“Celebrate Lamb Social” to kick off Shepherd’s Holiday

The 2014 MLWPA Shepherd’s Holiday will be held Dec. 5-7 at the Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska. (please refer to the tentative agenda and registration form on p11,12).

The event will start at 7pm Friday evening with the 2nd annual “Celebrate Lamb Social” featuring lamb cooking demos (with sampling) with Chef Virgil Emmert. Participants will also enjoy sheep cheese samples provided by Shepherd’s Way Farm, wine tasting from local MN wineries. Snacks and other beverages will also be available. There will be a presentation from last year’s Jr Silver Bell winner, Amy Marquette, and we are working on a speaker to discuss pairing wine with lamb.

Sponsors for the social include: MN Corn Growers Association, Superior Farms, Shepherd’s Way Farm, MLWPA and more.

Day two features a full day of educational seminars, with a track for experienced producers, one for new/beginner producers and one for fiber enthusiasts. Presenters include veterinarians, nutritionists, industry leaders, University Specialists and producers (refer to the agenda on p.2).

Chef Virgil Emmert

Dr. Larry Goelz

Cont. on p. 2

President’s Message - John Dvorak

Greetings fellow sheep producers:
Wow, it is hard to believe that winter is around the corner!
By now fall lambing should be in full swing and I hope all is going well for you. Harvesting around my area is not yet in full swing. Some of the beans are combined but the corn still has a way to go. Warm weather is in the forecast so hopefully the corn will start to dry down.
Over this past summer the price of lamb rebounded and has held steady and hopefully the price will continue. With the drop in corn prices hopefully we will see an increase in profits when sending our lambs to market.
For the last two years I have had the privilege to serve as your president.

With term limits being two years, my term will end in December when you will vote in a new president. It has been an honor to serve as your president. One of my goals when I took office was to represent the

Cont. on p. 2
President’s Message—cont.

Minnesota Lamb and Wool to the best of my ability and with the help of all the board members I am confident that I accomplished that. I truly believe that the sheep industry in Minnesota is moving forward and I am happy to have been able to do my part.

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers have a lot of dedicated people on the board that go out of their way to keep improving the industry for you. There are also a good number of individuals who are not on the board that also put in a great amount of their time to help our industry stay strong. I would like to thank each and every one of you who have made that last two an enjoyable experience for me.

Keep the dates of December 5th, 6th and 7th marked on your calendars. That is when the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers will be holding its annual convention. A lot of work goes into hosting this convention. I hope you all can make it. Come out and enjoy time spent with other producers and take in the educational seminars that will be put on and also take in the Celebrate Lamb Social on Friday night along with the banquet and auction on Saturday night. Let’s not forget the Make it With Wool contest on Saturday morning.

Good luck in advance to the new elected officers.

Shepherd’s Holiday—cont.

The Make it With Wool competition will also be on Saturday and will conclude with the awards and fashion show after lunch. Also on Saturday is the trade show, Silver Bell Luncheon, annual banquet featuring lamb from Doug Rathke & Connie Karstens and fundraiser auction. Hear from last year’s Silver Bell winner—Judy Lewman, and get an update on the OPP pilot project from Judy and Dr. Holly Neaton.

The conference will conclude Sunday morning with the annual business meeting and elections. Please register by Nov. 14 to receive the special room rate and early bird discount. Additional conference sponsors include: MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council, MN Turkey Association, MidCountry Bank and many more.

Shepherd’s Way Farms
Artisan Sheep Milk Cheese
The MLWPA board meeting was held on Saturday, September 27, 2014 at the Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska. Present: John Dvorak, VP Melanie Pamp, Dan Persons, Glenette Sperry, Don Adelmann, Steve Scheffert, Randy Kinney, Jeremy Geske, Steve Froehlich, Mike Haubrich, Mary Rademacher, guests: Kelly Froehlich.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 (after lunch) pm by President John Dvorak. Moved & seconded to approve the agenda as amended, motion carried.

Jeremy presented the Secretary’s report from the June meeting. Moved/seconded – approve as amended – motion carried.

Glenette presented the treasurer’s report. Total in all accounts: $71,688.98. We had issues with Bremer Bank (not approving some of our purchases for our debit card) – so with board approval, Glenette switched banks [Lake Area Bank] – all money will be transferred by the end of the fiscal year. Moved/seconded to approve – motion carried.

MLWPA member reimbursement for attending sheep functions. Set up a subcommittee to come up with a recommendation. Mary R, Randy K, Melanie P, John D, Dan P.

BAA Booth report – John gave report. Oelke’s brought materials, John & Jeremy started set-up – Froehlich’s did the bulk of the set-up. Worked good to have spinners working in the booth. Gave out in a lot of recipes.

Commercial Booth – Sherry Stirling provided a written report – gross income: $51,238.64 [total for all events = $52,921.07] (net for MLWPA = $15,529.44 – includes small amount from other events). John talked about coupon for socks from Northland Woolens. Sherry willing to coordinate again next year.

