

SHEPHERD'S NEWS

Fall 2018

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Save the date!
Shepherd's Holiday
Nov. 30—Dec. 1
Rochester, MN
Tours Friday!

USDA ANNOUNCES AMERICAN LAMB BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the appointment of four members to serve on the American Lamb Board. Newly appointed members are:

- Tom Colyer, Hubbardston, Mass.—producer
- Gwendolyn Kitzan, Nisland, S.D.—producer
- Rob Rule, Hawarden, Iowa - feeder
- Bradley Anderson, Ault, Colo. - firsthandler

“The American Lamb Board works to help increase domestic and international demand for American lamb and improve the industry’s sustainability,” said Perdue. “I appreciate the expertise and time of these individuals who have agreed to guide the board and help their industry thrive.”

The 13-member American Lamb Board is composed six producers, three feeders, three first handlers and one seedstock producer. Two producers appointed to the board must own 100 or less head of lambs annually, one producer must own 101 to 500 head of lambs annually and

three producers must own more than 500 head of lambs annually. At least one feeder must feed less than 5,000 head of lambs annually and at least one must feed more than 5,000 head of lambs annually. More information about the board is available on the American Lamb Board page of the Agricultural Marketing Service’s (AMS) website and on the American Lamb Board website, lambresourcecenter.com.

Since 1966, Congress has authorized the establishment of 22 industry-funded research and promotion boards. They empower farmers and ranchers to leverage their own resources to develop new markets, strengthen existing markets, and conduct important research and promotion activities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s AMS provides oversight, paid for by industry assessments, which ensures fiscal accountability and program integrity for participating stakeholders.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - RANDY KINNEY

Fall is always a busy time of year the on farm, between harvest schedules, getting those last lambs off to market, breeding programs happening, maybe some manure hauling, and then there just never seems to be enough daylight as the next season is sneaking in

on us. And this Fall has had its extra challenges with the wet and cooler weather - a month of sunshine would definitely help the attitude!

Fall is also a busy time for us at MLWP too. Our fiscal year runs Nov 1 - Oct 31, so we are wrapping some things up

after the State Fair, and we have 3 grant reports due to ASI for the Mentor Program, Scrapie Eradication Outreach, and Wool Outreach. These grant monies help to cover some costs at our Spring workshop and annual conference, keeping membership informed and

connected with our newsletters, etc. And then lots of planning taking place for our annual conference, the Shepherds Holiday!

Our annual conference, **“Shepherds Holiday”** is just weeks away now! This

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CONT

year's location is Rochester MN, on Friday November 30th and Saturday December 1st. The schedule will be similar to last year's. Their will be an optional tour during the day on Friday. Friday evening will again be our Lamb Social, followed by our fundraiser auction. Saturday will be full of education, research, and practical sessions, our annual meeting, and Awards Luncheon. Make It With Wool contest will also be on Saturday. There should be something for everyone, young and old, new producers to experienced, and a great opportunity to network and socialize with your fellow producer members. See article for

more conference info, registration and reservations.

With this fiscal year and season coming to an end, it's a good time to look back at what our successes were and what things we can improve on. Travis' article asks us to think about this for our own operations. But what about MLWP? What more could we have done or what more can we all do to help out this organization and our industry?

Have you ever thought about volunteering, joining one of our committees, or joining the board as a director? We are always looking for members that are wanting to get more involved. And with our annual



conference and new year just around the corner, the timing couldn't be any better to get in contact with us! As always, feel free to contact myself or any of us board members, with your concerns or comments. Hope to see you in Rochester!

GREETINGS FROM YOUR ASI REGION III DIRECTOR

As I am writing this article I am looking out my window to see the sun is out. Don't know for how long but after the last week of rainy and cloudy days it is a welcome sight. Hopefully with this unfavorable weather this is giving you producer's time to catch up on projects that have been on hold, and also to take this opportunity to evaluate your operation and set goals for your sheep operation for the coming year

By now producers should be well on their way to fall breeding. I hope all is going well with each of your breeding programs.

As we all know September 30th came and went and we have no new Farm Bill pasted. Once again we have Senators and Representatives that cannot come together to agree on a new bill. The old bill has been extended. For now we are all going to have to wait and see how the midterm election turns out. If either house changes control especially the House, it could mean we would be back to square one. So for now the odds of having a bill passed before the elections are doubtful. The

committee has met in the last weeks but still there is no new agreement.

I have had the opportunity to travel to all but one of the State's Annual meetings. It is interesting to see just how each state runs their state association. All are somewhat different but each state has the same mission in mind, and that is to provide the best possible way to keep producers informed on what is happening in their respective states and also the industry. But in the end it is also up to the producer to stay in touch with their state's association.

Being a member of Minnesota Lamb and Wool, this allows you to receive the monthly Sheep Magazine that ASI publishes. I encourage each of you to read it as it will help keep you informed as to what is happening in our industry.

Please keep the first weekend in December open to attend the Annual meeting. It gives producers a time to get together to talk with fellow producers. It also provides a little break to get away from busy farm work and to relax and enjoy the company of others.



With the wet weather, harvest is looking like it will be a challenge this fall. Please be safe. Our industry is small and we need each and every one of you.

John Dvorak
ASI Region III Director

USDA ANNOUNCES NSIIC BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the appointment of a producer and an expert in finance and management to serve as members on the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center Board of Directors.

Newly appointed to serve three-year terms are:

Producer – Leo Tammi, Mount Sidney, Va.

Expert in Finance and Management – Burton P. Pfliger, Bismarck, N.D.

“These experienced appointees will be a boon to the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center’s mission of strengthening the

production and marketing of U.S. sheep and sheep products and ensuring the global competitiveness **of America’s sheep industry,”** said Perdue.

The board is composed of seven voting members and two non-voting members. Voting members of the board include four members who are active producers of sheep in the United States, two members who have expertise in finance and management and one member who has expertise in lamb, wool, or lamb product marketing. Non-voting members include the USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and the Under

Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service provides oversight of the center.

