OPP TRIAL UPDATE—JUDY LEWMAN

The table below illustrates the initial results of the OPP trial in MN. The trial is being conducted with support from the MN Lamb and Wool Producers. If you have questions about the trial, please contact Judy at lewman@frontier.com.

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<th>FLOCK/ADULTS</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>355</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>26%</td>
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OPP ERADICATION TRIAL APPLICANTS

- 14 FLOCKS / 20 BREED GROUPS*
- ALL FLOCKS COMPLETED INITIAL TESTING
- 13 of 14 FLOCKS OPPV INFECTED (4%-93%)
- AVERAGE FLOCK SIZE: 100+ EWES (27-400)
- LARGER FLOCKS TEST SUBSET OF ADULTS
- 10 FLOCKS REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR TRIAL

— 29 JUNE 2014

Greetings to all,
I hope everybody is enjoying this summer weather we are having. Here in our area we are a bit on the dry side and could use a nice slow soaking rain. The fields and pasture are starting to show signs of stress due to lack of rain. Sure wish we could have spread out that rain we got in early June and saved some for now.

By now most county fairs are winding down and the State Fair is just around the corner. The summer sure did go by fast. By now I am sure that most producers are under way of flushing their ewes and have started breeding for early lambs hopefully with the cool nights we are having, conception rates should be high this year.

There are a couple of issues that are taking place out west that could have a impact on our industry. With all the spending cuts be made by the USDA they are proposing to close one of the major research station in Washington State this...
President’s Message—cont.

could be a big blow to our industry as a lot research on sheep happens there. Also the Big Horn Sheep issues is still ongoing. Activist are still claiming that domestic sheep are infecting Big Horn sheep but still they have no solid proof of that. Also ranchers in the western states are having issues the BLM and are facing losing their grazing rights on public lands. Once again the activists are speaking out and being listened to. One way we can help out our fellow producers is to contact our congressman and ask that they help put a stop to these issues.

Along with the state fair being just around the corner so is harvest time hopefully the weather will cooperate yields will be good.

Also keep in mind and start making plans to attend The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers annual convention be held the first weekend in December. This year it will be held in Chaska MN more info will be coming so please make your plans to attend.

Have a good rest of the summer.

Opp Update—cont. (Ex. Of What OPP Costs)

Economic Impact of OPP: Provided by South Dakota producers Tom and Marilyn Schwebach

— Comparison below illustrates how our flock’s health improved as a result of eradicating the OPP virus. —

Our experience with 85% infected OPP flock:
- 500 ewes with 140% lamb crop
- Average 150–180 bottle lambs year after year
- Lambs lethargic due to lack of colostrum
- Slow rate of gain due to lack of milk
- Numerous down ewes
- Ewes dead or extremely thin by age 5

Our experience with OPP-tested negative flock:
- 800 ewes with ≥ 185% lamb crop
- Average 20–30 bottle lambs (last year only 14)
- Lambs vigorous, up and nursing on their own
- Healthy good growing lambs
- An old ewe heavy with multiples may go down
- Ewes culled at age 10 (most in good condition)

Noting the number of bottle lambs experienced with the two flocks puts the difference into perspective. In our operation, we use one bag of milk replacer per bottle lamb, at a cost this year of $42.45 per bag.

Opp-Infected Flock:
- 500 ewes x 140% = 700 lambs; of these 700 lambs 150 were bottle lambs, or 21% of total lambs
- 150 bottle lambs x $42.45 per bag of milk replacer = $6,367.50
- $6,367.50/500 ewes = cost of $12.74/ewe

Opp-Tested Negative Flock:
- 800 ewes x 185% = 1,480 lambs; of these 1,480 lambs 30 were bottle lambs, or 2% of total lambs
- 30 bottle lambs x $42.45 per bag of milk replacer = $1,273.50
- $1,273.50/800 ewes = cost of $1.59/ewe

Additional cost of OPP-positive versus OPP-negative ewe: $12.74 - $1.59 = $11.15/ewe

We ask the question, “Is the cost of $11.15 per ewe, plus the extra labor and equipment needed to handle bottle lambs, slower growing lambs in the feedlot, and the cost of retaining and/or purchasing additional replacement ewes an economic factor in your sheep operation?”
MLWPA Board Meeting Minutes - Jeremy Geske

MLWPA Board meeting 6/21/14 minutes – Pizza Ranch – Litchfield
Present: John Dvorak - President, Karen Stormo, Steve Scheffert, Don Adelmann, Jeremy Geske, Mary Radermacher, Mike Haubrich, Steve Froehlich, Travis Fowler, Glenette Sperry and guests Eric Froehlich, Jeanine Fowler, Tim Sperry & Sherry Stirling

President Dvorak called the meeting to order at 12:51pm
Moved/2nd to approve updated agenda – passed

Jeremy Geske distributed the minutes from the last meeting – moved & 2nded to approve the minutes as Amended. passed

Glenette Sperry emailed the treasurer’s report to Jeremy for presentation. Total - $60,994.34 in all accounts. Moved/2nd to approve subject to audit. Passed. Discussion on workers comp insurance for state fair commercial booth workers. Moved/2nd to authorize Glenette to proceed with providing workers comp insurance for CB workers. Passed.