Mentor program report: John needs more information for report. 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. ASI needs more information for the report to ASI.

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

Silver bell – Don, Dan, John will have a Nov. 1 Conference call.

ASI convention—150th Anniversary in January (29-31).

Budget discussion/planning. Glenette will enter the proposed budget and email out prior to the next meeting. After much discussion, a proposed budget was put forward to present at the annual meeting.

Next mtg date – Dec. 5 – Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska. 6pm. Email agenda items to John.

Mtg adjourned – 4:03 pm.
**Sheep Industry Icon—Larry Mead—To Retire**

SEDALIA, Missouri, October 6, 2014 – Today, the Missouri Sheep Producers, sponsors of the annual Midwest Stud Ram Sale, announced the retirement of Larry Mead. Mr. Mead, a titan of the industry, has managed the Midwest Stud Ram Sale for the last 50 years.

“On behalf of the Missouri Sheep Producers, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Larry Mead for his more than fifty years of service,” said Henry Shultz, chairman of the Midwest Stud Ram Sale committee. “Larry has grown the Midwest Stud Ram Sale into the largest purebreds sheep sale in North America – a tremendous accomplishment.”

“Larry Mead has played a key role in the Missouri Sheep Industry. We appreciate all the time and efforts he put into both the Missouri Sheep Producers organization and Midwest Stud Ram sale,” said Sarah Gehring, president, Missouri Sheep Producers.

Beginning immediately, Heartland Livestock Services will assume management of the nearly $2 million annual purebred sheep and goat sale. The Heartland team has a combined 100 years of experience in the livestock industry, members include: Curt Overcash of Ottawa, IL, Karey Claghorn of Milo, IA, Bret Oelke of Barrett, MN, Millie Moore of Indiana, IA, Brandon Bruce of Indiana, IA, and Carrie Taylor-Kelly of Stuart, IA. Heartland Livestock Services has been vital to the operation of the Midwest Stud Ram Sale for nearly a decade.

**Market Update** - [These prices are from 10/06/14]

**Feeder Prices.** San Angelo: 45-60 lbs. for 213-222 $/cwt., 60-70 lbs. for 210-218 $/cwt.; 70-90 lbs. for 200-218 $/cwt.; 90-100 lbs. for 194-204 $/cwt.

**Slaughter Prices - Negotiated**, wooled and shorn, 100-169 lbs. for 148-173.50 $/cwt. (wtd. ave. 161.97)

**Slaughter Prices - Formula1**, 2,315 head at 296.31-316.76 $/cwt. for 70.90 ave. lbs.; 1,504 head at 298.02-314.08 $/cwt. for 76.40 ave. lbs.

**Equity Electronic Auction**, wooled 120 lbs. for $159/cwt.; 140 lbs. for $163/cwt.

**Cutout Value/$340.55/cwt.**

**Carcass Price.** Choice and Prime, YG 1-4, $/cwt., weighted averages, 1,329 head at 55-65 lbs. for 343.03, 2,093 head at 65-75 lbs. for 334.03, 1,705 head at 75-85 lbs. for 324.57, 644 head at 85 lbs. and up for 312.02.

**Exported Adult Sheep.** 310 head

**Wool, Price ($/pound) Clean, Delivered, From 16 weeks ago:** 18 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 19 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 20 micron (Grade 70s) NA, 21 micron (Grade 64-70s) NA, 22 micron (Grade 64s) 4.21, 23 micron (Grade 62s) 4.11, 24 micron (Grade 60-62s) 3.53, 25 micron (Grade 58s) 3.31, 26 micron (Grade 56-58s) 2.65-2.91, 27 micron (Grade 56s) 2.43, 28 micron (Grade 54s) NA, 29 micron (Grade 50-54s) NA, 30-34 micron (Grade 58-50s) 1.48.

- Ft. Collins, CO Feeder Lambs $175 - $235/cwt, Slaughter lambs $144 - $202/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $34 - $88/cwt
- Twin Falls, ID Feeder Lambs $167 - $183/cwt, Slaughter lambs $161 - $178/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $18 - $78/cwt
- Zumbrota, MN Feeder Lambs $150 - $200/cwt, Slaughter lambs $150 - $158/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $40 - $70/cwt
- Pipestone, MN Feeder Lambs $167.50-$210/cwt, Slaughter lambs $158 - $163.50/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $61 - $115/cwt
- Sioux Falls, SD Feeder Lambs $169 - $220/cwt, Slaughter lambs $150 - $168/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $49- $70/cwt
- Mt Hope, OH Feeder Lambs $200 - $290/cwt, Slaughter lambs $192.50 - $230/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $70- $99cwt
- Billings, MT Feeder Lambs $189.50 - $220.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs $184.75 - $194/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $49.50- $66cwt
Lambtastic Country Music Festival

The American Lamb Board teamed up with the Oregon Sheep Growers Association (OSGA) to feature a lamb booth at the seventh annual Willamette Country Music Festival! The festival is one of the nation's largest outdoor country music festivals with a daily average of over 25,000 attendees. The three-day event takes place on Anderson Ranch in Brownsville, Oregon.

