

Sheep Industry Newsletter

Publication No. 93

A publication brought to you by the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NDLWPA Annual Business Meeting and Convention—Ramada Inn 13th St—Fargo, ND

Dec 10-11

President's Message Brad Pozarnsky

Greetings to all from the President. I have been in position for 3 months now and I have a lot to learn. I am continuing to enjoy working to help promote the sheep industry. I am still open to all info or suggestions.



As I sit here in the barn writing notes on a used feed sack, I wonder why I raise sheep. Over a year you ask yourself many questions.

- \diamond $\;$ I hope with the drought, I have enough hay.
- I hope the weather cooperates and I can bale dry hay.
- I hope I get the barns cleaned early so they can dry out for the next lambing season.
- I need to bring in the sheep to trim hooves and vaccinate on schedule.
- buying quality rams
- shearing before lambing and keep them dry enough to shear

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USDA to reopen CFAP 2 on April 5, 2021 for at least 60 days. Contact your FSA office or visit farmers.gov/cfap for more information.



The history of sheep in Dakota By Al Gustin NORTH DAKOTA

This column originally appeared in the March 2021 issue of North Dakota Living and is reprinted with permission from North Dakota Living.

Al Gustin is a retired farm broadcaster, active rancher and a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

My mother-in-law, Rosemary (Tetzlaff) Gunsch, was raised on a farm that was inundated when the Heart Butte Dam was built in 1949. On her 94th birthday this past Jan. 19, she talked about how she and her siblings would herd the family's flock of sheep on some unfenced land.

Interestingly, on that same day, the president of the N.D. Lamb and Wool Producers had asked if I had ever done any reporting on the history of North Dakota's sheep. I hadn't. But his query was enough to prompt some digging.

A newspaper account I found said steamboats passing through Bismarck in 1881 carried 1,800 head of horses and cattle and 600 sheep.

The Bismarck Tribune, on Sept. 1, 1882, reported, "The Coteaus are admirably fit for stock raising. Sheep do particularly well. The effect of the climate is to make fleeces heavier."

In March of that same year, the Jamestown Weekly Alert reported, "A party of Philadelphia capitalists are contemplating sheep farming on a large scale in Dakota."

From D. Jerome Tweten's book, "Marquis de Mores," I learned that the Marquis, although considered a cattle baron, also decided to raise sheep and horses in the Badlands. But the sheep he brought to the Badlands in the fall of 1883 didn't survive the winter.

Meanwhile, many homesteading farmers had been bringing sheep to the state. The Cooperstown Courier in May 1884 reported, "Mr. Herman Hemp from Wisconsin arrived here with a carload of cattle, horses and sheep on Friday for his farm west of here."

The N.D. Cowboy Hall of Fame describes inductee Donald Stevenson as one of the state's best-known early ranchers. In the early 1880s, he and his wife raised cattle, sheep, horses and hogs in Emmons County.

According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 5,000 farms in North Dakota had sheep in 1900. The flock was estimated at 682,000 head. That's nine times what it is this year.

I didn't realize the extent to which sheep were an important part of North Dakota's livestock industry in those early years.

Share Your Voice, Make **Knowledge** Happen



Travis W. Hoffman, Ph.D.

There are currently three industry relevant surveys going on! Your involvement will help shape Extension programming, understand current sheep health practices, and define our future approach on animal disease traceability. Please provide your input as North Dakota sheep producers. As of January 2021, North Dakota was 22nd in sheep numbers nationally with 73,000 sheep (down 3%). However, our breeding ewes rose up 2,000, while market lamb inventory trended down 4,000 head. This still shows promise of a growing ewe base, and opportunity for more lamb feeding growth statewide. The recent growth in ewe numbers actually led to a 4% greater number of lambs marketed from ND in 2020. Also, ND ranked 5th nationally (Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Montana) producers with 126 lambs per 100 ewes.

The SDSU Extension Small Ruminant Team is seeking input from sheep and goat producers across the United States to identify producer interests and enhance future Extension efforts. Survey responses will be compiled into a Sheep and Goat Producers Needs Assessment. Accessible at: https:// sheepandgoatneeds.questionpro.com/.

The USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is currently in the development stage of its upcoming 2023 Sheep Study and requests your thoughts to identify study objectives and provide successful future sheep industry analysis. Accessible at: https:// aphisvs.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/ SV 8kY0fAAYRl3saou.

The American Sheep Industry Association is conducting a survey on animal identification and

President's Message...continued from Page 1...

- feeding sheep in below average temps.
- getting ready for lambing in time
- trying to save every lamb
- sitting up with sick lambs and hoping they will live
- weaning in time to make the weight for selling
- sale day and starting the whole process over again.

Why do we spend all this time on our operation? Is it the satisfaction of raising lambs from birth to market? The love of animals. Or is it the passion to improve the sheep industry. So many things.

~Brad

NDLWPA Newsletter Article Deadlines:

Summer 2021 Issue— June 1, 2021

Fall 2021 Issue— October 1, 2021

Winter 2022—December 15, 2021

Spring 2022— March 1, 2022

Please contact Julie Goeres for more information:

jjgoeres@yahoo.com 301-752-7802

Share Your Voice...continued from page 2...

animal disease traceability systems. The objective is to acquire information on sheep producer use of animal identification systems and the implementation of a national animal disease traceability program. Accessible at: https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6179549/ASI-Survey-on-Sheep-Identification-Traceability-System.

COLUMBIA WOOL ZOOMS INTO THE DIGITAL AGE by David Brown

Not even a global pandemic could stop the Columbia breeders from coming together to celebrate Columbia Wool. The Production Committee led by Margaret Eller with the support of Dr. Chris Schauer devised a way that the 2020 National Wool Show could take place. Fleeces were mailed, shipped and picked up by various breeders to make this year's event not only possible but a huge success. The wool show was hosted on June 11th at NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center and was live on ZOOM for members to view on the internet. Larry Prager, the CEO of Center of the Nation Wool evaluated 25 fleeces from five states. Many thanks to Dr. Chris Schauer and HREC for the idea of ZOOM and hosting the event. Margaret Eller for all her coordination of the event.

Lightning strikes twice for Conner Klick from Simms, Montana as he exhibited the Overall Champion Fleece for the second year in a row. With his last minute entry, Conner's ram fleece bested the show. The fleece was from a yearling ram and weighed 18.75 pounds with 27.70 micron. This ram was born 2/9/19 as a twin. Dam is Klick 2727-0909

Continued on page 6...



Are you receiving your monthly print and weekly email publications as part of your membership? Please contact:

Jannell Lagein: 701-370-1559 or jdlagein@utma.com



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The New Lamb Market Paradigm

Travis W. Hoffman, Ph.D.

Welcome to March 2021, and the sheep industry is certainly changing post-pandemic. The 2020 Corona Virus-19 closures created limited sales within the foodservice industry across the country. Historically, lamb was merchandised approximately 50% retail and 50% foodservice. The loss of white tablecloth restaurants and travel limited the value of racks and loins. While retail sales did increase, it was a tenuous time, but after the initial collapse of lamb prices, they have stabilized at a profitable level. Yet, the surging

driver of the non-traditional, or ethnic, market is setting unforeseen prices for young lambs (and cull ewes) and changing the paradigm.

First off, we faced uncertainty in lamb processing infrastructure with the February 2020 bankruptcy of Mountain States Rosen processing plant, the 2nd largest U.S. company. Since, we have had the groundbreaking and start of Colorado Lamb Processors in Brush, CO and the rejuvenation of Double J Lamb Texas in San Angelo, TX. The Colorado plant is harvest only with no fabrication floor focusing on shipping carcasses primarily eastbound, and the Texas plant is ramping up slaughter and looking at fabrication options for this summer.

Now for the twist. We have sustained high Spring prices for lambs in the 50 to 90 pound range that have never been seen to my recollection; upwards of \$3.00/lb. The sweet spot is 60 to 75 lbs. as lighter lambs don't return the value, and the price slide accentuates as you get over 80 lbs. in most regional markets. Different than previous expectations, these lambs are not going to the feedlot, but instead being transported to Northeast metropolitan areas for harvest at small and medium-sized processors.

The ethnic trade is now presumably OVER HALF of the U.S. lambs that are born in 2021. Time will tell, but this decrease in available "finished" commercial lambs may lead to strength throughout the summer if producers choose to finish lambs. It is a great change to have a current market, keep harvest weights under control, and inevitably, improve lamb carcass composition and producer profitability.

Furthermore, I suggest if there are any cull ewes, or rams, to get them to market to capitalize on the seasonal values of up to \$1.00/lb. Simply put, strike one for low-producing ewes leads to the auction barn, and you would be better off keeping more replacements this year. I challenge our ND producers that are early lambers to keep lambs growing efficiently and hit the hot market of light weight lambs. Those that are March-April lambers may not see the extended price incentive, but I envision with less feeder lambs in the market, and subsequent fat lambs (currently \$1.65/lb.), there should be profitable price supports throughout the summer, and hopefully fall 2021.

Let's look big picture, and contemplate moving some of our ewes to fall lambing if your operation aspires to do so. I suggest weaning of Spring lambs, and seeing if any ewes move up to a September/October lambing. These offspring have proven profitable for the Easter and ethnic-focused holidays; plus, we have normally better weather during lambing.

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 Contact: Brad Pozarnsky 701–228–4019 or

Burton Phliger 701–220–2756 for more information.

Lamb Market Paradigm..continued from page 5...

Furthermore, North Dakota is substantially behind on precipitation, and I am hoping for April 2021 rains for pasture and hay production. You have certainly noticed increased commodity prices for feedstuffs the past couple months also. While I would like to advocate for feeding more lambs to finish, market economics and the current environmental challenges require us to think on our feet, evaluate options, and get ready for next year. Cheers to healthy lambs and greener pastures.

Eat Lamb, Wear Wool!

Columbia Wool...continued from page 3...

and sire is Geneva Hills 84 RR. Last year's winner was Geneva Hills 84 RR owned by Conner. Reserve Champion Overall fleece was the champion ewe fleece entered by Rhylee Diehl of Townsend, Montana. This fleece was a 13 lb fleece from a Hitch ewe

sired by Eller G-52 and dam was Hitch 15938. Both Conner and Rhylee are recipients of the Montana Columbia Breeders Starter Flock program.

June 11, 2020 – NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center, Hettinger, North Dakota Judge – Larry Prager, CEO of Center of the Nation Wool

Overall Champion Fleece - Champion Ram Fleece

Conner Klick, Simms, MT 18.75 lb fleece with 27.70 micron Klick2727-0230 Twin Born 2/9/19 Sire: Geneva Hills 84RR-Shiner Bock Dam: Klick 2727-009

Reserve Overall Champion – Champion Ewe Fleece

Rhylee Diehl, Townsend, MT 13 lb fleece with 26.50 micron Hitch18178 Twin 2/14/18 Sire: Eller G-52 Dam: Hitch15938

Ram Fleece Results – 8 total fleeces

Champion Ram Fleece

Conner Klick, Simms, MT 18.75 lb fleece with 27.70 micron Klick2727-0230 Twin Born 2/9/19 Sire: Geneva Hills 84RR-Shiner Bock Dam: Klick 2727-009 **Reserve Champion Ram Fleece**

Ashlie & Roberta Chase, Strasburg, CO 16lbs fleece with 26.80 micron

Continued on page 8...

North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association

January 5, 2021 Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Brad Pozarnsky at the Burleigh County Extension office on January 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Members present were Ron Wolf, Dave Pearson, Brad Pozarnsky, Rick Schmidt, Jannell Lagein, Luke Dukart and guests Wyman and Mary Scheetz and Mary Goeres was present to audit the books.

Secretary report was read by Rick, motion to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2020 meeting as presented by Karl, second by Luke, motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Jannell. General account balance showed \$35,665.92, balance in savings account showed \$6,604.80 in addition to the CD of \$6,000.00. Jannell has paid the filing fee of \$10.00. Motion to accept until audit by Luke and second by Ron, motion carried.

