



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860

Herd the News

November 2016

***The Vision of the California
Wool Growers Association***

~

***~The California Wool
Growers Association will
deliver lasting value to
support and grow all
segments of the California
sheep industry.***

Using Economic Tools for Sheep Production – Bridger Feuz, Univ. of Wyoming

***Sheep Producer Forum Workshops – Hopland (Dec. 13th),
Sacramento (Dec. 14th), Bakersfield (Dec 15th)***

Producers of lamb and wool face many challenges each day that require their attention. These challenges include things like dealing with and preventing disease, getting ewes fed and protected from predators, or moved to the right pasture, getting ewes bred, getting lambs on the ground and started out right, and many others. These daily challenges require a lot of time and effort to get them done right. Because of this time commitment on these essential tasks often things like marketing, economic analysis and risk management get put on the back burner. With this in mind I developed the website Wyoming Ranch Tools (www.uwyoextension.org/ranchtools) to help producers make those marketing and economic analysis decisions. The tools on the website are designed to help producers answer the question “will I be better or worse off if I make a change to my operation”.

These economic tools are designed to help producers ask questions like; should I use a cross breeding program that would increase lamb production, but reduce wool quality? Should I consider marketing my lambs early or later to take advantage of market trends? Does it make economic sense to go to winter alfalfa pastures with my lambs? What can I afford to pay for replacement ewes? Is it better to market my lambs direct, at an auction barn, or should I use a video auction? The tools are straightforward and are utilized by many farmers and ranchers to make decisions like these and many others.

In order to help producers utilize these tools Master Stockman Consulting has developed a set of producer workshops. These workshops are supported by grant funds from the USDA Risk Management Agency. The workshops are being offered in conjunction with California Wool Growers Association and UC Cooperative Extension.

For more details on workshop locations, agenda, and to register go to page 3.

In this issue:

- 2 President's Message
- 4 Member Information
- 6 Legislative Update
- 9 Howard Wyman
Leadership School
- 10 UC Livestock-Predator
Studies
- 11 Wolves in Lassen County
- 12 Wildlife Services
- 14 California Sheep Elite
Mineral
- 15 ASI Annual Convention
- 17 Advertisements
- 20 Calendar

***Warm wishes from our family to yours for a Happy
Thanksgiving! - CWGA Executive Officers & Staff!***



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Presidents Message – Ryan Indart



Dear CWGA Membership,

Today is Sunday, November 6th, 2016. I am writing you exactly two days before Election Day 2016. Regardless of your ideology or political perspective, our founding fathers gave us Liberty, and most importantly the right to vote for the people we most desire to run our democracy. I hope everyone takes this right seriously and exercises it on Election Day, because there are many places in the world where people aren't even allowed to vote. We are very fortunate to live in this great country and be able to make our voices heard, through the democratic voting process. It doesn't take long to gain perspective when you realize that voting is special privilege that is our right as Americans, a right that many people in this world don't have.

Many of you are undoubtedly heavy into lambing by this time. Thankfully, our lambing season is going far better than last year's. It is such a special time of year, one I always look forward to and cherish. Memories of lambing season BBQ's with my Father, Grandfather, our family and entire crew always come to mind. Seeing those mother ewes take a siesta in a green alfalfa field with their little baby twin lambs standing on top of them, is just one of the many visuals that comes to mind when lambing season arrives. Whether you lamb out your herd by yourself, have family help or hired men, lambing season always brings about a sense of Renewal, New Beginnings and Hope for a prosperous future. In our increasingly urban society, this is a special way of life that we live, one that most people will never be fortunate enough to experience. For that I am grateful. Let's hope and pray that when it comes time to market our lambs next spring, and possibly summer, that the market is healthy, the pipeline of "old croppers" is clean, and we can command a decent return for our effort this lambing season.

The Strategic Planning Committee is meeting again this coming Tuesday, Election Day. We will continue our efforts to implement the initiatives already voted on by the Board. More importantly, we will continue with the effort of striving to create an Association that is Financially Viable not only now, but five and ten years from now. This effort is not going to produce immediate results overnight. But little by little if we stay the course, and focus our energy on ensuring we are an Association that maximizes its value to its membership; by focusing on initiatives, actions and services that produce a positive return to the Association and not a financial drain, then CWGA will have a bright future. Good, creative ideas that will further our cause are always welcome. No one owns this process, we all do. So please, if you have good ideas and/or suggestions, please offer them up - we are all ears! One of the first things my Dad taught me was, "Ryan, you need to give me solutions, not problems!"

One way you as a CWGA member can help immediately is by trying to recruit new members. One of our initiatives through the Strategic Planning Committee is to update and improve our membership flyer. Once this is completed we will be more effective at marketing our Association to new members, by focusing on selling the benefits that come with membership. *Continued on page 3.*

Moreover, as you all know we have partnered with Animal Health International (AHI). We are selling a variety of animal health products at very aggressive prices. Please contact Erica for a current list of products and pricing. We now accept credit cards so you can get points, cash back or miles for your purchases by using your favorite rewards credit card! If you have any ideas for new products, please let us know. Every time you buy a vaccine, a molasses tub, a mineral block or a repeater syringe, you are helping your Association financially. We all buy sheep products - we might as well support our Association in the process. We will also be providing a new California Elite Sheep mineral which will have a beneficial effect at helping to control a number of issues, including footrot. While not a vaccine, this is truly exciting and we have AHI and Nancy East to thank for it. There will be more to come of this later. Look for the product at next year's California Ram Sale.