More information about the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center is available on the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center website.



MLWPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - JEREMY GESKE

MLWPA board meeting / Sept. 22, 2018 – Pizza Ranch, Litchfield

Participants: Randy K, Glenette S, Doug M, Jeremy G, Steve F, Kay E, and guests: Heidi Geske

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 by President Randy K.

Agenda was approved as emailed.

The Secretary’s reports were distributed via email. One addition and one correction were added. Moved/2nd to approve as corrected – carried.

The Treasurer’s report was distributed by Glenette. Total balance = \$59,751.73. Discussion on pending income from directory ads. Sales tax from state fair sales needs to be paid in October. Moved/2nd to approve – carried.

ASI update – Randy discussed **next fiscal year budget for ASI, (Let’s Grow funding increased for NSIP, mentor program and webinars),** state dues will remain the same. Discussion from ASI on lamb prices. Wolf depredation prevention grant – Randy helped review applications. Several sheep producers received approval for funding.

ASI Scrapie grant – May have to return partial funding – considering ideas for next year.

ASI Mentor grant – Randy working on **report and waiting for next year’s** application.

ASI Wool grant – Glenette, Randy working on that - MIWW, state fair booth, etc.

State fair commercial booth report for 2018: sales \$48,532.27 (net to MLWP for year= \$10,113.41).

Baa booth – John Dvorak spent a lot of time there. Things went well.

Shepherd’s Holiday: 2 stops for Friday option tour – bus from Rochester, leave late morning, back mid-afternoon. Short on sponsorships this year – ideas welcome to keep registration fee down. Lamb social and auction Friday night.

Saturday sessions, MIWW etc. Don and Randy putting together seminars. MIWW contest coming together. Conference call week before or so for last minute details.

Membership/directory/new brochure – discussion on problems with membership file.

Old business:

State fair awards – better recognition this year

Website/FB updates needed

New Business:

Motion/2nd to donate \$250 for Catie Erickson for national FFA convention (for her sheep project) – ask for a report on her experience. – carried National Rambouillet show – Pipestone request – moved/2nd to support the junior member portion of the show at \$250 as part of our mentorship efforts.

Discussion on using Google Docs more.

Budget planning – projected income just over \$90,000. Total expenses just under \$92,500. Moved.2nd to present this proposed budget at the annual meeting. Carried.

Nominating Committee – Randy & John – will be contacting board members.

Newsletter date – Oct 12.

Next meeting – Conf call – November - TBD

Mtg adjourned 3:16

NEWELL RAM SALE 2018—RESULTS

Breed	Head Sold	Total Sale/ Breed	Avg/ Head
Prime SAMM Rams	6	\$ 4,450.00	\$ 741.67
Rambouillet Rams	83	\$ 55,775.00	\$ 671.99
Rambouillet Ewes	20	\$ 8,650.00	\$ 432.50
Targhee Rams	8	\$ 9,100.00	\$ 1,137.50
Targhee Ewes	2	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 575.00
Columbia Rams	3	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 533.33
Columbia Ewes	2	\$ 675.00	\$ 337.50
Corriedales Rams	1	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Corriedale Ewes	5	\$ 2,525.00	\$ 505.00
Suffolk Rams	26	\$ 14,975.00	\$ 575.96
Suffolk Ewes	9	\$ 4,125.00	\$ 458.33
Hampshire Rams	15	\$ 8,825.00	\$ 588.33
Hampshire Ewes	5	\$ 2,075.00	\$ 415.00
Dorset Rams	0	\$ -	\$ -
Total	185	\$ 114,275.00	\$ 617.70

High Selling Ewes- Jon Beaström of Pierre SD with his Targhee Yearling Ewe bought by Ray Shepard of Pierre SD for \$700.00 and Joana Frieze of New Salem ND with her Corriedale Ewe Lamb bought by Nicole Marquette of Waverly MN for \$700.00.

High Selling Ram- Chapman Rambouillet of Bison SD with their Rambouillet Yearling Stud Ram bought by Fran

Page of Faith for \$2650.00.

High Selling Pen Of Range Rams- Lisa Surber of Newell SD with her pen of 2 Yearling Targhee Range Rams bought by Jamie Spring of Union Center SD for \$3000.00.



Champion/High-selling Ram—Chapman Rambouillet

MARKET UPDATE - [THESE PRICES ARE FROM 10/4/18]

Feeder Prices, (\$/cwt.), San Angelo: \$130.00-\$133.12; St. Onge-Newell, SD: \$138.41-\$183.20.

Slaughter Prices - Live, Negotiated, 131-179 lbs. \$136.32 per cwt.

Slaughter Prices - Formula, 82.00 lbs. carcass weight \$280.46 per cwt.

Slaughter Prices "Comprehensive Information" -- Formula & Negotiated, 79.74 lbs. carcass weight \$279.95 per cwt.

Equity Electronic Auction, no sales.

Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value¹, \$330.22 per cwt.

Carcass Price, Choice and Prime, YG 1-4, weighted average prices (\$/cwt.), No prices reported.

Exported Adult Sheep, 340 head

Wool, (\$/pound clean), delivered FOB, From 7 weeks ago: 18 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 19 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 20 micron (Grade 70s) NA, 21 micron (Grade 64-70s) 6.00, 22 micron (Grade 64s) 5.28, 23 micron (Grade 62s) 5.26, 24 micron (Grade 60-62s) 4.92, 25 micron (Grade 58s) 3.74, 26 micron (Grade 56-58s) NA, 27 Micron (Grade 54-56s) NA, 28 micron (Grade 54s) NA, 30 micron (Grade 50s) NA, 32 micron (Grade 46-48s) NA, Merino Clippings NA.