Directory/Newsletter/Membership: Jeremy informed the group that the directories were done and will be mailed soon, a few membership invoices will go out. Next newsletter – August, articles due: Aug 8.

Commercial booth: Sherry S – retail sales are trending in the wrong direction. Plan to stay with plan from Patty Anderson as far as commission/MLWPA share. Sherry has talked with past vendors and some new ones. Need to know how many tickets to purchase for state fair?

ASI/ALB: John gave update.
Officer/Director reports: Travis has done mentorship work this winter. John working with a couple individuals as well. Scrapie report – due June 30. Mentorship & wool trust fund reports due in Sept.

Jeremy - reported on NSIP scanning workshop.

Youth report: Kelly / Jaclyn Dingle works at Ag awareness day, Caroline Scheffert attended MAAI, and will attend LeSueur Co Breakfast on the Farm. Kelly had booth at Shepherd’s Harvest as well.


Old business:
OPP study: Judy emailed a report.
Phase 1 completed. Very close to our budgeted amount.
Shepherd’s Harvest Festival: Sherry reported: changed date, charged for parking, result: income was about ½.

New Business:
Baa Booth: Ask Dan to coordinate board members to work there. Jeremy will help line up “activities” for the booth. Steve, Eric & Jeremy can get it set up. Froehlichs available the first 4 days.

2014 Shepherd’s Holiday: Jeremy distributed a draft schedule for discussion.
Discussion on reimbursement for MLWP members attending events. What are criteria? Should be have a form on the website? Do we need a subcommittee?

Next meeting date: - Sept. 27 – try for Oak Ridge in Chaska.
Meeting adjourned
Unofficial results from the Crossroads range ram sale UT:
Columbia ewes: $325-$500, 1 Dorset ram: $300, 1 Shropshire ram: $450, 2 Natural Colored ewes: @ $375, 1 Dorset wether dam: $1,400.
Dorset ram: $300, 1 Shropshire ram: $450, 2 Natural Colored ewes: @ $375, 1 Dorset wether dam: $1,400.

The majority of rams brought $600-$800 with a few select rams at $1,000 and up. Most ewes brought $350-$800.

Bunker Hill yearling Suffolk ram tops the Center of the Nation NSIP sale at $4,300.

**Market Update - [These prices are from 8/8/14]**

**Feeder Prices.** San Angelo: 45-70 lbs. for 170-179 $/cwt.; 70-80 lbs. for 171-177 $/cwt.; 80-95 lbs. for 165-175 $/cwt.

**Slaughter Prices - Negotiated.** wooled and shorn, 123-166 lbs. for 137-165 $/cwt. (wt.d. ave. 151.20)

**Slaughter Prices - Formula1.** 2,572 head at 284.03-301.91 $/cwt. for 71.70 ave. lbs.; 2,173 head at 277.60-300 $/cwt. for 79. ave. lbs.

**Equity Electronic Auction.** wooled 140 lbs. $165.25/cwt.

**Cutout Value.** Net Carcass Value2, $335.22/cwt.

**Carcass Price.** Choice and Prime, YG 1-4, $/cwt., weighted averages, 932 head at 55-65 lbs. for 334.19, 1,552 head at 65-75 lbs. for 318.56, 1,451 head at 75-85 lbs. for 302.97, 614 head at 85 lbs. and up for 289.77.

**Exported Adult Sheep.** 684 head

**Wool.** Price ($/pound) Clean, Delivered, From 8 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 44-50s) 1.48.

**Ft. Collins, CO** Feeder Lambs $180 - $245/cwt, Slaughter lambs $150 - $200/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $51 - $90/cwt

**Twin Falls, ID** Feeder Lambs $148 - $181/cwt, Slaughter lambs $129 - $173/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $22 - $77/cwt

**Zumbrota, MN** Feeder Lambs $150 - $200/cwt, Slaughter lambs $140 - $148/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $30 - $60/cwt

**Pipestone, MN** Feeder Lambs $169-$245/cwt, Slaughter lambs $150 - $158/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $50 - $57.50/cwt

**Sioux Falls, SD** Feeder Lambs $169 - $240/cwt, Slaughter lambs $152 - $158/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $36-$125/cwt

**Mt Hope, OH** Feeder Lambs $140 - $237.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs $145 - $165/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $60- $87.50/cwt

**Billings, MT** Feeder Lambs $184.50 - $217/cwt, Slaughter lambs $162 - $186.50/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $58.50- $69.50/cwt
AMERICAN LAMB BOARD NEWS

"CURRICULAMB" brochure
The American Lamb Board has developed a new educational brochure designed to educate consumers, media, chefs and retailers about the many benefits of American Lamb. The brochure includes information about nutrition, how American Lamb is raised, cuts and cooking techniques, and lamb consumption trends. To order your copy, email Tyler Winograd, Tyler@americanlambboard.org.