There are a few events on the horizon that deserve mentioning. The 2017 ASI Legislative Conference in Washington DC will be held March 27 – 30. There are a myriad of issues facing and affecting our Industry, and the more voices we have representing CWGA, the better. So please, if you are interested in, passionate about and desire to influence legislation and regulation that could impact our Industry, then please join us in March. Also, the ASI Annual Convention will be held over January 25 – 28, 2017 in Denver, CO. As an Industry leader, CWGA always has a very strong turnout at the ASI National Convention. Let's keep our leadership position strong and have another strong turnout in Denver. Moreover, this Industry is about its fine people, and reconnecting with old friends is always a benefit of attending. Finally, the National Lamb Feeders Association (NLFA) 2017 Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School will be held March 12 – 17 in Albany, OR. Having participated as a student and also as Board member for NLFA for the last 6 years, I know firsthand the value and impact the Howard Wyman School has had on this Industry. It is the broadest, diverse and comprehensive three day schooling that this Industry has to offer. If you are interested in learning new ideas on how to improve your business and meet new energetic people, then I encourage you to sign up for the school.

In conclusion, I hope and pray that all of you have a successful lambing season, a blessed and enjoyable holiday season, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Board meeting in December.

Using Economic Tools for Sheep Production Workshop Details

North Coast Sheep Producer's Forum – December 13th

10:00 AM – 2:30 PM – Rod Shippey Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland

Registration – Free (Lunch provided)

To register email jmharper@ucanr.edu or call John Harper (707) 463-4495

California Sheep Producer's Forum – December 14th

10:00 AM – 2:30 PM – California Farm Bureau Federation, 2300 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento

Registration - \$15 (Lunch provided)

To register email masterstockman@outlook.com or call Bridger Feuz (307) 799-8740

Kern Sheep Producer's Forum – December 15th

8:00 AM – 12:30 PM – UC Cooperative Extension, 1031 S Mt. Vernon Ave., Bakersfield

Registration - \$15 (Lunch provided)

To register go to <http://ucanr.edu/livestock3> or contact Julie Finzel at (661) 868-6219

Workshop Outline:

Economic Tools for Sheep Producers – *Bridger Feuz, Univ. of Wyoming Livestock Marketing Specialist*

Managing Sheep Nutrition and Ram Selection – *Whit Stewart, Montana State Univ. Sheep Specialist*

Using Ultrasound Technology for Sheep Producers – *Hudson Hill, Univ. of Wyoming Area Educator*

Prescribed Grazing (Bakersfield Location) – *Julie Finzel, UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor*

Risk Management for Sheep Producers – *Bridger Feuz, Univ. of Wyoming Livestock Marketing Specialist*

Member Information & Updates

ASI's 2017 Spring Legislative Action Trip, March 27 – 30, 2017

Now is the time to increase your political activity!



Political advocacy is an ongoing and active part of CWGA's mission and role to deliver lasting value to all segments of the California sheep industry.

The ASI Spring Legislative Trip March 27 – 30, 2017 offer members the opportunity to meet with their elected Congressional Assemblymen and Senators (and staff) to discuss the issues facing our industry.

Every meeting you engage in with your elected official, strengthens your relationship with those offices. Building relationships with elected officials represents an important part of influencing the political process. A personal visit is the most effective way of communicating with elected officials. Personal stories about our industry are the most effective and provide decision makers with valuable insight into our industry.

Issues and legislation can change quickly, which further highlights the importance of maintaining an ongoing relationship with your elected official. Why not start that relationship by joining fellow CWGA members on Capitol Hill in March.

For questions, contact the CWGA office at (916)444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org.

2017 ASI Convention Registration Opens, Jan. 25 – 28, 2017

The American Sheep Industry Association's 2017 Convention will be held in downtown Denver on Jan. 25-28, 2017. As in past years, this event is the only annual opportunity to meet with the leaders in sheep production, feeding, lamb and wool processing, wool warehouses and trade, as well as the promotion and finance boards.

Click on the following links to gather information about the meeting:

- www.sheepusa.org/About_Events_Convention - General information, meeting schedules, speakers, tours and events
- www.cvent.com/d/kvqq9c - Online registration, which will be available by end of day Nov. 4
- <https://aws.passkey.com/event/14796883/owner/3135/home> - Hotel reservations

Meeting alongside ASI in Denver are the American Lamb Board, American Goat Federation, ASI Women, Food and Fiber Risk Managers, Make It With Wool National Contestants, Mountain States Lamb Co-op, National Lamb Feeders Association, National Livestock Producers Association, National Sheep Improvement Program, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, Sheep Venture Company, Superior Farms and Western Range Association.

