For the past several years, the University of Minnesota Ag Ed Club has hosted an “Ag Awareness Day” on the Minneapolis campus to foster increased awareness about farming and food production within the non-farm audience. The Agricultural Education students invite farm organizations to assist by having a display booth and volunteers to talk with our non-farming public.

MLWPA volunteer and U of M student, Scott Dingles spent most of the day answering questions. Past-President John Dvorak brought literature from ASI and MLWPA. Jeremy Geske provided two lambs for the display.

While the majority of attendees just wanted to take a “Selfie” with the lambs; several asked questions, and a few even engaged in a meaningful dialogue about sheep production, farming and food. Baby animals were a big draw for the livestock organizations.

Most commonly asked questions: 1) How old are they? [answer: two months]; 2) What are their names? [answer: we don’t generally name them, so you may call them whatever you like]; and 3) Why is their water blue? [answer: it has electrolytes to cover up the chlorine taste, its like Gatorade for sheep]. The two boys in the photo were very concerned about the lambs’ mother—did she miss them while they were here? [answer: she was enjoying her day off].
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—CONT

The search for a sheep extension person that works with NDSU and the U of MN is over. Dr. Travis Hoffmann, who is currently teaching at SDSU will begin his position in Fargo on June 1st. Dr. Hoffmann is a congenial person who has experience with lamb quality, working with producers, the sheep industry and whose family are purebred sheep producers themselves. We look forward to working with Travis. I’m sure many of you will see him at upcoming shows as well as our Shepherds’ Holiday in December.

1. Purchase pups from working parents, preferably parents that are used with the same species you want your pup to protect. Many sheep producers using guard dogs will have litters of pups available on occasion, so try to find pups that from farms or ranches raising the same species that you do. Never purchase a pup resulting from a cross with a non-guardian breed.

2. Set the pup up for success. It’s important that the pups be placed with the livestock species they will grow up to guard during the primary bonding period (when the pup is 8-16 weeks old).

3. Bonding pens work well to get pups off to a great start. Place a few calm and gentle ewes into a pen, with a protected area for the pup where he can see the livestock, but can escape to safety. Present the pup to the livestock under your supervision, but give the pup some quiet time with its new friends.

4. As the pup gains confidence in being in the company of the protected species, the flock can be released into a larger area, and/or with additional sheep. A gradual process of adding animals and range allows for the pup to become accustomed to its larger flock and landscape.

5. Give the pup attention and praise while it’s with livestock. Producers must be able to call and handle their guardians for care. Ensure your dog is comfortable and content as your working partner.

6. Be clear in teaching the pup what you expect from it, including staying within its territory. If the pup strays from the flock, or follows you to the house, return it to the livestock.

7. Give the dog the benefit of training and experience. Train the pup to a few commands, to wear a collar, be tethered on a cable, and be in a crate or kennel. Walk the pup into buildings and trailers, take it for rides in the farm truck, and let the pup learn what it feels like to be brushed, and restrained. Introduce the pup to other farm animals.

8. Expose the pup to a variety of experiences it will be expected to understand later in life. Learning the dangers of vehicles and farm equipment, and encounters with people riding bicycles.


10. Feeding routines are important. Feed the pup near the livestock (not at your house) preferably at the same time every day. Secure the pup’s food so it can eat in peace.

11. Make overall care a routine. You’ve invested in a working animal that will do its job without complaint, so make veterinary care a normal practice, from keeping the pup updated on vaccinations to routinely running your hand over the pup to be sure it’s not wounded or needing other care. Provide good dog food to your pup.

12. Until your pup has proven his reliability, use caution during the livestock-birthing season. Guardian dogs may want to clean newborns, or may attempt to “protect” them from their mothers, disrupting the mothering process.

Cat Urbigkit, WY Sheep Producer
The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program, dedicated to changing sheep production to make it more profitable for producers, is excited to offer an idea-filled sheep facility tour. The Pipestone Lamb and Wool program offers this tour every other year and this will be the fifth tour offered. The purpose of the tour is to give producers an opportunity to see various types of sheep facilities, including the latest innovations in sheep buildings, handling systems, feeding systems and facility layout.

The event will be held on June 6. The tour will be a full day, visiting five Lamb and Wool producers with new and remodeled facilities. All of these operations have devised their buildings and feeding systems to reduce labor and enable them to run larger numbers of ewes with the same labor. Tour participants will see lambing barns, hoop barns, remodeled buildings along with various feeding systems designed to reduce labor and minimize feed waste. In addition, this will be an opportunity to hear the philosophy of sheep production from five successful sheep producers.

Visit our website www.pipestonesheep.com for registration information and to view pictures of tour locations. Registration forms and additional information about our facility tour are available on our web page or individuals can contact the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Management Program, (800) 658-2330, mike.caskey@mnwest.edu, or philip.berg@mnwest.edu.

**2016 Tentative Tour Schedule**

7:30 a.m. - Bus leaves Minnesota West, Pipestone Campus
Tour 5 sheep operations
7:15 Arrive back at Minnesota West, Pipestone Campus

### Farm Tour Stops

- Blair Hellewell Farm
- Dave Laughton Farm
- Moser Family Farm
- Brian Winsel Farm
- Tyson Rule Farm (Rule Sheep Company)

### Registration

2016 Cost: $180 (includes tour transportation, tuition, handouts, lunch, and refreshments).
Minimum Enrollment: 30 people.
Maximum Enrollment: 54 people.