Grills Gone WILD with American Lamb and Pinot Noir!
This summer the American Lamb Board partnered with J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines on a sizzling promotion, designed to promote American Lamb and J. Lohr Pinot Noir as the perfect grilling paring. The partnership included a coupon distributed to editors nationwide—that featured a custom recipe and promoted the pairing. The release has already generated twenty placements.

The joint ALB/J. Lohr Lamb on the Grill, Pinot on the Patio photo contest was a fiery race with over 65 entries and close to 2,000 voters. The winning photo was from Carla Williams of Austin, Texas. Carla wins a trip to Central Coast, CA, for the ALB’s Lamb Jam Finale and a VIP tour of J. Lohr’s Winery.

Football Season Kicks Off with American Lamb
The August issue of Food Management (circulation 47,100) included the American Lamb Board’s recipe and image for Merguez Lamb Burgers in an article on tailgating.

LAMB Kofta with HARISSA CREAM
BY CHEF BEN MCCALLUM (2013 CELEBRATE LAMB SOCIAL)

Lamb Kofta
4 cloves of garlic, minced
1 lb ground lamb
3 tbsp onion, grated
3 tbsp Italian parsley, minced
¼ tsp ginger, ground
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp coriander, ground
1 tsp cumin, ground
½ tbsp cinnamon, ground
½ tsp allspice, ground
¼ tsp cayenne pepper, ground
¼ tsp black pepper, ground

Mash the garlic into a paste with the salt using a mortar and pestle or the flat side of a chef’s knife on your cutting board. Mix the garlic into the lamb along with the onion, parsley, coriander, cumin, cinnamon, allspice, cayenne pepper, ginger, and pepper in a mixing bowl until well blended. Form the mixture into 28 balls. Form each ball around the tips of a skewer, flattening into a 2 inch oval; repeat with the remaining skewers. Place the kebabs onto a baking sheet, cover, and refrigerate at least 30 minutes, or up to 12 hrs.

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat, and lightly oil grate. Cook the skewers on the preheated grill, turning occasionally, until the lamb has cooked to your desired degree of doneness, about 6 minutes for medium.

Harissa Cream
10-12 dried red chili peppers (chili arbol)
3 cloves of garlic
½ tsp salt
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp coriander, ground
1 tsp caraway seeds, ground
½ tsp cumin, ground
2 cups sour cream

Place chili, garlic and all spices into a blender and puree until it forms a paste. Use more olive oil if it gets too dry. Remove from blender and mix into sour cream. Cover and place in refrigerator until ready to use.
Animal rights activists appear to be gearing up for attention as we head into the election year stretch. Two reports in particular have popped up that Farm Bureau members need to be aware of regarding particular threats.

The American Sheep Industry (ASI) has provided a heads up that a reporter/producer from NBC Online contacted their office stating she had possession of a series of videos that included what they consider to be abusive practices by sheep shearers. PETA is taking credit for the undercover work, stating that sheep shearing is inhumane. The NBC representative stated the information had been recorded on 25 ranches in the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Nebraska. According to NBC, there will be a segment on alleged abuse by shearers late Monday or Tuesday (7/7 or 7/8), though it has been hard to pick up the segment. However, PETA has released clips and we would note that some have suggested that at least some of the footage may be from Australia – we have no details or facts to corroborate this.

ASI has, per NBC’s request, sent a response to the specific alleged abuses that occurred and that were captured on video. The following are the points ASI has developed for this and we would note all these are consistent with Farm Bureau policy. We encourage you to share them with your members and communications teams should questions come your way.