Don't Forget to Check Out the Lamb Industry Resource Center



The lamb industry resource center was developed to provide the industry with a clearing house of information about lamb, from production resources and marketing tools to events and funding opportunities. The site is meant to help the industry navigate where to find information and promote programs and resources provided by the national lamb industry organizations.

Visit www.uslambindustry.com.

CWGA Accepting Credit Cards

CWGA is now accepting credit cards for sheep health products, membership dues, meeting registrations, and merchandise. Contact the CWGA office at (916)444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org to remit payment via credit card

Member Information & Updates

Knock Out Noxious Weeds on Rangelands Workshop Series

Woodland (Nov. 9th), Salinas (Nov. 16th), Fresno (Nov. 17th), Eureka (Dec. 13th), Susanville (Dec. 14th)

Despite disparate efforts, California's most noxious weeds continue to invade rangelands and other types of working landscapes, highlighting the need for approaches that maximize cost effectiveness of reduced-risk practices. This workshop series will be held in November & December and is sponsored by UC Davis, California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation, USDA-NRCS, and the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association.

For more details or to register go to - <http://knockoutweeds.com/index.html>

Got Wild Pig Damage?

UCCE Livestock and Range Advisors and Wildlife Specialists need your help by filling out a short statewide survey on wild pig damage found at: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=16522>. It should only take about 15 minutes to complete. Individual identities and survey responses will be kept confidential. Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary.



New Drought Resources from UC Rangelands

Recently published article - "Coping with Drought on California's Rangelands" (attached). This article is part of a Special Issue (see below), and overviews information UC Rangelands and UCCE have gathered from the 2011 mail survey and recent interview efforts on producers experiences with drought management.

Drought on Rangelands--Effects and Solutions: This is a freely available Special Issue of the peer-reviewed journal Rangelands. There are several articles detailing impacts and actions across the West, including the above CA article. All articles can be accessed at

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01900528/38/4>

UC Rangelands has recently launched a new Drought Hub, which features research and extension information for producers and rangeland managers. You can access the Hub at rangelands.ucdavis.edu/drought. This is a dynamic hub, so please let us know if you have any feedback/suggestions!

For more information and resources from UC Rangelands go to - <http://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/>

How to Handle Sheep Video Series Available in Spanish

Earlier this year, the American Sheep Industry Association, with collaboration from Temple Grandin, Ph.D., the Livestock Marketing Association and Colorado State University, released a three-part video detailing the process of handling sheep through the entire life span of the animal.

The How to Handle Sheep video is now available as a training tool in English and Spanish. From producers and auction-facility workers to the transportation industry and harvesting personnel, everyone can follow Dr. Grandin as she discusses the best practices to use in handling sheep.

ASI Executive Director Peter Orwick strongly encourages all sheep operations to ensure their livestock workers, whether full- or part-time employees or neighbors, are educated. "These videos are a convenient way to accomplish this goal," said Orwick. "Poorly trained or uneducated workers who help with sheep are a business liability that is not necessary with today's access to training."

Both versions of the video are available on ASI's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/SheepUSA1.

Legislative Update

FSIS Proposal to Hold Livestock Haulers Accountable for Animal Welfare at Slaughterhouses

A proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) would hold transporters responsible for the mistreatment of livestock.

"The Food Safety and Inspection Service is announcing its intent to hold livestock owners, transporters, haulers and other persons not employed by an official establishment responsible if they commit acts involving inhumane handling of livestock in connection with slaughter when on the premises of an official establishment," the notice states. "FSIS believes these actions will further improve the welfare of livestock handled in connection with slaughter by ensuring that all persons that inhumanely handle livestock in connection with slaughter are held accountable."

Currently, the operators of farms and slaughterhouses are the ones held accountable for mistreatment of livestock on their property. "Livestock transporters or haulers transport animals to slaughter establishments," the notice states. "Many of these individuals are not employed by the establishment and thus are not required to follow instructions from the establishment on the handling of livestock in connection with slaughter."

In January 2015, FSIS received a petition from the attorney of a swine slaughter establishment requesting that the agency review its humane handling enforcement policy. The petition stated that official establishments should not be held accountable when non-employees inhumanely handle livestock on the official establishment premises.

According to the notice, FSIS will initiate action solely against the non-employee if it is determined that the non-employee is solely responsible.

"For example, if Office of Field Operations personnel observe a non-employee driving animals too fast and causing a few to slip and fall, and establishment employees are not involved in the event, FSIS will initiate action against the non-employee and will not take an administrative enforcement action against the establishment," the notice states.

If employees and non-employees are involved in abuse, FSIS would take action against the non-employee and take a regulatory control action or administration enforcement action against the establishment.

The Federal Register announcement is available at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-10-26/html/2016-24754.htm. **Comments must be received by November 25, 2017.** FSIS will implement these actions on Jan. 24, 2017, unless it receives comments that demonstrate a need to revise this date.