Motion by Jannell to send the delinquent bill of the starter flock of the family that has been discussed at the past few meetings, to the collection agent set by Jessi with a 10% delinquent penalty, second by Rick, motion carried.

The Starter Flock contracts need to be modified with some clarity for delinquent payments and penalties. If there are problems with the start flock, an inquiry from the start flock recipient should be submitted to the NDLWPA to re-visit the contract.

Membership: Brad P. talked about getting emails along with addresses. This will make it easier to send membership dues forms. It will also make it easier to communicate with the NDLWPA members. Motion by Luke to have Brad find someone to revamp and maintain the website. The cost is expected to be around \$1,000.00 per year, second by Ron, motion carried.

Old Business:

Brad P. presented the Distinguished Service 2020 to Wyman and Mary Scheetz with a shepherds crook. This award recognizes and individual or family who has committed time and efforts well above expecta-

Continued on page 11...

Jamestown Ram Sale Results

Reported By David Brown

Jamestown Ram Sale – Stutsman County Fairgrounds, Jamestown, ND - August 1, 2020—Hosted by NDLWPA

Rams -Average \$576.38

Highest selling rams:

1. \$975 - Lot 26 Xbred Spring Ram Lamb - Brent & Codi Kuss, Woodworth, ND

2. \$950 - Lot 23 Suffolk Yearling Ram - Ron Wolff, Oakes, ND 2. \$950 - Lot 2 Dorset Spring Ram Lamb - Brent & Codi Kuss, Woodworth, ND

Breed averages:

Dorsets \$747

Suffolks \$625

Xbreds \$575

Hamps \$480

Columbias \$425

Lincolns \$400

Montadale \$425

Corriedale \$400

Rambouillet \$0

Ewes - Average \$282.39

Highest selling ewes:

1. \$390 - Lot 64 Pen of 3 - Spring Dorset ewe lambs- NDSU,

Fargo, ND

2. \$340 - Lot 63 Pen of 5 - Fall Dorset ewe lambs- NDSU, Fargo. ND

3. \$260 - Lot 76 Pen of 5 Crossbred Spring ewe lambs — Rick Schmidt, Center, ND

Breed averages:

Dorset \$329

Xbreds \$260

Rambouillets \$225

Hamps \$225

Hettinger Ram Sale will be Wednesday September 16th at 1 pm MST – Adams County Fairgrounds Watch our website for catalog – www.ndsheep.com

Chase B 1926RR Twin 1/28/19 Sire: Chase G 4019RR Dam: Bredahl 16-6

- 3 Fred & Kay Eagleson, Buchanan, ND 15lbs with 23.90 micron
- 4 Prairie Island Columbias Margaret & Jim Eller, Sunriver, MT 12 lbs with 27.50 micron
- 5 Fred & Kay Eagleson, Buchanan, ND 12lbs with 24.50 micron
- 6 Raspberry Meadows Farm, Don & Lois Wissman, Leasburg, MO 19.25 lbs with 28.1 micron
- 7 Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND 20 lbs with 29.70 micron
- 8 Fred & Kay Eagleson, Buchanan, ND 13.75 lbs with 28.70 micron

Ewe Fleece Results – 17 fleeces

Champion Ewe Fleece

Rhylee Diehl, Townsend, MT 13 lb fleece with 26.50 micron Hitch18178

Twin 2/14/18 Sire: Eller G-52 Dam: Hitch15938

Reserve Champion Ewe Fleece

Ashlie & Roberta Chase, Strasburg, CO 12lbs fleece with 23.60 micron Borcher8255 Twin 3/5/18 Sire: BorcherB5254-Fine Line Dam: Borcher Y4072