Attendees camp out, enjoy lamb dishes and watch some of country music's major headliners, including Montgomery Gentry, Sara Evans and Blake Shelton, a huge fan of lamb and the OSGA's gyro sandwiches!


School is back in session and Bon Appétit is giving freshman college students ideas for 15 foods they must try-including lamb! Lamb ranked number nine in the article with a call-out to "Do yourself a flavor favor and swap out beef for lamb." Production assistant Alex Delany said, "It's a grassier, gamier game changer for those who love meat." Delany went on to say that "ground lamb is a great entry point, and versatile to boot."

Cooking 101 Technique Videos

The American Lamb Board is excited to unveil a new series of cooking 101 technique videos featuring culinary expert Andrea Slonecker. The new series features cooking techniques such as braising, grilling and roasting plus four easy, everyday recipes.

Is This the Best Autumn Lamb Recipe? - Bon Appétit

Braised lamb is always good. But this version? This baby is lacquered with a tangy, sweet, and spiced sauce made from white wine (a whole cup of it), autumnal cinnamon sticks, and—secret weapon time—pomegranate molasses. Oh yeah. You’re into it.

BRAISED LAMB SHOULDER WITH FENNEL AND ORANGE

Lamb shoulder has great fat content and rich (not gamey) flavor, which makes it ideal for this sweetly spiced, Mediterranean-inspired braise.

Ingredients

- 3 pounds boneless lamb shoulder, (fat trimmed, cut into 8 pieces)
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 fennel bulb, coarsely chopped
- 1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 head of garlic, halved crosswise
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 1 orange (with peel), cut into pieces
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 14.5-oz. peeled whole tomatoes
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons pomegranate molasses (optional)

Heat oven to 325°. Pat lamb dry; season with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a Dutch oven or other large heavy pot over medium-high heat. Cook lamb, turning occasionally, until browned on all sides, 6–8 minutes; transfer to a plate.

Add fennel, onion, and garlic to same pot and cook, stirring frequently, until golden brown and softened, 6–8 minutes. Add wine and bring to a boil, scraping up brown bits. Reduce heat and simmer until reduced by half, 6–8 minutes.

Add lamb back to pot, cover pot, and transfer to oven.

Braise until lamb is fork-tender, 1½–2 hours. Transfer lamb to a clean plate.

Strain cooking liquid through a fine-mesh sieve into a large bowl; return to pot. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until thick and velvety, 20–30 minutes.

Stir in pomegranate molasses and return lamb to pot and cook, stirring to coat, until heated through. Serve lamb with Cucumber-Dill Tzatziki, Three-Herb and Red Onion Salad, and Westward Pita Bread.
NEW YORK TIMES THROWS FOOD PARTY, FORGETS TO INVITE FARMERS—FOREST PRITCHARD, HUFFINGTON POST

On November 11th and 12th, the New York Times will host "Food For Tomorrow," a sold-out event exploring food production in the 21st century. An all-star cast of food celebrities is slated to attend, including world-renown journalists, award-winning chefs, and heralded think tank food advisers. The two day summit aims to shape the future of agriculture, addressing "how to feed a growing population of the world's poor, and how to reverse poor eating habits in the developed world."

Sounds like an amazing event, and as a farmer, I'd love to attend. Perplexingly, however, in their rush to include the most famous names in food, the New York Times appears to have overlooked the most important foodies of all: The farmers themselves. Out of 19 speakers, not a single attendee grows food for a living. Wal Mart vice president? Check. Investigative reporters? Double check. Politicians? You betcha. But how about a solitary, full-time professional farmer, someone who actually works the land for a living?

(Insert sound of crickets chirping).

Seems like an oversight, doesn't it? Like holding a conference on education and forgetting the teachers, or hosting a book festival without any authors.

Let's give them the benefit of doubt, though. I'm sure that scores of invitations were sent to farmers around the country, but for myriad reasons, not a single one of them could attend. Knowing my fellow farmers as well as I do, here are the top reasons why none of us could make it to New York for the event:

1) Shampooing our rugged, yet lustrous, beards
2) Aboard Virgin Galactic, conducting feasibility studies for Pigs in Space
3) Tweeting Miley Cyrus gossip with other farmers, lost track of time
4) Our personal assistants mistakingly booked tickets to Budapest Food Summit instead (OMG, they are so totally fired!)
5) No one else to milk the chickens
6) Tweaked our glutes doing yoga headstands
7) Herding free-range heritage breed turkeys, on pristine mountaintops bathed in glorious, nourishing sunshine
8) Invitation routed through Boca Raton; subsequently eaten by hungry pelican
9) Had to get bib overalls pressed
10) Too busy growing baby bok choy and organic endive for New York Times food event

Obviously, this is all tongue-in-cheek. But it underscores a serious point. On November 11th and 12th, while the brightest, most celebrated literati are discussing the future of agriculture, you'll find farmers across the country doing what we always do: Waking early for chores, bringing in the last of the fall harvest, changing the oil in the tractor, and replacing old fence posts.