- Sheep producers in the United States take great pride in the care they provide for animals on their farms and ranches. These farmers and ranchers have a long history of providing excellent care for their animals, and they make great efforts to assure their sheep are treated properly at all times.
- We do not condone or support the actions of anyone that results in the abuse of sheep either intentionally or unintentionally.
- Rough handling of animals that might result in the injury of a sheep is an unacceptable maneuver during the shearing process or anytime when sheep are handled.
- Sheep respond positively to gentle handling during shearing and other management practices.
- With more than an occasional accident, shearing crew managers are expected to investigate and communicate with the owner of the sheep to make any adjustments that might be necessary including equipment, facilities and immediate change of personnel, as necessary.
- Sheep need to be shorn annually for their own welfare in addition to the harvest of natural fiber for textile manufacturing. If sheep are not shorn, the excess wool interferes with their body’s ability to thermoregulate; excessive wool coats also make the sheep more vulnerable to becoming immobilized by physical obstacles in the environment and more susceptible to predator attacks.
- ASI’s Sheep Care Guide is an educational document for all sheep producers and their employees on proper care, handling and management of sheep. The Sheep Care Guide can be found on our website, www.sheepusa.org. ASI also helped develop and has supported the International Wool and Textile Organization’s (IWTO) Sheep Welfare Guide.
- We are very interested in knowing more about the issues that have been brought to our attention. We will want to investigate these matters further with the goal of helping to correct problems or deficiencies that will result in improved sheep husbandry and welfare.
- Sheep producer associations sponsor sheep shearing schools that are conducted by professional instructors each year with the aim of promoting proper sheep handling and shearing.

SAVE THE DATE!
NETWORK/FIELD DAY!
SEPTEMBER 13, 10 am until 5 pm @
GALE WOODS FARM
7210 County Road 110 W.
Minnetrista, MN

Featured speakers include: Bob Padula, Judy Lewman, Sue Simonton and Margaret Long.

Www.fiberfarmtour.com
Senators to FDA: We Want More Antibiotic Information

United States Senators Dianne Feinstein, D–Calif., Elizabeth Warren, D–Mass., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D–N.Y., sent a letter to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Margaret Hamburg requesting more information about the FDA’s efforts to “curb the overuse of antibiotics in food animal production.” [Ed. Note: We have to keep telling our story to consumers and elected officials that we do not “over-use” antibiotics on our farms. They just don’t get it.]

“The use of antibiotics in food-producing animals must be reduced as part of the effort to preserve the efficacy of antibiotics,” the senators wrote in the letter, available here. "Research has shown that antibiotic resistant bacteria are most likely to develop when antibiotics are used continuously at low doses – the type of regimen used frequently in food animal production." The trio of senators called Guidance #213, released in December 2013, and the proposed rule on Veterinary Feed Directives “important first steps” but were concerned that these efforts "may not be sufficient to curtail the routine use of dangerously low doses of antibiotics for the duration of an animal’s life." They don’t believe veterinary oversight alone will be able to solve the problem.

Livestock Groups Find Support at County Fairs in Animal Rights Debate

The county fair proves to be a friendly audience to a group called We Support Agriculture, putting a positive face on animal welfare issues. "To be the opposition against animal extremist groups," Jolanda Junge said. "We're particularly concerned about PETA and HSUS, the Humane Society of the United States that we firmly believe has nothing to do with humane societies." HSUS has supported legislation in other states, but not in Nebraska, where the governor is the loudest critic.

Junge, of We Support Ag said, "One of our concerns right now is Gov. Heineman has been a huge opponent of extremist groups and a huge supporter of ag. With him leaving office and turnover in senators, that is of some concern. We've got to get the message out." So Junge makes the rounds at county fairs, showing thousands of Nebraskans agree with groups like the Cattlemen, Pork Producers, and Farm Bureau who fund We Support Ag. Don't be surprised if you see We Support Ag stickers showing up at fairs and other ag events, as the farm side of this debate tries to send a message.

Study Examines Animal Welfare Views, Meat Purchasing Choices

A new study from Purdue University shows that overall, the US livestock and poultry industries and other organizations affiliated with animal agriculture are less used public sources of information on animal welfare than popular animal protection organizations. In their paper in Journal of Animal Science, the co–authors state that, as consumers have become more interested in understanding how their food is produced, scrutiny and criticism have increased regarding intensified food animal production methods.

Over half of the respondents – 56 per cent – did not have a primary source for animal welfare information; those who identified a primary information source most commonly used information provided by animal protection organizations, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). [Ed. Note: ...and we all know how reputable those two groups are...]

Horse Slaughter Fight Officially Over

It’s official. The controversial horse slaughterhouse in New Mexico will not be opening. "I think it’s just time to stop and see what will happen now," said Valley Meat Owner Rick De Los Santos. For almost four years, De Los Santos has been trying to slaughter horses for food. He’s faced court battles from animal rights groups and the Attorney General along with federal push back. Earlier this year the President signed a bill to stop funding horse slaughterhouse inspections until 2016. [Ed. Note: Another example of how this administration favors animal extremists over farmers & ranchers.]

"It's great news for New Mexico," said Laura Bonar with Animal Protection of New Mexico. "Horse slaughter is cruel, horse slaughter is dangerous and horse slaughter is not supported by Americans." [Ed. Note: I'm sure Ms Bonar has plenty of "facts" to support these claims...not.]

