

SHEPHERD'S NEWS

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Lamb Price update

Sioux Falls SD Mar. 4

Fat Lambs 101lbs & up
\$131.00 - \$155.00/cwt

Feeder Lambs 74-97lb
\$197.00 - \$255.00/cwt

Ewes: \$67.50-\$87/cwt

Mt Hope OH Feb. 25

Feeder Lambs 40-100lb
\$200 - \$350.00/cwt

Fed Lambs 100+lbs
\$145.00 - \$207.50/cwt

Ewes & bucks
\$70.00 - 115.00/cwt

Billings MT Feb. 9

Fed Lambs 100 lbs & up
\$145.50 - \$159.00/cwt

Feeder Lambs
\$160.00 - \$202.50/cwt

Market Ewes
\$73.50 - \$79.00/cwt

Willard UT Feb. 25

Feeder lambs
\$155-171.00/cwt

Fed Lambs
\$148.00-170/cwt

Cull ewes & bucks
\$63-85/cwt

Fort Collins CO Feb. 25

Slaughter lambs
\$155.00 - \$200.00/cwt

Feeder lambs
\$210.00 - \$240.00/cwt

Ewes & bucks
\$50.00 - \$90.00/cwt

Zumbrota MN Mar. 10

Fed lambs
\$120.00-\$150.00/cwt

Feeder lambs
\$120.00 - \$210.00/cwt

Ewes: \$20-\$92.50/cwt

Spring Sheep Tour 3/28

Plan on attending the 2015 Spring Workshop to be held at the Dan and Kayleen Persons farm near Kensington, MN on March 28th. Details can be found at mlwp.org. This will be a great day filled with valuable take-home information.

Dan and Kay Persons started the Rafter P Ranch in the spring of 1997. Originally a stock cow operation sheep were added in 2002. Now the ranch runs 950-1100 ewes and finishes all of the lambs they produce. The ranch lambs multiple groups throughout the year and uses accelerated lambing to increase building utilization and improve cash flow. On March 28th they will be one week into lambing the third group of the year consisting of 60 aged ewes and 200+ ewe lambs. You can expect to see many new born lambs and the farm in full action. Dan and his wife, Kay, will lead attendees through their operation and share their flock management skills.

Topics include: Lambing Barn Management; Baby lamb Processing; Raising Bonus Lambs; Pre-weaning Care/Creep Feeding; Hoof Trimming/Scrapie Requirements/Wool Evaluation; Lamb Mortality Postmortem Exams; Vaccination Routines and Processes; and much more.

The cost for attending is \$15 per person (includes lunch). If you plan to attend please email [Dan Persons](mailto:Dan@Persons.com).

Wolf Stories Needed

As MLWPA continues to help find a solution to the recent decision to reinstate Endangered Species Act protections for the gray wolf in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, we need your help. If you have experienced wolf kills or attacks on your pets or livestock, contact Jeremy Geske at Jeremy.geske@gmail.com to share your story and any photos you may have. These help us clearly depict the devastating effect this decision has on Minnesota farmers, ranchers and pet owners who now have no ability to protect their animals.

Wolf follows snowmobilers, trail rerouted

Several miles of trail have been closed and rerouted at Voyageurs National Park due to a lone wolf that has been following snowmobilers.

Superintendent Mike Ward says the wolf has trailed or run alongside snowmobilers in three separate incidents over a 10-day period in the park's Ash River area. He says the wolf appears to be without a pack.

Park officials are trying to track the wolf and learn more about its behavior. Several segments of snowmobile trails have been closed where the wolf was spotted, about halfway between International Falls and Crane Lake.

Although the wolf hasn't attacked anyone, park officials and wolf experts say its behavior is strange because wolves usually stay away from humans.

Ward says park officials are taking precautions to protect visitors and the wolf.



SHEPHERD'S NEWS

ACTION ALERT: Contact Your State Legislators to Oppose Buffer bills

Legislation to implement Governor Mark Dayton's announcement to take private property for mandatory 50-foot buffer areas was introduced March 9. View the Senate version of the legislation, [SF 1537](#), here.

The House version of the legislation, HF 1534, is scheduled to be presented in a hearing of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee on Tuesday, March 10.

A strong message of opposition to the Governor's 50-foot buffer mandate is needed, making it clear that the legislative proposal is extremely flawed and should be rejected.

Because the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee will be the first to hear the legislation, they should be the first legislators to contact. [This link](#) provides the contact information to reach members of this committee, including email addresses.

You should also make a point to contact your state Representative and Senator.

Talking Points:

- The legislation more than triples the current buffer law requirements on public drainage ditches and does so without a redetermination of benefits, maintenance of the ditch or compensation to the landowner.
- The legislation forces private drainage ditches to also have a 50-foot uncompensated regulatory mandate.
- Based on the definition and purpose of the legislation, aquatic and wildlife habitat is incorporated and intertwined with the buffer requirements.
- Regulatory authority will be given to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to decide whether the buffer requirements are met. The imposition of fines may be based on "the gravity of the violation," with fines going as high as \$20,000.
- The legislation has an expansive definition for "perennial waters" to be included under the authority granted for DNR to regulate. There is also an on-going process for expanding the reach of the regulation every five years.
- Punishment for non-compliance covered in 103G.299 is extremely severe and arbitrary.
- A state agency taking control of private property without compensation violates private property rights. The legislation says it "does not limit the use of the buffer by the landowner," but still requires perennial vegetation to be maintained.
- There is no opportunity for a landowner to appeal whether their land falls under the regulatory requirements.
- DNR officials decide what is going to be regulated through their publishing of a map and provide copies to affected city and county watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts. At no time are private landowners consulted or allowed to be involved, except to ask for written permission for "alternative practices."
- Soil and water districts found to have fallen short of implementation also can have their funds withheld, based on DNR's determination.
- There is nothing scientific about a one-size-fits-all 50 foot buffer in terms of water quality or wildlife habitat benefits. It's a completely arbitrary number.
- Be sure to mention how it specifically would impact your farm!
- We are not opposed to clean water or wildlife habitat, but this is not an appropriate or effective way to achieve either of those things.

Not sure who represents you? [Click here](#) to find out.

Mark your Calendars! 2015 Shepherd's Holiday—Dec. 4-6, Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska.