



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860

Herd the News

March 2016

The mission of the California Wool Growers Association is to be the voice of the California Sheep Industry at the local, regional, state, and national level. The Association will provide service to its members through effective communication that ensures the long-term prosperity of the industry and promotes economically viable and environmentally sound production practices.

CWGA Hosts 96th Annual California Ram Sale

California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) is hosting the 96th annual California Ram Sale on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the Porterville Fairgrounds.

Over 400 range rams from California, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. Crossbred, Hampshire, Suffolk and White-Faced (Columbia, Rambouillet) rams will be auctioned off in the sale. In addition three purebred ewes will also be sold.

New to the California Ram Sale this year, ultrasound carcass measurements and a Range Ram Index will be provided on all sale rams. The Range Ram Index will utilize ultrasound carcass data collected at the sale that focus on carcass quality characteristics such as loin eye area. The Range Ram Index will measure the expected value return of the heritability of specific carcass characteristics such as loin eye area of a range ram through its progeny.

All buyers will be entered in a drawing to win one of the following items:

- A half mile poli-wire reel, donated by Live Wire Products
- Bundle of 20 3/8" x 48" fiberglass rods, donated by Live Wire Products
- California Shepherds Wine Basket, wine donated by Seghesio Winery

SALE SCHEDULE:

8:00 am	Barns Open for Viewing
11:30 am	Complimentary Buyer BBQ Lamb Luncheon
1:00 pm	Annual Ram Sale

LOCATION: Porterville Fairgrounds, 2700 W. Teapot Dome Ave. Porterville, CA 93257

DIRECTIONS:

North from Fresno – Take Hwy 99 south to Hwy 190. Go east on Hwy 190 into Porterville, then Hwy 65 south to Teapot Dome (Ave. 128). Turn west on Teapot Dome and travel approx. 2 miles until you reach the fairgrounds.

South from Bakersfield – Take Hwy 65 north into Porterville. Turn west on Teapot Dome and travel approx. 2 miles until you reach the fairgrounds.

Further Ram Sale information including the sale catalog, sale schedule, lodging information, directions, etc. is available on the CWGA website at -

<http://cawoolgrowers.org/sale/ramsale.html> or by contacting the CWGA office.

Contributions and the proceeds from the California Ram Sale support CWGA in its continued efforts to represent and advocate for the future prosperity of the sheep industry in California.

For questions or to request a sale catalog, contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or via email at erica@woolgrowers.org.

In this issue:

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Producer News & Updates
- 4 2016 Ram Sale Catalog
- 8 Range Ram Index
- 9 Shopping by the Numbers
- 10 Antibiotic Regulations Update
- 12 Marketing Tools & Resources
- 14 Shearing Tips
- 15 Working Dog Insurance
- 16 Advertisements
- 20 Calendar

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Presidents Message – *Frankie Iturriria*



Spring is here and it is a busy time for the CA Sheep producer!

Flocks are being moved throughout the state in search of greener pastures and lambing continues. For many of us, the task at hand is shearing our ewes. Recently our ranch was visited by some of the individuals who are involved in our wool industry. In talking to these folks, I am reminded that we all need to be mindful about our wool clip and take the extra

steps to ensure a quality product comes from each of our ranches. Make sure you work closely with your shearing crews to ensure they do the best work they possibly can for you.

At the end of January, many industry leaders met in Scottsdale, AZ at the ASI Annual Convention. It was great to catch up with many of our fellow sheep producers from throughout the US and discuss the issues facing our industry. A good number of our CA members made the trip to Scottsdale. I would like to thank all of you who came to Arizona to represent CWGA on the many boards and committees that you are a part of.

CWGA is preparing for the CA Ram Sale coming up April 9, 2106 in Porterville. Once again, CWGA has assembled an impressive list of rams for the sale. As is done every year, all of the animals will be sifted through by a team of veterinarians and some of your fellow producers ensuring that only the top quality rams will be sold in the ring. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ram sale committee, especially Wes Patton and Connie & John Olagaray, for putting together a great sale every year. I encourage each and every one of you to mark your calendars to attend this year's sale. A portion of every animal sold at the ram sale goes back into the association to continue the hard work done on behalf of our industry.

Another project that CWGA has been working on is a strategic plan for the association. The committee members have met in Modesto on a couple of occasions to try to come up with a plan to take our association into the future. If we want to remain a viable association, we need to evolve with the changing times. The committee's hope is to increase membership and encompass a wider spectrum in our changing industry.

I hope to see the Board members in Los Banos for our spring meeting and all of you in Porterville on April 9th at the CA Ram Sale.