Government and Industry Groups Ask Court to Overturn EPA Water Rule

On Nov. 1, the American Farm Bureau Federation, along with dozens of agriculture business and municipal entities (including NCBA and PLC), asked a federal court to vacate the EPA's and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' "Waters of the United States" rule.

The brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit lays out in detail the substance of the groups' allegations. It follows a year of litigation over which court had jurisdiction to hear challenges to the expansive and unlawful rule. The coalition's brief explains how EPA flouted important procedural safeguards designed to ensure a fair and thoughtful rulemaking process. EPA tactics included withholding key documents until after the public comment period had closed, ignoring and ridiculing critical public comments and issuing illegal "covert propaganda" in an effort to generate superficial public support for the rule.

Details available at http://www.fb.org/newsroom/news_article/497/.

California Legislative Update

California Farmworker Overtime Legislation Update

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation granting agricultural workers the same right to overtime pay as other Californians. His signature followed narrow passage in the Legislature and intense lobbying by farmworkers. Assembly Bill 1066 will raise overtime wages for agricultural workers incrementally over four years, ultimately matching other industries by requiring time-and-a-half pay for more than eight hours in a day or 40 hours in a week.

Farmworkers are currently paid overtime if they work more than 10 hours in a day or 60 hours in a week.

Farm labor advocates heralded the bill as a step toward equal treatment for a largely low-paid and historically marginalized workforce, while business groups argued increasing labor costs will damage the industry in an important agriculture state.

Details of the Bill

Employment specialists are working to interpret its provisions and help farmers and ranchers to prepare for them.

The new law will entitle agricultural employees to premium pay after eight hours of work in a day or 40 hours in a week, but implementation will be phased in, starting in 2019.

Changes contained in the bill include:

The current 10-hour workday for agriculture, which has been in place since 1976, will be phased down for employers with more than 25 employees in four half-hour steps annually. The phase-down starts on January 1, 2019, when farmers or ranchers will have to pay employees 1½ times their regular rate of pay after 9½ hours worked in a workday. In 2020, premium pay begins after nine hours and in 2021, after 8½ hours. The last step will lower the daily overtime threshold to eight hours, effective January 1, 2022.

- Progressively lower caps on weekly straight-time hours will also be imposed on larger employers, effective on the first day of each of the same years. The imposition of those caps will start on Jan. 1, 2019, with a requirement to pay time-and-a-half after 55 hours worked in a workweek. In 2020, the cap reduces to 50 hours and in 2021 to 45 hours. On January 1, 2022, the law imposes a 40-hour weekly cap plus a requirement to pay double time for hours worked over 12 in a workday.
- Each of those phase-in steps will be delayed for three years for employers of 25 or fewer employees. For those employers, imposition of the phase-in steps will start on January 1, 2022, and end on Jan. 1, 2025, along with a requirement to pay double time for hours worked over 12 in a workday.
- AB 1066 will also subject agriculture, effective January 1, 2017, to the "one day's rest in seven" provisions of the Labor Code, although days of rest can be accumulated throughout the month due to business necessity.

Source: California Farm Bureau Federation

Will AB1066 Impact the California Sheepherder Exemption?

Mountain Plains Agriculture Service and Western Range Association are working to interpret the provisions of AB 1066 and any potential impacts on the California sheepherder exemption.

Preliminary analysis suggests the sheepherder exemption will remain and not be impacted by AB 1066. However, livestock workers will be subject to AB 1066.

California Legislative Update

California Gov. Jerry Brown signed California Cattlemen's Association's (CCA) sponsored legislation, AB 1960 by Assemblymember Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale), into law on September 28, 2016. CCA appreciates the governor's positive action on this bill, which is a priority for farmers and ranchers across the state.

AB 1960 brings necessary reform to the Basic Inspection of Terminals (BIT) program administered by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Farmers and ranchers are currently required to participate in the BIT program if they operate a pickup with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 pounds. This requirement captures the majority of new three quarter- and one-ton pickups available or a pickup and trailer combination exceeding 40 feet in length regardless of weight. The program requires a BIT program officer to physically inspect vehicles, vehicle maintenance records and vehicle driving records at least once every six years or more frequently based on performance.

Enrollment in the BIT program requires an individual to pay an annual fee based on the size of the fleet beginning at \$130. Inspections are time-consuming and a minor violation could lead to further enforcement which may restrict an individual from operating a vehicle critical to farming, ranching or just the day-to-day activities required to be completed.

"Although the BIT program may be appropriate for California's for-hire semi-truck fleet, regulating small family farmers and ranchers using pickups to haul small tractors, equipment or a handful of cows is simply unnecessary," said CCA President, Billy Flournoy. "Most of these vehicles are also our personal vehicles; vehicles we use to do things like go to the grocery store and take our kids to school."

AB 1960 provides an exemption which would exempt farmers and ranchers from the BIT program so long as the pickup and/or pickup and trailer combination is used solely in agriculture, used not-for-hire, the total gross combined weight rating of the pickup and trailer does not exceed 26,000 pounds and the pickup has a GVWR of less than 16,000 pounds.