Ft. Collins, CO Feeder Lambs \$125 - \$167/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$121 - \$143/cwt, Ewes & Bucks \$33 - \$90/cwt

Zumbrota, MN Feeder Lambs \$100 - \$210/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$110 - \$125/cwt, Ewes & Bucks \$10 - \$58/cwt

Fargo, ND Feeder Lambs \$130 - \$149/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$123 - \$134/cwt, Ewes & Bucks \$45 - \$63/cwt

Pipestone, MN Feeder Lambs \$126-137.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$122 - \$128/cwt, Ewes & Bucks \$10 - \$64/cwt

Sioux Falls, SD Feeder Lambs \$121 - \$161/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$112 - \$138/cwt, Ewes & Bucks \$37- \$130/cwt

Mt Hope, OH Feeder Lambs \$150 - \$415/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$105 - \$167.50/cwt, Ewes & Bucks \$40- \$85/cwt

Manchester, MI Feeder Lambs \$120 - \$200/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$110 - \$150/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks \$20- \$80/cwt

Escalon, CA Feeder Lambs \$120 - \$180/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$100 - \$150/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks \$35- \$210/hd

Billings, MT Feeder Lambs \$135 - \$190/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$118 - \$135.50/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks \$40.50- \$54/cwt

Kalona, IA Feeder Lambs \$116 - \$177.50/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$114 - \$129/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks \$33- \$87.50/cwt

Fennimore, WI Feeder Lambs \$110 - \$150/cwt, Slaughter lambs \$110 - \$115/cwt ; Ewes & Bucks \$45- \$60/cwt

Equity (WI) Feeder Lambs \$115/cwt & down, Slaughter lambs \$110/cwt & down ; Ewes & Bucks \$45/cwt & down

AMERICAN LAMB BOARD NEWS

Influencer Events Help Expand American Lamb Messages

The American Lamb Board (ALB) continues to host hands on lamb educational programs for food influencers to enlist their help in inspiring consumers to expand their lamb use beyond the traditional holidays. Last week, ALB hosted two events for food influencers: a farm retreat in California and a nutrition workshop in New Orleans.

A group of women food bloggers, writers, chefs, butchers and influencers were carefully selected for a weekend American Lamb retreat on Five Mary's Farms in Fort Jones, California. Themed *Girls Can Grill Glamping Adventure*, it was filled with farm tours and chores, a butchery demonstration, grilling competition, discussions with local sheep producers, and topped off meals featuring American lamb dishes ranging from merguez sausage for breakfast, lamb burgers with chimichurri for lunch and a whole roasted lamb on a spit.

The attendees, with a combined social media reach of over 700,000 consumers, continue to share their experiences at Five Mary's Farms across their social channels. Their stories and posts help spread our

messages and educate consumers about the many benefits of American Lamb including the importance of supporting our local farmers and ranchers.

The ALB's collaborative nutrition communications program with NZ and AU, Nourish with Lamb, hosted their third "A Tale of Two Trends" workshop at the Golding Schools for Culinary Medicine. The workshop is an exploration of two trends shaping today's food culture: lamb and Culinary Medicine (utilizing nutrition and culinary knowledge to achieve and maintain optimal health). The attendees – a strong, targeted group of nutrition influencers and health professionals – received instruction and hands-on learning and immersion of all things lamb (lamb production, nutrition attributes, cuts, culinary applications, and trends) to leave with confidence in cooking and communicating about the culinary versatility and nutrition benefits of lamb.

Microsoft Chef Lamb Tour

The American Lamb Board organized and led a tour for chefs working at the Microsoft corporate headquarters in Redmond, Wash. The event included a tour of Ninety Farms, a 50-acre family farm in

Arlington (about an hour outside of Redmond) followed by a lamb

fabrication demonstration given by Travis Anderson of

Anderson Ranches. The tour and demonstration were followed by an American Lamb catered lunch which featured two lamb dishes.

Approximately 15 chefs attended the half-day event. American Lamb information and gift bags were given to attendees.

The event was scheduled after the American Lamb Board met and talked with the Senior Program Manager for Microsoft Dining Services at the University of Massachusetts Chef Conference in June. He expressed interest in offering his staff a chance to visit and learn about local farms and ranches.

About 65,000 Microsoft employees are on campus daily in Redmond and about 40,000 meals are served each day. Their annual purchase approximately 20,000 pounds of lamb each year.



LAMB KABOBS & VEGETABLE SKEWERS

Ingredients

- 2 lbs American lamb stew/kabobs
 - 2 TBSP Chili Flakes
 - 2 TBSP Garlic Powder
 - 2 TBSP Paprika
 - 1 TBSP Olive Oil
 - 1 TBSP Soy Sauce
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - Your favorite grilling vegetables
- {editor recommends: Onion, Red & Green Bell Pepper, Pineapple}*
[other options: tomato, mushroom, zucchini, yellow squash]

Directions

1. Mix the chili flakes, garlic powder, paprika, olive oil, soy sauce, salt & pepper into a bowl. Add the lamb meat and let marinate for at least one hour.
2. Get your grill hot.
3. Place marinated lamb and vegetable chunks onto skewers.
4. Place on grill—char all sides until cooked through.



LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE ESTABLISHES SHEEP INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

While some of the Lamb Industry Roadmap recommendations have already been addressed, the four key goals still remain relevant and more work needs to be done. The goals of the Roadmap are:

- Make American lamb a premier product every time.
- Promote lamb as a premier meat.
- Improve productivity to remain competitive.
- Work together as a whole industry.

The Roadmap helped bring the industry together to focus on these goals and it is important to continue to facilitate this collaboration and passion to grow and strengthen the American lamb industry. The Roadmap Implementation Committee has turned the reigns over to the national sheep organizations and sector leaders that have the resources to implement these strategies and commit to industry-wide collaboration. These strategies require coordination and collaboration across all sectors and industry organizations. The Roadmap Implementation team has been dissolved and a new lamb industry

Leadership Roundtable has been established to help drive changes throughout the supply chain that will increase the industry's productivity and profitability in every segment.