- 3 Prairie Island Columbias Margaret & Jim Eller, Sunriver, MT 11.50 lbs with 22.40 micron
- 4 Blackman Columbias, Wolf Creek, MT 11.50 lbs with 25.80
- 5 Blackman Columbias, Wolf Creek, MT 13.50 lbs with 23.50
- 6 Ashlie & Roberta Chase, Strasburg, CO 12.25 lbs fleece with 26 micron
- 7 NDSU, Fargo, ND 17.25 lbs with 27.30 micron
- 8 NDSU, Fargo, ND 18.25 lbs with 26.30 micron
- 9 Kevin Kregger, Touchet, WA 12.25 lbs with 28.20 micron
- 10 Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND 11.75 lbs with 24.90 micron
- 11 Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND 11.25 lbs with 28.50 micron
- 12 Hart Sheep Company, Great Falls, MT 10.50 lbs with 28.20 micron
- 13 Hart Sheep Company, Great Falls, MT 11 lbs with 27.1 micron
- 14 Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND 14.75 lbs with 33.60 micron
- 15 Rhylee Diehl, Townsend, MT 7lbs with 20.2 micron
- 16 Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND 6.25 lbs 24 micron
- 17 Hart Sheep Company, Great Falls, MT 5.50 lbs 22.50 micron

Natural Colored Columbia Fleece Champion

Raspberry Meadows Farm, Don & Lois Wissman, Leasburg, MO 12.50 lbs with 27.9 micron RMF 267 Triplet 12/21/13 Sire: Rickabaugh 1712 Dam: Geerts 1837

Paycheck Protection Program Available for Farmers and Ranchers Until May 31, 2021

The Paycheck Protection Program is a SBA-backed loan to help businesses keep their workforce employed during the COVID-19 crisis. Contact your bank or sba.gov for more information or to apply.

Clerk – Columbia Sheep Breeders Association

Rams – averaged \$1,264.28

Top selling rams:

- 1. **Peterson Sheep Company, Doug & Lindi Peterson, Lemmon, SD** Yearling ram \$4,000—Sold to Scott Bredahl, Berthold, ND
- 2. Seth Bauck, Plainfield, WI Yearling ram \$2,100—Sold to Colton Bredahl, Berthold, ND
- 3. **A & K Columbias, Rick & Ann Wehri, Newcastle, WY** Fall ram lamb \$1,700—Sold to Lynn Frey, Granville, ND
- 4. **Charles & Louise Worm, Lakefield, MN** Yearling Ram \$1,700—Sold to Ryan & Lindsey Hendricks, Leonardville, KS
- 5. **Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND** Spring ram \$1,600—Sold to Woolstenhulme Brothers, Coalville, UT

Ewes – averaged \$758.54

Top selling ewes:

- 1. **Borcher Sheep Company, Weston Borcher, Powell, WY** Spring ewe lamb \$2,750—Sold to Nash Arthur, Greenfield, IN
- 2. NDSU, Fargo, ND Spring ewe lamb \$1,900—Sold to Steven Johnson, Madelia, MN
- 3. Charles & Louise Worm, Lakefield, MN Fall ewe lamb \$1,200—Sold to Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND
- 4. **Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND** Spring ewe lamb \$1,100—Sold to Roudy Zolonski, Rozet, WY
- 5. **Geneva Hills Farm, Tower City, ND** Spring ewe lamb \$900—Sold to Kenadi Bredahl, Berthold, ND
- 6. **NDSU -Hettinger Research Extension Center, Hettinger, ND** Fall Ewe Lamb \$900—Sold to R & C Columbias, Dallas, OR
- NDSU -Hettinger Research Extension Center, Hettinger, ND Spring Ewe Lamb \$900—Sold to Cooper Bredahl, Berthold, ND



ASI SHEEPCAST is specific to sheep production and research related topics. These monthly ASI Research Update Podcasts are released mid-month in the *ASI Weekly* and can be accessed from the ASI webpage at https://sheepusa.org/newsmedia-asisheepcast. They are also available on iTunes and Google Play.

I always wondered how I could be more efficient in feeding my hay. I use basket feeders and collapsible feeders. The basket feeder is a converted

cattle
feeder
with added rebar
between
each for
head
space to
make it
smaller
for sheep
and it
works good.