You'll see us going about the serious business of getting our hands dirty, studying the sky for rainy weather, and checking the mailbox for farming bills that must be paid. And more than anything, you'll find we're already thinking of next spring, of seed catalogues and April pastures, of firing up the old tractor once again, and growing food for an always hungry world.

Discussion about food is certainly important. But so is the actual farming, by people who know how to do it. The New York Times missed an opportunity to broaden the food conversation, overlooking the best experts of all.

Checking the calendar, however, there's still a month to go. That's an eternity in agriculture, enough time to till a garden, plant seeds, and witness the first sprouts beginning to grow. Yet, is it enough time for the New York Times invite a farmer or two? I'll be curious to learn the answer.
Obama Administration Takes Aim At Antibiotic Resistance

In a series of moves designed to tackle the thorny and complicated issue of antibiotic resistance, the Obama administration took a series of actions that direct federal agencies to slow the increased prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The actions by the White House include an Executive Order, a national plan of action and an antibiotic resistance report.

The President's Executive Order will ensure the strategy is carried out by appointing an interagency task force to implement the plan.

That task force will also address recommendations in the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) antibiotic resistance report.

The National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria outlines goals and priorities to prevent the spread of resistant bacteria, develop new antibiotics and improve collaboration on the issue.

Five New Meat MythCrusher Videos Address Misperceptions About Antibiotics

The American Meat Institute (AMI) and the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) today released a series of five new Meat MythCrusher videos each addressing common myths surrounding antibiotic use in livestock and poultry production and antibiotic resistance. Myths discussed in the latest videos include: "80 Percent of Antibiotics are Used in Animals," "Antibiotics are Used in Animal Agriculture to Cover Up for Unsanitary Conditions," "Antibiotics are Primarily Used for Growth Promotion," "Animal Agriculture is the Biggest Contributor to Antibiotic Resistance" and "Denmark has Eliminated Antibiotic Resistance by Banning Use of Antibiotics for Growth Promotion."

Survey: Feed Connection to PEDV

Research done by veterinarians at an upper Midwest pork production facility has provided one more piece to the puzzle of PEDV transmission. When the Pipestone research division looked at the farms that broke with PEDV, they found one common link. "The common link between the farms was they'd all received a feed delivery basically within a week. We looked at three of the farms and the date of the feed delivery. They ran out of feed, they had to have a rush delivery, it went into a specific feed bin and those were the first pigs that showed clinical signs, the pigs that ate that feed," said Dr. Scott Dee, who oversees Pipestone Applied Research. When the same chain of events appeared repeatedly, researchers knew they might have a link.

"We weren't able to determine how the feed itself got contaminated but our guess is, based on what we've learned about the environmental contamination with this virus is it probably just got contaminated during the post-processing handling, at the mill or on the truck ride to the farm or when loading the bin. We learned that where there are a lot of farms infected with PED, there's a lot of aerosol PED floating about and that is one potential source of contamination, just through the air and the dust in the air," Dee said.

FDA Seeks Comments on Two Issues Related to Drug Approvals

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced it is inviting public comment on a pair of potential changes in policy regarding approval of drugs used in food-animal production. Each public comment period opened September 9. The first proposed change would modify the procedures and requirements for the approval of combination drug medicated feeds. Currently, according to background information from the FDA, the use of multiple new animal drugs in the same medicated feed requires animal drug sponsors to seek approval for each new animal drug in the combination and seek a separate approval for the combination drug.

Also beginning on September 9, FDA is seeking comments on potential changes to conditional approvals for new animal drugs. Currently, conditional approvals are only available for new animal drugs that are intended for use in minor species or for minor uses, such as rare diseases, in major species such as cattle. A conditional approval, according to FDA, allows a drug manufacturer to market its new animal drug before submitting the effectiveness data necessary for a full approval, but after proving the drug is safe in accordance with the full FDA approval standard and showing that there is a reasonable expectation of effectiveness.

Building a Better Animal

In South Dakota, there are four times as many cows as there are people, so it should come as no surprise that the state is a hub for animal biotechnology. This new and promising sector of the biotechnology industry stands ready to help solve many of the challenges facing the animal agriculture community today. But some fear these benefits never will be realized because of political interference, misinformation spread by anti-science activists or delays in a very rigorous approval process.