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**MLWPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - RANDY KINNEY**

The MLWPA Board meeting was held on April 2, at the Lamb Shoppe, Cedar Mills MN. Board members present: Melanie P, Randy K, Don Drewry, John D., Don Adelman, Travis F. Guests: Kelly and Jean F., Jeanine F, Mary Rademacher, and Maria- Northland Woolens.

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Melanie at 4:20. Agenda was handed out and approved as amended. Secretary’s report of 2/6/16 was approved.

Treasurer’s report: total. $37,242.21. Discussion on the merchandise expense of $18,464.50, and with Glenette being absent – approval delayed until next meeting with itemized expense sheet.

**Old Business:**

Website – Switch was made to Lunar pages and fee of $297 for 3 years paid.
Spring Workshop – Good event today organized by Bob, and thankful to Doug Rathke for shearing demo with 2 other shearers and Lamb Shoppe tour. Approx 27 paid attendees.
Sock update – All socks have been completed at Northland Woolens. 115 additional socks were purchased to use all remaining labels. Socks will be shipped when check is received.
Pipestone weekend – good event again this year – attended by Randy – recommended to continue to sponsor. 1 new member paid and several other with strong interest.

**New Business:**

Committee reports: BAA booth – John D had phone mtg – they would like to see live sheep back, and John has commitment already from Jo Bernard, also would like more wool info and John has video from Faribault Mill to show and will also look for wool pics to display.
Legislative DC Trip – John D and son attended and also Steve Schreier (NLFA Pres), visited all Minnesota offices, had lots of issues to discuss – Big Horn sheep, continue to fund duBois Station beyond current 2016-17 funding, new Feed Directive impact on farm practices.

Director reports: John D and Don D attended 4H Foundation Fundraiser.
Youth – Kelly will display at urban Ag day at state fair (May 11) and asking if Board member would be available also? Kelly has accepted fellowship position in New Zealand – will be leaving in June. Need to find new Youth leader.

ASI: NLIC has committee opening for a Producer. NLFA nomination open. lets Grow Funding – Bob has idea per Melanie.

Committee Assignments for 2016: Melanie handed out updated committee lists. A few changes were made.

Next meeting: TBD - June or 1st half-July. Motion made and passed to try to do this meeting as conference call. Melanie to discuss conference call options with Jeremy, and arrange call. Board members to decide on meeting date via email.

Meeting adjourned 5:40pm
**STARS OF THE NORTH SALE REPORT**

The 2016 Stars of the North online ewe & ram sale was held on April 25-26 at www.wlivestock.com. The sale is open to members of MLWPA, MN Suffolk and MN Hampshire associations. 14 of 21 entries sold to buyers from 9 states, for an average of $737.50.

As with all on-line sales, entries with good quality photos sold well, and those with poor quality photos did not sell well. Below are some of this year’s top sellers:

![Image 1](image1.png)
**Sold from MN to MD for $1250**

![Image 2](image2.png)
**Sold from MN to ME for $1000**

![Image 3](image3.png)
**Both sold from MN to SD for $750/**

![Image 4](image4.png)
**Sold from MN to NE for $650**

![Image 5](image5.png)
**Sold from MN to MA for $800**

**MARKET UPDATE - [THESE PRICES ARE FROM 4/22/16]**

**Feeder Prices ($/cwt.),** San Angelo: 40-55 lbs. for 226-236; 64 lbs. for 210; 92 lbs. for 164.

**Slaughter Prices - Negotiated ($/cwt.),** wooled and shorn 143-186 lbs. for 115.68-150 (wtd avg 132.10).

**Slaughter Prices - Formula1,** No prices reported due to confidentiality.

**Equity Electronic Auction,** No sales.

**Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value2,** $306.30/cwt.

**Carcass Price, Choice and Prime,** YG 1-4, $/cwt., weighted averages, 520 head at 55-65 lbs. for "no prices reported due to confidentiality"; 1104 head at 65-75 lbs. for 283.65, 1085 head at 75-85 lbs. for 274.74; 1312 head at 85+ lbs. for "no prices reported due to confidentiality".

**Exported Adult Sheep,** 315 head

**Wool, Price ($/pound) Clean, Delivered,** From 2-3 weeks ago: 18 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 19 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 20 micron (Grade 70s) 3.94, 21 micron (Grade 64-70s) 3.89-4.06, 22 micron (Grade 64s) 3.69-3.73, 23 micron (Grade 62s) 3.59, 24 micron (Grade 60-62s) 3.08, 25 micron (Grade 58s) 3.15, 26 micron (Grade 56-58s) NA, 27 micron (Grade 56s) 2.80, 28 micron (Grade 54s) NA, 29 micron (Grade 50-54s) NA, 30-34 micron (Grade 44-50s) NA.

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**Ft. Collins, CO** Feeder Lambs $170 - $265/cwt, Slaughter lambs $122.50 - $162.50/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $22 - $145/cwt

**Twin Falls, ID** Feeder Lambs $141 - $166/cwt, Slaughter lambs $132 - $150/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $52 - $118/cwt

**Zumbrota, MN** Feeder Lambs $140 - $200/cwt, Slaughter lambs $125 - $140/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $30 - $75/cwt

**Pipestone, MN** Feeder Lambs $140-$202.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs $ - $no test/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $47 - $72.50/cwt

**Sioux Falls, SD** Feeder Lambs $152.50 - $245/cwt, Slaughter lambs $94 - $159.50/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $39- $92/cwt

**Mt Hope, OH** Feeder Lambs $187.50 - $335/cwt, Slaughter lambs $140 - $215/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $70- $95/cwt

**Escalon, CA** Feeder Lambs $130 - $220/cwt, Slaughter lambs $120 - $150/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks $20- $130/cwt

**Billings, MT** Feeder Lambs $184 - $200/cwt, Slaughter lambs $ - $no test/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks $64.50- $79cwt

**Waverly, IA** Feeder Lambs $140 - $265/cwt, Slaughter lambs $118 - $136/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks $45- $62cwt
Tri-Lamb Young Leader Representatives Announcement

The Tri-Lamb Young Leaders Program was developed this year to create a forum of young producers and leaders from the United States, Australia and New Zealand to share ideas, network and to broaden the understanding of sheep production practices in all three countries. Each country will have representatives participating in the forum for two years with meetings and tours in AU and NZ in 2016 and meetings and tours in the US in 2017. New leaders will be selected in 2018.