The goal is to provide a forum for leaders from all sectors and national industry organizations to:

- Discuss industry challenges and issues.
- Develop strategies to address the four Roadmap goals above.
- Work together to gain back market share from imported lamb.
- Strengthen our industry's competitive and long-term profitability.

Roundtable members include: Benny Cox and Peter Orwick from the American Sheep Industry Assoc.; Dale Thorne and Megan Wortman representing the American Lamb Board; Ryan Indart of the National Lamb Feeders Association; Rick Stott with Superior Farms; Frank Moore of Mountain States Rosen; Reid Redden with Texas A&M AgriLife; and Minnesota producer and feeder Dan Lippert, who serves as chairman of the Roundtable.

The Leadership Roundtable held its first meeting in August and committed to work on the following priorities:

- Support an expanded role for the National Sheep Improvement Program to improve production efficiencies, increase the supply of out-of-season lambs and improve the quality and consistency of American lamb.
- Increase the supply of out-of-season lambs. The Roundtable aims to increase the supply of packer-ready lambs between May and September by shifting current production and encouraging additional production through an industry-wide education and awareness campaign.
- Improve feedback to producers and feeders regarding carcass quality. The Roundtable supports working toward broad industry commitment of a feedback loop for all lamb processed and ensuring the electronic grading is being fully utilized to evaluate carcass qualities beyond weight.

LAMB EXPORTS SHOW GROWTH IN 2018

American lamb exports continue to rebound from last year's low totals as July volume jumped 104 percent from a year ago to 1,209 metric tons and value increased by 46 percent to \$2.17 million.

Through July, lamb exports increased 54 percent in volume (6,680 metric tons) and 21 percent in value (\$13.44 million). While much of this growth is attributable to stronger lamb variety meat demand in Mexico, muscle cut exports trended higher to the Caribbean, the United Arab Emirates, the ASEAN region and Taiwan.

For complete export results for

American lamb, beef and pork from the U.S. Meat Export Federation, go

to <http://www.usmef.org/news-statistics/statistics/>



ANIMAL CARE NEWS - NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AG

USDA outlines next steps for animal disease traceability

As the National Institute for Animal Agriculture held its 2018 Strategy Forum on Livestock Traceability in Kansas City, Mo., to support the U.S. Department of Agriculture's animal disease traceability (ADT) program, USDA undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs Greg Ibach announced Sept. 25 from Washington, D.C., the agency's four overarching goals for advancing disease traceability to protect the long-term health, marketability and economic viability of the U.S. livestock industry.

"The landscape surrounding animal disease traceability has changed dramatically in the past decade, and producers across the nation recognize that a comprehensive system is the best protection against a devastating disease outbreak like foot and mouth disease" Ibach said. "We have a responsibility to these producers and American agriculture as a whole to make animal disease traceability what it should be: a modern system that tracks animals from birth to slaughter using affordable technology that allows USDA to quickly trace sick and exposed animals to stop disease spread."

USDA said its four overarching goals for increasing traceability are:

1. Advance the electronic sharing of data among federal and state animal health officials, veterinarians and the industry, including sharing basic ADT data with the federal animal health events repository;

2. Use electronic identification tags for animals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient;
3. Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracked data points to be connected, and

4. Elevate the discussion with states and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to state animal health officials.

While electronic identification is critical for advancing traceability, USDA said its important to emphasize that the agency will not dictate the use of a specific tag technology. Different industries prefer different tag types (e.g., low frequency versus ultra-high frequency), and choice will continue to be a cornerstone of **USDA's ADT program, giving producers the ability to decide what works best for their operations.**

Lamb Perceptions Improving

Perceptions of lamb are improving among U.S. consumers, who report increased demand for the meat and fewer qualms about cooking it, according to new market research.

"There are strong indicators our messages are getting through to consumers," said Megan Wortman, executive director of the American Lamb Board, which directs research and promotions for the industry.

A survey of more than 2,000 people found that 43 percent said they would definitely or probably buy lamb in the next six months, up from 30 percent in 2011 and 20 percent in 2006. Of those who already eat lamb, 35 percent said they liked everything about the meat, compared to 11 percent in 2011.

U.S. Taking Steps to Harden Border Biosecurity in Light of ASF

The Swine Health Information Centre reports the United States is taking steps to reduce the potential for African Swine Fever to enter the country from China.

African Swine Fever has been spreading in China and is now reported in Belgium. Swine Health Information Centre Executive Director

Dr. Paul Sundberg says the PED virus that came to North America in 2013 originated from one of the provinces in China that has ASF and, since we don't know how that happened, the concern is could that window still be open?

Dr. Paul Sundberg says "The American Association of Swine Veterinarians, the National Pork Producers Council, the National Pork Board and Swine Health Information Centre, all four industry organizations, are talking to USDA regularly about all of the things that can be done to help harden our systems.

"We're looking at the customs and border protection in the U.S. in upping the inspections of people that are coming into the country, not just from the far east but also from eastern Europe and other areas because we know that that virus is not just in China.

"We're also asking for USDA to help increase the inspections of any swill feeding, any food waste feeding that is going on with pigs around the country, increase those inspections of licensed feeders and increase the enforcement of the regulations for those that aren't licensed."

Dr. Sundberg says an incursion of African Swine Fever would immediately take the United States out of the international trade market followed by a process of isolation leading to eradication.

[Editor's note: After our recent travel abroad—which included visits to several farms—my wife and I were disturbed by the lack of precautions taken by the authorities when we landed back in the US. Despite the fact that we checked all the appropriate forms indicated we had visited farms, nothing was done to inspect or disinfect our shoes, etc. We did on our own disinfect our shoes and wash all clothing. We also reported our concerns to the Board of Animal Health.]

CAPITOL CONNECTION

NCTO Welcomes United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement

The United States, Mexico and Canada have concluded negotiations on a trade agreement to replace NAFTA. The text of the deal, now referred to as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, was released by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative last night.

"The U.S. textile industry is pleased the United States, Mexico and Canada have reached an agreement because Canada and Mexico are its largest trading partners," said National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) President & CEO Auggie Tantillo as he noted that products from the textile and apparel supply chain accounted for nearly \$12 billion in U.S. exports to Canada and Mexico in 2017.

"Unlike the original NAFTA, the new agreement includes a separate textile and apparel chapter. This outcome is a tangible recognition by all three parties of the importance of textile manufacturing to the regional economy," Tantillo added as he explained that NCTO would not be making any further comment with respect to the deal until the substance of the agreement could be carefully analyzed by NCTO.

NCTO is a Washington, DC-based trade association that represents domestic textile manufacturers, including artificial and synthetic filament and fiber producers.

Wolf Legislation Moves in House

The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved legislation this week by Rep. Sean Duffy (Wis.) and Rep. Dan Newhouse (Wash.) to return gray wolf management to the states.

Management of gray wolves was transferred from the state to the federal level following two 2014 U.S. District Court decisions that reinstated gray wolves under the protections of the Endangered

Species Act. These designations leave farmers and ranchers in those states without a legal avenue to protect their livestock from wolves.

"I thank Chairman (Rob) Bishop (Utah) and my colleagues on the House Natural Resources Committee for advancing this important legislation to delist the gray wolf," said Newhouse. "The best-available science used by the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows that the gray wolf has recovered and is no longer endangered. We must return management of the species to states to allow for more effective and accountable management that responds to the needs of the ecosystem, other species, and local communities."

Seven SW Minnesota Counties Now Eligible for Federal Disaster Aid

A U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretarial Disaster Declaration has been issued for seven Minnesota counties affected by excessive rain, flash flooding and flooding that occurred from June 17 through July 3, 2018. USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue has declared Murray County a primary disaster area and the counties of Cottonwood, Lyon, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock have been named contiguous disaster counties.

The Secretarial disaster designation makes farmers in these seven counties eligible for emergency loans from the federal Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Contact your county FSA office for more information.

Final buffer implementation deadline approaches

Nov. 1 is the deadline to establish buffers along public ditches as required in the expanded buffer legislation passed in 2015.

If they have not already done so,



farmland owners affected by this requirement should talk to their local drainage authority or soil and water conservation district if they have any questions about buffer needs on their property.

Minnesota ditch law has required 16.5-foot vegetative buffers since 1977, but with a gradual phase-in — as the requirement did not apply until the local ditch authority appointed viewers to determine or redetermine benefits and damages for a ditch system.

This process had resulted in a steady increase in buffered ditch miles. However, it had not yet reached all public ditch systems. A 2006 report from the Board of Soil and Water Resources indicated that 72% of public drainage ditches were known to have the required grass strip in place. The 2015 legislation had the effect of removing the redetermination trigger, stating simply that all public ditches must be buffered by Nov. 1 of this year.

In general, landowner reports align with BWSR statistics, showing that compliance with the new buffer law across both public ditches and public waters is generally going well. However, calls in recent months clearly point out ongoing frustration in some situations.

Concerns about public waters designations by the Department of Natural Resources still top the list of issues voiced by landowners. Private ditches, even small swales in fields, have in some cases been deemed by the DNR to be public waters. I expect that this category of conflict will wind

CAPITOL CONNECTION - CONT.

up in the courts or back at the Legislature at some point.

Compensation to landowners is also of major concern. Efforts to get even a very modest tax break for those affected by the loss of cropland converted to buffers were unsuccessful during the 2018 legislative session.

On public ditch buffers, state drainage law provides for compensation, in that all landowners on a given ditch system pay their share as determined by the drainage authority. Public waters buffers are a mixed bag, as some have successfully enrolled in programs — usually the Conservation Reserve Program — while others have received no compensation at all.

Landowners also report frustration with the process for implementing alternative practices in lieu of buffers, as allowed by the legislation. This provision was meant to provide flexibility for landowners, recognizing that in some situations, a fix other than a buffer could be a better solution than a buffer. Some landowners indicate that in their experience, the alternative practices **option is being presented as “buffers plus,” not as a buffer alternative.**

Poor communication is a common element in those few spots where these troubles persist. Most local authorities have good working relationships with local landowners and are helping them deal with the new law. Unfortunately, this is not the case everywhere.

If you are experiencing any challenges with the new buffer law, those listed above or otherwise, I would like to hear from you. I will compile your concerns with others to help identify ongoing issues. Contact me at 952-237-9822 or warren@mawrc.org.

Once identified, the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center and our member organizations can

work on solutions. And you may also find some relief in sharing your story with a sympathetic ear.

Interior's Sue and Settle Order Exposes Secret Settlements with Activists

Activists have grown rich by suing the government and reaping billions **of taxpayers' dollars** – and all in secret. The U.S. Department of Interior, however, has issued an order to curb this abuse of basic, democratic processes and to open backroom deals to public scrutiny.

Interior alone paid out more than \$4.4 billion in monetary awards under terms of 460 settlement agreements and consent decrees between Jan. 1, 2012, and Jan. 19, 2017. In other words, Interior paid out an average of more than \$800 million a year while keeping key aspects of litigation secret.

It's easy to see why so many outside observers fear an unaccountable bureaucracy cutting deals with activists. “The Department of Interior is shining light on a corner of government most people don't even know exists,” AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen said. “Basic transparency demands that citizens know what their government is doing. When activists sue, they can tie up the government with dozens of frivolous claims but still recover attorneys' fees if a judge upholds even one, solitary claim.

“Faced with a barrage of allegations that sap agency time and resources whether they have merit or not, the government is too often motivated to capitulate through secret settlements. Some agencies have even been known to invite litigation with the purpose of entering a settlement to provide political cover for controversial agency policies. And in settling, agencies often agree to pay legal fees, which further fuels the sue-and-settle machine. This action is a solid first step to fixing the

problem. Every other federal agency **should follow suit.”**

Among other things, the department has committed to:

- Establish a publicly accessible webpage that details ongoing litigation.
- Post a searchable list and text of final judicial and administrative consent decrees and settlement agreements that govern departmental actions along with **details of attorneys' fees paid.**
- Post any proposed consent decree or settlement agreement that commits DOI to seek a particular appropriation or budget authorization from Congress or formally reprogram appropriated funds.
- Publish notice of proposed consent decrees and settlements in the Federal Register, and provide a public comment period of at least 30 days.