Animal biotechnology allows scientists to develop livestock that possess valuable genetic properties that can help improve human and animal health while also increasing livestock productivity. These advancements will be the focus of a unique Livestock Biotech Summit Sept. 16 through 18 in Sioux Falls.
Secretary Vilsak Announces ALB Appointments

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak announced today the appointment of five new board members to the 2015 Lamb Checkoff program. Each appointee will serve a three-year term, effective immediately. The newly appointed board members are: David Quam from San Angelo, Texas representing producers. Tammy Doughty from Reform, Alabama representing feeders. Elizabeth Dressler from Parker, Colorado representing first handlers. Reappointed board members include: Joanne Nissen from Soledad, California representing producers and Wes Patton from Orland, California representing feeders.

“Ditch the Rule” Comment Deadline Extended again

We now have until November 14 to tell the EPA to ditch their proposed rule. You can easily do so by submitting comments through the Minnesota Farm Bureau Action Alert Center (www.fbmn.org).
1. Go the Action Alert site.
2. Click on the arrow after “1 Advocacy Campaign.”
3. Scroll down to the “Compose your message box.”
4. Feel free to edit the message with how this rule impacts you or our farmer members.
5. Enter your email and zip code, and click continue.

U.S. House Passes H.R. 5078

On Tuesday, September 9, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5078, The "Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014," by a final vote of 262-152. This bill seeks to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) from developing, finalizing, adopting, implementing, administering or enforcing their proposed rule to significantly expand their authority over “waters of the United States” in the Clean Water Act. Minnesota Farm groups strongly supported this legislation.

Five Minnesota Representatives that voted in support of the final bill: Representatives Walz, Kline, Paulsen, Bachmann and Peterson. Representatives Peterson and Walz joined 11 others of the 21 Agricultural Committee Democrats to vote yes. Their "yes" vote on this bill allowed them to stand with farmers, ranchers and landowners to send a clear message to EPA and the Corps that their proposed rule is unacceptable.

[Ed. Note: Ellison, McCollum and Nolan voted no. The President has threatened to veto this legislation.]

North Dakota Sheep Ranchers Question Bighorn Die-off Theory

North Dakota sheep ranchers questioned the theory that they’re to blame for a large die-off of bighorn sheep in the western Badlands. At least 23 bighorns have died of pneumonia since early August. Most were transplanted from Alberta, Canada, in February.

The state’s Game and Fish Department believes the wild sheep were infected by domestic sheep because they are known carriers of the specific bacteria found in the dead bighorns. However, state Wildlife Chief Jeb Williams and State Veterinarian Susan Keller acknowledge that there are no test results to back up that assertion.

"We have no witnesses to any interaction. We have no indication that the domestic sheep were carrying the (bacteria)," Keller told The Bismarck Tribune. "We can't say it didn't happen, but there are no test results that proved it was in the domestic sheep."

She said the translocated animals were very likely stressed - itself a severe health concern - and among possibilities are that the resident bighorns were carrying the bacteria and it was transferred to the Alberta group, or the Alberta group was carriers and it was triggered by their own stress. Keller said there's inherent risk in moving animals from one place to another into contact with existing populations.

Brad Gilbertson, vice chairman of the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association, said he questions whether domestic sheep are to blame. He said the resident bighorns had been the same three miles from the domestic sheep for years and nothing happened.

"They were there in 2011, and no problem. They were there in 2012, and no problem. They were there in 2013, and no problem. Then in 2014, they bring in the bighorns from Alberta. Why did they live three miles apart in harmony and all of a sudden the bighorns from Alberta come in and we have a die-off?" he said.
$900,000 in Wolf Livestock Demonstration Grants Announced

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced $900,000 in grants under the Wolf Livestock Demonstration Project Grant Program. Grants will be distributed to the states of Arizona, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The grants assist livestock producers in undertaking proactive, non-lethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss from predation by wolves, and compensate producers for livestock losses caused by wolves. The program provides funding to states and tribes, with federal cost-share not to exceed 50 percent.

Proposals were submitted in early July and were evaluated considering the extent of depredation of livestock by wolves, program evaluation and record keeping, and commitment to reporting and coordination. Proposals were also evaluated based on the level of non-lethal, proactive techniques to reduce wolf-livestock interactions and the outreach and coordination levels.

Activists to Sue Predator Control Program

A coalition of activist groups is once again going after the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) predator control program, notifying USDA this week that it plans to file a lawsuit to halt wildlife trapping and killing in Idaho until it can be sure the activities do not harm protected species.

The activist groups, including the Western Watersheds Project, sent a notice of intent to sue USDA's Wildlife Services (WS) program, saying the program unnecessarily places scores of wildlife species at risk of harm in its ongoing efforts to control coyotes, black bears, mountain lions and other animals in the state.

WS is tasked with managing animals that are deemed a threat to crops and livestock. The WS program has been under fire from activist groups in recent years.

The notice of intent was sent to Todd Grimm, WS Idaho state director, with copies to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe.