The American Lamb Board received over fifty applications for the program this year from an impressive group of young leaders from across the country. It was a very difficult process to narrow the pool of talent down to two candidates and in fact, the selection committee ended up choosing four individuals.

“We were so impressed and excited by the passion and range of talent from the applicants. Their stories have inspired new thinking about marketing lamb and ways to support and encourage young leaders to get more engaged in our industry organization”, said Wes Patton, ALB Chairman. “The young leaders that applied make us hopeful for our industry’s future.”

The four candidates that have been selected to participate in the first Tri-Lamb Young Leaders Forum representing the United States are:

- Brad Osguthorpe, UT
- Karissa Maneotis, CO
- Katie Olagaray, KS/CO
- Ryan Mahoney, CA

Brad Osguthorpe is a third generation sheep rancher from Park City, Utah. Brad alongside his wife, two brothers and father run a 10,000 ewe sheep operation. Brad has a tremendous passion for the sheep industry and eagerness to continue being actively involved in the American Sheep Industry.

Karissa Maneotis and her family run a large sheep operation, High Country Lamb, outside of Steamboat, CO. They sell all of their lamb to local Whole Foods Markets. Karissa also works at Colorado State University and helped oversee the 2015 National Lamb Quality Audit.

Katie Olagaray and her family are third generation Basque sheep producers from Northern California. She is currently pursuing her Master’s degree and soon PhD in ruminant nutrition with a dairy focus at Kansas State University. She hopes to return back to California to work alongside her dad on his operation or begin her own herd.

Ryan Mahoney is a fifth generation rancher from the Montezuma Hills of California. Ryan works with the Emigh Lamb Operation and runs their feedlot operation in Dixon, CA. Ryan’s progressive ideas about feeding lambs will help the Industry become more efficient.

Wine and Beer Pairings for Lamb

Learn more at: http://www.americanlamb.com/spring/wine-beer-pairings/

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Root Beer Schnapp Braised Lamb Shanks
- Chef Virgil Emmert (Celebrate Lamb Social)

**Ingredients**

- 2 1/2 lbs lamb shanks
- 2 Cups BBQ Spice
- 1 yellow onion—peeled/diced
- 1 Carrot—peeled/diced
- 1 cup fresh basil
- 1/2 cup celery—peeled/diced
- 1 Tbs fresh garlic—peeled/diced
- 1/2 cup fresh mint
- 2 cups Root Beer Schnapps
- 1 cup BBQ sauce

**Directions**

Take lamb shanks and bbq spiced and cover shank well. Bake Shank for 20mins at 350F. Place the rest of the ingredients into large pan and cover with foil and cook 350F for 4hrs. Once cooked take meat off bone and shred meat. Take braising liquid and blend until smooth.

**Serve**

Serve over polenta. Top with coleslaw and sprinkle pomegranate seeds.
**Meat Institute Releases Temple Grandin-Narrated 'Glass Walls' Video**

The North American Meat Institute this week released a new Dr. Temple Grandin-narrated "Glass Walls" video shot in a lamb processing plant. The video is accessible on ASI's website at www.sheepusa.org/NewsMedia_Video along with the industries How to Handle Sheep video series also narrated by Dr. Grandin. Grandin explains in the video that calm handling is not only the most humane approach, it also creates safer workplaces and better quality meat.

The video is the latest in a series of videos that seek to shine a light on the animal care and handling processes used in meat packing plants. Other "Glass Walls" videos focus on beef, pork and turkey plants and the series has generated more than a 1.2 million views online.

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**12 Lamb Crop Best Practices**

Boost your profit with the new 12 Lamb Crop Best Practices. Adopt new productivity best practices to help you improve productivity while increasing the U.S. lamb crop to meet growing demand.

- Optimal Nutrition
- Breed Ewe Lambs at 7 to 9 Months of Age
- Select For Prolific Genetics
- Use Crossbreeding
- Cull Underperforming Ewes
- Reduce Lamb Loss
- Test for Pregnancy Status
- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Match Reproduction to Management
- Test Rams
- Manages for Seasonal Changes in Reproduction
- Accelerate Lambing Cycles

These Best Practices were developed considering the varying styles of lamb production, although every practice may not fit every flock.

Visit the new Lamb Resource Center at www.LambResourceCenter.com to see which best practices can help you reach your production goals.
U.S. Animal Ag Has Some Work to Do

America’s livestock and poultry farmers have some work to do. More than half the people in a recent nationwide survey by The Center for Food Integrity strongly agree with the statement, "If farm animals are treated decently and humanely, I have no problem consuming meat, milk and eggs." Only one in four people in the same survey strongly agree with the statement, "U.S. meat is derived from humanely treated animals." See the gap?

Consumers have traditionally trusted farmers because they believe farmers share their values. But they aren’t sure today’s agriculture still qualifies as farming. While there’s significant concern that animals raised for food are being treated humanely, much is happening that might show consumers that today’s farmers are closer to meeting their expectations than they might realize.

Strong Outlook For Food–Animal Vets

Today’s veterinary students face increasing competition, substantial debt and changing role in the industry, but for those pursuing large-animal practice, the job outlook remains positive.

During the recent Food Animal Medicine Student Symposium at Ohio State University, Zoetis Group Director of US Cattle Veterinary Operations Roger Saltman, DVM, MBA, outlined trends in the veterinary business for students from around the country. Saltman serves on the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Economics Strategy Committee, which conducts ongoing research on trends in supply and demand for veterinary services.

AVMA research shows almost zero unemployment for food–animal or mixed–animal practitioners. Demand for bovine veterinarians tends to correlate with cattle numbers, and Saltman says the need for dairy veterinarians is likely to increase through around 2018 or 2020. For young veterinarians to work toward the higher end of the salary range, Saltman says they will need to provide some non–traditional, value–added services to clients, such as developing customized standard operating procedures, crew training and evaluations of facilities & equipment. The market should provide plenty of opportunities for growth, he adds.

USDA Proposes Organic Animal Welfare Regulations

The USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has issued a proposed rule on the requirements of the welfare of organic livestock. These changes are based on recommendations by the National Organic Standards Board.

AMS Administrator Elanor Starmer said, “the demand for organic agriculture continues to grow each year and these proposed changes will build on USDA's efforts to support organic producers. By strengthening standards for organic livestock and poultry, we are ensuring that we meet consumer expectations and maintain the integrity of the organic seal to support continued growth.

The proposal sets standards for organic animals, providing clarify to organic operations and certifying agents, and establishing a level playing field for all producers."

Provisions of the new regulations include clarifying how producers and handlers must treat livestock and poultry to ensure their health and wellbeing throughout life, including transport and humane slaughter. They also specify which physical alterations are allowed and prohibited in organic livestock and poultry production, and establish minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for poultry. The proposed rule will be available in the Federal Register soon.

Crisis Sparks Biosecurity Assessment

Biosecurity breaches probably caused one of the worst animal disease crises in the United States. Fast moving outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in 21 states resulted in the destruction of 50 million turkeys and chickens last year. More cases affecting 400,000 birds were reported in Indiana at the beginning of this year.

The rapid spread of the disease showed increased vulnerability in the animal population, said John Clifford, chief trade adviser for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

As well, porcine epidemic diarrhea and porcine delta corona virus had previously entered the U.S., killing millions of pigs.

The viral roots of these deadly diseases are in Asia, but no one is sure how they got to North America.

"Did we have good biosecurity? I don't think so," Clifford said. "If we don't have good biosecurity and we don't have good traceability in all sectors of the livestock population, we are vulnerable to these events."

The Arrogance of Ignorance

All kinds of players have waded into the issue of antibiotic resistance and the use of antibiotics on farms, but it’s tough to identify any one of these very loud voices as knowing much about antibiotic use in human medicine or animal agriculture.

A gaggle of investment funds are putting pressure on retail chains to reduce antibiotic use. We also have six Senators who wrote a letter to FDA Commissioner Robert Califf essentially telling him he can’t trust farmers or veterinarians to follow the law, so he needs to crack down on agriculture’s use of antibiotics. This is disturbing.

Producers and veterinarians understand that judicious use of antibiotics can prevent a disease from establishing itself. The prudent use of these important medicines enhances not only animal welfare and food safety.
**Capitol Connection**

**Property Taxes and Conference Committee**

With the 2016 Minnesota Legislature scheduled to adjourn on May 23 and a good deal of the legislative process involving floor actions on supplemental spending bills wrapping up this past week, the questions of when will there be attention given to tax relief is becoming more pertinent. As identified in an article with MN House of Representatives Tax Committee Chairman Representative Greg Davids, the route forward depends on the target amount he is given to work with. The Minnesota Senate tax target is $300 million.

Progress in Minnesota agricultural property tax relief depends on the House/Senate Tax Conference Committee. A Farm Bureau supported pending proposal would provide a 50 percent tax credit to agricultural property taxes connected with school debt bond payments.

**Senate Buffer Bill Passed**

On a 61-0 vote, the Minnesota Senate passed SF 2503 the bill to clarify the details of the Minnesota buffer law from the 2015 Special Session. Waters identified on the state's public inventory list will be mapped by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as Public Waters and will require a 50 foot buffer of perennial vegetation. Drainage ditches created under the state's drainage law (103E) will be included on the DNR maps, identified as public ditches, and will require a 16.5 foot buffer of perennial vegetation. The deadline for installing buffers on public waters is November 1, 2017 and a year later, the buffers will be required to be installed on public ditches, November 1, 2018.

The clarification of SF 2503 (and also in the Minnesota House of Representatives companion HF 3000) also extends to firming up authority for local water authorities (counties and watershed districts). Language in the legislation also spotlights alternative practices for landowner consideration. Conservation practices are allowed as alternatives for the perennial buffer as long as they are identified in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide or included in rules adopted by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and meet the comparable water quality benefits of the specified buffer for that water. Concerns over how BWSR might limit the ability of alternative practices prompted language in the 2016 bills stating that these alternatives can include practices like "retention ponds and alternative measures that prevent overland flow to the water resource."

Authors of SF 2503 include Senators Rod Skoe, Vicki Jensen, Lyle Koenen, Dan Sparks and Matt Schmit. Authors of HF 3000 include Representatives Paul Torkelson and Bob Dettmer.

**Vet diagnostic bills advance, maybe**

Two veterinarian diagnostic bills were introduced, HF3153 and HF3154. Both bills are authored by Representative Hamilton. Testimony at last weeks' hearing verified how important the bills could be to identify disease patterns in livestock disease outbreaks. Over the years the diagnostic lab has accumulated thousands of documents that provide significant clues as to how disease affected individual animals which they tested. If that information could be correlated as to location and timing of disease in individual animals, a map or trend line of a disease outbreak and its spread could be documented. At the present time, however that information sits mostly uncorrelated in the diagnostic lab archives. HF 3153 and HF 3154 would provide funding for equipment to better diagnose molecular designations of disease agents that exist in animals and computer programming that would identify disease patterns derived from years of stored data.

Unfortunately, these bills may be caught in a void created by a competitive and political environment as the "Global" picture unfolds at the legislature.

The bills were evidently supported by the Veterinarian Diagnostic lab as evidenced by their presence at the hearing; however an organized effort on their behalf was not forthcoming by the University. No companion bills exist in the Senate.

The only pathway, at this time, would be inclusion in the portion of the agriculture provisions of an omnibus supplemental appropriations bill in the House.

At this time no decision has been made by the House republican caucus as to the size of the supplemental bill. Indications are that the House position may not include additional money for many appropriations of any kind, but rather use the available surplus for tax relief and perhaps road funding.

**Appropriations Process Underway in Washington, D.C.**

The U.S. Congress is beginning their work on funding the government for fiscal year 2017.

The U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee will mark up the agriculture spending bill for
fiscal year 2017, which includes funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee approved $21.3 billion in funding last week, which is $451 million less than 2016 levels.

The bill includes funding for avian influenza, agriculture research, $3 million for USDA and FDA outreach on biotechnology, food safety and inspection programs, and rural development programs.

Amendments and debate are expected on issues such as Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) funding, horse processing and farm bill programs. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan has indicated that he wants floor debate and an open amendment process when appropriations bills come to the floor of the House, which opens the door for many policy riders and possible amendments.

The House Appropriations Committee subcommittee on Energy and Water also passed their fiscal year 2017 bill which contains funding for the Army Corp of Engineers and other agencies. The current version of the bill that will be addressed by the full Appropriations Committee includes a provision that would block implementation of Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corp’s Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. It also includes language that would prevent the agencies from requiring permits for common agricultural and conservation practices.

The U.S. Senate is also working through fiscal year 2017 appropriations bills. The full Senate is expected to take up their Energy and Water bill this week. While an amendment to block the WOTUS rule was withdrawn during committee markup, it is expected to be offered again on the floor.

**Berry Amendment Simplified Acquisition Preserved in House Defense Bill**

The American Sheep Industry Association contacted members of the House Armed Services Committee to ask for support in striking language from the National Defense Authorization Act that would weaken domestic preferences with respect to military procurement. Following more than 16 hours of debate on Wednesday, April 27, the committee voted 60-2 to approve its version of the defense bill - a version that struck the amendment that would have raised the threshold on Berry Amendment limitations from $1,000 to $5,000.

Reps. Walter Jones (NC), Duncan Hunter (CA) and Niki Tsongas (MA) filed an amendment to preserve the Berry Amendment and successfully struck Section 807 from fiscal year 2017 NDAA.

"Section 807 would harm the U.S. textile, apparel and footwear industries and its 592,000 workers by weakening the Berry Amendment, making roughly one dollar in every five exempt from domestic purchase. Increasing the SAP would open up as many as 92 percent of the military contracts to imports and, if the threshold would have been $500,000 in fiscal year 2014, 6,813 contracts totaling more than $337 million would have been exempt from the U.S. sourcing requirement," the letter to the committee stated.

The defense bill is scheduled to be considered by the Senate Armed Services Committee the week of May 9. The National Council of Textile Organizations is closely monitoring its progress in the Senate, and actively working to prevent a similar attempt in that chamber to weaken the Berry Amendment.

The Berry Amendment is a domestic sourcing preference law stating that if Department of Defense funds are used, only U.S.-made items can be purchased with respect to certain product categories - i.e. textiles, clothing, and food.

**ASI Pursues Price Reporting Resolution**

A top priority of the American Sheep Industry Association continues to be the resolution of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting rules and regulations. In addition to filing comments on behalf of the industry for updated changes proposed by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, ASI has been meeting with market news on the absence of key-lamb reports since early February.

"The lack of formula carcass price reporting places the sheep industry in a blind position with regard to lamb trades based upon quality," said ASI President Burton Pfliger in a follow-up letter. "Since the Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb plan of insurance also uses this data, the lack of reporting a formula carcass series means that LRP-Lamb, the only price risk management tool available to the sheep industry, can't be sold nor can those who purchased the insurance receive an accurate indemnity."

Lamb price reporting has been absent since the purchase of one lamb-processor by another this winter. The issue at hand centers on the inability for one the largest lamb processors to share public data because it operates as a cooperative. Company principles on the call shared their business model with AMS and indicated their interest in cooperating with the reporting program.

In summary, the industry requested that AMS use a more literal interpretation of "packer-owned" lambs, using the regulatory definition for lamb reporting, and allow the processor to participate in the reporting program.

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In summary, the industry requested that AMS use a more literal interpretation of "packer-owned" lambs, using the regulatory definition for lamb reporting, and allow the processor to participate in the reporting program.
A jury has awarded a Central Oregon rancher $246,500 from two hunters who shot and killed three Great Pyrenees livestock protection dogs. Brothers Paul Johnson of Roseburg and Craig Johnson of Bend were previously convicted of killing three Great Pyrenees livestock protection dogs owned by rancher Gordon Clark. Craig Johnson is a retired Oregon State Police officer.