Grass–Fed Lamb Finds Niche in Eastern Idaho

Grass–fed is a trending sector industry leaders expect to grow, as it already has in beef, as more producers seek to capture a roughly 20 percent price premium. John and Lori Anne Lau have paid no attention to the highs and lows of the lamb market since they switched to grass–finished production about a decade ago. Lori Anne Lau explained customers, both of her ranch's lamb and beef, consider grass–fed to be more healthful and tastier than conventional, grain–finished meat, and most will accept no substitute. Therefore, they can set prices based on actual production costs and aren't at the market’s mercy.
Concerns with Proposed NRCS Approach for Wetlands

USDA regulations that NRCS uses defines "Prior Converted Croplands" as non-wetlands. The Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by regulation state that "Waters of the United States do not include prior converted cropland." The proposed changes with the Corps of Engineers manual to be used as a regional supplement for the Prairie Pothole Region seeks to change hydrology criteria for seasonal wetlands. If the NRCS offsite determinations are made to match the Corp of Engineer's manual and not USDA's current regulations - the result will be a significant over-estimation of jurisdictional wetlands and underestimate of non-wetlands which meet the definition of prior converted croplands.

In addition to the ever-increasing prospects for federal agencies to expand their regulatory grip on more of the landscape through the activities of self-clarification, Minnesota agencies like the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appear to also be coordinating their intentions for expansion of control.

Ditch the Rule

It is critical that farmers, ranchers and landowners send comments and are telling the EPA that ditches and puddles are not navigable. You may submit comments via the Minnesota Farm Bureau Action Alert Center or directly on EPA's website.

EPA claims in its promotional materials that it is not broadening coverage of the Clean Water Act. However, the details of the rule itself say otherwise.

The "waters of the U.S." rule proposes a change to the definition of that term-waters of the United States. Where the Clean Water Act has previously defined those waters as those that are navigable or are significantly connected to navigable waters, the proposed rule would include smaller waters and even some dry land in the definition of "waters of the U.S." As a result, permit requirements that apply to navigable waters would also apply to ditches, small ponds and even depressions in fields and pastures that are only wet when there is heavy rain. If landowners could not get permits to do things like build fences and use pesticides to control bugs and weeds something that would be far from guaranteed-farming and ranching would be much more costly and difficult. Other landowners, too, would face roadblocks to things they want to do, such as build a house or plant trees.

It is clear from the language of the Clean Water Act that Congress did not intend for the law to extend federal regulations to such small, remote waters and land features; otherwise, Congress would not have used the term "navigable."

Under the proposed rule, nearly every drop of water that falls would be regulated by the federal government - the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The comment period ends October 20, 2014.

Russia Bans U.S. Agricultural Imports

Russian President Putin has signed a decree banning or limiting imports of agricultural products for one year from all countries that have imposed sanctions on Russia due to the situation in Ukraine. The Russian ban covers all imports of meat, fish, milk products, fruit and vegetables from the United States, European Union, Australia, Canada and Norway.

In 2013, the U.S. exported $1.2 billion of agricultural products to Russia, less than 1 percent of the $140.9 billion dollars of total U.S. agricultural exports.

Minnesota candidates speak at Farmfest

Several candidates vying to represent Minnesota constituents had the chance to address the public as an August 12 primary looms.

Five Senate candidates and 11 House candidates spoke at forums on issues affecting agriculture and rural Minnesota communities Wednesday at IDEAg Minnesota Farmfest, a farm show held in rural Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Among those fielding questions were incumbents Senator Al Franken, D-Minn, Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn, and Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn.

Moderated questions posed by members of the media and leaders of Minnesota ag groups crossed many facets of agricultural policy ranging from rail issues in Minnesota to presumed overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington. The House forum featured candidates from four different districts, including Peterson, the incumbent in Minnesota’s seventh district, and Walz, the incumbent in the first district.

Peterson, who also serves as the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, made
repeated references to his committee work to produce the 2014 farm bill. He said as the highest ranking Democrat on the committee for the last 10 years - six as ranking member, four as committee chair - he has worked to create an atmosphere of bipartisanship.

“If everybody (in Congress) operated like the Ag Committee, we wouldn't have the problems we have in this country,” Peterson said.

Peterson's GOP challenger, Minnesota state Senator Torrey Westrom, made a point to mention the importance of the Keystone XL pipeline as a solution to a variety of issues ranging from rail availability to energy security. Westrom - an 18 year veteran of the Minnesota legislature - said issues with the pipeline and the EPA are reasons that it might be time to “shake up Washington” and that the shake-up could start with unseating Peterson, a 12 term incumbent.