This week's notice of intent to sue WS is similar to a notice sent last week to WS accusing the program of violating the Endangered Species Act for not analyzing the impacts of trapping and other predator control efforts on the endangered ocelot in southern Arizona.

Remember to Vote on Nov. 4

Get out and vote for candidates that support agriculture on Nov. 4. In addition to all the MN House of Representatives offices, we have a Governor’s race (Dayton vs. Johnson), a US Senate Race (Franken vs McFadden) and the US Congressional Races. Get to know the candidates and their stance on agriculture and other important issues.

[Ed. Note: If you have questions about an incumbent’s support for the sheep industry/agriculture, contact John Dvorak (bjdvorak81@hotmail.com) or Jeremy Geske (Jeremy.geske@gmail.com)]

Grow Our Flock Program Seeks Project Coordinator

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is seeking a Project Coordinator for a national initiative to increase sheep industry productivity and producer profitability.

The Grow Our Flock program received its first fiscal year budget approval of $500,000, with the expectation of a three-year commitment that will have similar funding each year.

The project coordinator will be responsible for communicating with sheep producers and feeders to identify existing local and regional groups of commercial operators and for facilitating the creation of new producer networks to enhance efficient production and marketing of wool and lamb throughout the United States. This individual will coordinate closely with existing educational efforts and service organizations to create, augment and implement programs to meet the primary objective of enhancing the capacity and profitability of sheep production in the United States.

Applicants with graduate degrees in the areas of animal science, agricultural economics, agriculture education or related fields are encouraged to apply. Strong communication skills - both interpersonal and in group settings - are required.

Full details of the position are available by clicking on "Careers" under "About" on ASI's home page at www.sheepusa.org.
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING NEW LEADERS**

As we wrap up the MLWPA year, John Dvorak completes his second term as President. We thank John for his dedicated service as he transitions to a new role as Past President. This also means that former President Dan Persons will transition off of the Board. Dan’s expertise and common-sense approach will be missed.

Some of the current board members will transition into new roles, and at least one district director position will be open. The nominating committee will be seeking MLWPA members who have the desire to get more involved with the direction of the organization. If you are passionate about the sheep industry and are willing to attend quarterly meetings, please contact Jeremy Geske (612-756-1200 or Jeremy.geske@gmail.com) for more information.

The term is for 1 year, and the board meets quarterly at a central location.

**SILVER BELL NOMINATIONS NEEDED**

The Silver Bell Award is given annually to an outstanding MN Sheep producer (please see the list of past winners at [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org)).

Criteria include:
- Member of MLWPA
- Successful producer
- Promotes lamb and/or wool
- Helps youth/other producers
- Industry leadership

If you know someone who meets these criteria and has not already been given the award, please forward their name and reasons for nominating them to John Dvorak (bjdvorak81@hotmail.com) ASAP. We do keep nominations on file.

There is also a Jr Silver Bell award for youth who are active in the industry.

Judy Lewman, 2013 SB winner

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**MLWPA YOUTH REPORT - KELLY FROEHLICH**

MLWP youth have been busy once again and did a fantastic job representing the sheep industry at the MN state fair baa booth. We had lots of fun demonstrating and felting bars of soap with wool, drawing all ages into the booth. More than a couple hundred felted soap bars were given away and temporary lamb tattoos. It was a really neat event to see the youth members interacting and sharing their sheep experiences with the public. If you know of any youth that want to partake in any youth activities send me an email at kellyssheep@gmail.com. Also as a reminder please take time to join us at the youth meeting at the MLWP Shepherd’s Holiday on Saturday.

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**MAKE IT WITH WOOL**

You could be the next winner in the MN “Make It With Wool” contest! A luxurious piece of Pendleton wool, sewing products or one of the many other prizes could be yours. The contest will be held on Dec. 6, at the Oak Ridge Conference center in Chaska.

The “Make It With Wool” contest focuses attention on the beauty and versatility of wool, and encourages 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, 2014.

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 2015 in Reno, NV.

We also have 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.

