Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers

Shepherd’s News

Summer 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sheep & Fiber Tour 3
Market News 4
Lamb Board News 5
American Wool Logo 6
Animal Care News 7
Capitol Corner 8-9
Rotational Grazing 10
SID Handbook 11
Make It With Wool 12
Rams and Breeding 13
Classified Ads 14
Calendar of Events 15
Board of Directors 16

2016 MLWPA Shepherd’s Holiday December 2-3
Oak Ridge Conf. Ctr
Chaska, MN
Mark your calendar!

Hoffman Hired as NDSU/UofM Sheep Specialist

Travis Hoffman is the North Dakota State University Extension Service’s new sheep specialist. He also holds a joint appointment as sheep specialist for University of Minnesota Extension. He started in June.

Hoffman had been an instructor in meat sciences in the Department of Animal Sciences at South Dakota State University since September 2015. Prior to that, he was the Colorado beef quality assurance coordinator, a joint appointment for Colorado State University and the Colorado Cattlemen’s Association, Colorado Livestock Association and Colorado Beef Council, for 7 1/2 years.

He grew up on a diversified livestock operation near Rockham, S.D. His family produces registered Corriedale sheep, along with commercial feeder cattle.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in Animal Science, with a science emphasis, from SDSU in Brookings in 2003, and a master’s degree in 2008 and a doctorate in 2015 in Animal Science, with a meat science emphasis, from Colorado State University.

Hoffman’s Ph.D. research was part of the 2015 National Lamb Quality Audit and focused on retail and food service.

Travis Hoffman, NDSU/UofM Sheep Specialist

from Colorado State University.

Cont. on p.2

I just returned from the American Society of Animal Science meetings in Utah. Just when you think there is nothing new going on, the meetings were exploding with papers and poster sessions detailing new research on the gut microbiome.

You are all well aware that the ruminant digestive system is dependent on bacteria and protozoa to digest feedstuffs to provide both microbial protein and energy in the form of volatile fatty acids (VFA’s) to the host animal. You have also seen information on technology that enables us to map out the genetic sequence of organisms – DNA mapping. Microbiologists are using this technology to determine, in detail, what organisms inhabit the gastrointestinal tract (GIT). Not just the stomach but the entire GI tract, and not just in ruminants like sheep but humans! You may not be aware of it but humans have a significant microbial population in our digestive tract.

So why should you care about this research? In 2017, the Veterinary Feed

Cont. on p. 2
Directive (VFD) comes into effect. This legislation will eliminate the use of antibiotics in animal feeds for growth promotion, improvement in feed efficiency and in some cases diseases prevention. For the sheep industry the use of chlortetracycline (CTC) and like drugs will be eliminated in feed for growth and improved feed efficiency. CTC will not be available for disease prevention or treatment without a working relationship with a veterinarian and a prescription. You will need to be working with your veterinarian, sheep nutritionist and extension sheep specialist to change your nutrition/management program to come into compliance with these new feed directives.

Genome mapping provides a better understanding of the microbes in the GI tract and what they are doing for the animal. In the future, by feeding this new generation of microbes and other “natural” alternatives we can stimulate the innate (natural or what they’re born with) immune system and eliminate the need for many antibiotics. Looking at the research presented at these meetings, this is a very real possibility!

Keep an open mind and pay attention to this new technology and concepts. This is definitely an area that ASI needs to focus on in the immediate future. The marketing of our end product is going to be affected by this change in philosophy, technology and management.

The gut microbiome also has far reaching implications for humans. Research has indicated a link between multiple sclerosis, irritable bowel syndrome and obesity with altered GI tract microbiology. How you handle stress, develop your immune system and your overall performance is highly correlated to the microbes in your digestive system. Haggis and yogurt anyone?

CORRECTIONS to the MLWPA Membership Directory

There are a few mistakes in the 2016 membership directory (listed below). My sincerest apologies to those affected! If you notice any other mistakes, let me know and we will print corrections in the next newsletter.

On the top of p. 50, Patty Anderson’s phone number should be: 952-447-4184.

On p. 5, the MLWPA officers and State Directors is the old list from 2015. The following changes should have been made:

- 2nd Vice-President, Randy Kinney’s phone number should be: 320-760-5727
- Southeast Director is Daryl Boehm 32418 750th Ave, Racine, MN 55967 507-533-8310
- Metro Director is Don Drewry don.drewry@frontier.com 3105 250th St E, Farmington, MN 55024 651-463-8578

Please email any additional corrections to: jeremy.geske@gmail.com

Hoffman—cont

components of attributes that specifically define and quantify consumers’ willingness to pay for lamb quality in the U.S. marketplace. He has taught several sheep-related courses and authored or co-authored numerous articles on sheep industry topics.

“We are very excited that Travis has joined our faculty at NDSU,” says Greg Lardy, head of NDSU’s Animal Sciences Department. “His background and knowledge in meat science will provide opportunities for building strong Extension programs. Travis’ enthusiasm for the sheep industry is contagious.”

MLWPA President, Melanie Pamp echos Lardy’s support. “In Minnesota, we haven’t had an Extension Sheep Specialist for several years. Being able to tap into Hoffman’s expertise is a benefit to our sheep producers.”

This joint sheep specialist position started with conversations that MLWPA leaders had with state Representative Rod Hamilton at the 2014 Celebrate Lamb Social. During the following legislative session, Representative Hamilton challenged the University of Minnesota to address the needs of Minnesota Sheep producers. From there, Bev Durgan, Dean of Extension, reached out to the MLWPA board with the joint position opportunity. MLWPA leaders had input on the job description and the hiring process.

Hoffman will be a speaker at the 2016 MLWPA Shepherd’s Holiday. Hoffman is looking forward to working with sheep producers in both states.
The MLWPA Board meeting was via conference call. Board members present: Melanie Pamp, Randy Kinney, Don Drewry, John Dvorak, Don Adelman, Travis Fowler, Daryl Boehm, Bob Padula, Karen Stormo, Mike Haubrich, and Jeremy Geske.

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Melanie at 7:10. Agenda was emailed out and approved as amended.

Secretary’s report of 4/02/16 was approved as amended (add Daryl’s name to commercial booth).

Treasurer’s report: First the previous report (through April) was discussed and approved as presented as moved at the previous meeting. Then the Current report – with a balance of $23,612.94, was discussed. Commercial booth update from Sherry S was discussed. Moved/2nd – approved as amended.

Old Business
Spring Workshop Update: about 50 participants. Positive comments from those in attendance. Discussion on U of M research project (natural fiber alliance).
Website updates and Blogging schedule (July: Melanie, Aug: John, Sept: Karen, Oct: Don, Nov: Daryl, Dec: Steve)
Let’s Grow grant: we did not get it.

New Business:
State Fair Update: John gave Baa booth update. John will put a schedule together.
New Sheep Specialist on Board Starting June27: Travis Hoffman (joint position NDSU / U of M)
NSIIC grant: no ideas for MN application
Nominations for Youth Leader-Youth Program
Funding/sponsorship request from the national Rambouillet show & sale (being held in pipestone ) – moved/2nd to sponsor at $500 (ask for recognition for MLWPA) – motion carried

Committee Reports: Directory is done, will be mailed out soon, Shepherd’s holiday – get speaker/topic ideas to Jeremy soon
Director Reports
Youth Report
Newsletter deadline – August 1

Next meeting: Sept 24 – Litchfield (Jeremy call VFW – noon)
Nominating committee – we need one for Sept meeting
State Suffolk show – Rice Co Fair – July 23
Meeting adjourned 8:28pm
**Midwest Stud Ram (Sedalia) Sale Results**

Katahdin: 169 hd ave. $839 (high-seller: $3,250).  
Texel: 37 hd ave. $836 (high-seller: $2,700)  
Montadale: 63 hd ave. $842 (high-seller: $2,700)  
Polypay: 18 hd ave. $408 (high-seller: $700)  
Tunis: 24 hd ave. $620 (high-seller: $2,000)  
Dorper: 34 hd ave. $1,622 (high-seller: $4,500)  
White Dorper: 51 hd ave. $1,220 (high-seller: $2,750)  
Rambouillet: 27 hd ave. $640 (high-seller: $1,300) MN  
Natural Colored: 13 hd ave. $642 (high-seller: $1,500)  
Corriedale: 73 hd ave. $884 (high-seller: $4,000)  
Columbia: 38 hd ave. $549 (high-seller: $1,750)  
Suffolk: 184 hd ave. $790 (high-seller: $5,300) MN  
Polled Dorset: 44 hd ave. $839 (high-seller: $5,500)  
Horned Dorset: 13 hd ave. $558 (high-seller: $1,750)  
Southdown: 137 hd ave. $897 (high-seller: $3,600)  
Shropshire WS: 37 hd ave. $741 (high-seller: $3,900)  
Dorset WS: 113 had ave. $1,023 (high-seller: $7,000)  
Dorset Ad WS: 26 hd ave. $988 (high-seller: $3,500) MN  
Speckle WS: 19 hd ave. $608 (high-seller: $2,200)  
Natural WS: 34 hd ave. $921 (high-seller: $3,600)  
Hamp WS: 251 hd ave, $2,250 (high-seller: $40,000)  
Suffolk WS: 61 hd ave. $1,182 (high-seller: $5,000)  
X-bred WS: 109 hd ave. $1,451 (high-seller: $12,500)  
Club lambs: 23 hd ave. $645 (high-seller: $2,900)

**Market Update - [These prices are from 7/22/16]**

**Feeder Prices.** San Angelo: 50-60 lbs. for 186-198; 60-100 lbs. for 180-191.  
**Slaughter Prices - Negotiated ($/cwt.), wooled and shorn 127-182 lbs. for 140-175 (wtd avg 167.15).**  
**Slaughter Prices - Formula1, 55-65 lbs. for 324.96, 989 head at 75-85 lbs. for 312.97; 1,102 head at 85+ lbs. for 300.15.**  
**Equity Electronic Auction, No sales.**  
**Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value2.** $319.90/cwt.  
**Carcass Price.** Choice and Prime, YG 1-4, $/cwt., weighted averages, 403 head at 55-65 lbs. not reported due to confidentiality; 1,210 head at 65-75 lbs. for 324.96, 989 head at 75-85 lbs. for 312.97; 1,102 head at 85+ lbs. for 300.15.  
**Exported Adult Sheep.** 0 head  
**Wool, Price ($/pound) Clean, From 5 weeks ago:** Delivered, 18 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 19 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 20 micron (Grade 70s) NA, 21 micron (Grade 64-70s) 3.61, 22 micron (Grade 64s) 3.54-3.76, 23 micron (Grade 62s) NA, 24 micron (Grade 60-62s) 3.33, 25 micron (Grade 58s) 2.93-3.38, 26 micron (Grade 56-58s) NA, 27 micron (Grade 56s) 2.02, 28 micron (Grade 54s) 1.85, 29 micron (Grade 50-54s) NA, 30-34 micron (Grade 44-50s) 1.65.

**Ft. Collins, CO** Feeder Lambs $155 - $187/cwt, Slaughter lambs $122.50 - $147/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $42 - $90/cwt  
**Twin Falls, ID** Feeder Lambs $165 - $169/cwt, Slaughter lambs $109.50 - $164/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $28 - $70/cwt  
**Zumbrota, MN** Feeder Lambs $130 - $170/cwt, Slaughter lambs $145 - $160/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $40 - $75/cwt  
**Pipestone, MN** Feeder Lambs $180-$187.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs $154 - $162.25/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $46 - $80/cwt  
**Sioux Falls, SD** Feeder Lambs $168 - $225/cwt, Slaughter lambs $155 - $167.50/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $47 - $71/cwt  
**Mt Hope, OH** Feeder Lambs $140 - $310/cwt, Slaughter lambs $130 - $170/cwt, Ewes & Bucks $55- $90/cwt  
**Manchester, MI** Feeder Lambs $150 - $210/cwt, Slaughter lambs $150 - $180/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks $40- $90/cwt  
**Escalon, CA** Feeder Lambs $130 - $200/cwt, Slaughter lambs $120 - $140/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks $30- $130cwt  
**Billings, MT** Feeder Lambs $180 - $211/cwt, Slaughter lambs $154.50 - $179.50/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks $49- $65cwt
Cooking Light Magazine’s Fit Foodie Sponsorships
The American Lamb Board sponsored two Fit Foodie events-weekend festivals put on by Cooking Light Magazine that include a 5 k run, cooking demos, great food and more. The first run took place in Fairfax, VA, outside Washington, DC, on May 20th. Nearly 1,500 runners came out in the rain to race and were welcomed by ALB and DC based restaurant Cava Grill with delicious spicy lamb meatballs in the Finishers Village. The American Lamb Board handed out reusable water bottles and fun swag while not one meatball was left behind.

American Lamb at the National Restaurant Association
The American Lamb Board teamed with Superior Farms Lamb to sponsor a break at the 2016 Spring Marketing Executives Group (MEG) conference held in advance of the annual National Restaurant Show. Flatbread with Pulled American Lamb and American Lamb Sliders were served during the Thursday afternoon break at the event attended by restaurant marketing leaders. The National Restaurant Show, the largest foodservice show in the country, followed MEG. More than 60,000 foodservice professionals attended this year’s show which had more than 2,200 exhibitors. American Lamb Board representatives attended many events including the Championship BBQ and Cookout where boneless lamb legs were grilled and served by Chef Greg Biggers of Sofitel Hotel. Sysco’s COP Specialist Mark DeNittis gave a presentation on how to fabricate an American Lamb leg on the show floor. ALB met with editors of leading foodservice publications throughout the show and at the International Foodservice Editorial Council reception.

New Promotional Materials Available
As Summer heats up and Ewe start to plan for Farmers Market sales, fairs, festivals, and more, the American Lamb Board has new promotional materials available to order! Visit the Lamb Resource Center, Marketing Resources section where you will find new materials including a new recipe brochure, time and temperature infographics, newly designed cutting mats, oven mitts and more! The new brochure is second series of the “Curriculamb”101 brochures titled “Curriculamb- Lamb Cuts”. The new brochure includes a wealth of Cut education information and eight delicious new recipes and images!

Herbed Leg of Lamb

Ingredients
- 1 (6 lb) Leg of Lamb—rolled/tied
- 6 peeled garlic cloves
- Zest from 1 orange
- ¼ cup fresh thyme leaves
- 2 tablespoons fresh rosemary
- Kosher salt to taste
- freshly ground pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

Crust
- ¼ cup Dijon mustard, coarse or smooth
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1½ cups panko bread crumbs
- ½ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Directions
In a food processor, combine the garlic, orange zest, thyme and rosemary. Puree, then add the olive oil and blend to make a paste. Smear the paste all over the lamb, place it in a container or deep bowl, cover, and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat the oven to 450. Meanwhile, let the lamb sit at room temperature for 30 to 45 minutes. Season the lamb with salt and pepper. In a small bowl, mix together 2 tablespoons olive oil, mustard and parsley, add the breadcrumbs and use a spoon or your hands to thoroughly blend. Press the mixture all over the top and sides of the leg of lamb, and place it in a roasting pan. Some of the panko mixture will fall off the sides; tuck it in underneath the sides of the lamb.

Roast the lamb for 15 minutes, then turn the oven down to 400 and roast for an additional 60 to 75 minutes, or until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the middle of the roast reads 130 F to 135 for medium-rare. Let the lamb sit for 20 minutes before slicing and serving warm.
American Wool Council Unveils New American Wool Logo - Rita Kourlis Samuelson

As American consumers embrace the natural magic of homegrown wool, the American Wool Council has adopted a new look that brings the industry's image up to par with the products being created everyday with this innovative, sustainable fiber.

A division of the American Sheep Industry Association, the American Wool Council developed a new logo after months of consultation with the Sterling-Rice Group of Boulder, Colo. American wool is vigorous enough to support the U.S. military on the frontlines of battle, yet elegant enough to grace red carpets and magazine covers.

From the most comfortable socks imaginable to outdoor apparel capable of standing up to the toughest conditions, modern-day American wool is an all-natural product that can even be worn next to the skin. It was imperative to develop a logo that captured such strength and refinement in one recognizable mark.

"It's vital for the wool industry that consumers recognize the value of American wool," said ASI Director of Wool Marketing Rita Kourlis Samuelson. "When you look at wool and its values, you come back to a natural, premium product that performs at a high level in a variety of circumstances. It can be sophisticated and beautiful, but it can also be innovative and dynamic. American wool is known for its unparalleled loft and versatility. The benefits of wool simply can't be matched by any other natural fiber."

The American wool logo will be featured on product tags, as well as in advertising to the international wool trade community. The logo will also appear in promotions for wool consumers. The American Wool Council will offer two logos, one for products made in America and one for products made elsewhere using American wool. Soon to come is a new consumer-oriented website at AmericanWool.org.

"The American spirit is alive in the fiber, fleece and fabric of natural American Wool," states an international advertisement featuring the new logo. "This is where happy, healthy sheep are raised to thrive in vast, open ranchlands. It's where bold shepherds and ranchers are genuine stewards of the earth - constantly seeking sustainable ways to ensure the future of this invaluable industry. This is America, where innovation is celebrated, tradition is respected and high performance reigns."

US Sheep Enterprise Cost of Production data available

The American Sheep Industry Association reported in June that it had retained the Livestock Marketing Information Center to build baseline estimates regarding the on-farm/ranch costs of producing sheep. The LMIC-assembled working group used best-estimate industry parameters to generate regionally representative budgets, which have also been aggregated on a national production budget.

Sheep production occurs across the United States and in a variety of ecological zones; economic costs of production reflect that diversity. Farm-level production costs and risk have increased in the last decade and needs to be described and evaluated including feedstuff costs, management practices, labor costs, predator losses, etc. The sheep industry includes several sectors, but the production sector is the foundation. The budget will be updated annually so trends in costs and returns, as well as overall profitability can be analyzed and published.

The Cost of Production Budget Worksheets are now available at www.sheepusa.org/ResearchEducation_OtherResearch_UsBaselineLambCostOfProductionModel.
Inter-state Livestock Transportation

InterstateLivestock.com Filling a Gap for Livestock Transportation

InterstateLivestock.com is your one-stop resource for finding requirements to move animals across state lines! The site is in its first phase featuring cattle movement regulations for all 50 states, and designed to provide quick results.

The Site Is Developed As A Partnership Of The United States Animal Health Association (USHAH) And The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), through which the information gap was identified, and this solution was developed through a collaborative effort of states, USDA, members of both organizations and Trace First, the service provider. The site was officially launched late last fall, and continues to grow.

The groups are now developing the second phase of the site, which will include additional species: Equine, Swine, and Sheep and Goats, making it a truly robust resource to meet regulatory requirements for a broad range of individuals involved in transporting livestock.

U of M Plans New Investment in Ag Research, Education And Extension

A nearly $5 million state investment in agricultural productivity at the University of Minnesota will be used this year to hire scientists and improve infrastructure across seven areas of collaboration spanning three U of M colleges and at research and outreach and Extension sites across the state.

The plan announced today covers the first years of a multi-year investment known as the Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer Program (AGREETT). The program was established by the state legislature in its 2015 session and funding was established with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to support the program. An advisory panel made up of university leaders, the agriculture department and industry leaders has reviewed options and agreed to the spending plan. U of M leaders announced the plan today in conjunction with Farm Fest, the state's largest agricultural industry gathering. Under the plan, new faculty, technicians and graduate students will be hired to work in these seven key areas: crop and livestock productivity; microbial science; advancing soil fertility and water quality; agricultural technology and decision-making; nutrient recycling and management; agro-ecological innovation; and technologies aimed at managing pest resistance and climate change.

Proposed Organic Rule Fuels Disease Concerns

Animal agriculture groups are voicing many concerns over USDA's proposed rule to expand the National Organic Program to include animal-handling practices.

Not only is the rule outside the statutory scope of the NOP, they say, but it is not based on science, has doubtful benefit and comes with a high cost to producers.

One key concern to poultry and pork producers is the risk to animal and public health.

The proposed standards focus on increased outdoor access, which the National Chicken Council and Pork Producers Council contend conflict with best management practices and will increase the likelihood and magnitude of disease outbreaks.

The proposed rule is based on years of public comment and recommendations by the National Organic Standards Board to clarify the requirement for access to outdoors, primarily in the poultry sector, said Nate Lewis, farm policy director for the Organic Trade Association.

Three Ways Animal Rights Activists Have Been Targeting You This Summer

While ranchers have been busy keeping their cattle cool during July's hot spell, animal rights activists have been heating things up in recent campaigns against animal agriculture. Here are three of the latest activist stunts I've come across on my Facebook newsfeed:

1. PETA members dress as nuns at RNC and propose a sin tax on meat. It looks like PETA members were trying to shock and awe attendees at the Republican National Convention (RNC) and, I would guess, appeal to the Evangelical Christian voter about the perceived "sinfulness" of eating meat, despite many instances found throughout the Bible that support meat consumption.

2. A billboard urges drivers to stop eating eggs to reduce diabetes risk. Despite what USDA dietary guidelines might tell you, meat, eggs and dairy products do not contribute to diabetes. Why? The most simple way to explain it is because proteins don't raise your insulin levels like carbohydrates do. Yet, the myth continues to be perpetuated by activists and biased nutritionists who would prefer we all go meatless.

3. PETA attacks New Mexico FFA members. According to Cheyenne Cope for KRQE News, "The campaign was published by PETA 2, a branch of the organization geared toward teenagers. The campaign casts a shadow on Future Farmers of America, the popular agriculture club for high school students. Written by a former FFA member, the post calls the organization hypocritical for encouraging students to raise and slaughter animals for food, while encouraging good character and leadership. At the end of the article, PETA encourages kids in FFA that agree with it to quit the club and become vegan."
CAPITOL CONNECTION

President signs national biotech disclosure into law
President Barack Obama on July 29 signed into law a Farm Bureau-supported measure that puts a stop to the harmful patchwork of state GMO labeling laws by setting in place a uniform, national disclosure system that will provide balanced, accurate information to consumers.

"For decades, biotechnology has made it possible for farmers to grow safe and healthful crops while reducing their environmental impact. We are pleased that Congress and the administration have moved swiftly to prevent consumer confusion and protect agricultural innovation," American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said in a statement.

The law is based on a mandatory disclosure mechanism that requires food companies to provide information through an on-package statement, symbol or some other means of electronic disclosure abiding by standards developed and regulated by USDA. It gives USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service one year to study consumer access to digitally disclosed information and two years to finalize a rule implementing the law.

Members of Congress Ask for Support for Dairy
A bipartisan group of more than 60 U.S. Senators and Representatives sent a letter asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide emergency financial assistance that will directly support U.S. dairy farmers equally, while being cautious to not stimulate overproduction further.

Minnesota Senators Klobuchar and Franken and Representatives Walz, Peterson and Nolan signed the letter.

USDA Proposes to Lift BSE Ban on Sheep and Sheep Products
"The sheep industry has been expecting this rule for a number of years," said American Sheep Industry Association Executive Director Peter Orwick. "In the coming weeks, ASI will be reviewing the proposed rule in detail and will be developing its comments for submission."

The current import regulations prohibit the importation of most live sheep and goats and their products from countries considered a risk for BSE. These were established when the risk of sheep and goats related to BSE was not well known. These regulations also protect against the introduction of other TSEs, such as scrapie. The restrictions have disrupted trade and caused economic hardship for U.S. producers seeking to introduce new genetics into their flock.

Processed animal protein that contains ruminant materials will continue to be considered a BSE risk and, therefore, will continue to be restricted from countries that are not negligible risk for BSE.

With the removal of the BSE restrictions, it will also be easier to move sheep and goat casings (animal intestines) of both U.S. and foreign origin, as well as the products that contain them.

Animal Ag Report from 2016 Taking Action for Animals
The Animal Agriculture Alliance released a report containing details and observations from The Humane Society of the United States' Taking Action for Animals conference, held June 17-20 in Arlington, Va. The American Sheep Industry Association is a member of the AAA.

"Part of the Alliance's mission is to protect the industry from organizations like the HSUS that are focused on spreading misinformation about animal agriculture," said Kay Johnson Smith, Alliance president and CEO. "Sending participants to events like this allows us to gather crucial insights into activist strategies and tactics, so we can help our members prepare and respond to threats. I encourage our members to use this valuable resource when communicating with stakeholders about the real mission of activist organizations - taking meat, poultry, eggs and dairy off of our plates."

Recurring themes throughout the conference included impacting the food industry by pushing restaurants and retailers to adopt restrictive policies that ultimately do not improve animal well-being although they do raise the cost of animal care and in turn increase food prices for consumers, and the use of religion to promote an animal rights agenda.

Several sessions focused on HSUS' pressure campaigns targeting the food industry. Matt Prescott, senior director, food policy with HSUS, encouraged attendees in the "Helping Big Corporations Become More Humane" panel to approach shareholders and company leaders in a positive way, but to escalate pressure to get results: "When you
don't get the right reaction, be ruthless - find a way to yes."

Kristie Middleton, also a senior food policy director with HSUS, spoke about Meatless Mondays, calling the campaign "a tiny little trick for a holiday from meat." Middleton - who is part of the organization's 15-member "meatless transition team" - discussed how HSUS is getting food service companies and restaurants on board with the initiative and tasked attendees with going back to their school system and asking for Meatless Mondays, concluding "we can and we will alter the course of history for animals."

Outreach to faith-based organizations and promoting animal rights from a religious perspective came up in several different sessions. Reasa Currier, HSUS' strategic initiatives manager for faith outreach, spoke about HSUS' 15-member multi-faith advisory council, stating that "many faith groups are weighing in on industrial agriculture" and telling participants that people have a duty to "let these creatures engage in natural behavior" and "put aside the differences and work to get something done."

Suzy Welch, an author, television commentator and journalist, also discussed religion and animal rights, stating that the animal rights movement needs to share its message because it is also God's message. Welch said that today's food system (and eating animals) "goes against God," and added, "I am the church out there because I'm not killing animals."

Other notable speakers included Erica Meier, executive director, Compassion Over Killing; Nathan Runkle, president, Mercy for Animals; Paul Shapiro, vice president - farm animal protection, HSUS; and Nick Cooney, current director of education, Mercy for Animals and founder of The Humane League (formerly known as Hugs for Puppies - an extremist group affiliated with the convicted terrorist organization SHAC).

**FOOD DIALOGUE MINNESOTA**

The latest U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance Food Dialogue event focused on water quality in Minnesota.

USFRA CEO Randy Krotz says water is a topic that resonates with everyone.

"Whether it’s the Des Moines area, the Delmarva (Peninsula), Minnesota, New Mexico...pick your spot across the country. And of course, California."

Water quality has become a contentious issue between agriculture and the state since Governor Dayton proposed a buffer law that went into effect last year.

Panelists included the director of sustainability for Land O'Lakes, the assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Nathan Collins, a farmer from western Minnesota.

"My kids eat the food that I grow and eat the beef that our farm produces. If I'm not going to produce safe food, why would I feed it to my own kids. So everyday we’re concerned about the quality of everything we produce, touch or handle."

The Food Dialogue event was held at the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis and hosted by the Farm and Food Alliance of Minnesota.

**DNA Study Reveals Only One Wolf Species in North America**

The first large study of North American wolf genomes has found that there is only one species on the continent: the gray wolf. Two other purported species, the Eastern wolf and the red wolf, are mixes of gray wolf and coyote DNA, the scientists behind the study concluded.

The finding highlights the shortcomings of laws intended to protect endangered species, as such laws lag far behind scientific research into the evolution of species. The gray wolf and red wolf were listed as endangered in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act in the 1970s and remain protected today, to the periodic consternation of ranchers and agricultural interests. In 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognized the Eastern wolf as a separate species, which led officials to recommend delisting the gray wolf. Conservationists won a lawsuit that forced the agency to abandon the plan. The new finding sharpens a question at the heart of that debate: How should the ESA address animals that are hybrids?

"What's very exciting about this paper is that it's using extremely powerful tools to address longstanding, challenging questions in conservation," said Ryan Kovach, a research wildlife biologist at the United States Geological Survey.

The gray wolf, once ranged from the Rockies to New England. In 1978, the FWS declared it to be threatened in the lower 48 states.

In 2000, some scientists began to argue that the eastern population of gray wolves was in fact a separate species. The FWS recognized that species in 2013, and officials argued that the gray wolf, now deemed to be limited to the Western US, was doing well enough to be taken off the list.

The new analysis, published in the journal Science Advances, paints a profoundly different portrait of the American wolf. Dr. vonHoldt and her colleagues found no evidence that red wolves or Eastern wolves belonged to distinct lineages of their own. Instead, they are populations of gray wolves, sharing many of the same genes.
**Benefits of Rotational Grazing**

Rotational grazing can be simply explained as moving livestock between pastures (often called paddocks) every set number of days or as needed.

The top 5 reasons to rotationally graze:

1. **Improved animal management.** Animals rotated to new pastures in a low stress manner are easier to manage. When the forage in the original pasture is consumed, open the fence into the next paddock and stock will effortlessly move to newly offered pasture.

2. **Less wasting of forage.** Less time spent on a single paddock results in reduced trampling and excretions on formerly edible plants.

3. **Increase forage production.** By minimizing the continuous consumption of an individual plant, the plant’s leaves are left intact to collect sunlight for further regrowth.

4. **Control less desirable plants.** By controlling paddock size, animals are encouraged to browse the plants in that location. This forces them to eat down nutritious plants they would normally ignore due to taste.

5. **Increased soil fertility.** Concentrates manure in the pasture and not by the water tank. Plants given time to recover and put down roots, which increases organic matter.

**BONUS—Reduced soil compaction.** Less time on site and fewer paths form allow the soil to better absorb water and allow root growth.

For more information on pasture soils, read the article below by The Ohio State University Extension Small Farm Coordinator Tony Nye.

**Assessing Your Pastures—Both Above and Below the Surface**

Did you survive the winter snow and cold? Are you getting that “Spring Fever”? What about your pasture? Now is the time to start assessing the overall conditions to decide what management steps must be taken to have a productive pasture for the coming year. Looking at the overall pasture composition becomes an important step to determining if any improvement is necessary.

What is the percent of bare ground exposed? Is it due to heavy traffic, over grazing, poor drainage or poor fertility? What is the amount of grass to legumes throughout the pasture? Do you have a lot of weeds?

Once we have assessed the actual pasture, do we know what the pH and the fertility is of the pasture? Soil pH should be above 6.0, with a goal of 6.5. Soil phosphorus (P) level should be at 25 ppm (50 lbs./acre) and across much of Ohio, and given an average cation exchange capacity (C.E.C.) soil potassium (K) level should be 100 to 120 ppm (200 to 240 lbs./acre). If your soil is not close to these numbers it may be worthwhile to put off a spring seeding, apply the needed lime and fertilizer this spring and aim for an August seeding.

Read the rest of this article at: https://www.premier1supplies.com/sheep-guide/2016/05/assessing-pastures-surface/?source=newsletter&species&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=May-11-Allspecies

---

We’re looking for your best shots! Remember that great shot you took during lambing? Or the one you snapped while pushing the sheep to summer range? They could pay off in the form of a cash award in the 2016 American Sheep Industry Association Photo Contest.

More importantly, winning photos will be featured in the October issue of the Sheep Industry News, earning the top-rated photographers a year’s worth of bragging rights.

Five categories have been identified for this year’s contest: action, scenic-East, scenic-West, fine wool and open. Photographs entered in the contest will be judged on clarity, content, composition and appeal. More than $1,000 will be awarded to the winning photographers.

The deadline? Entries must be received in the ASI office by Aug. 22 to be considered.

The complete details of the contest are available on ASI’s website at www.sheepusa.org/NewsMedia_PressReleases_2016_WereLookingForYourBestShot.
Volume 8 of the newly revised Sheep Production Handbook can now be purchased online at www.sheepusa.org. Available in this edition is a new chapter on lamb quality as well as a fully searchable USB drive.

The handbook has served as the primary text for college-level sheep production courses in the United States since the first edition was published in 1970. It also proudly serves as the primary reference book for sheep producers across the country.

The information contained in the book has been authored by experts in their respective fields and extensively peer-reviewed to assure that the information is accurate and up-to-date.

Many changes have occurred in the sheep industry, and with these changes, the handbook has also changed - both in length and depth of subject matter. This edition contains some exciting new features like the lamb quality chapter and the searchable flash drive. Some chapters have been overhauled and all chapters have been reviewed and updated.

The cost of the Sheep Production Handbook is $89.95 plus shipping.

On July 11, Faribault Woolen Mill, Faribault, Minn., was awarded a Department of Defense contract to produce wool bed blankets for the Afghanistan army and police. The fixed-price contract calls for the production of as few as 39,214 wool blankets up to as many as 67,968 pieces in the next year. To fulfill the maximum number of blankets in this contract, more than 300,000 pounds of clean wool no finer than 56's and no coarser than 62's will be needed.

The Shepherds Holiday/Tradeshow is not to far away. Do you have or know of someone that has sheep products and want to show/tell sheep enthusiast about? Then come be part of our Tradeshow Dec.3 at the oak ridge Hotel and conference center Chaska MN. Contact Travis, Jeanine Fowler (507)436-5273 or tjfranch@frontiernet.net.

Take part in the “Celebrate Lamb Social” Friday, Dec. 2 at 7 pm. Lamb Cooking Demos, Wine sampling, sheep cheese sampling and more!
You could be the next winner in the Minnesota “Make It With Wool” contest! A luxurious piece of Pendleton wool, sewing products or one of the many other prizes could be yours for participating. The State contest will be held on December 3, 2016 at the Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska, MN.

The purpose of the “Make It With Wool” contest is to focus attention on the beauty and versatility of wool, and encourage the use of wool fabric or yarn in sewing, knitting or crocheting fashionable garments by offering individuals the opportunity to compete for valuable prizes and gain recognition for their talents.

Contestants must select, construct (sew, knit or crochet) and model their garments. The material must be made of a minimum of 60 percent wool. There are four age categories: Preteen (ages 12 and under), Junior (ages 13-16), Seniors (ages 17-24), Adults (25+). Ages as of January 1 of the contest year

Junior and Senior winners of the contest are eligible to go to the National “Make It With Wool” garment competition which will be held January 2017 in Denver CO.

Also Minnesota hosts a Quilt, Afghan and Novelty contest. Open to all ages. So if you have a wool quilt/afghan, mittens, scarves or any other novelty item that is made from wool consider entering. This is a Minnesota only contest.

Entry deadline is November 3, 2016. To request a brochure and entry forms please contact Glenette Sperry 651-257-6735 or you can email at gtsperry@frontiernet.net.

Also, check out the new website for more about the contest at www.mlwp.org and click on the “Make It With Wool” tab. You can also find us on Facebook under Minnesota Make It With Wool.

One-in-a-Million: Sheep Quintuplets Beat the Odds

Lambing season: A time of excitement and a promise of the future. We can all relate to the joy of new lambs on the ground. But each shepherd has their own unique stories of newborn lambs and individual strategies for giving lambs a solid start. Kathy Chinderle’s story is one for the books – and one that we can learn from.

Kathy Chinderle lives in the small town of Ash Grove, Missouri. She woke up early one day this spring to feed and take care of her animals just like any other day. Little did she know this was going to be a day to remember.

That day, Chinderle went to the barn and noticed one of her ewes lambing. She watched the first lamb be born. Then, every five minutes, another lamb was born. In twenty minutes, she had four. Chinderle was pleased and excited because she had never had quadruplets. Then, the seemingly impossible happened: her ewe gave birth to a fifth lamb.

Only one in one million ewes will give birth to quintuplets, and it has never been reported that all five survived. To beat the odds and help the five lambs thrive, Chinderle looked to proven lamb nutrition and management practices. She ensured the lambs received colostrum and selected a lamb-specific milk replacer to provide the nutrients they need. These choices helped set-up the lambs for a productive future.

Sydell August Specials:
#992 System B  $2,650  #705 Fold-Up Fitting Stand $250
#811 Sectional Feeder $205  #204P-5 (5) pack of PolyHay Baskets $220 #886 Round Bale Feeder $460 (10) #650 10 Pack of #650 Folding Panels $1,170
We recently had a webinar discussing what we need to do with ewes to get them ready for breeding season. Often rams are forgotten. Sperm is being developed six weeks prior to breeding so fertility checking rams at breeding time is ok, but if they haven’t been handled correctly the previous six weeks they probably won’t check out that well.

In my own flock (where a single sire is used) I prefer to rotate rams, over fertility checking as insurance that ewes are bred. A successful fertility check doesn’t guarantee conception. The first consideration is condition, not overly conditioned, but need to be in good rig and maintained that way. Testicles need to palpated for size and abnormalities. Rams with soft testicles, undersized, abscesses or hernias need to be culled. Rams should be wormed and if external parasites are a problem may be poured with 1% permethrin which will help some for flies as well.

Ventilation and shade are extremely important. Rams shouldn't be in long fleece and shearing should be done at least two months prior to breeding. There is a difference in breeds and seasonality is involved. Black face rams are less tolerant of weather and more seasonal than Katahdins. This is just one example of difference between breeds and there are differences within breeds. Yearling rams should be able to handle 60 ewes, a mature ram lamb 25 ewes and mature rams from 25 to 60 ewes depending on condition. There are exceptions. I once turned a yearling ram with 160 ewes in a pasture in September for one heat cycle. 150 lambed and we lambed in three places instead of one. Later he was champion ram NAILE.

Toxoplasmosis

I was asked to talk about Toxoplasmosis and additional information is available in our Veterinary Guide book or on the blog site but for today I am going to review how the organism infects sheep and goats. Cats become infected by animals infected with the parasite usually rodents or small birds. Rodents pass the organism from generation to generation through congenital infection, therefore rodents act as long term reservoir of infection. After ingestion, oocysts begin to pass in three to five days. Shedding is short in duration, usually 7 to 20 days. Enormous numbers can be passed. Two hundred million oocyst may be excreted, with 50 grams of cat feces containing up to 10 million oocysts.

The oocyst can survive in the environment for at least a year, easily tolerates cold climate, arid climate not as well. Sheep and goats are infected by eating oocysts from pasture, hay, grain or contaminated water. As few as 40 oocysts are required to infect a ewe or doe. Cats occupy hay sheds and feed storage areas and by defecating on feed it becomes infected. Feral cats have large territories and roam extensively defecating on pasture. Direct sheep to sheep spread at lambing has not been proven but consumption of infected placenta will infect cats.

What does this all mean? Young cats are the most likely to become infected and spread oocysts so it makes sense to keep a stable, adult, neutered, cat population. Certainly no cats at all is not the answer. If I could use the vaccine used in New Zealand I would do it in a heartbeat. Just maintaining a normal farm cat population is not all bad. Feeding hay and feed that is suspect of contamination to non-pregnant animals is a good idea. The use of Deccox or Rumensin during pregnancy is a recommended practice and has an added benefit of reducing exposure of coccidiosis to the lambs.

Let’s do the math, according to my calculations one gram of infected cat feces mixed with feed can infect 5,000 ewes or does. Exposure to non-pregnant females is the best answer but confirmation is difficult so the use of Deccox or Rumensin is prudent. Rumensin is commonly fed at 15 to 30 mg per head, 15mg is adequate. 2# of 6% Deccox in fifty pounds of loose salt is the most practical way to provide Deccox.
Sheep are feared to have gone on a “psychotic rampage” after eating cannabis plants dumped in a Welsh village. The remains of an illegal cannabis factory was fly-tipped and worried locals fear the sheep have been munching the plants.

County councillor Ioan Richard raised the alarm, saying the sheep have been "roaming the village" causing havoc by breaking into homes.

Mr Richard said: "There is already a flock of sheep roaming the village causing a nuisance. "They are getting in people's gardens and one even entered a bungalow and left a mess in the bedroom."

He warned of the dangers of the rest of the flock discovering the remains of the cannabis plantation dumped at Rhydypandy, in the Swansea valley in South Wales. He said: “I dread to think what will happen if they eat what could well be cannabis plants - we could have an outbreak out of psychotic sheep rampaging through the village."

The councillor has been waging a crusade against frequent fly-tipping in the countryside in his area. He said the remains of the cannabis factory, on a road above Salem Chapel near Rhydypandy, was the latest danger.

Mr Richard said that there had already been instances of sheep being killed in the village after straying into the road in the neighbouring village. He said: "I told the council officers to make sure it was reported and arranged a site visit together.

"The fly-tipped waste has now been removed, but we'd urge anyone with information about who may be responsible to contact either ourselves or South Wales Police. "Fly-tipping has a negative impact on local communities, so we're doing all we can to both prevent it and clean up as quickly as possible at known hot spots. "We also investigate all cases of fly-tipping and will take enforcement action if there's sufficient evidence."
# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 22</td>
<td>ASI Photo Contest deadline</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheepusa.org">www.sheepusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 23-25</td>
<td>100th Anniversary U.S. Sheep Exp. Station</td>
<td>Dubois, ID</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheepusa.org">www.sheepusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25—Sep. 5</td>
<td>MN State Fair</td>
<td>St Paul, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mnstatefair.org">www.mnstatefair.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>MN State Fair 4-H Sheep Show</td>
<td>St Paul, MN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mnstatefair.org">www.mnstatefair.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>64th annual Spooner Sheep Day</td>
<td>Spooner, WI</td>
<td><a href="mailto:spooner@cal.org">spooner@cal.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 8-11</td>
<td>WI Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>Jefferson, WI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com">www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 14</td>
<td>Hettinger Ram Sale</td>
<td>Hettinger, ND</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ndlwpa@gmail.com">ndlwpa@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 15</td>
<td>Montana Ram Sale</td>
<td>Miles City, MT</td>
<td>MTSheep.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 15-16</td>
<td>Newell Ram Sale</td>
<td>Newell, SD</td>
<td>site.newellramsale.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 23-24</td>
<td>Ohio Shearing School</td>
<td>Hebron, OH</td>
<td>OhioSheep.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 30—Oct. 1</td>
<td>NDLWPA Annual Convention</td>
<td>Minot, ND</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ndsheep.org/">http://www.ndsheep.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 30-Oct. 2</td>
<td>Fosston Fiber Festival</td>
<td>Fosston, MN</td>
<td>FosstonFiberFestival.com</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 7-9</td>
<td>Sheep &amp; Fiber Tour</td>
<td>near Twin Cities</td>
<td>Jean Mueller  <a href="mailto:muellerjean669@gmail.com">muellerjean669@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1-18</td>
<td>NAILE</td>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td><a href="http://www.livestockexpo.org/">http://www.livestockexpo.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5-6</td>
<td>WI Shearing School</td>
<td>Arlington, WI</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wisbc@centurytel.net">wisbc@centurytel.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 25-28</td>
<td>ASI Annual Convention</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheepusa.org">www.sheepusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have an item for the calendar — email it to Jeremy.
**MLWP Board of Directors**

- **President** - Melanie Pamp  
  pamp@westtechwb.com  
  507-629-4444

- **1st V-P.** - Travis Fowler  
  TJFRanch@frontiernet.net

- **2nd V.P.** - Randy Kinney  
  kinneylamb@gmail.com

- **Secretary** - Jeremy Geske  
  jeremy.geske@gmail.com

- **Treasurer** - Glenette Sperry  
  gtsperry@frontiernet.net

- **NE Dir.** - Steve Froehlich  
  sfroehlich@hydrosunhyroponics.com  
  320-396-3135

- **NW Dir.** - Karen Stormo  
  sheepfarm@gvtel.com  
  218-776-2223

- **SE Dir.** - Daryl Boehm  
  507-533-8310

- **SW Dir.** - Mike Haubrich  
  haum@midstate.tds.net  
  320-826-2526

- **WC Dir.** - Bob Padula  
  padula@farmerstel.net  
  320-269-7973

- **ME Dir.** - Don Drewry  
  Don.drewry@frontier.com  
  651-463-8578

- **Past Presidents:**
  - Don Adelmann  
    952-466-2451
  - John Dvorak  
    bjdvorak81@hotmail.com

---

**Have an idea for the newsletter?**

**Send it to:**

Jeremy Geske - editor  
31307 171st Ave  
New Prague, MN 56071

Phone: 612-756-1200  
E-mail: jeremy.geske@gmail.com