Full text and details of the order can be found here:
https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/so_3368_promoting_transparency_and_accountability_in_consent_decree_and_settlement_agreements.pdf

Farm Bill Expired Sept. 30

There are 39 programs that lost authorization and/or funding when the current bill expired. Other programs will continue due to permanent authorization, including most programs under Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and crop insurance. Other commodity programs are tied to the crop year, not the fiscal year, which means most commodity programs will not see any impact for a few more months.

[Ed. Note: ASI and other farm groups will continue to push congress for a new farm bill.]

2018 SHEPHERD'S HOLIDAY—TENTATIVE AGENDA

**** Please note: Seminar topics/speakers /times may change slightly—check the MLWPA website for the most current agenda—mlwp.org ****

Friday Nov. 30

9:30 am - Meet at the Kahler Apache Hotel parking lot for the optional Farm Tours. *[You must pre-register for the farm tours so we can plan for the correct number of lunches and the correct bus size!]*

10:00 am - Bus departs for farm tours

11:00 am - Arrive at *Williams Show Lambs*, Mabel, MN. *Heath Williams and Family own one of the premier show lamb flocks in the nation*

Noon - Bus departs for *Sheep Improvement Company*, Rushford, MN. *Kelly O'Neill and Cindy Wolf own a commercial sheep farm as well as raising livestock guard dogs. Cindy is also a nationally recognized expert on sheep health/veterinary issues.*

3:00 pm - Bus departs for the Canadian Honker Events Center, Rochester

6:30 pm - *Celebrate Lamb Social* - including lamb cooking/sampling demos, cash bar, snacks, and the annual fundraiser auction.

Saturday, Dec. 1

7-8:00 am - Breakfast, Registration, Make it With Wool Registration

8-11:00 am - Make it With Wool Orientation & Judging

8 am-4 pm - Trade Show open

8:00 am - Concurrent Seminars: Lamb Nutrition—*Dr. Dan Morriscal & Your Club Lamb Project—Heath Williams*

8:45 am - Concurrent Seminars: Sheep Flock Financial Management—*Eric Kinsley & Fiber and/or Youth activity— tbd*

9:45 am - Concurrent Seminars: Make Money with NSIP—*Rusty Burgett & Keeping Sheep Healthy while Pasture Lambing—Dr. Cindy Wolf*

** additional youth & fiber activities may be added for the morning.*

10:30 am - MLWPA annual meeting & elections

11:30 am - Awards Luncheon

12:15-1:30 pm - Make it With Wool style show

12:15-1:00 pm - Past Silver Bell winner presentations: Mark & Jo Bernard, Steve Froehlich family

1-1:30 pm - Updates from ALB and ASI

1:30 pm - Concurrent Seminars: NDSU Sheep Research Update—*Dr. Travis Hoffman & Importance of Ram Fertility in Conjunction with Ewe CIDR Synchronization—Dr. Jeff Held*

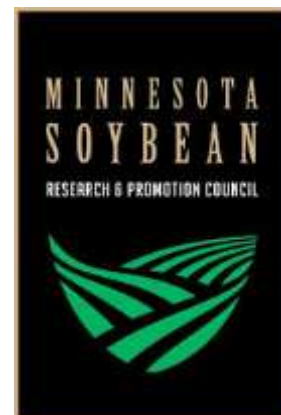
2:15 pm - Concurrent Seminars: Lamb Growth and Feed Consumption with a Lactec Feeding System—*Dr. Jeff Held & A.I. Strategies for Sheep—Dr. Justin Luther*

3:15 pm - Concurrent Seminars: Ewe Nutrition—*Dr. Dan Morriscal & Colostrum Strategies—Don Drewry*

3:45 pm - Concurrent Seminars: Woodland Pasturing—*Mr. Zamora & Sheep Production in Australia + A Virtual Tour of New Zealand's South Island—Dr. Travis Hoffman + Heidi & Jeremy Geske*

4:30-5:00 pm - Adjourn

Please thank our major sponsors!



2018 MLWPA Shepherd's Holiday—Registration Form

Name(s) _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____ City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Signature if paying with credit card

Pre-registration Costs: *Walk-ins welcome, but there may be an additional \$10/person charge.*

Conference*

*** Includes: Friday evening social, access to seminars & trade show, Saturday breakfast, refreshments and Saturday's luncheon**

Members \$75 (first person) + _____ x \$25 (each additional family member) = _____

Non-members \$95 (first person) + _____ x \$25 (each additional family member) = _____

Optional Friday Tours (10 am—4 pm) _____ x \$20 per person (includes lunch) = _____

(Friday tour space is limited—you must pre-register)

If you're not a member, join with your registration to receive the reduced rate.

(and/or pay your 2019 dues along with conf. registration) MLWPA dues _____ \$40 (family 1-yr) or
 _____ \$110 (family 3-yr) or _____ \$30 (friend of the industry / no sheep) = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Completed registration forms and checks (payable to MLWP) should be sent to Glenette Sperry, 31460 Quinlan Ave, Center City, MN 55012 before November 16th, 2018

To pay with credit card:

 Visa/Mastercard (*circle*) Number _____ Expiration Date _____ 3-digit code _____

Reserve your room by Nov. 8, 2018! [conference rate = \$95/night] Call 1-800-533-1655 and ask for the Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association rate *Kahler Apache Hotel, 1517 16th St SW, Rochester, MN 55902*

Join us for the Friday Social—Friday Nov. 30 from 6-10pm
 Lamb Cooking Demos/sampling Snacks/Cash Bar

Go to: www.mlwp.org for an updated agenda, and conference materials

Major Sponsors: *Compeer Financial, Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council, Superior Farms*



THE LATEST ON THE SCRAPIE TAG PROGRAM FROM USDA

Throughout FY 2018, APHIS provided metal serial or flock ID ear tags to sheep and goat producers free of charge. Due to significant increases in the cost of metal tags, Veterinary Services will only provide metal serial tags in FY 2019 and limit the number of free tags available to producers in order to keep costs within budget.

Producers and other entities may

receive up to 100 metal serial tags every 2 years. Markets will continue to get the number of metal serial tags they require.

In response to industry's request to have the metal tags stand out better on white ears, APHIS will provide orange metal serial tags (versus white) going forward. Slaughter-only metal serial ear tags will continue to be blue.

APHIS remains committed to animal disease traceability and rapid response when scrapie outbreaks occur. These changes allow APHIS to continue equitably distributing metal tags to sheep and goat producers, and the markets, within available funding levels. Limiting the funds spent on ear tags allows APHIS to maintain the surveillance essential to eradicating this fatal degenerative disease.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL MARKET DOWN AGAIN THIS WEEK

The Australian wool market has continued its downward trend, adding further losses to those experienced in the previous sale.

Melbourne sold in an unusual pattern, selling on Tuesday and Wednesday due to a Friday public holiday celebrating the AFL Grand Final. This meant Melbourne opened proceedings, selling in isolation on Tuesday. The market opened with discounts from the opening lot. Prices continued to fall as buyers became increasingly selective with their purchases.

Sydney and Fremantle resumed sales on Wednesday and quickly realized the losses experienced in Melbourne, then further price

reductions were felt in all three centers. The Western region was the hardest hit, resulting in the Western indicator falling by 74 Australian cents for the day. Sydney recorded more losses on the final day, however Fremantle managed to hold steady, even recording small price increases in selected microns. By the end of the series, prices had fallen by 50 to 90 Australian cents when compared to the previous week, with the losses felt across all microns. The AWEX Eastern market indicator fell by 54 cents, closing at 2,013 Australian cents. This was the largest fall in the EMI since it lost 62 cents in July.

The skirting market suffered

similar corrections to the fleece. Prices generally fell by 60 to 80 Australian cents, and wools carrying more than 4.0 percent vegetable matter were most affected by the falling market. The crossbreds also lost ground for the week, but not to the same extent as their Merino cousins. The losses were generally 20 to 40 Australian cents. The oddment sector was the poorest performer for the week. A limited selection struggled to attract buyer support and prices were generally discounted by more than 100 cents.

The national offering continues to increase, next week there are 42,546 bales rostered for sale in Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle.

DEFINE YOUR NEXT STEP

TRAVIS HOFFMAN, EXTENSION SHEEP SPECIALIST
NDSU/UOFM TRAVIS.W.HOFFMAN@NDSU.EDU



First off, I come from a long tradition as a 5th generation agriculturalist, and I am proud to say that my youngest sister Lacie, with her husband Rob and son Braxton, is **fulfilling "my dream" as she works on our sheep, cattle, and grain operation in South Dakota.**

I have had the opportunity to interact with many people that want to learn about sheep as a part of their new or sustained ventures in agriculture. Please realize that in Minnesota I get the tremendous opportunity to work with lamb feeders that feed 10,000+ lambs, upstart progressive accelerated lambing producers, and fiber enthusiasts that add value to their own supply chain. Each sheep producer can identify their own goal for the future.

In a discussion with a local lamb merchandiser, I heard that agriculture is not the way of the **future. He stated "many countries pay 30% of their income for food, while in the U.S. that number is closer to 10%." I was told that**

"government subsidies are upholding the infrastructure of agriculturalists."

Too this, I simply disagree, and look larger to our end focus. We are in the midst of farmers waiting (impatiently) to harvest the toils of their labors of corn and/or soybeans as Mother Nature decided to make fields wetter than preferred. More importantly, I believe in each and every one of you to define your own path and reach your own goals.

Let's refocus. Goals are absolutely important to our Minnesota operations. I challenge you as we reach calendar year 2019 to discuss goals for all involved for the future. The easiest focus is the amount of lambs weaned. In order to increase lamb percent, what is your breeding and nutrition program? I know my least favorite topic is trying to keep every lamb alive. Can more attention be made during lambing? Should we provide supplemental milk to lambs? Colostrum is a key to providing the baseline for healthy lambs. Additionally, we are soon in a decision to decide of whether to

bottle lambs or merchandise them to the neighbor.

Larger operations have found success with the Lac-Tek system to alleviate some of those struggles.

As we move forward, get lambs on a palatable and high protein diet to supplement growth. Growing lambs are what provides prosperity for an operation. Now, where is the focus? Minnesota has a building **market for "non-traditional" lambs** marketed in the ethnic trade. Additionally, we learned this year that contracts with processing plants helps to solidify a market when prices are depressed. Maybe your focus is fiber and providing wool for equity. Several entities in Minnesota have highlighted value-added products, and this may be your niche.

Despite your focus, identify one expense on input and one revenue that you can control for future progress. How are you willing to Define Your Next Step to profitability in your sheep operation?

HOOF CARE—TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

Hoof care is an important aspect of sheep production and management. Hoof diseases can affect the health and welfare of sheep and have a negative effect on productivity. Hooves should be regularly checked for disease and excess growth. Animals which have excessive hoof growth, recurrent hoof problems and/or fail to respond to treatment should be culled.

Hoof Trimming

Hoof growth—and thus, the need for hoof trimming—is affected by many factors, including breed and genetics, soil moisture and characteristics, management and nutrition. Sheep grazed on rocky, dry soil may not require the extent of hoof care as sheep that are maintained on soil that is free of rocks and higher in moisture content. Sheep in high rainfall areas will need to have their hooves inspected more regularly than those on dry ground. Housed sheep usually require more hoof trimming than pastured animals. Sheep on a higher plane of nutrition usually require more frequent hoof trimming. Proper footrot or foot paring shears are essential to doing the job properly.