CWGA Producer Updates & Information

CWGA California Legislative Day at the State Capitol – June 22nd

CWGA will be cooperating with the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) in Legislative Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, June 22, 2016.

As part of CWGA's role to advocate for the California sheep industry, what better way for members to meet with their State Assemblymen and Senators in Sacramento to discuss the issues facing our industry. Since many members cannot attend ASI's Legislative Conference in March, this opportunity offers an alternative for those to become involved and support our industry. Details are provided below.

8:00 – 9:00 am	Welcome Gathering at the CWGA Office
9:00 – 9:30 am	Walk to Capitol, Join CCA members
9:30 – 10:00 am	Legislative Briefing at the Capitol
10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Representative-Member Office visits (2 to 3 offices)

If you would like to participate in this event, please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or erica@woolgrowers.org by June 10th.

CWGA Annual Meeting is August 26th & 27th

CWGA Annual Meeting & Convention will be held on August 26 & 27, 2016, at the Carson Valley Inn located in Minden, Nevada.

Your CWGA Executive Officer team is busy working on this year's meeting agenda and activities. Already planned for this year is a group dinner at JT Basque Bar & Dining Room on Friday night.

To reserve your room call 1-800-321-6983 ext. 1 and mention California Wool Growers Association, Group Code 504599. Room rates are as follows: Thursday & Sunday - \$85.00 plus tax, Friday & Saturday - \$105.00 plus tax.

Attention sheep, dairy and meat goat producers of the North Coast!

Mendocino and Lake County Sheep and Goat Producers – Join us April 20th – 7pm in Ukiah

Plan now to attend a meeting on Wednesday, April 20th at 7pm at the UCCE Farm Advisors' office in Ukiah. The goal of this meeting is to reinvigorate the Mendocino/Lake Wool Growers Association and include dairy and meat goat producers into the local association. With many new sheep and goat producers in the mix, opportunities for contract/targeted grazing, local wool, meat and dairy production and sales have increased. The new local woolen mill has financing lined up and is on track for opening this summer. 4-H and FFA small ruminant project members and leaders are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Please RSVP by Phone - 707-463-4495 or Email - cemendocino@ucanr.edu. Meeting location: UCCE – Mendocino, 890 N. Bush Street, Ukiah, CA

Attention CWGA Members... CWGA Updating its Website Member Directory

CWGA is updating the Member Directory on the CWGA website. The Member Directory is divided into categories, including but not limited to: Direct Marketer/Lamb, Breeding Sheep, Club Lambs, Wool/Fiber, Targeted Grazing, Processing, and Other Services.

If you would like to be listed, please contact the CWGA office with your information at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org.

96th Annual California Ram Sale Catalog

Round 1 - Suffolk Range Rams

Lot #	First Name	Last Name	City, State	# Head/Lot	Breed
1	Lloyd	McCabe	Dixon, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
2	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
3	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
4	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
5	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	5	Suffolk Range Rams
6	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
7	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
8	Edd	Sabey	Heber, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
9	Shirley	Volkman	Livemore, CA	6	Suffolk Range Rams
10	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
11	Jim & Ned	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	4	Suffolk Range Rams
12	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
13	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
14	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
15	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
16	Brady	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
17	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
18	Jon	Amparan	Los Banos, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
19	Kenneth	Rairden	Waterford, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
20	Jack	Massera	Salinas, CA	5	Suffolk Range Rams
21	Reed	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
22	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	4	Suffolk Range Rams
23	Lloyd	McCabe	Dixon, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
24	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
25	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
26	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
27	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	5	Suffolk Range Rams
28	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
29	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
30	Edd	Sabey	Heber, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
31	Shirley	Volkman	Livemore, CA	6	Suffolk Range Rams
32	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
33	Jim & Ned	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	4	Suffolk Range Rams
34	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
35	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
36	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
37	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
38	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
39	Kenneth	Rairden	Waterford, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
40	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	5	Suffolk Range Rams
41	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams

96th Annual California Ram Sale Catalog

Round 2 - Crossbred Range Rams

Lot #	First Name	Last Name	City, State	# Head/Lot	Breed
42	Joel	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
43	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	5	Crossbred Range Rams
44	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
45	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
46	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
47	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
48	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Crossbred Range Rams
49	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
50	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
51	Jon	Amparan	Los Banos, CA	5	Crossbred Range Rams
52	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	3	Crossbred Range Rams
53	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
54	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
55	Brady	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
56	John	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
57	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	5	Crossbred Range Rams
58	Reed	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams

Round 3 - Hampshire Range Rams

Lot #	First Name	Last Name	City, State	# Head/Lot	Breed
59	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	1	Purebred Hampshire Ram
60	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	3	Hampshire Range Rams
61	Jack	Massera	Salinas, CA	2	Hampshire Range Rams
62	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	3	Hampshire Range Rams
63	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	4	Hampshire Range Rams

Round 4 - Suffolk Range Rams

Lot #	First Name	Last Name	City, State	# Head/Lot	Breed
64	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	1	Purebred Suffolk Ram
65	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
66	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
67	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
68	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	4	Suffolk Range Rams
69	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
70	Edd	Sabey	Heber, UT	2	Suffolk Range Rams
71	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
72	Jim & Ned	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
73	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
74	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
75	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams

96th Annual California Ram Sale Catalog

Lot #	First Name	Last Name	City, State	# Head/Lot	Breed
76	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
77	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
78	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
79	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
80	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
81	Jim & Ned	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
82	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
83	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
84	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
85	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
86	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
87	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
88	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
89	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
90	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
91	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
92	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
93	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
94	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
95	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
96	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
97	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
98	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
99	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams

Round 5 - Crossbred Range Rams

Lot #	First Name	Last Name	City, State	# Head/Lot	Breed
100	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
101	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	5	Crossbred Range Rams
102	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
103	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
104	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
105	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
106	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Crossbred Range Rams
107	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
108	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	5	Crossbred Range Rams
109	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
110	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
111	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
112	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
113	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	5	Crossbred Range Rams
114	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
115	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
116	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams

96th Annual California Ram Sale Catalog

Round 6 - Ewes

Lot #	First Name	Last Name	City, State	# Head/Lot	Breed
117	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	1	Suffolk Ewes
118	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	2	Hampshire Ewes

Round 7 - White Face Range Rams

Lot #	First Name	Last Name	City, State	# Head/Lot	Breed
119	Teresa	Terry	San Miguel, CA	1	Purebred Columbia Ram
120	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	2	White Face Range Rams
121	Nash	Hansen	Fairview, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
122	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
123	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
124	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	White Face Range Rams
125	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
126	Cecilia	Parsons	Ducor, CA	1	White Face Range Rams
127	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	2	White Face Range Rams
128	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	2	White Face Range Rams
129	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	2	White Face Range Rams
130	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	3	White Face Range Rams
131	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
132	Cecilia	Parsons	Ducor, CA	1	White Face Range Rams
133	Teresa	Terry	San Miguel, CA	2	White Face Range Rams
134	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	2	White Face Range Rams
135	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
136	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
137	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	White Face Range Rams
138	Cecilia	Parsons	Ducor, CA	1	White Face Range Rams
139	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
140	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	2	White Face Range Rams
141	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	White Face Range Rams
142	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	2	White Face Range Rams
143	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	White Face Range Rams
144	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	White Face Range Rams



*Thank you to this year's Buyers & Consignors for
your contributions & continued support of the
California Ram Sale.*

CWGA Range Ram Index: How Is It Calculated and What It Means To Producers

The American Sheep Industry's Let's Grow Committee awarded CWGA's grant entitled *Improving Sheep Carcass Quality through the Development of a Range Ram Index Utilizing Ultrasound Genetic Measures* will help to improve sheep carcass quality and increase the practice of genetic selection in commercial range operations through the development of a Range Ram Index.

The Range Ram Index estimates the potential carcass merit of the progeny sired by range rams with superior carcass characteristics. When purchasing a Range Ram the Range Ram Index will help to identify the potential genetic merit of those rams in passing those genetic traits into producer flocks. Each lot of rams sold in the 2016 Ram Sale will be assigned an Average Range Ram Index Value to help buyers to be better informed in making their ram selections.

It is proven in other livestock sectors that those carcass characteristics desired by consumers translate into a higher carcass value and thus return for the producer, a fact that is evident in a value based pricing system. Research has shown that rams with larger loin eye areas (LEA), will yield higher dressing percentages and greater value. This carcass characteristic is easily detectable with live-animal ultrasound. Further studies have shown that loin eye area is highly heritable (40% to 60%), suggesting that genetic selection can improve this carcass characteristic rather easily when compared to other genetic traits.

The Range Ram Index utilizes the following heritable carcass measurements: loin eye area, backfat thickness (BF), and weight gathered from ultrasound measurements and quantifies those genetic characteristics into a potential genetic merit value. The Range Ram Index is presented as a numerical value and indicates the potential carcass merit of the Ram's offspring.