"This small exemption will cut red tape for our state's farmers and ranchers saving them time and money," Assemblyman Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale) said. "In the midst of ever-increasing regulation for one of our state's largest industries, this change in law will allow them to purchase newer and safer vehicles for use on their farms and ranches and focus more on their business. Thank you again to the California Cattlemen's Association for their partnership on this bill."

On behalf of California's farmers and ranchers, CCA would like to thank Assemblymember Tom Lackey for authoring the bill. CCA would also like to recognize the bills' co-authors, Senator Cathleen Galgiani (D-Stockton) and Assemblymembers Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals), Bill Dodd (D-Napa) and the strong support provided by the Chair of the Assembly Transportation Jim Frazier (D-Oakley).

The bill will go into law January 1, 2017. *CWGA supported CCA and AB 1960.*

Need a Christmas Gift...Consider a Sheep Rug or Industry License Plate Frame

License Plate Frames "American Sheep Industry -- Eat Lamb...Wear Wool"

Member Price - \$15.00 plus tax & shipping.



Domestic Sheep Rugs - Available in black, chocolate, golden tip, & white.

Member Price - \$80.00 plus tax & shipping & handling.



To order contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org

2017 Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School Debuts in Oregon's Willamette Valley

ALBANY, Ore. – The 31st annual Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School sponsored by the National Lamb Feeders Association (NLFA) will debut March 12-15, 2017, in Albany, Oregon located in the heart of Oregon grass seed country. The school was moved from summer to spring to allow participants to get the most out of seeing the area's unique grass fed lamb production and marketing systems in operation. Planned visits within the 70-mile radius of Albany, include a startup sheep dairy in Jefferson, a three-year old on-ranch harvest facility, a fiber mill in Lebanon, vineyard grazing and winery tour in Eugene, plus a unique variety of large and small sheep growing operations. An optional tour to the Oregon Coast that ends up at Portland International Airport is available for those wishing to stay an extra day.

Tom Nichols, past manager for the Sheep Research Center at Oregon State University and current president of the Oregon Sheep Growers Association, is directing the 2017 School.

"Other than the Imperial Valley in Southern California, we are the only place that has this unique grass-fed system," Nichols said. "It is the perfect place for producers who are trying to develop a grass-fed system to visit and spring is the time to do it. One evening we will spend around the barbeque with the grass seed growers and sheep producers detailing the way they work with each other and on the day we hear about sheep grazing in the vineyards, we'll be adding a tour of the winery.

The first Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, held in Fort Collins, CO, has rotated between Sioux Falls, SD, San Angelo, TX, Greeley, CO, Columbus, OH, Philadelphia, PA and Dixon, CA over the last 30 years. Known for its intensive program balancing classroom time, site tours and one-on-one exchanges, the program also offers participants opportunities to listen to industry leaders, academic experts, as well as make connections with other producers representing different parts of the country.

Cost to the individual participant consists of their transportation to and from the selected school site plus a \$200 per person registration fee. NLFA provides meals and lodging for the participants, as well as the cost of the site tours and program supplies. Cost for the optional Oregon Coast Tour will be announced later.

Participants must be 20 years of age to apply. Deadline for registration is Jan. 6, 2017. For more information, contact NLFA or visit www.nlfa-sheep.org

Do You Qualify for Livestock Forage Program Assistance

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) to provide compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county. LFP also provides compensation to eligible producers who have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

Producers who suffered grazing losses that occurred in 2016 have until Jan. 30, 2017, to report their losses and enroll in LFP. Sheep and goats that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland are included as qualified livestock in this program.

A factsheet explaining the details of the program is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2016/2016_livestock_forage_disaster_program.pdf. The Farm Service Agency also has a website to help determine if a producer qualifies for assistance at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/fsa/Home.aspx>

UC Researchers Focus on Livestock – Predator Conflicts

Livestock and predator conflicts have been a longstanding problem resulting in real economic losses for producers, as well as reductions in predator populations and ecosystem diversity. To aid in depredation efforts, a wide range of nonlethal conflict avoidance strategies have been developed and utilized by ranchers, yet there is little information about their effectiveness or the costs associated with their implementation. In an attempt to fill this void, scientists across UC are launching several new research and extension projects focusing on livestock-predator conflicts and non-lethal predator protection tools. These efforts are being led by Dr. Tina Saitone, Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist in Agricultural and Resource Economics, Dan Macon, Assistant Specialist at UC Davis, and Dr. Leslie Roche, Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist in Rangeland Management.

Beginning this winter, the UC team will start a long-term survey of cattle and sheep producers to assess the direct and indirect impacts of wolves and other predators (like coyotes and mountain lions). This survey, which will continue to follow the same operations annually for 15 years, is the first long-term effort of its kind in the western United States. The goal of the survey is to facilitate research efforts to determine direct losses resulting from predation, as well as indirect losses (through reductions in reproductive rates, weight gain, and increased labor costs).