To trim the feet, securely hold the leg of the sheep. Inspect the hoof and remove any mud, manure, or small stones between the walls of the hoof. A rotten smell is usually indicative of foot rot. Clean all the junk and crud out of the hoof using a knife or the point of the shears. After cleaning the hoof, begin trimming around the perimeter of the hoof.

Diseases Affecting the Hoof

Lameness should never be ignored. It can be a sign of several foot diseases or other problems.

Bluetongue: Foot lesions occur in some animals with bluetongue, a non-contagious, viral disease spread by biting insects. A red to brown band around the coronet is an important

diagnostic sign of bluetongue.

Foot Abscess: Foot abscesses are characterized by the swelling of the soft tissues immediately above the hoof and in advanced cases, draining abscesses in this area and between the toes. Foot abscesses are caused by bacterial infection of damaged foot tissue. The front feet are most commonly affected. Usually only one hoof is infected. Treatment is usually with anti-bacterial compounds.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD):

Foot and mouth disease is a highly contagious viral disease that affects pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, and deer. It is endemic in many parts of the world. Clinical signs of the disease in infected animals include blisters or ulcerations on the mouth, snout, tongue, gums, teats, or around the top of the feet. The signs of FMD in sheep and goats are usually much less obvious than in cattle or pigs. **[the US has been FMD free since 1929].**

Foot Rot

Footrot is caused by a synergistic action of two bacteria: *Fusobacterium necrophorum* and *Bacterioides nodosus*. While *F. Necrophorum* is found in soil and manure and is present wherever there are sheep, goats, and cattle, the *B. Nodosus* organism usually **“walks” onto the farm in the hooves** of infected animals.

Warmth, mud, and poor sanitation are the environmental conditions that favor the spread of footrot, once the bacteria has been introduced to the farm. Warm, moist conditions create the anaerobic (lack of oxygen) conditions necessary for the spread of the disease. However, the *B. Nodosus* organism will only live in soil for 14 to 21 days.

The bacteria that causes foot rot, *Bacterioides nodosus*, is spread from infected sheep to the ground, manure, bedding, etc., where it is

then picked up by noninfected sheep. Foot rot is introduced by purchase of an infected animal or by simply using facilities or trucks contaminated by infected sheep.

Several management practices help to minimize the chances that foot rot will establish itself in a flock. You should never buy sheep infected with foot rot. Avoid buying apparently clean sheep from an infected flock. Avoid buying sheep from sale barns where clean and infected sheep are penned together. Assume all new additions to your flock are infected with foot rot. Always isolate new animals for at least 30 days. Trim feet immediately upon arrival. Treat feet of new sheep following trimming. Re-inspect feet during the quarantine period.

Foot Scald

Foot scald is an infection of only *F. necrophorum* and is not contagious. Foot scald causes lameness, frequently on the front feet, and lesions are found between the hooves. The tissue between the toes of a sheep with foot scald are generally blanched and white, or red and swollen. Foot scald is much easier to treat than foot rot. Many times, placing sheep on drier footing and out of mud will alleviate the problems of the disease.

Foot scald may also be treated topically by applying a solution of copper sulfate (Kopertox). The simplest and most effective treatment is use of a footbath containing 10% zinc sulfate solution (8 pounds zinc sulfate to 10 gallons water). The frequency and severity of foot scald infection will decline as drier weather returns. **[Editor's note: Some Vets have indicated that Zactran has been effective at treating foot scald. Also, dipping infected hooves in a formaldehyde solution can be effective.]**



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Submitted by Larry Kiewel



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Calendar of Events

2018 Date	Title	Location	Contact
Oct. 27-28	Kansas Sheep Symposium & Tour	Hutchinson, KS	www.kssheep.com
Nov. 8	Room Reservation Deadline for Shepherd's Holiday		1-800-533-1655 (ask for MLWPA rate)
Nov. 8-11	25th Annual Dairy Sheep Symposium	Kansas City, MO	www.dsana.org
Nov. 10-11	NAILE Jr Sheep Shows	Louisville, KY	http://www.livestockexpo.org
Nov. 11-15	NAILE Open Sheep Shows	Louisville, KY	http://www.livestockexpo.org
Nov. 14	Deadline for ASI award nominations		www.sheepusa.org
Nov. 17-19	North Dakota Shearing School	Hettinger, ND	Christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu
Nov. 23	Illini Bred Ewe Sale	Joliet, IL	
Nov. 24	MN Bred Ewe Sale	River Falls, WI	Bob Koehler 507-836-8319
Nov. 30-Dec. 1	Ohio Sheep Day	Wooster, OH	
Nov. 30—Dec. 1	MLWPA Shepherd's Holiday	Rochester, MN	jeremy.geske@gmail.com
Dec. 1	Make it With Wool Contest	Rochester, MN	gtsperry@frontiernet.net
Dec. 5-6	Sheep AI Seminar	Paonia, CO	
Dec. 5-7	South Dakota Shearing School	Brookings, SD	Jeffrey.Held@sdsstate.edu
2019 Date			
Jan. 4-6	Michigan Shepherd's Weekend	Lansing, MI	
Jan. 17-19	Utah Shearing School	details TBA	
Jan. 23-26	ASI Convention	New Orleans, LA	www.sheepusa.org
Mar. 15	Ohio Dorset Show & Sale	Eaton, OH	
Apr. 5	Illini All Breeds sale	Joliet, IL	
Apr. 23 (tbd)	Stars of the North on-line sale	www.wlivestock.com	jeremy.geske@gmail.com
May 9-11	Big Ohio Weekend	Eaton, OH	
May 30 - Jun.1 (tbd)	Nugget All-American Sale	Reno, NV	
Jun. 23-29	Midwest Stud Ram Sale	Sedalia, MO	

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

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www.mlwp.org

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