Westrom, who lost his vision in what he called a “farm-related car accident” at 14, also made a light-hearted reference to his vision issues in his closing statement.

“If you remember nothing else, remember I'm the guy that walks softly, but carries a big stick,” Westrom said as he stood and displayed his walking stick.

**MN Primary Election Highlights**

- Mike McFadden (R) won the primary and will challenge incumbent Al Franken (D).
- Jim Hagedorn (R) won the 1st Dist. Primary and will challenge incumbent Tim Walz (D).
- Mike Obermueller (D) won the 2nd Dist. Primary and will challenge incumbent John Kline (R).
- Tom Emmer (R) won the 6th Dist. Primary and will run for the seat formerly held by Michelle Bachmann (R).
- Jeff Johnson (R) won the primary and will challenge Mark Dayton (D) for the office of Governor.

[Ed. Note: there are several races that could impact sheep producers—and our fellow farmers and ranchers. As you head to the voting booth in November, please keep in mind which candidates have been supportive of our industry. If you are unsure about a particular incumbent's track record with ASI/MLWPA (or farming); please contact Jeremy Geske or John Dvorak.]

**APHIS Sheep Priorities Outlined**

The U.S.D.A.'s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) has developed five-year business plans to outline the priorities, objectives, strategies and field activities for each livestock group. The plans will guide VS' use of congressional appropriations and assist in planning the future needs of each commodity. The overall objective of the sheep health program is to partner with states, industry, federal agencies and other stakeholders to safeguard the health of U.S. sheep, facilitate trade in sheep and their products and identify and address health issues that arise between humans and sheep and between wildlife and domestic sheep.

The core objectives identified in the plan are:
1. Eradicate classical scrapie from the United States.
2. Conduct comprehensive disease surveillance in sheep.
3. Conduct foreign and emerging disease threat and disaster planning and response.
5. Support the viability of the sheep industry.

**Endangered Species Act Bill Passes**

The House passed H.R. 4315, the Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act. ASI supported the passage of this bill.

H.R. 4315 will require data used by federal agencies for ESA listing and proposed listing decisions to be made publicly available and accessible. The bill also requires the Interior Secretary to report and comprehensively track all litigation costs associated with the act. Furthermore, the bill caps hourly fees paid to attorneys that prevail in cases filed under ESA, consistent with current law.

Finally, the federal government will be required to disclose to affected states all data used in the ESA decision making process. It also ensures that "best available scientific and commercial data" used by the federal government will include data provided by affected states, tribes and local governments.

**"Right to Farm" Passes in Missouri**

Missouri voters approved a controversial "Right to Farm" provision on Tuesday. The measure passed by a narrow margin of 2,528 votes out of almost 995,000 cast.

The amendment proposed to make farming an official constitutional right, similar to existing protections for the freedoms of speech and religion.

North Dakota is the only other state with farming as a constitutional right.

The Missouri proposal prompted an intense campaign that generally split urban and rural areas. Supporters said it could help ward off future initiatives limiting genetically modified crops or restricting the way animals are raised. Opponents contended the measure could be cited by corporate farms to try to escape regulations.
MLWPA Youth Report - Kelly Froehlich

Since the last news article MLWP juniors had the chance to host an educational booth at Shepherd’s Harvest in Lake Elmo giving out educational material from the American Lamb Board, American Sheep Industry, and MLWP. State fair is our next big educational event coming up and we have youth demonstrated and giving away felted bars of soap, and interacting with the public sharing their involvement with the industry and displaying their sheep. If you know of any youth that want to partake in any youth activities send me an email at kellyssheep@gmail.com.

Poisonous Plant Kills Thousands of Australian Sheep

Thousands of sheep in Australia are believed to have died after eating a poisonous plant that makes them “bash their heads on posts and rocks until they crack open”. The usually-rare toxic plant, misleadingly named the “Darling pea”, has spread rapidly in the aftermath of bushfires in New South Wales – which caused devastation for area sheep farmers.

Now vets have said that many of the animals which survived the fires face a new and highly addictive threat. Veterinarian Bob McKinnon told the Sydney Morning Herald that once sheep started eating the plant they exhibit behaviour “similar to that of a drunk”. “They lose weight to start with and then get staggery, the progression gets worse, they get unco-ordinated and depressed, they don’t know where their feet are.” He said that “staring eyes”, “head pressing” and “muscle tremors” were other symptoms.

The task of bringing in herds that would normally take six hours instead takes “days”, Mr McKinnon said. “It’s like dealing with a thousand heroin addicts.”

One family in Coonabarabran said they had lost 800 sheep to the deadly plant. Stephen and Louise Knight said the animals were missing when they counted up the stock at shearing time.

There is no cure, Mr McKinnon said, other than to “get the animals off it in time”.

