for the whole family. We call these remembrance items.

“For every wool sweater brought in, we give $3.50 toward twice-baked items,” he said. “So don’t throw them away — bring them in.”

Quality is important no matter what item is involved.

“We don’t allow less-than-perfect items out the door,” Maria said. “We’re competing with China, and we want to make sure our products are 10 times better than anything from China.”

All materials used are from the United States with one exception — the Swarovski crystals which are only made in Austria.

“We support our American manufacturers and distributors,” said Maria. “We use crystals on one hat pattern and have been certified by Swarovski to use them and their name.”

“I've had a lot of jobs in my life but was not happy doing them,” Jason said. “I love going to work. Every day I learn something new. It’s the most fun I’ve ever had.”

“I didn’t envision this, but I’m very grateful to be doing it,” said Maria.

For more information, call (320) 762-2293 or visit www.northlandwoolens.com.
**Heavy Lambs are Demanding Top Dollar**

With adequate moisture and grass, some producers are keeping their lambs a little longer than usual in order to put valuable pounds on them. Many involved in the sheep industry agree that the market is unusually stable for this time of year, and they expect it to hold steady throughout the fall and winter.

While those involved in the sheep industry agree that feed prices have improved in recent months, the cost of gain on a lamb remains high enough that heavier lambs are a premium product at the moment.

"Usually there is a little bit bigger spread between price of the lighter lambs and the heavier ones but the cost of feed is still so high that there isn't a lot of difference in the dollars per pound right now," said St. Onge Livestock's Manager Barney Barnes.

Lambs weighing 113 pounds brought $1.13 per hundredweight, compared to several runs of approximately 85-pound lambs that fetched between $1.15 and $1.20 per hundredweight, at their last sale, Barnes said.

He expects the feeder lamb market to stay steady "unless the fat-lamb market gets higher." Barnes said some producers are keeping their lambs a little longer than usual in order to add a few more pounds before hauling them to town.

"They've got the grass and the water this year so they can just keep them on pasture a little longer."

Dwight Kitzan, who, along with several family members, operates Kitzan Sheep, near Nisland, S.D., said he believes the sheep market is sitting in a favorable position.

"I think we've got the best fat-lamb market we've ever had. I don't think we've ever had $1.22 per pound fat lambs in the fall - that is phenomenal. We are at a realistic point in the market where feeders can buy lambs and make some money, as long as this slaughter market holds out," Kitzan explained.

"The market has been very stable, to me that's kind of a highlight. I think it's held steady for a couple of months, which is very unusual."

In addition to imports, Kitzan believes the lamb market is highly subject to the buying power of the large processing plants. Kitzan is looking forward to the results of the U.S. GIPSA investigation regarding the cause of the wild swings the sheep industry has endured the past few years as well as the continued decline in U.S. sheep numbers.

Randi Hammerstrom, USDA-AMS, says there is reason for producers to be optimistic. "There is a stronger market being supported by a firmer fat-lamb market in an untraditional time of year. This is the first time since 1993 that the level of animals in the Colorado lots has been below 100,000 head at this time of year."

"Cooler inventory is manageable and the $5 million lamb buy that was just announced will help to keep this going in the right direction."

**Spanish Shepherds Herd 2,000 Sheep Through Madrid**

Shepherds led a flock of 2,000 sheep through Madrid on Sunday in defense of ancient grazing, droving and migration rights increasingly threatened by urban sprawl and modern agricultural practices.

Tourists were surprised to see downtown traffic cut to permit the ovine parade to beat — bells clanking — across some of Madrid's most upmarket urban settings.

Since at least 1273, shepherds have had the right to use droving routes that wind across land that was once open fields and woodland before Madrid mushroomed to the great metropolis it is today.

Every year, a handful of shepherds defend that right in Spain's capital city. Following an age-old tradition, they paid 25 maravedis — coins first minted in the 11th century — to city hall officials to use the crossing.