The other (collapsible) feeder worked well except you always have a foot of packed hay in the bottom that never gets eaten and doesn't allow the feeder to completely collapse. The collapsible feeder I have is of inch-square steel tubing and is fairly lightweight and easy to handle and move around.

It seemed to me the sheep were not able to get underneath and clean up all the hay. So what I



did was raise the feeder up giving the sheep enough room to get underneath and eat

I did this by slipping a 14-inch long, 1 AND 1/4-inch round plastic pvc over the 1-inch square

legs. This has really helped to fix the problem. Once you decide on how high you want your feeder off the ground, you can weld on extensions. I didn't weld on extensions, so I am able to flip my panels to different heights. I do this with different type hay. So I am able to use 14" or 8" height off the ground. The change in height has made my collapsible feeders more efficient.



The University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University are hosting Sheep & Goat Webinars.

Upcoming Webinar: Sheep/Goat Nutrition—May 13th—6:30pm CT

Previous topics have included:

- · Goat and sheep birthing and animal health
- Goat and sheep management keeping your lambs and kids growing strong
- · Goat and sheep weaning management
- · Herd health and parasite management
- · Pasture management
- · Preparing for the breeding season

For more information contact Travis Hoffman

Phone: 701-231-Baaa (2222) Cell: 970-222-7569

Email: Travis.W.Hoffman@ndsu.edu

AMERICAN WOOL ASSURANCE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

ASI announced the new voluntary American Wool Assurance Program during March 2020. The AWA Program includes three levels: Level 1 – Producer Education, Level 2 – Second Party Assessment, Level 3 – Third Party Certification. Online Level 1 training will be offered in May. Completion of this training will prepare participants to advance to Level 2 or Level 3 by 2022.

The AWA Program is one of several international certification options for sheep producers, but it's the only one that is producer-driven and constructed by sheep industry professionals from producers to shearers to wool buyers. The American Wool Assurance (AWA) standards and program have been developed to aid producers and verify to wool buyers that their sheep and wool have been raised with a high level of care.

The AWA Program standards are available now by emailing Heather Pearce at heather@sheepusa.org or calling 303-771-3500, ext. 102. In addition to the online educational course, an AWA Program website is also under development and should be available in late spring.

Meeting Minutes...continued from page 7...

tions to the sheep industry. Congratulations Wyman and Mary.

Central Livestock in West Fargo update: There is some discussion of a proposal to find a replacement for Central Livestock in the eastern part of North Dakota. The NDLW-PA will draft a letter of support for a sale option in North Dakota to assist sheep producers in having an option to market sheep. The NDLWPA President will write the letter and submit it to the ND Livestock Alliance, North Dakota Ag. Coalition and Wes Limesand who was an integral part of the sheep sales in West Fargo.

Julie Goeres worked on the audit report as the meeting took place.

New Business:

State Fair. Motion to sponsor the breeding class awards for the Junior Sheep Show at the State Fair in the amount of \$300 by Dave, second by Luke, motion carried.

ASI representative: NDLWPA will have Curt Stanley be the ASI representative for the 2021 and 2022 years. He will give an ASI report to the NDLWPA board at the meeting following the ASI convention.

State Legislative session. Make sure to have the updates from the legislature sent to the current and correct individuals on the NDLWPA.

Starter Flock Webinar Series: Luke will get Travis Hoffman a list of all of the Starter Flock members email addresses to invite to the webinars.

The 2021 State Convention will be at the Ramada in Fargo the second weekend in December.

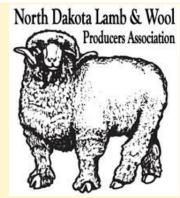
Membership directory: Jessi is making a lot of progress on the directory. Dave will assist with names and forward those to Jessi. Information for the directory needs to be submitted by April 1.

Motion by Karl, second by Jannell to have the starter flock dues starting with the 2020 dues and moving forward to go in to the NDLWPA general fund, motion carried.

Next meeting will be scheduled for April 13 at 7:30 p.m. on zoom. Karl will set up the zoom call.

Motion to adjourn by Rick second by Dave, motion carried.

Submitted by;
Rick Schmidt
Secretary



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