South Dakota SheepGrowers Association

September 26-27, 2014
Brookings, SD

South Dakota SheepGrowers Association

Producing America’s Lamb and Wool

September 26-27, 2014
Brookings, SD

Scott County City to Country Autumn Fare

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Scott County Fairgrounds
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8am – 10am Farmer’s Breakfast Buffet crafted by Menu to be determined

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All other questions can be directed to: Abby Neu, Scott County Extension 952) 492-5396
lori.pint@umn.edu (952) 758-4128

sdsheepgrowers@yahoo.com
THINK TWICE BEFORE BASHING FARMERS AND THEIR PRACTICES—*Dairy Herd Management*

After offending farmers everywhere with their aggressive ad campaign claiming local-raised food is healthier and anything else is just plain bad, Chipotle is feeling the effects of what some would call Karma.

According to Gary Truitt, Chipotle has seen a shift downward in its stock shares recently, falling 7% to $495.92. The burrito giant also saw its proposed executive pay plan voted down by 77% of shareholders last Thursday. Since the plan was denied, the entire pay structure of higher level employees within the company will now be reviewed.

Wall Street analysts said that Chipotle’s top management earns nearly five times more than top executives in similar food chains. Last year alone co-CEO’s Steve Ells and Monty Moran made nearly $50 million combined.

Chipotle is not the only guilty party in the farmers vs. food joints saga. Multiple sources reported Panera Bread officials as calling farmers partaking in biotechnology, “lazy”. After the bashing of biotechnology Panera Bread saw their shares fall almost 12%. Could this be a coincidence?

There are some companies and food chains doing just the opposite of their censuring-counterparts. Take Dodge Ram and their “God made a farmer” commercial, debuting during the 2013 Super Bowl, they were named Motor Trend’s Truck of the Year for 2014, increasing truck sales by 17% in a year. McDonald’s, known for working with farmers, has also seen increases. The fast-food mecca has experienced annual sales increases every year for the past ten years.
“Sheep in the show ring are fun, and a good way to get kids involved and teach them to care for livestock, but it doesn’t shed any light on genetic value,” says Mark Van Roekel, a Northwest Iowa sheep producer. Van Roekel no longer relies on mere visual appraisal when selecting genetics to improve his herd. He favors a data-based approach and participates in the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP).

NSIP collects carcass and performance data to generate Expected Breeding Values (EBV), a calculated prediction of progeny potential. Numerous heritable traits are measured and tracked - from carcass and reproductive traits, to parasite resistance, to wool production - allowing producers to make genetic selections based on enhancing or deleting traits of interest.

Loin Muscle Depth is measured by ultrasound and adjusted to a standard post-weaning weight. Animals with a positive Loin Muscle Depth EBV are expected to produce offspring with larger loin eyes. Those with a negative Fat Depth EBV are expected to produce leaner progeny.

“The numbers tell you 90 percent of what you need to know,” says Van Roekel, who now chooses and buys his breeding stock based on performance data. He likes a terminal ram with a high post-weaning weight (PWWT) of at least 5, and a positive Loin Muscle Depth score.

Born and raised a swine producer, he switched to sheep when it became no longer cost-effective to maintain the needed facilities. Starting with a small flock, he soon saw the need to increase numbers by holding back ewe lambs for breeding. But he didn’t want to just increase the size of his flock; he wanted to improve quality as well.

That’s when he turned to NSIP rams for breeding. “The EBDs generated by NSIP provide information on current and lifetime production – for multiple generations and related stock,” says Van Roekel. “It’s invaluable information. You can’t look at a ram and assess its maternal or muscling qualities.” And those qualities are essential for producing future breeding stock.

Van Roekel now breeds the top one-third of his ewes (based on pounds of lamb weaned in past years) to NSIP Polypay rams, and the remainder to terminal rams with an emphasis on growth. His chosen rams rank in the top 10 percent of the breed, according to NSIP EBVs. His terminal rams are purchased based on the NSIP Carcass-Plus index.

“So far, the U.S. sheep industry is focused on growth, on total pounds, not muscle. But someday it will be important, so we might as well get started.” Van Roekel sells on contract, but contracts that pay for muscle are rare, a facet of the industry he anticipates will change with time. “If we breed based on just growth rate, we’re not helping develop muscle,” he continues. “And muscling will continue to gain importance as the consumer demands a certain quality of meat.”

Van Roekel cites surveys that show young consumers have a desire to stretch their wings and try new culinary experiences, and that includes lamb. “They enjoy cooking and want their food to taste and look good. If it’s not good quality, they won’t try it again.”

He adds the sheep industry currently does a good job of filling niche markets, producing lambs at specified age and size. Now, as muscle quality gains importance along side total pounds of meat, the use of data becomes increasingly important.