Entry deadline is November 14. To request a brochure and entry forms please contact Glenette Sperry 651-257-6735 or you can email at gtsperry@frontiernet.net. Check the website for more info at [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org). Find us on Facebook under Minnesota Make It With Wool.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday Dec. 5 6:45 pm</td>
<td>MLWPA Board mtg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9 pm (optional)</td>
<td>trade show set-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10:00 pm</td>
<td>Celebrate Lamb Social: Lamb Cooking Demos, Chef Virgil Emmert; Jr Silver Bell presentation, Amy Marquette; Pairing Lamb with Wine, tba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIWW display</td>
<td>Sheep Cheese Samples; Wine Tasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Dec. 6 7-9 am</td>
<td>MIWW registration; Conference Registration, (8:30) Welcome - John Dvorak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30 am</td>
<td>Conference Registration: B1 Flock Health Protocol, Dr. Larry Goelz - Pipestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35-8:50 am</td>
<td>X1 Feeding Soy Hulls, Phil Berg - Pipestone Sheep; B2 Beginner Lamb Production, Dr. Larry Goelz - Pipestone Vet, Art Modsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-9:45 am</td>
<td>X2 Reducing Lamb Mortality, B3 Setting Flock Goals, X3 Lamb Marketing (invited), Brad Anderson - Mnt. States, Phil Berg - Pipestone Sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-10:45 am</td>
<td>trade show open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-11:45 am</td>
<td>trade show set-up (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon-2 pm</td>
<td>Awards luncheon MIWW fashion show; Silver Bell Presentation - Judy Lewman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15-3 pm</td>
<td>MIWW silent auction closes: X4 ASI/ALB update, Burt Pfluger &amp; Dan Lippert; B4 Lamb Lead, Sarah Dornink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15-4 pm</td>
<td>X5 OPP Trial update, Holly Neaton &amp; Judy Lewman; B5 MLWPA Youth meeting, Kelly Froehlich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15-5 pm</td>
<td>X6 Growing Forage Grass, Steve &amp; Kelly Froehlich; B6 Sheep Nutrition, Doug Pamp; F3 (fiber class - tba)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15-6:15</td>
<td>Trade show closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15-6:15</td>
<td>Panel Discussion Out of Season Lambing Protocol, lessons learned, Dan Persons, Jeremy Geske, Scott Crawford, Justin Luther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30-10 pm</td>
<td>Annual banquet followed by fundraiser auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Dec. 7</td>
<td>MLWPA annual business meeting &amp; elections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2014 MLWPA Shepherd’s Holiday—Registration Form

**Name(s)_________________________**  Phone_________________________  E-mail_________________________

**Address:_________________________**  **City_________________________**  **State_________ Zip_________**

**Costs:**  
- **MLWPA Members (adult):**  
  - **Conference:**  
    - $20  
  - **Fri. Eve. Social:**  
    - $5  
  - **Sat. Eve. Banquet:**  
    - $10  

- **MLWPA Members (youth):**  
  - **Conference:**  
    - $5  
  - **Fri. Eve. Social:**  
    - $5  
  - **Sat. Eve. Banquet:**  
    - $5  

- **Non-members (adult):**  
  - **Conference:**  
    - $30  
  - **Fri. Eve. Social:**  
    - $15  
  - **Sat. Eve. Banquet:**  
    - $10  

- **Non-members (youth):**  
  - **Conference:**  
    - $10  
  - **Fri. Eve. Social:**  
    - $5  
  - **Sat. Eve. Banquet:**  
    - $5

*Includes: access to seminars and trade show, refreshments and Saturday’s Silver Bell Awards luncheon*

**Early bird discount [if registered by Nov. 14]:**

- **-$10/adult**  
- **-$5/youth**  

**If you’re not a member, join with your registration to receive the reduced rate. (and/or pay your 2015 dues along with conf. registration)**

- **MLWPA dues:**  
  - **$40 (family 1-yr)**  
  - **$110 (family 3-yr)**  
  - **$30 (friend of the industry / no sheep)**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED $__________**

Completed registration forms and checks (payable to MLWPA) should be sent to Glenette Sperry, 31460 Quimlen Ave, Center City, MN 55012 before November 14th, 2014 to receive the early bird special price. To pay with credit card:  
- Visa/Mastercard (circle)  
- Number_________  
- Expiration Date_________  
- 3-digit code_________

Reserve your room by Nov. 14, 2014! [MLWPA rate = $89=star]  
1. Call in at 952-368-1492, or 877-874-6772 and ask for the MLWP guestroom reservation room rate.  
2. Visit our website at [www.oakridgeminneapolis.com](http://www.oakridgeminneapolis.com) and use the Group Code: **MLWP**  
   - Oak Ridge Conference Center, 1 Oak Ridge Drive, Chaska, MN 55318

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**Join us for the Celebrate Lamb Social—Friday Dec. 5 from 7-10pm**

- Lamb Cooking Demos/sampling  
- Sheep Cheese Samples  
- Wine Tasting  
- Make It With Wool Display  
- Snacks/Cash Bar

**Go to:** [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org) for an updated agenda, and conference materials

**Major Sponsors:**  
- Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
- Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association  
- Superior Farms  
- AgStar Financial Services  
- MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council  
- MN Turkey Research & Promotion Council
ZACTRAN: SOME HOPE FOR FOOT ROT IN SHEEP - J.D. BOBB, DVM, PIPESTONE VET CLINIC

Foot Rot has been one of the most frustrating and stubborn diseases in the sheep industry. Many good flocks of sheep and producers have gone by the wayside in attempts to clean up their flocks. We had a good vaccine until about five years ago and have not been able to reestablish that product in the market. Producers overseas in Europe and other countries have had very good success with the drug Gamithromycin. It has not been available in the United States until about a year ago. The drug is sold under the name of Zactran and is not approved for use in sheep.

