

SHEPHERD'S NEWS

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Lamb Price update

Kalona IA, Feb 19

Fat Lambs 102-171lbs
\$156.00 - \$186.00/cwt
Feeder Lambs 58-97lbs
\$183.00 - \$236.00/cwt
Market Ewes 95-189lbs
\$40.00 - \$65.00/cwt

Mt Hope, OH Feb 19

Bucks & Ewes
\$55.00 - \$80.00/cwt
New Crop lambs(40-60)
\$250.00 - \$310.00/cwt
New crop lambs (60-80)
\$200.00 - \$267.50/cwt
Lambs 40 - 60lbs
\$195.00 - \$250.00/cwt
Lambs 60 - 80lbs
\$175.00 - \$200.00/cwt
Lambs 80 - 100lbs
\$160.00 - \$220.00/cwt
Lambs 100 - 130lbs
\$162.50 - \$200.00/cwt
Lambs 130lbs & Up
\$152.50 - \$170.00/cwt

Billings MT Feb 10

Fat Lambs 98 -113lbs
\$205.00 - \$216.00/cwt
Feeder Lambs 81-90lbs
\$213.50 - \$224.50/cwt
Bred Ewes
\$150.00 - \$260.00/hd
Yearling Ewes
\$235.00 - \$300.00/hd
Market Ewes
\$52.50 - \$55.50/cwt

Fat Lambs (ASI)

\$140-\$180/cwt

Don't Miss the Spring Sheep Workshop

The 2014 Spring Sheep Workshop will be held Saturday, March 22 at the Holly Neaton farm near Watertown. Registration starts at 8:30 am, and the event adjourns at 3:00 pm. A variety of health and management topics will be covered. MLWPA members should receive a brochure in the mail soon. If you do not get one, check the website (www.mlwpa.org) or e-mail Jeremy (jeremy.geske@gmail.com). The cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth and it includes lunch.

Shepherd's Holiday set for Oak Ridge

The 2014 MLWPA Shepherd's Holiday will be held **Dec. 5 -7 at the Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska**. The annual convention will start Friday evening with the "Celebrate Lamb Social" featuring lamb cooking demonstrations and sampling. Saturday's events will include a full schedule of educational seminars, the Make It With Wool Contest, trade show and fundraiser auction. More information will be distributed as plans are finalized.

Membership is due

If you have not yet paid your 2014 MLWPA dues, please send them in as soon as possible in order to continue to receive the newsletter, information on sheep events and to be included in the membership directory. Family dues are \$40 per year (\$110 for 3 years), \$30 for Friend of the Industry (no sheep). Make checks payable to MLWPA and send to Glenette Sperry, 31460 Quinlan Ave, Center City, MN 55012. If you are not sure if your dues are current, please email Jeremy (jeremy.geske@gmail.com).

Lamb Lead Workshop

Rice County will be hosting a Lamb Lead workshop on Saturday, March 29 from 8 am to noon. It includes a tour of the Faribault Woolen Mill. For more information, contact Gail Donkers (gail.donkers@facebook.com).

Bridging the Gap between Animal Health and Human Health

NIAA Member Dr. Subodh Das, Fluid Management System, has developed a summary of the NIAA White Paper from November's Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Symposium held in Kansas City, "Bridging the Gap between Animal Health and Human Health." The summary is available on his company blog ([HERE](#)). The White Paper in its entirety can be found on the NIAA website ([HERE](#)) or go to www.animalagriculture.org.

ASI Spring D.C. Trip

The ASI Spring trip to DC will be May 5-8. MLWPA leaders will be participating.

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Farm Bill Creates Optimism Among University Researchers

The passage of a new farm bill has agricultural researchers optimistic about consistent federal funding for their projects.

"Having that consistency in our ability to know where our funding is coming from and that there will be a stream of funding for us to compete for these research programs is very important," said Glynda Becker, director of federal relations at Washington State University.

Two-thirds of WSU's research budget comes from outside grants and contracts. The largest single source is competitive grants from USDA, said Jim Moyer, associate dean of research and director of the Agriculture Research Center in WSU's College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences.

USDA funds total about \$20 million to \$30 million annually, roughly 50 percent of the college's outside research funding, Moyer said, not including WSU Extension.

Many research programs that depended on federal funding were interrupted or on hiatus pending passage of a new farm bill, Moyer said. The farm bill provides assurance that those programs will now continue, he said.

Sheep Helping NASA

Colorado State University, NASA and a herd of sheep have teamed up to make human space travel safer. The federal space agency hopes to send astronauts to Mars by 2030, but it needs more information about the impact of weightlessness on the body first. The use of sheep in these studies has been important for the researchers to determine how the results could translate to astronauts, and eventually to older people and others with osteoporosis, said Christopher Puttlitz, associate professor of mechanical engineering and head of the CSU research team.

Adult sheep, have bones that are similar in size and skeletal architecture to humans, making them desirable candidates for investigating orthopedic-related conditions. Traditionally, mice and rats have been used in research experiment, but the findings are not as readily translatable to human outcomes because of major anatomic and physiologic differences between the two species, such as bone microarchitecture and healing rates.

"We have to provide extensive literature research to establish that the use of animals for a research project is the only reasonable way and practical means to get the information necessary," Palmer said. "It's easy to look at it from an outside angle, until the information we discovered with animal research can be used for yourself or a family member."

According to NASA's Human Research Roadmap, astronauts can lose 1 percent to 2 percent of their bone density each month in space. This loss, coupled with the high-impact forces astronauts may encounter, can put them at risk of fracturing bones. So Puttlitz and Ross Palmer, a CSU professor and veterinary orthopedic surgeon, are using living sheep to mimic the impact of space travel on bones to better understand bone health and healing.

The model was developed by observing the results of placing a protection frame, or brace, on the back leg of a sheep and isolating the metatarsal bone from the impact of normal daily activity over an eight-week period. The brace kept the sheep from bearing weight, simulating the effects of microgravity. Because the bone was isolated from any gravitational forces, the research team was able to discern that the sheep's bone density decreased - as did the load required to fracture the bone. The weakened bone could break more easily, Puttlitz reported in the *Journal of Biomedical Engineering*.

MN Legislature underway

Legislators began their work for the 2014 Minnesota Legislature on February 25. The House Tax Committee started 15 minutes after the initial floor session wrapped up to begin their work on examining possible changes to sales taxes put in place by the 2013 Legislative Session. Proposals for ending the sales tax assessment for labor on farm machinery equipment repair are included in the mix of bills that came before the committee at their first meeting. They will also hear several proposals aimed at repeal of the sales taxes for warehouse services. This committee is chaired by Representative Ann Lenczewski of Bloomington.

Repeal of the sales tax on farm machinery repair is supported by Republican legislators, some Democrat legislators and the Governor, as well as all of the farm groups. MLWPA President John Dvorak was among a group of farmers that addressed this concern with state lawmakers. Hopefully politics won't get in the way of this effort.