The project team, which also includes county-based UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Advisors, will also hold a series of workshops on non-lethal predator protection tools in 6 northern California locations—including Placer and Nevada, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, Modoc, and Lassen counties supported by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources' Renewable Resources Extension Act program. A Livestock-Predator Conflict Management Information Hub, containing current information and research, as well as policy issues and resources for producers, will also be developed under the UC Rangelands Research and Information Center (<http://rangelands.ucdavis.edu>) in the coming months.

Dr. Saitone is also working with researchers and livestock managers at the Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) to evaluate the benefits and costs associated with using livestock guardian dogs and other non-lethal tools to protect sheep from predators. A more long-term goal of this project is to use producer survey data in concert with information collected from HREC to determine if nonlethal tools influence coyote territories and/or migration. Yet another area of investigation involves determining if the prescribed grazing strategies used by many sheep producers, in part to mitigate predation and facilitate herd monitoring, enhances profitability.

Other project team members in this effort include: Dr. Roger Baldwin (UCCE Specialist in Wildlife Management), Dr. Luke Macaulay (UCCE Specialist in Rangeland Policy and Planning), Carissa Rivers (UCCE Siskiyou County), Roger Ingram (UCCE Placer-Nevada Counties), John Harper (UCCE Mendocino County), Laura Snell (UCCE Modoc County), David Lile (UCCE Lassen-Plumas-Sierra Counties), Jeffery Stackhouse (Humboldt-Del Norte Counties), and Kimberly Rodrigues (HREC).

For more information regarding these research and extension efforts, contact: contact Dan Macon (dmacon@ucdavis; 530-889-7324) or Tina Saitone (saitone@primal.ucdavis.edu; 530-752-1870).

Thank you for your continued support for CWGA & the California Sheep Industry!

Two Gray Wolves Confirmed Present in Lassen County

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has confirmed the presence of two gray wolves in western Lassen County.

Genetic analysis of scat samples confirmed the presence of a male and a female gray wolf. There is no current evidence — such as trail camera images, tracks, scat or reported observations — suggesting the wolves produced pups this year.



Analysis of scat indicates that the male wolf was born into the Rogue Pack in 2014, and most likely dispersed to Lassen County in late 2015 or 2016. The founder of the Rogue Pack is the well-known gray wolf OR7 (collared in Oregon by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) who dispersed from northeast Oregon and traveled around northern California in 2011 and 2012 before eventually finding a mate and establishing a territory in southern Oregon in 2013.

The DNA of the female wolf does not match that of any known individual wolves from Oregon, and initial analyses indicates she is not a close relative of current Oregon wolves. Dispersing wolves have commonly been documented to travel great distances, and it is possible that she dispersed from another western state. The collection of higher-quality genetic samples may eventually lead to a better understanding of her origin.

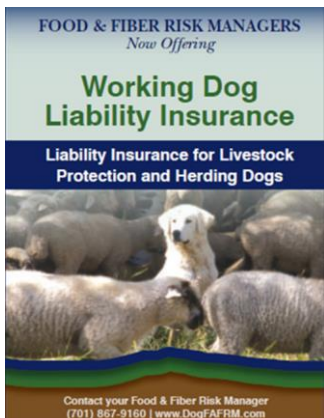
According to strategies identified within CDFW's draft Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves in California, CDFW will continue to assess and monitor gray wolves in California. If the pair documented in Lassen County continues to stay in the region, monitoring may include capturing at least one of the two and fitting it with a satellite-based GPS transmitter.

"The purpose of collaring gray wolves is to understand some key biological parameters such as habitat use, prey preferences and reproduction, as well as to potentially minimize wolf-livestock conflicts" said Karen Kovacs, a CDFW Wildlife Program Manager who has studied the wolves. "Due to concerns for the welfare of wolves, capturing them is generally not feasible in cold weather. Therefore, we would not attempt to capture and collar the wolves until late spring at the earliest."

"Gray wolves are currently listed as endangered both federally and within the state of California. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and CDFW have no plans to reintroduce gray wolves into California. CDFW's draft Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves is available at www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf.

Do You Need Working Dog Liability Insurance

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.



Most farm and ranch insurance policies exclude working dogs or dogs which "may show aggressive tendencies."

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.