In comparing Ram A and Ram B below, Ram A has a genetic merit advantage in carcass characteristics and growth performance as measured by the higher (and positive) Range Ram Index Value. This suggests that Ram A's will sire offspring that exhibit more desirable carcass characteristics (i.e. larger LEA, less BF) than Ram B's progeny with the potential to return a higher carcass value. Ram C when compared to both Ram A and Ram B, offers a significantly greater genetic merit value for more desirable carcass traits (i.e. larger LEA) as noted by the significantly higher Index Value. Therefore, Ram C's offspring are expected to exhibit more desirable carcass characteristics and potential value. This would imply that there is potential economic incentive in selecting Ram C above Ram A and Ram B.

Carcass Trait		Ram A	Ram B	Ram C
Weight (lbs)	lbs	293	252	342
Backfat (BF)	in	0.4	0.19	0.41
Loin Eye Area (LEA)	in ²	4.97	4.4	5.81
Range Ram Index		0.51	-2.14	5.27

The Range Ram Index is a tool for producers to apply when selecting range rams in an effort to improve lamb carcass consistency and quality, increase production efficiency, and to support industry efforts to increase producer practices of utilizing genetic selection in commercial range operations.

Further information the Range Ram Index and using genetics to improve sheep productivity visit the CWGA Ram Selection Resources website at - <http://cawoolgrowers.org/sale/resources.html>



The development of the Range Ram Index and materials was paid for in part by the American Sheep Industry Association.

Shopping by the Numbers, Ram Buying Guide – NSIP

The process of buying a ram isn't what it used to be. New tools for flock genetic improvement have changed the landscape and expanded the possibilities.

“When you look at a ram, the majority of what you see is influenced by non-genetic factors, such as age, nutrition, and fitting,” says National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) Director Rusty Burgett, “It's the 25 percent you can't see - the genetic part - that is actually passed down to the offspring. Those genes you can't see are the foundation for lambing rate, growth rate, composition; the things that determine profit for a sheep operation.”

NSIP is leading the way into the new age. With its science-based, industry-tested measurements of heritable traits, the American Lamb Industry Roadmap and Let's Grow initiative have embraced NSIP as a means of improving the productivity and profitability of the U.S. sheep flock.

The program was established to provide estimated breeding values (EBVs) to seedstock producers. EBVs assign a number value to the genetic merit of a breeding sheep for certain production traits, allowing for quick and easy comparisons between rams. There are EBVs for body weight at different ages, carcass measurements, reproduction, parasite resistance, and wool.

Now, NSIP has a new, convenient tool available to help the commercial producer utilize the technology. A 14-page Ram Buying Guide is available in downloadable PDF form on the NSIP website and will be available in print at select events around the country. The guide offers explanations of EBVs and data indexes, directions on their use, and a worksheet to help producers collect and organize data and priorities.

The guide provides a three-step process to ram selection based on NSIP EBVs.

The process begins with evaluating a flock's current production by using production records for lambing and weaning rates, average weaning rate, average loin area, average back fat thickness, average fleece weight and average fiber diameter.

“Every flock in the U.S. is different,” says Burgett. “This process allows each producer to fine-tune his or her genetic selection strategy to improve production. Western whiteface flocks will be more interested in reproduction and wool characteristics than carcass traits. Southern flocks will need to focus on parasite resistance.”

Next, the producer uses that data to establish goals for improvement, as Burgett further explains: “It has been outlined very clearly by our industry leaders that we need to improve productivity in *every* flock if we are to have a sustainable industry into the future. Setting goals gives a flock a benchmark to work toward, a measurement of genetic progress as it improves.” For example, the producer may have a lambing rate of 100 percent, or one lamb per ewe. His goal may be to increase that to 120 lambs from 100 ewes, or 120 percent.

Once goals for specific traits are established, it is important to set priorities.

It is possible to make progress in multiple traits simultaneously, but faster genetic progress will be realized by focusing on one or two traits, rather than five or six at once. So, setting priorities is a crucial part of the process.

The third step outlined in the guide is ram selection. The key to using EBVs is easy comparison between rams. NSIP reports, available on the website, also allow for comparison to breed average and sheep in related flocks.

The Ram Buying Guide provides worksheets to simplify the process. More information on the NSIP Ram Buying Guide can be found at www.nsip.org

Countdown to Antibiotic Changes

SB 27 (Hill) – California’s 2015 Antibiotic Legislation

Antibiotic resistance is an issue that threatens human health and animal health. Working with Senator Hill on SB 27, California Wool Growers Association in cooperation with California Cattlemen’s Association and California Farm Bureau Federation helped lead the way in securing landmark legislation that will make California a leader in combating antibiotic resistance and ensuring judicious use of antibiotics while protecting sheep producer’s ability to provide timely care for their livestock. SB 27 ensures sheep producers can continue to use antibiotics effectively to treat, control and prevent disease.

Why was SB 27 introduced?