Shepherds have a right to use around 78,000 miles (125,000 kilometers) of ancient paths for seasonal livestock migrations from cool highland pastures in summer to warmer and more protected lowland grazing in winter.

The movement is called transhumance and in Spain up until recently involved close to 1 million animals a year, mostly sheep and cattle.

Modern farming practices and the use of faster road transport are increasingly confining animals to barns or trucks, because shepherding is costly and time-consuming, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has promoted the colorful annual Transhumance Fiesta in Madrid since 1994.

Spaniards are proud of their centuries-old sheep rearing traditions and hold the native Merino breed of sheep in high esteem. Merinos have gone on to form the backbone of important wool industries in places such as Australia and South America.

Madrid became an important urban center when King Philip II chose it as the capital of his vast empire in 1561. Some paths have been used for more than 800 years and modern-day Madrid has sprawled to engulf two north-south routes. One that crosses Puerta del Sol, Madrid's equivalent of Times Square, dates back to 1372.
Continuing with providing various delivery methods of educational information, the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program launched online courses so sheep enthusiasts can keep current in the comfort of their own home or office.

The most popular course is the Introduction to Sheep Management course (LWMP 1001). This course is the online version of the successful home study course that provides an overview of yearlong sheep management. The course also studies the philosophy of sheep management and its relationship to business goals. Introduction to Sheep Management course is a 14 lesson self-paced course with continuous enrollment. This is a one credit course that has no text book required. The 14 lesson topics include: Getting Started in the Sheep Business; Your Ewes, Your Rams and Their Health; Breeding Strategies; Lamb Feeding; Facilities and Equipment; Ewe Flock Economics; Wool; Pre-Lambing Management; Lambing Time Management, Difficult Births, Baby Lamb Health; Orphan or Bonus Lambs, Grafting; Creeps and Creep Feeding; Weaning and Weaning Methods; Fitting and Showing Sheep; Raising Versus Buying Replacement Ewes. This course is offered online or through the mail.

Other online course offerings include:
- Equipment and Facilities (LWMP 1202)
- Introduction to Sheep Health (LWMP 1300)
- Ewe Ration Formulation (LWMP 1502)
- Wool Characteristics and Properties (LWMP 1701)

Online sheep management courses are an excellent opportunity for youth and adults to learn more about sheep production within their own home or community. These courses are offered each fall. Registration continues until the middle of October.

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program is a sheep management education/consulting program offered by Minnesota West Community and Technical College located at Pipestone, Minnesota. The purpose of the program is to help sheep producers increase income and profit through the production of quality lamb and wool. To maximize the profit per ewe and realize the full potential of all sheep through use of modern management practices, new technologies and new approaches to marketing of both lamb and wool.

For more information visit the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program web page www.pipestonesheep.com or contact one of the Lamb and Wool instructors, Philip Berg, philip.berg@mnwest.edu, (507) 825-6799 or Mike Caskey, mike.caskey@mnwest.edu, (507) 825-6808. To register for one of the on-line courses contact Sue Lovell (507) 847-7929, sue.lovell@mnwest.edu or register on-line at www.mnwest.edu/index.php/registration/online-course-registr
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)

NSIP Performance-tested Suffolk rams for sale: Take the guesswork out of your next lamb crop. Use proven genetics with positive growth EBVs to add pounds to your lamb crop. Contact me next spring for the best selection of ram lambs. Jeremy Geske: 612-756-1200 or Jeremy.geske@gmail.com

Spinning wheel for sale: A 1976 Reeve’s Woodworks black walnut spinning wheel. Barely used. Contact Mary at petermaryroy@yahoo.com if you’re interested.

Electric Tail docker for sale: Used twice. Contact Gail or Ron at 952-466-5876.

Northstar bred ewe sale
October 26 - 7:00 p.m. Sale
Pipestone County Fairgrounds—Pipestone, MN
Suffolk, Hampshire, Rambouillet, Southdown, Dorset, Katahdin
For more information, contact the Pipestone Vet Clinic
507-825-4211

Minnesota bred ewe sale
Nov. 30—9 a.m. Show, 1:00 p.m. Sale
Olmsted County Fairgrounds—Rochester, MN
Hampshire, Wether Dams, Southdown, Columbia, Dorset, Suffolk
For more information, contact Robert Koehler
507-836-8319 or koehl009@umn.edu

Don’t forget to register for the Shepherd’s Holiday!

Nov. 15-17, 2013
Thumper Pond
Otter Tail, MN

Register & Reserve your room by Nov. 1 for the best rates.
Call 877-294-7981
(rate includes 4 water park passes)

Registration form and agenda on-line at www.mlwp.org
(or use the insert in this newsletter)

Join us for the “Celebrate Lamb Social” on Friday, Nov. 15

Major Sponsors include:
MN Corn Growers Assoc.
MN Soybean Research & Promotion
MN Grown program
# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>North Star Bred Ewe Sale</td>
<td>Pipestone, MN</td>
<td>Pipestone Vet Clinic 507-825-4211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 7-9</td>
<td>North American Dairy Sheep Symposium</td>
<td>Ontario, Canada</td>
<td>Eric Bizkot <a href="mailto:ee.bizkot@everus.ca">ee.bizkot@everus.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<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>Nov. 15-16</td>
<td>MLWP Shepherd’s Holiday</td>
<td>Thumper Pond - Ottertail, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Celebrate Lamb Social</td>
<td>Thumper Pond - Ottertail, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>MN MIWW Contest</td>
<td>Thumper Pond - Ottertail, MN</td>
<td>Glenette Sperry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 23-25</td>
<td>ND Shearing School</td>
<td>Hettinger, ND</td>
<td>Chris Schauer 701-567-4323.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>MN Bred Ewe Sale</td>
<td>Rochester, MN</td>
<td>Bruce Bakken 507-845-2113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 7-8</td>
<td>Wisconsin Shearing School</td>
<td>Arlington, WI</td>
<td>Todd Taylor <a href="mailto:toddtaylor@wisc.edu">toddtaylor@wisc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 22-25</td>
<td>ASI Annual Convention</td>
<td>Charleston, SC</td>
<td>Judy Malone <a href="mailto:judy@sheepusa.org">judy@sheepusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Indianhead SBA Shepherd’s Clinic</td>
<td>Rice Lake, WI</td>
<td>Corrine Arnevik-Hansen 715-205-9603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15</td>
<td>Arlington Sheep Day</td>
<td>Arlington, WI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wisbc.com">www.wisbc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 25-26</td>
<td>Black Hills Fiber Arts Fair</td>
<td>Rapid City, SD</td>
<td><a href="http://www.blackhillsfiberartsfair.org">www.blackhillsfiberartsfair.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 28-29</td>
<td>Stars of the North on-line Stud Ram &amp; Ewe Sale</td>
<td>On-line</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske <a href="mailto:Jeremy.geske@gmail.com">Jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open to all breeds—must be a member of MLWPA, MN Suffolk Sheep Assoc or MN Hampshire Sheep Assoc.

| Jul. 3-6  | National Jr. Suffolk Sheep Show            | Hutchinson, KS    | www.u-s-s-a.org                              |
| Jul. 3-6  | All-American Junior Show                   | Hutchinson, KS    |                                               |

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

---

**Invest in the Best**

Sydell is proud to offer the following discounts to members of the MLWP:

- Orders from $100-$1000 will receive a 10% discount
- Orders over $1000 will receive a 15% discount

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).

Please call or email Sydell for a current catalog on over 500 products.

**Sydell Inc.**

46935 SD HWY 50, BURBANK, SD 57010

Toll Free: 1-800-842-1369 PHONE: (605) 624-4538 FAX: (605) 624-3233

Website: www.sydell.com EMAIL: sydell@sydell.com
c/o Jeremy Geske
31307 171st Ave
New Prague, MN 56071

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