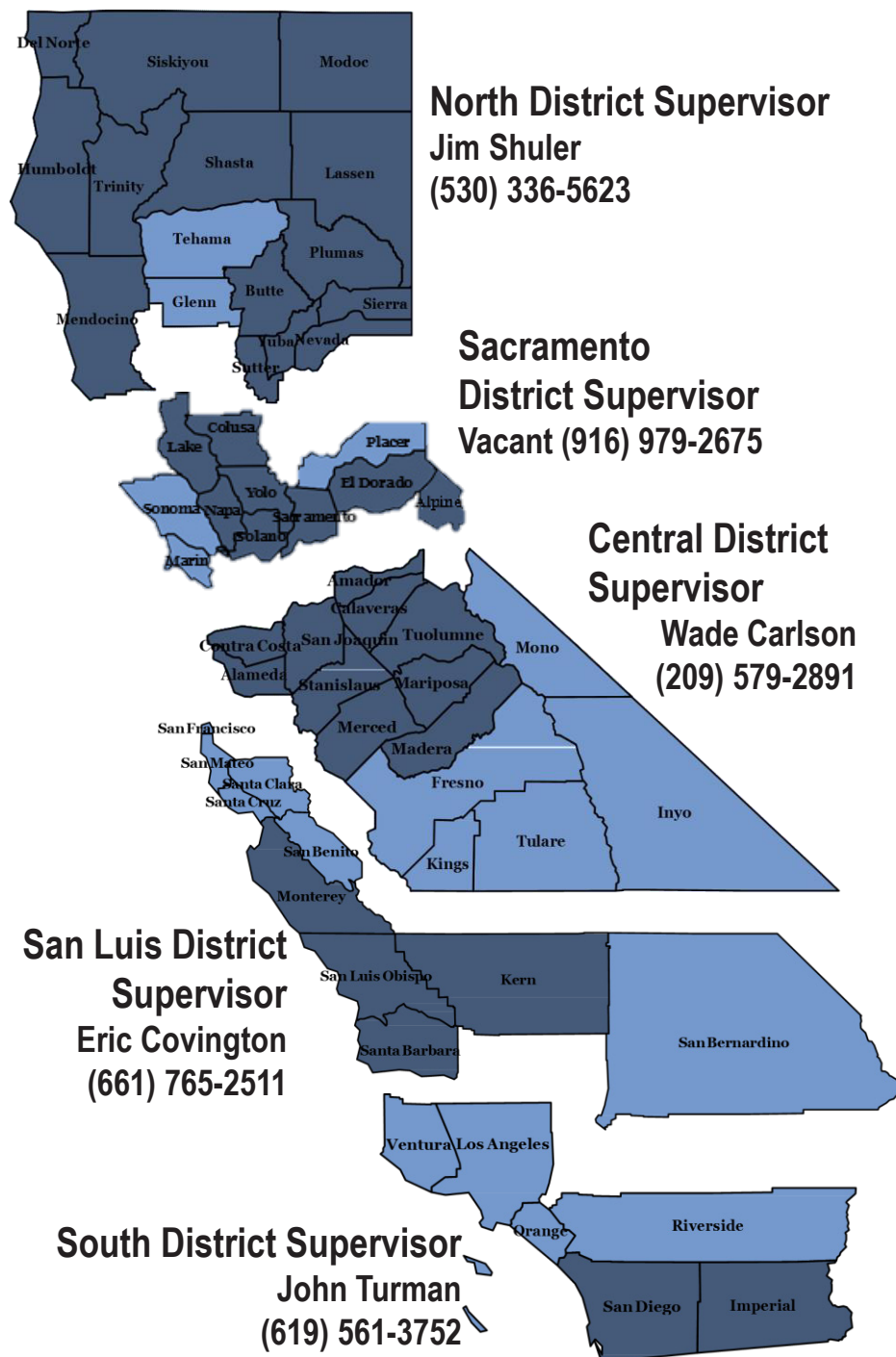
Applicants must be a member of their state sheep association/CWGA.

For more details contact Food & Fiber Risk Managers at (701) 867-9160 or <http://www.fafrm.com/>.



California Program

State Director- Dennis Orthmeyer
Asst. State Director- Mark Ono
3419A Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 979-2675



How WS works with Livestock Producers

WS personnel are frequently contacted by producers for assistance with livestock predation problems, often after the producer has tried unsuccessfully to reduce losses to a tolerable level on their own.

Making the Initial Contact. The producer may contact the WS State or District Office, or the WS Specialist in their area. During this initial request, the producer describes the occurrence, extent, and location of the predation losses, as well as any methods already being employed to reduce losses. WS provides advice and recommendations.

Conducting the Site Visit/Meeting. WS may conduct a site visit to gather firsthand knowledge of the predation problem and discuss options for reducing losses. WS will assess husbandry practices, predation evidence, and evaluate management methods in use, and may offer technical advice to increase effectiveness of the tools already being used.

Signing an Agreement. If the producer requests that WS conduct predator management, an agreement is negotiated and signed. In this agreement the rancher authorizes access and methods/tools as well as the species to be managed. The producer. Once the agreement is signed and any necessary authorizations are obtained, WS initiates work activities.

Conducting the Predation Management Program. During the project, WS and the producer communicate about predation events, logistics, wildlife activity and management, use of specialized tools, and any unforeseen circumstances that could affect management activities or effectiveness. Once predator management activities are completed, WS informs the producer and provides results and other information about the project.



WS Wildlife Services

Protecting People
Protecting Property
Protecting Agriculture



The California WS program provided 40,000 nonlethal wildlife damage management recommendations in 2015.

Methods to Reduce or Prevent Predation - Seek assistance from WS

Husbandry-

- Communication – Discuss predation patterns and specific events with your neighbors
- Human Presence - Range riding and shepherding
- Planning time and location of birthing to the least active predator periods.

Exclusion-

- Livestock Guardian Dogs – Using the right number of well trained and experienced dogs can be effective protection from predators.
- Fence or pen livestock at night using permanent or portable enclosures

Habitat Modification-

 physically altering property to make it less attractive to wildlife.