SB 27 follows the veto of SB 835 in 2014 also by Senator Hill which sought to prohibit the use of medically important antibiotics for feed efficiency or growth promotion. In his veto message, Governor Brown said the bill did not go far enough and directed the legislature to bring another comprehensive bill to his desk in 2015.

What does SB 27 do?

Beginning January 1, 2018, SB 27 requires injectable and other medically important antibiotics not delivered through feed or water to be purchased with a prescription issued by a veterinarian.

- Independent of SB 27, all medically important antibiotics delivered through feed must be administered using a veterinary feed directive per federal regulations largely supported by the industry and pharmaceutical companies.
- Many antibiotics already require a veterinarian prescription, but for those that currently do not (i.e. LA200©) will beginning Jan. 1, 2018 can still be purchased at retail facilities with a veterinarian prescription.
- SB 27 requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that livestock producers in rural areas continue to have timely access to antibiotics.

SB 27 requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to develop voluntary stewardship guidelines and best management practices with veterinarians and livestock producers.

- Guidelines will be developed in coordination with the Department of Public Health, the Veterinary Medical Board and experts at the University of California Veterinary Medical School.

SB 27 will voluntarily monitor antibiotic use and most importantly, monitor patterns in antibiotic resistance.

- All information that is collected will be held confidential per the statutory provisions of the bill, including from FOIA or PRA requests.
- The data gathered in California will be integrated with national monitoring efforts.

SB 27 codifies in statute that antibiotics can be used for disease prevention where necessary.

- Specifically the bill states, “A medically important antimicrobial drug may also be used when, in the professional judgment of a licensed veterinarian, it is needed for prophylaxis to address an elevated risk of contraction of a particular disease or infection.”

Countdown to Antibiotic Changes, *cont'd...*

What SB 27 DOES NOT do

SB 27 does not impact the use of non-medically important antibiotics such as vaccines (i.e. Vibrio, Covexin 8) or ionophores (i.e. Rumensin®).

- Vaccines are **not** considered antibiotics and thus will still be available for purchase over-the-counter without a prescription.

SB 27 does not alter how antibiotics are administered under the California Veterinary Medical Practice Act or change the nature of the veterinarian-client patient relationship.

- So long as a relationship exists, veterinarians can prescribe antibiotics to a rancher under one prescription for up to a sixth month period.
- Producers must consult with their veterinarian at least once annually, however SB 27 **does not** require a veterinarian to administer the antibiotic or issue an individual prescription for each time an antibiotic is needed.

Antibiotics: FDA Guidance 213 Information

Guidance 213: This action requests animal-health companies to outline intentions to voluntarily remove any production/growth-promotion uses from product labels of medically important antibiotics. The guidance also eliminates over-the-counter status of these medications and increases veterinary oversight for on-farm therapeutic use by requiring a veterinarian feed directive (VFD) for feed applications and a prescription for water treatments. December 2016 is the deadline for this guidance to be completed and implementation to begin.

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) new policy for on-farm use of medically important antibiotics is scheduled to begin in December 2016. Feed manufacturers are revising medicated feed labels to remove all feeding performance statements. These labels will read for use to treat, control or prevent a disease. Labeling transition will continue to **January 1, 2017 when all feed grade antibiotic will require a valid VFD.**

All feed use antibiotics that the FDA, World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control (CDC) considers "medically important to humans". [List of Antibiotic Compounds Affected by New FDA Regulation](#)

This link to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration goes into the details (see Appendix A) of what antimicrobial drugs will be affected by a new veterinary feed directive rule that is scheduled to go into effect in December 2016.

Check with your veterinarian, feed manufacturer or pharmaceutical representative for more information regarding how specific antibiotic products and their uses may be affected.

Producers will need to adapt and be well positioned to move forward, but not without solid preparation. That means staying informed and learning how FDA's changes will affect production at the farm level so that strategies for success can be put in place.

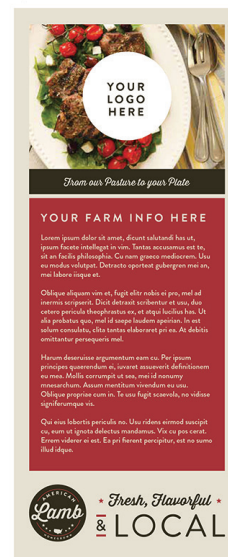
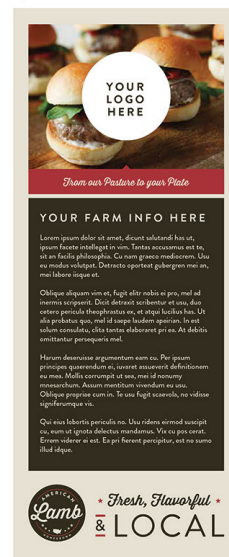
Once in place, the new rule will mean that producers will have to work with their veterinarians even more closely on things such as getting access to certain antibiotics when needed to treat animals. CWGA advises producers to document the antibiotics currently being using and look for ways to strengthen herd-health records.



Are You looking for MARKETING TOOLS AND RESOURCES?



The new industry resource center has a number of resources including a new pricing calculator, customizable materials, ethnic marketing retail tool kit, and more. The pricing calculator formally known as the Direct Marketing Lamb Business Management Tool (DMLBMT) was designed to help producers and direct marketers monitor production and assist in pricing product.



From farm brochures to beautiful banners, you can customize and brand these new materials to help jazz up your farmer's market display and/or retail demo sampling.

An ethnic marketing toolkit was designed to help educate suppliers, retailers and distributors about the importance of the US Muslim and Hispanic communities as a growing market for American Lamb. The toolkit includes recipe brochures in both Spanish and Arabic.

Looking for something you can't find? We welcome your thoughts and feedback! **Visit Lambresourcecenter.com.**



americanlamb.com

Vaccine Updates & Information

Price Changes for Covexin 8 and Vision® CD-T with Spur®

CWGA has been forced to source Covexin 8 and Vision® CD-T with Spur® from a new supplier. As a result, prices for both products are expected to increase \$2.00 to \$5.00 per 50 dose. Prices will be updated in the coming month on the CWGA website (<http://cawoolgrowers.org/vaccines/vaccines.html>) and by contacting the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org.

With this change, CWGA will now be carrying additional sheep health products such as sheep and goat drench wormers and mineral. Stay tuned for details.

Blue Tongue & Footrot Vaccine Update – Nancy East, DVM, Chair CWGA Vaccine Committee

During the past year, CWGA has been diligently working to develop two new sheep vaccines for members – a killed Blue Tongue vaccine and a new Footrot Vaccine. CWGA is moving forward with development for both vaccines including samples, trials and product approval. A target date for availability for both vaccines is fall of 2016. CWGA will continue to update members on the developments of these two vaccines.

Only CWGA members will be able to purchase these two new vaccines. Priority will be given those members that have requested to be contacted when the vaccines become available.

If you would like to be notified once the vaccines are available, please send contact information and dosage request to info@woolgrowers.org. If you would like to confirm you are on the list or update your information please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org.

Protect Your Flocks Health With Vaccines From CWGA

Campylobacter Fetus-Jejuni Bacterin (Vibrio)

A two strain vaccine that is recommended for use to prevent abortion losses associated with either C.fetus or C.Jejuni. Pricing: \$27.50/50 dose bottle and \$47.50/125 does bottle.

Covexin 8

For the vaccination of healthy cattle and sheep against diseases caused by Clostridium chauvoei, Cl septi-cum, Cl novyi Type B, Cl. Haemolyticum, Cl. Tetani, and Cl perfringens Types C and D. Refer to label for complete instructions. Contact the CWGA office for pricing information.

Vision® CD-T with Spur®

Clostridium perfringens Types C and D Tetani Bacterin Toxoid Adjuvant – U.S. Patent Nos. 3,790,665 and 3,919,411. For use in healthy cattle, sheep, and goats as an aid in preventing disease caused by Clostridium perfringens Types C and D (Enterotoxemia) and Clostridium Tetani (Tetanus). Contact the CWGA office for pricing information.

Blue Tongue– Temporarily Unavailable

If you would like to be notified once the vaccine is available, please send contact information and dosage request to info@woolgrowers.org.

Tips For Shearing Season

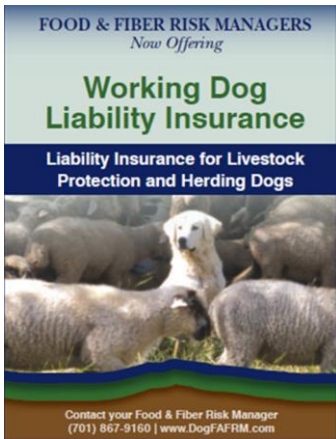
Sure you want a good wool clip. Everybody wants a good clip. But are you willing to put forth the effort needed to make it the best that it can be? Even the best shearers in the world can't make the most of shearing day without a little help. In some cases, that means making sure you're on the same page with your shearer and his crew long before they arrive on site. The larger the flock, the more planning and communication is key to making the day successful.

ASI Wool Consultant Ron Cole, who regularly conducts wool classing schools for the association and works with shearing schools offers some things to think about as you prepare for one of the most labor-intensive days of the entire season.