Data-based breeding decisions are one way the lamb meat industry is utilizing technology. Managing data is another. Van Roekel tracks his flock with electronic ID tags, simplifying data organization and animal handling. “It’s tremendously time saving.” A touch screen enters all data, like birth weights and wean weights. “You punch in the weight, and it joins all the other data on that animal – at the touch of a fingertip. You can access a lot of data in less than a minute with the animal’s complete history in a hand-held unit.”

The use of data and modern record-keeping methods are especially attractive to young producers entering the lamb business. Sheep are gaining popularity with new producers as they find ewes and facilities to be a relatively inexpensive investment and a good complement to other farm enterprises.

“They’re fun, and spread out the workload,” says Van Roekel. “And NSIP is a huge step forward for an industry with a bright future and plenty of room to grow.”

More information on NSIP can be found at www.nsip.org
Club Lamb Fungus continues to plague the show lamb industry. Lambs succumb to club lamb fungus when they are exposed to the fungus and we have eliminated the lambs natural defenses. What are the lamb's natural defenses to fungal infections? First of all is the wool itself. Wool and the oil in the wool serve as a protective defense to the skin. A sheep with a full coat of wool will have dry skin, even in a pouring rain storm.

Slick shearing removes this defense. Frequent washing removes the oil and naturally sloughing skin cells that provide additional defense.

The next big defense is the immune system. Immune cells in the skin play a substantial role in preventing exposure from turning into infection. Lambs on restricted diets to maintain or lose weight or lambs on severe non-ruminant diets are severely stressed and thus will not have a normal functioning immune system. Furthermore, transportation to multiple shows increases the level of stress on the lambs. Lastly, consider the environment that the lamb is in. Wood partitions are a porous material which will allow fungus to survive for months to years. Is the environment free to contamination from sheep carrying fungus and are the sheep protected against summer heat stress?

Even if precautions are taken, invariably if you go to enough shows, you will come home with fungus. Treatment with a variety of different topical antifungals and disinfectants have all shown some value. Everything from topical iodine, chlorhexidine, miconazole, athlete’s foot sprays and over-the-counter human antifungal products have worked. Systemic antifungal products are off limits as these products should not be used in food animals. Immune system stimulators such as sodium iodine and even levamisole have been suggested to be helpful as well.

In severe cases you may need to make the decision to stop washing the lamb, kicking him out of the show barn, allowing the wool to grow and letting the lamb exist as a normal feeder lamb. Often this can, over weeks and months, allow the skin to have more normal defenses and clear the fungus. This can make for a very disappointed showperson, but may result in the lamb being available for a later show.

Preventing fungus should be on your radar. Washing with an antifungal shampoo post-showing is important, as is early detection and isolation.

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<tr>
<td>• 23% protein, all-milk for optimum digestibility</td>
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<td>• 30% fat, highest quality human edible grade</td>
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<td>• Mixes easily, stays in suspension up to 24 hours</td>
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<td>• Restricted lactose formula with no added copper</td>
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<td>• Naturally acidified to support digestive health</td>
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<td>• Dextrose and glycine support rapid absorption</td>
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Shepherd's News

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# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 4-5</td>
<td>USMARC Sheep Sale</td>
<td>Clay Center, NE</td>
<td>Lynette Anderson 402-762-4129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 5-67</td>
<td>WI Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>Jefferson, WI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com">www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 10</td>
<td>Montana Ewe Sale</td>
<td>Miles City, MT</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mtsheep.org">www.mtsheep.org</a></td>
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<td>Sep. 11</td>
<td>Montana Ram Sale</td>
<td>Miles City, MT</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mtsheep.org">www.mtsheep.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 13</td>
<td>Natural Fiber Alliance Sheep &amp; Fiber Tour</td>
<td>Minnetrista, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fiberfarmtour.com">www.fiberfarmtour.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 13</td>
<td>Autumn Fare</td>
<td>Jordan, MN</td>
<td>Lori Pint <a href="mailto:lorif54@bevcomm.net">lorif54@bevcomm.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 17</td>
<td>NDLWPA Ram Sale</td>
<td>Hettinger, ND</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ndlwpa.com">www.ndlwpa.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 19</td>
<td>Newell Ram Sale</td>
<td>Newell, SD</td>
<td>NewellRamSale.com</td>
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<td>Sep. 26-28</td>
<td>SD Sheep Growers Annual Convention</td>
<td>Brookings, SD</td>
<td>Patty DeZeeuw <a href="mailto:sdsheepgrowers@yahoo.com">sdsheepgrowers@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Celebrate Lamb Social</td>
<td>Chaska, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske 612-756-1200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 5-7</td>
<td>Shepherd’s Holiday</td>
<td>Chaska, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske 612-756-1200</td>
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**2015 Date**

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

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