The jury awarded Clark $7,500 for the replacement value of the dogs, $100,000 for emotional harm and $139,500 in punitive damages. Clark, who owns and operates the historic Hay Creek Ranch 11 miles east of Madras, Ore., said he was relieved that the 3 1/2-year ordeal was over.

The shootings, which took place Aug. 27, 2012, happened on a grazing allotment in the Ochoco National Forest that Clark has used for the last 20 years.

“It was about 9:30 in the morning and my herder was routinely moving about 1,060 ewes from one camp to another,” Clark said. “Suddenly someone opened fire and started killing the dogs.”

He said the area was posted and the dogs all had collars that gave his contact information and an explanation of the work they were doing.

“My herder had no idea what was happening, except that someone was shooting at them. He was scared because bullets were ricocheting all around him,” Clark said. “The sheep were fleeing away from the shooters. He called my camp tender about 3 o’clock and said someone is shooting our dogs.”

Lynch, Clark’s attorney, also praised the sheriff’s office and said he did not think the defendants would appeal. “The trial judge did a superb job in addressing all legal issues in the case during the pre-trial phase and again at trial in motions for summary judgment ... and in finalizing the jury instructions,” Lynch said. “In addition, to avoid execution on the judgment pending an appeal, the defendants would have to post a special bond which would guarantee payment of the judgment after a failed appeal, something I would love to see them do but (is) very unlikely.”

Efforts to reach the lawyers for the Johnsons were unsuccessful.

“It has been emotionally draining for me and especially for my Peruvian herder,” Clark said. “The sad thing is the loss of those particular people-friendly dogs that you could walk up to and pet. In the 20 years we’ve worked our allotment, the dogs and campers have happily mingled and the campers loved it. To see the dogs so senselessly slaughtered, however, goes beyond the value as a working animal.”

Some of the May specials:
#650-(10)...(10) pack of #650 5’ Double Folding Panels
#651-6(10)...(10) Pack of #651-6 Panels
#1006 500 lb. Digital Scale with Stainless Steel Platform
OBAMAS SERVE LAMB AS COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING ISSUE LINGERS

The lamb that the Obamas served to the Trudeau’s [Canadian Prime Minister] was, ironically, the only red meat that American grocery stores are required to label by country of origin after a trade dispute ended U.S. country-of-origin labeling for beef and pork.

The World Trade Organization agreed with Canada and Mexico that U.S. country-of-origin labeling for beef and pork discriminated against producers in those countries, and Congress was forced to repeal it. Canada and Mexico did not make lamb part of the WTO case, and Congress retained lamb labeling in the repeal process.

The White House does not appear, however, to be making a political statement with the choice of meat. Instead, lamb is part of the spring theme.

Denison Offut, director of North American Affairs at the National Security Council, told The Hagstrom Report that Obama and Trudeau are expected to discuss international trade, “including irritants,” but that the Agriculture Department has published regulations implementing the repeal of country-of-origin labeling for beef and pork. Canada and Mexico have retained the rights to retaliate against the United States.

Offut said, “The United States has done its part” and it’s Canada’s and Mexico’s “turn” to respond — a reference to the removal of the retaliation rights.

Canada appears to be retaining its retaliatory rights because the battle over country-of-origin labeling is not completely over.

The Agriculture Department’s Food Safety and Inspection Service has said it will determine the standards for voluntary labeling for companies that want to label beef and pork by country of origin, but Canadian government and beef industry officials have said that any government standards might lead U.S. slaughterhouses to pay lower prices for Canadian animals or refuse to accept them, which was the core problem in the WTO case.

Some U.S. beef producers want the Agricultural Marketing Service rather than FSIS to set those standards.

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., considered adding voluntary COOL labeling standards to a bill on the labeling of genetically modified foods, but she withdrew it.

A Canadian Embassy spokeswoman told The Hagstrom Report that “Canada is reviewing the United States’ recent regulatory amendments to COOL for beef and pork and is consulting with stakeholders.”

REQUESTS FOR LET'S GROW ROUND 3 FUNDING EXCEED $950,000

In its current round of grant requests, ASI’s Let’s Grow Committee received 28 applications requesting more than $950,000 competing for $195,000 in available funds.

“We are humbled by the number of requests for funding that we have received from the industry," said Susan Shultz, Let’s Grow Committee chair. "We take the responsibility of distributing these funds very seriously and will evaluate each grant application to determine to what level it fits with the targeted priorities of this program."

High priorities for grant funding include projects that support the mission statement of the Let’s Grow Committee. That mission is to support, promote and ensure the U.S. sheep industry’s future through the development of innovative and sustainable initiatives that increase the productivity, profitability and growth of the American sheep industry, which will further enhance domestic wool and lamb production.

The goals of the Sheep Industry Roadmap Productivity Improvement Committee will be considered. They include: the adoption of quantitative genetics; to establish and support producer groups that are committed to improving producer productivity and profitability.

Along with these priorities, the committee also set special Round 3 initiatives during its January meeting at the ASI convention in Scottsdale, Ariz. Those special priorities include:

- Increase the adoption of out of season lambing to help distribute supply more evenly and thus help decrease the seasonality of lamb production.
- Development of business tools to assist sheep ranchers/ producers.

The Let’s Grow Committee will meet in Denver on May 9-10 to evaluate and approve funding.
WHAT’S WOOL GOT TO DO WITH IT? - NATURAL FIBER ALLIANCE

The Natural Fiber Alliance is very excited about the markets for MINNESOTA WOOL!