- Have facilities ready and prepared for the shearing crew. This includes adequate pen space, working facilities, extra labor to move and sort sheep prior to shearing, as well as processing sheep after shearing. You might need to provide help and assistance moving wool bales or bags away from the shearing site to a storage facility. Sort different wool types prior to shearing to reduce cross contamination. The preferred shearing order remains white face, crossbreds, black face and, lastly, hair sheep or hair sheep crosses.
- Sheep should be held off feed and water overnight prior to shearing. This eliminates fecal and urine contamination on the shearing floor and helps keep wool as clean as possible. It's also easier for shearers to handle the sheep during shearing when this rule is followed.
- Visit with your shearer or shearing crew manager prior to shearing to determine what is to be accomplished at the shearing site: bellies out only, will wool be classed, perhaps skirted? Who is providing the packaging for the wool? What type of packaging is needed? Burlap, film and nylon packs are all approved packaging materials in the U.S. Who will label the bales and keep the wool press record?
- Provide a trash bin on site for disposal of hair type fleeces, bloody wool, skin pieces, heavy tags or contamination items.
- If using a shearing crew, the producer should try to provide electrical outlets for campers, water, restrooms and showers for the crew.
- A hot meal at noon – provided by the grower – is sincerely appreciated by the shearing crew and makes a significant difference in the afternoon work performance of the crew. Mid-shift snacks at break time are also much appreciated by the crew and strengthens the relationship between the producer and his crew.
- Respect for the producer and mutual respect for the shearing crew has to be gained by performance. It continues to be a team effort to make shearing day a positive experience for all involved.
- With fewer shearing crews available, as well as fewer shearers, both domestic and foreign, producers will find it beneficial to do everything possible to complete shearing day with minimal stress on the sheep, working help and shearing crew.
- Shearers also recommend that producers use plastic ear tags and place them in the sheep's left ear, toward the outside edge approximately half way between the base and the tip. Metal ear tags are especially dangerous during shearing.

Remember, investing in the quality of your wool clip should pay for itself in the long run. Taking precautions to produce a quality clip opens a plethora of marketing options for producers.

For further information and tips on how to enhance wool quality with proper harvesting techniques go to - http://www.sheepusa.org/NewsMedia_SheepIndustryNews_PastIssues_2016_February2016_TipsForShearingSeason



Working Dog Liability Insurance Now Available

Working Dog Liability Insurance (WDLI) is for livestock producers, who use guardian and herding dogs to protect their livestock from predators and other risks, and to assist in the management of their flock or herd.

Frequently the producers have no liability protection from incidents related to the guardian and herding dogs.

Most farm and ranch insurance policies exclude working dogs or dogs which “may show aggressive tendencies.” WDLI is managed and serviced by Food and Fiber Risk Managers. They understand the business, and know that livestock production is your livelihood, and have your best interest at heart.

Why Should I Buy WDLI?

Livestock producers are at risk for many liability claims, such as dog bites, livestock in the wrong place at the wrong time, or in the right place at the right time—but with unexpected visitors or even intruders.

Even if your dog does what it is trained and supposed to do, if a third party is harmed, as the livestock or dog owner, you could be liable.

Who Should Buy WDLI?

Livestock producers, who use guardian and herding dogs to protect the animals from predators and other risks, and to assist in the management of the flock or herd.

Frequently the producers have no liability protection from incidents related to the guardian or herding dogs. Most farm and ranch insurance policies exclude working dogs or dogs which “may show aggressive tendencies.”

Applicants must be a member of their state sheep association/CWGA.

For more details go to - <http://workingdogliabilityinsurance.com/>

Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School returns to Ohio State University in July 2016

Participants 20 years of age or older who are interested in all aspects of sheep production and marketing have until May 1, to register for the July 10-14, 2016 Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, to be held at Ohio State University (OSU), in Columbus, Ohio. This intense four-day program will incorporate site tours of exceptional Ohio sheep operations with the Lamb 509 short course taught by Roger High and Dr. Henry Zerby of OSU.

In addition to the site tours, participants will spend one full day in the OSU Meat Labs learning about carcass grading, performing hands-on fabrication of carcasses and processing of meat products.

Interested individuals must complete an application form. Applications will be reviewed and 32 participants selected to attend the 2016 school. Though there is no fee to apply, a registration fee of \$200 is required once you have been notified. NLFA provides meals, lodging and tour-related expenses. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the school location.