There is very strong research done overseas that supports the effectiveness and safety of using this product in sheep for eradicating Foot Rot from flocks. I would suggest you work closely with your Veterinarian due to the unapproved label for sheep use. One Danish study showed that in 44 out of 48 flocks that the treatment was effective. The German’s have used a protocol where every animal was treated and 23 days later any animal showing any signs was retreated and have demonstrated that the flock is Foot Rot free using PCR testing.

The program should include foot trimming, a clean dry environment (concrete is best), and removal of chronic animals from the flock.

Learn more at www.pipevet.com (800) 658-2523

DRIED DISTILLERS GRAINS AND RAM FERTILITY RESEARCH - J.D. BOBB, DVM, PIPESTONE VET CLINIC

Research done by M.L. Van Emon may give us some insight to ram fertility issues we have been seeing over the last several years. Antidotal stories of questionable rams associated with diets high in feed byproducts finally might have some research to back their stories.

Data was collected on 120 ram lambs that were substituted DDGS for corn at 0, 15 or 30% of the diet. The ram lambs were 90 days of age at the beginning of the trial and fed for 116 days.

1. No significant change in final body weight across the treatments.
2. No significant change of days on feed was noted.
3. Increasing the percentage of DDGS increased the dry matter intake and average daily gain.
4. No significant changes in carcass characteristics were noted.
5. No significant difference in scrotal circumference was noted.
6. No significant changes in testosterone levels were noted.
7. Spermatozoa concentration decreased linearly as DDGS increased in the diet.
8. No significant difference in semen motility was noted.

DDGS are known for having high and variable amounts of sulfur content. They have proven to be a valuable feed byproduct to the industry, but until more is learned about their possible side effects on semen production care should be taken to avoid feeding DDGS to the ram pen. The author speculates that the sulfur content may alter the selenium and copper utilization and absorption.

Learn more at www.pipevet.com (800) 658-2523
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)

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Dale & Lila Schmidt 507-532-7364

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Jeremy.geske@gmail.com

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Learn more at sydell.com
## Calendar of Events

### 2014 Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 22-Nov. 2</td>
<td>American Royal</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.americanroyal.com">www.americanroyal.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 24-25</td>
<td>ND Handspinners Conference</td>
<td>Jamestown, ND</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mangnall@drtel.net">mangnall@drtel.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>North Star Bred Ewe Sale</td>
<td>Pipestone, MN</td>
<td>Angie DeGroot <a href="mailto:adegroot@pipevet.com">adegroot@pipevet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Election Day</td>
<td>Your precinct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Upper MW Fall Fiber Festival</td>
<td>Hopkins, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fallfiberfestival.com">www.fallfiberfestival.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8-21</td>
<td>NAILE</td>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td><a href="http://www.livestockexpo.org">www.livestockexpo.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Pierce Co 4-H Sheep &amp; Goat Sale</td>
<td>River Falls, WI</td>
<td>John Bazille 715-684-9529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Early bird registration—Shepherd’s Holiday</td>
<td>River Falls, WI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mlwp.org">www.mlwp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22-24</td>
<td>Wool Classing School</td>
<td>Hettinger, ND</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu">christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22-24</td>
<td>Sheep Shearing School</td>
<td>Hettinger, ND</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu">christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Minnesota Bred Ewe Sale</td>
<td>Rochester, MN</td>
<td>Bob Koehler <a href="mailto:koehl009@umn.edu">koehl009@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Rural Legislative Forum</td>
<td>Mankato, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske <a href="mailto:Jeremy.geske@gmail.com">Jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Celebrate Lamb Social</td>
<td>Chaska, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske 612-756-1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5-7</td>
<td>Shepherd’s Holiday</td>
<td>Chaska, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske 612-756-1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 6-7</td>
<td>Beginner Sheep Shearing School</td>
<td>Arlington, WI</td>
<td>Todd Taylor <a href="mailto:toddtaylor@wisc.edu">toddtaylor@wisc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2015 Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>ASI Convention</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheepusa.org">www.sheepusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>Application Deadline NLFA HW Leadership</td>
<td>(June 21-24) CO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nlfa-sheep.org/leadership.html">http://www.nlfa-sheep.org/leadership.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 27-28</td>
<td>Stars of the North online sale</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wlivestock.com">www.wlivestock.com</a></td>
<td>Jeremy Geske <a href="mailto:Jeremy.geske@gmail.com">Jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8-13</td>
<td>National Columbia Show &amp; Sale</td>
<td>Fairmont, MN</td>
<td>Wayne Busch <a href="mailto:wayneb1000@gmail.com">wayneb1000@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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320-963-6592

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Dan Persons - rafterp@runestone.net  
Don Adelmann  
952-466-2451

---

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