Our efforts in the niche market with the SHEEP & FIBER FARM TOUR has been successful for the last 5 years! Our 2016 Sheep & Fiber Farm Tour on October 8 & 9th will have emphasis on the importance of conservation and the great value of the wool to the planet!

The Consumer Driven Market supports the local, natural, sustainable wool and the interest in farms that have conservation practices in their farming operations as well as the sheep & other livestock. We will be making efforts to showcase those farms and provide workshop information on this important movement!

With the funding from the UM’s Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, Center for Urban Affairs & Mary Page funds we were able to hire a researcher to look at the expansion of markets in the commercial area for Minnesota wool. We will have the research & analysis available for small and large farms to use! There is a consumer driven market for local, sustainable natural fibers. The research & analysis will provide this information!

Over the next few months we will be meeting with companies to promote the use of Minnesota Wool in their woolen products! STAY TUNED!

JOIN THIS MOVEMENT! BECOME A MEMBER at www.naturalfiberalliance.com

Questions? muellerjean669@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook at naturalfiberalliance.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR SWCD (SOIL & WATER)

Take an active role in electing solid representatives to your Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Perhaps be a candidate to serve your area. SWCD supervisor positions are filled through general elections which will take place on November 8. Those interested in running for supervisor should file at the county auditor’s office from May 17-31.

SWCDs are considered to be a primary source of conservation information, support and program management for landowners. They are also viewed as the technical experts who help landowners navigate conservation programs from start to finish.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: PLEASE INFORM SHEPHERDS...

I’m writing out of concern for many small farmers in the state of Minnesota. A lot of folks signed up for MNSure when the “affordable care act” became law. But, if you or your spouse were 55 or older, but not old enough for medicare, and MNSure made you eligible for MA, your kids might be in for a shock. Turns out that the state put an estate claim against your assets. Even if you never went to the clinic or hospital, about $750 a month was most likely assessed against you. If you were married and your spouse was 55 or older and eligible for MA, your kids might be in for a shock. How do you find out if that has happened to you? Good luck! If you live in Pine County, neither the DHS office in Pine City, nor the one in Sandstone will give you that information. According to them, it is a legal matter and “We do not handle legal aspects of these laws.” They tell you to hire an attorney. This in the United States of America? A lengthy news article by John Lundy in the Duluth Tribune reports that none of the folks interviewed knew about this estate claim when they were signed on to MA. Even if you have private insurance, you need to read this article. It was reprinted in the Pine City Pioneer on Thursday, February 25th. Some folks who were put on MA and then transferred to MNCare, continued to have the monthly estate claims accumulate.

Please contact your representatives. Everyone has a right to know that estate claims can be assessed against you if you are put on MA through MNSure and everyone definitely has a right to know how much is assessed against them without hiring an attorney. One point of clarification, this is NOT A LEIN. It is not recorded at the court house.

It begs the question; Government health care? You bet your assets!

NE MN Sheep Producer

[Ed. Note: Opinions expressed in a letter to the editor are not necessarily the views of MLWPA]
Mastitis - Pipestone Vet Clinic  

Mastitis in sheep, from my view point, is poorly understood. In acute mastitis, treatment targets salvaging the ewe and seldom, if ever, does the infected portion of udder remain functional. As to whether sub-acute mastitis exists and shows up following years is anybody’s guess. Then you have the OPP people that believe based on a blood test that the majority of the adult ewes are positive to that all hard bag is OPP. Far from it, you can create hard bag by feeding too high a level of protein and I strongly suspect many hard bag ewes have had sub-acute infection in previous lactations. In some instances, they have been assembled as culls and resold into the market place as breeding ewes. First time lambing ewes that have been fed too hard will deposit fat in the udder and will never milk well. Good luck taking over weight, fat, breeding. Pull ewe lambs off of full feed when they reach eighty pounds. Lambs may need to be tubed in the interim. I like to use Nuflor, Penicillin and Dexemethasone. Nuflor is six cc per 100 pounds of body weight given subcutaneously, repeat in 48 hours. Penicillin is given at the rate of ten cc per 100 pounds body weight given subcutaneously daily. Dexamethasone is five cc subcutaneously but only given once. LA 200 may be substituted at five cc per 100 pounds subcutaneously for Nuflor. Mastitis tubes are useless. If gangrene develops you may want to open the infected teat so it can drain. With gangrene the affected portion will slough. Not many develop gangrene but one should be aware of the process when it happens. If a ewe is retained for breeding next year the affected portion will be non-functional.

Udder may feel cool, normal or warm. Crepitation would indicate gangrene. Treatment targets salvaging the ewe and many of these ewes will be heavy milkers and if you can get them through clinical symptoms they still may be able to raise twins. Lambs need to be tubed in the interim. I like to use Nuflor, Penicillin and Dexemethasone. Nuflor is six cc per 100 pounds of body weight given subcutaneously, repeat in 48 hours. Penicillin is given at the rate of ten cc per 100 pounds body weight given subcutaneously daily. Dexamethasone is five cc subcutaneously but only given once. LA 200 may be substituted at five cc per 100 pounds subcutaneously for Nuflor. Mastitis tubes are useless. If gangrene develops you may want to open the infected teat so it can drain. With gangrene the affected portion will slough. Not many develop gangrene but one should be aware of the process when it happens. If a ewe is retained for breeding next year the affected portion will be non-functional.

Weaning Time

For the purpose of this article we will consider weaning lambs that have had access to creep, have been in dry lot with their mothers and are being weaned at approximately eight weeks of age.

