

SHEPHERD'S NEWS

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Carcass Scanning Workshop **Moved!**

Due to lack of pre-registrations, the NSIP Carcass Scanning Workshop has been moved (from the Rice County Fairgrounds in Faribault) to the Jeremy Geske ranch (31307 171st Ave, New Prague, MN). If you did not pre-register, but are planning to attend, please contact Jeremy ASAP (612-756-1200 or Jeremy.geske@gmail.com).

Carcass scanning will begin at 9 a.m. thanks to Dr. Gary Onan of UW-River Falls.

Lamb Price update

Sioux Falls SD, Jun4

Fat Lambs 110-160lbs
\$153.00 - \$157.00/cwt
Feeder Lambs 40-100lb
\$140.00 - \$270.00/cwt
Market Ewes
\$27.00 - \$59.00/cwt

Mt Hope OH June 4

Feeder Lambs 63-114lb
\$157.50 - \$200.00/cwt
Fed Lambs 125-145lbs
\$150.00 - \$190.0/cwt
Ewes 135-155lb
\$45.00 - 80.00/cwt

Billings MT June 2

Fat Lambs 95 -154lbs
\$176.00 - \$189.00/cwt
Feeder Lambs 59-87lbs
\$186.00 - \$199.00/cwt
Market Ewes
\$45.00 - \$57.00/cwt

Zumbrota MN June 10

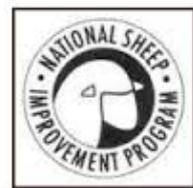
Feeder lambs
\$115-192.50/cwt
Fat Lambs
\$115-152/cwt
Cull ewes
\$20-65/cwt

San Angelo TX Mar21

Slaughter lambs
\$133.70-\$165.50/cwt

Reno Highlights

17 Suffolk Yrlg Rams—
averaged \$1,735
16 Suffolk Yrlg Ewes—
averaged \$809
Click [here](#) for more results.



Action Needed - #DitchTheRule

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) released their long-awaited proposed rule to expand the Clean Water Act. Now that spring rains have started to fall, it is critical that farmers, ranchers and landowners are telling the EPA that ditches and puddles are not navigable.

EPA says it will exempt farmers from the rule, so why are we concerned?

First, the exemptions are extremely narrow. They only apply to one part of the CWA, the section 404 "dredge and fill" permit program. The rule provides no protection from enforcement over other activities, such as weed control, fertilizer applications and any number of other common farm activities that may trigger CWA liability and permit requirements. In addition, a farmer has to have been farming continuously since 1977 to benefit from the exemptions.

Second, the rule narrows existing exemptions by tying them to mandatory compliance with what used to be voluntary Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards. Farmers previously could undertake these practices as part of their normal farming activities; now, those activities must comply with NRCS standards or else the farmer risks CWA enforcement.

Finally, because these exemptions are not part of the rule but, rather, included in an interpretive rule that is more like agency guidance, EPA and NRCS could narrow them further at any time. The exemptions do not change the fact that the scope of waters and land that would come under federal regulatory jurisdiction is vastly broader under the proposed rule. These narrow exemptions will not protect farmers or other landowners from new restrictions or prohibitions that will come from establishing water quality

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standards and specific, numeric discharge limits for ditches, intermittent streams and other features that EPA now plans to sweep into federal jurisdiction.

EPA is attempting to do by regulation what was not authorized by Congressional legislation. The success of the Clean Water Act (CWA) over the last 40 years is largely due to the partnership the Act established between the federal government and the states, a partnership that limits federal regulatory power to "navigable waters" rather than all waters.

Send your message to EPA and the Corps by July 21.

Comment Online

You can easily submit comments through the Minnesota Farm Bureau Action Alert Center found at www.fbm.org/pages/voter-voice. A sample message and key messages are provided to help tell your story on how this proposed rule will impact you.

Comment by Letter

To submit comments by letter, begin the letter as follows and then explain how expanding the definition of "Waters of the U.S." to nearly every puddle and ditch is bad for farmers and other Americans.

Water Docket

Environmental Protection Agency

Mail Code 2822T

Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, DC 204460

Attn: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880

RE: Comments on the U.S. EPA and Army Corps Guidance Regarding Definition of "Waters of the U.S."

Shepherd's Holiday—Dec. 5-7, Chaska

The 2014 MLWPA Shepherd's Holiday will be held Dec. 5-7 at the Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska, MN. The MLWPA board is in process of putting together the agenda, so please contact [Jeremy](#) with any suggestions for speakers and topics.

Once again, the "Celebrate Lamb Social" will kick off the event on Friday night. This will include lamb cooking demos with sampling, sheep cheese samples and more with MLWPA members and special guests.

Saturday will include a full line-up of speakers and a variety of topics. Please check the [MLWPA website](#) this fall for an updated agenda. Saturday will also include the Make it With Wool contest and Fashion Show, the Silver Bell Awards luncheon, trade show and the annual banquet and fundraiser auction.

Sunday morning we will hold the MLWPA business meeting with approval of the annual budget and election of officers.



www.oakridgeminneapolis.com

Help Needed at State Fair

The MLWPA Commercial Booth and BAA Booth need volunteers during the state fair. If you would like more information on working in the commercial booth, contact [Sherry Stirling](#) for the details. If you are interested in helping with the BAA booth contact [Jeremy](#) for the details.