Applicants may apply electronically or an application may be downloaded by visiting the NLFA web site: <http://www.nlfa-sheep.org/leadership.html>. Applications due May 1, 2016. For more information, call the NLFA office at 503.364.5462 or email info@nlfa-sheep.org

Bakersfield Ram Sale

Western Stockman's Market, Famosa, California

www.westernstockmansmarket.com

Friday April 15, 2016

Noon: Free lamb BBQ and open bar

1:00 pm: 300 Head of Outstanding rams consigned

Consignors

Sale Management

Larry Pauly Manager 435-406-9652

Justin Mebane WSM 661-399-2981

Justin Mebane cell 661-979-9894

Brent Shepherd – Brian Olsen – TJ Shepherd

Roxanne Bracco – Joe Olsen – Joel Shepherd

John Olsen – Larry Pauly – Layne Shepherd – Matt Olsen

– Mike Mann – Chase Carson – Wayne Stone

Brady Olsen – John Phillips – Raul Carson – Reo Carson

– Shirl Shepherd – Shirley Volkman

90TH ANNUAL CLOVERDALE RAM SALE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00am Preview of
Rams & Ewes
11:30am BBQ
1:00pm Ram & Ewe



2015 SALE AVERAGES

Columbia- \$350

Corriedale- \$408

Dorset- \$648

Rambouillet - \$450

Shropshire- \$412

Suffolk- \$520

Range Ewes- \$208

Saturday, May 7th, 2016

Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds

Cloverdale, California

Suffolks – Dorsets – Corriedales

Shropshires – Rambouillets – Crossbreds

Quality Rams for Less Money

Approximately 65 rams consigned

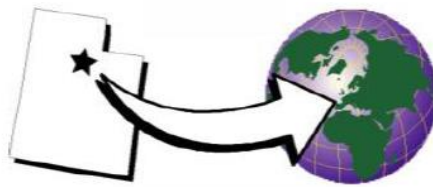
All animals have been vet checked and quality sifted

For information contact:

Sierra Bruhn, Sale Manager (707) 696-9002 email- sierrabruhn@gmail.com

Jim Lewers, President (707) 894-9348 email - jklewers@comcast.net

Utah Wool Marketing Association



Marketing Wool to the World

Contact: Will Hart Griggs – Manager
435-843-4284 – Office 801-201-9706 – Cell
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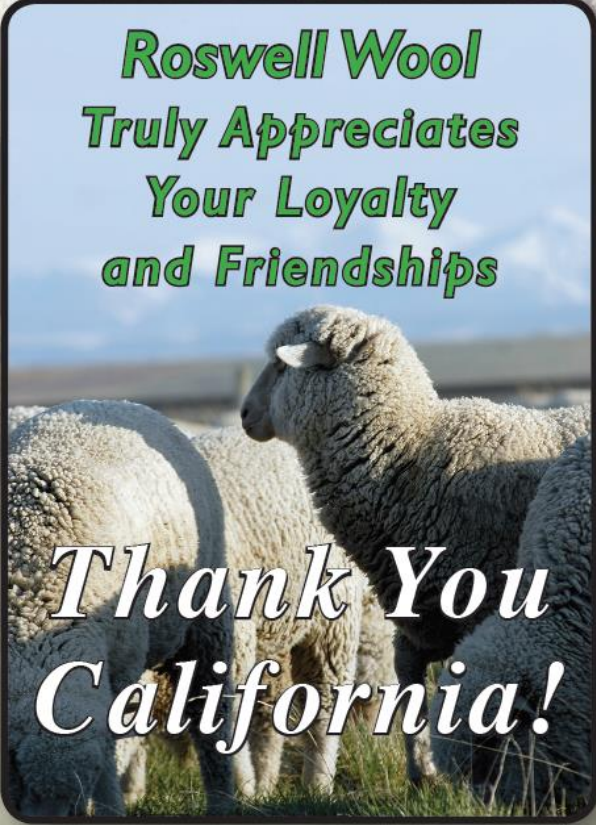
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Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul



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Sacramento, CA 95814
www.woolgrowers.org

Mark Your Calendars

April 9, 2016
96th California Ram Sale
Porterville, CA

April 20, 2016
Mendocino & Lake County
Sheep & Goat Producers Meeting
Ukiah, CA

May 7, 2016
Cloverdale Ram Sale
Cloverdale, CA

cloverdaleramsale@gmail.com

May 21 – 22, 2016
3rd Annual Valley Ford Wool Mill
Wool Festival, Point Arena, CA
www.casariranch.com

June 4 – 5, 2016
Humboldt County Wool
Growers Annual Picnic
Rohner Park, Ferndale, CA

June 22, 2016
CWGA Legislative Action Day
Sacramento, CA

August 26 – 27, 2016
CWGA Annual Meeting
Carson Valley Inn, Minden, NV



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860