First, let’s discuss the ewes. Grain should be removed two or three days prior to weaning and hay source should be medium quality, grass hay. Water should not be withheld as it is impossible to water starve a ruminant and is added stress on an already stressed animal. Ewes should not be milked, only increases probability of mastitis. Observe for unilateral back leg laminitis, almost a sure sign of mastitis. Mastitis treatment is discussed in the mastitis article. Milking out a mastitis half may be indicated.

If ewes are to be bred, introduce rams at weaning or before. If you intend to use CIDRs insert them at weaning.

When possible, leave lambs in their surroundings and move the ewes. Lambs should be offered same feed and hay as they had in creep free choice. A 16% texturized creep containing adequate Vitamin E and Deccox is ideal. Be sure free choice loose salt is available and make sodium bicarbonate available free choice as well. Avoid any added phosphorus. Clean, fresh water is extremely important.

Lambs should be vaccinated for enterotoxemia, CD, which may be repeated in two weeks. I have been getting by with one vaccination but lambs have had CDT at processing. This vaccination is to prevent enterotoxemia which is a disease that occurs when lambs are on feed for a while and is not to be confused with acidosis.
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)

Wanted to buy: Feeder Lambs
Auderer Sheep Farms (www.auderersheep.com) is looking for pilot members to form an unofficial consortium of lamb producers to establish a competitive marketing group for feeder lambs marketed in the late summer and early fall months. Lambs will be purchased and finished by Auderer Sheep Farm and marketed through the Mountain States Cooperative. The purpose is to provide Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa sheep producers marketing opportunities similar to those enjoyed by Western state producers. No financial obligation is required, although the program’s success will depend upon adequate supply of lambs and/or producer commitment. For more information, emailclint@auderersheep.com.

Auderer Sheep Farm has been producing lambs for nearly 30 years, buying feeder lambs for 15 years and has finished/marketeted over 5000 lambs.

For Sale: Border Collie pups
Born Feb 12. Have had first shots and are ready to go. All are Black and White. Both parents are working dogs. Dan Persons 320-760-4696

For Sale: Suffolk Rams
Commercial rams, terminal sires, purebred stud rams: NSIP tested, Nationally Competitive, RR. Improve your flock with genetics from JMG Suffolks. 612-756-1200
Jeremy.geske@gmail.com http://jmgsuffolks.webs.com
### Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 12-14</td>
<td>Big Ohio Sheep Sale</td>
<td>Eaton, OH</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bannersheepmagazine.com/">http://www.bannersheepmagazine.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14-15</td>
<td>Shepherd’s Harvest Festival</td>
<td>Lake Elmo, MN</td>
<td>shepherdsharvestfestival.org</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Value of Genetic Traits by Dr. Ron Lewis</td>
<td>Let’s Grow Webinar</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheepusa.org">http://www.sheepusa.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun. 2-4</td>
<td>Nugget All-American Show &amp; Sale</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wlivestock.com">www.wlivestock.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2-5</td>
<td>Lamb Shoppe Shearing School, Int/Adv</td>
<td>Hutchinson, MN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:doug@LambShoppe.com">doug@LambShoppe.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun. 6-11</td>
<td>National Columbia Show and Sale</td>
<td>Minot, ND</td>
<td><a href="http://www.columbiasheep.org/nationalshowsale.htm">http://www.columbiasheep.org/nationalshowsale.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11-12</td>
<td>Iowa Sheep and Wool Festival</td>
<td>Colfax, IA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iowasheepandwoolfestival.com">www.iowasheepandwoolfestival.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 17-18</td>
<td>National Polypay Sale and Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Springfield, IL</td>
<td><a href="http://www.midwestlive.com">www.midwestlive.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 1-3</td>
<td>UJSSA Suffolk Show</td>
<td>Spencer, IA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 1-3</td>
<td>All-American Jr Sheep Show</td>
<td>East Lansing, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 5-9</td>
<td>National Rambouillet Show &amp; Sale</td>
<td>Pipestone, MN</td>
<td>Robbie Eckhoff <a href="mailto:eckhoff5@aol.com">eckhoff5@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10-14</td>
<td>H. Wyman Sheep Ind. Leadership School</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@nlfa-sheep.org">info@nlfa-sheep.org</a></td>
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<td>Jul. 14-16</td>
<td>National Targhee Sale</td>
<td>Arlington, WI</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ustargheesheep@gmail.com">ustargheesheep@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Nutrition and Supplementation (Morrical)</td>
<td>Let’s Grow Webinar</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheepusa.org">http://www.sheepusa.org</a></td>
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<td>Jul 22-24</td>
<td>MN State Suffolk Show</td>
<td>Faribault, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske <a href="mailto:Jeremy.geske@gmail.com">Jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Jul 23</td>
<td>Center of the Nation NSIP Sale</td>
<td>Spencer, IA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:morrical@iastate.edu">morrical@iastate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 15-16</td>
<td>Newell Ram Sale</td>
<td>Newell, SD</td>
<td>site.newellramsale.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Autumn Fare</td>
<td>Jordan, MN</td>
<td>Lori Pint <a href="mailto:lori54@bevcomm.net">lori54@bevcomm.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2-3</td>
<td>MLWPA Shepherd’s Holiday</td>
<td>Chaska, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske <a href="mailto:Jeremy.geske@gmail.com">Jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>“Celebrate Lamb Social”</td>
<td>Chaska, MN</td>
<td>Jeremy Geske <a href="mailto:Jeremy.geske@gmail.com">Jeremy.geske@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>MN Make It With Wool Contest</td>
<td>Chaska, MN</td>
<td>Glenette Sperry <a href="mailto:gtsperry@frontiernet.net">gtsperry@frontiernet.net</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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