- Remove diseased, dying, or dead animals from areas.
- Dispose of carcasses in properly constructed and maintained carcass pits (at least 8 feet deep and located away from livestock, homes, outbuildings, etc.)
- Maintain a rodent/pest control program.
- When feasible remove brush and debris patches that provide cover for hunting predators.
- Make water sources inaccessible or less attractive to wildlife (fencing, floating barriers, etc.)

Harassment Tools-

- Hazing: Install motion activated flashing or security lights near sensitive areas (e.g., birthing areas).
- Hazing with firearms and cracker shells (when safe and legal to do so.)
- Install fladry (a series of cloth flags hung at intervals along a rope or fence line).
- Consider Turbo-fladry- Electrified fladry fencing.

Permitted Species

Prior to WS action, take of the following species is subject to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issuing a Depredation Permit:



Mountain Lion
Black Bear
Wild Pig
Bobcat
Elk
Deer
Beaver
Wild Turkey
Gray Squirrel

Requests for depredation permits can be made online (<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/WIR/Default.aspx>) or by calling a CDFW Regional office (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions>)

Guidelines for Investigating Suspected Wildlife Depredation Incidents:

- **Call USDA WS as soon as possible.** The wildlife specialist's goal is to determine the species of wildlife causing damage and find resolution. Time is extremely important. Loss and damage should be reported the same day it is discovered.
- **Do not touch or move the carcass.** The biologist or specialist will need it to determine the species of animal responsible. Carcasses may be covered with a tarp or sheet to prevent birds from scavenging and destroying sign.
- **Be mindful of tracks and scat seen around the carcass.** Do trample on, allow farm dogs to circle or otherwise destroy this evidence. If you locate a good track you can preserve it by covering with an inverted bucket or bowl.
- **Secure your other livestock and pets.** The predator is likely still in the area.



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

California Elite Sheep Mineral – Developed by Sheep Producers for Sheep Producers

Cargill Animal Nutrition is pleased to introduce our new California Elite Sheep Mineral.

California Elite Sheep was developed to address sheep specific nutritional and health needs and issues. California Elite balances the most advanced technology trace mineral, macro minerals, and vitamins at the correct levels to address footrot, lameness, and mastitis issues, selenium and thiamine needs, and animal fertility.

This product was developed through a collaborative effort involving Craig Edling (Animal Health International), Dr. Larson (Zinpro), Dr. Tomlinson, Dr. Nancy East, DVM, UC Davis (ret.), and California sheep producers.

California Elite Sheep is exclusive to and available through Animal Health International and CWGA. For questions or more information please contact John Garino (916-768-0174, john_garino@cargill.com), Craig Edling (209-531-7037, craig.edling@animalhealthinternational.com) or the CWGA office.

California Elite Sheep will be available to CWGA producers in December at \$40.76 per bag or \$1,507 per ton (40 bags). Contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org for a product tag.

Protect Your Flocks Health with Health Products from CWGA

CWGA members have access to discount pricing on over 40 sheep health and nutrition items such as dewormers, vaccines, CIDR inserts, marking paint, feed supplements, and sheep protein tubs.

Click [here](#) to download the health product and pricing list from the CWGA website or contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org to request a product and pricing list.

Have You Registered for Your Premises Identification Number?

Protecting American animal agriculture by safeguarding animal health is vital to the wellbeing of all U. S. citizens. It promotes human health; provides wholesome, reliable, and secure food resources; mitigates national economic threats; and enhances a sustainable environment. Essential to achieving this goal is an efficient and effective animal identification program.

The National Premises Identification Number provides a unique number across the entire United States for locations involved in animal agriculture and links that location to the entity that participates in animal production and/or commerce.

Requests for premises identification numbers received by the California Department of Food and Agriculture shall be maintained in confidence to the extent authorized by law.

An account holder e-mail is required to request a premises identification number. Call 866-325-5681 if you don't have an e-mail address. To register your premise go to - <http://www.californiaid.org/>

New Animal Diagnostic Lab Dedicated in California

A new diagnostic laboratory devoted to protecting farm animals, the food supply and the public against new and emerging diseases was dedicated Oct. 28 in Tulare, Cal., by the University of California-Davis (UC-Davis) School of Veterinary Medicine and the California Department of Food & Agriculture.

The Tulare facility is one of four labs in the California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory System, which is headquartered at UC-Davis and operated for the state by the veterinary school to protect animal health and performance and safeguard public health and the food supply.

Wool...Branded for the Future



A M E R I C A N W O O L

ASI Annual Convention

Jan. 25-28, 2017

Marriott City Center, Denver, CO



Join ASI and other industry partners to plan the future of the sheep industry:

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Mountain States Lamb Co-op

Sheep Venture Company

American Goat Federation

National Lamb Feeders Association

Superior Farms

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National Livestock Producers Association

Western Range Association

Food and Fiber Risk Managers

National Sheep Improvement Program

Make It With Wool

National Sheep Industry Improvement Center

Utah Wool Marketing Association



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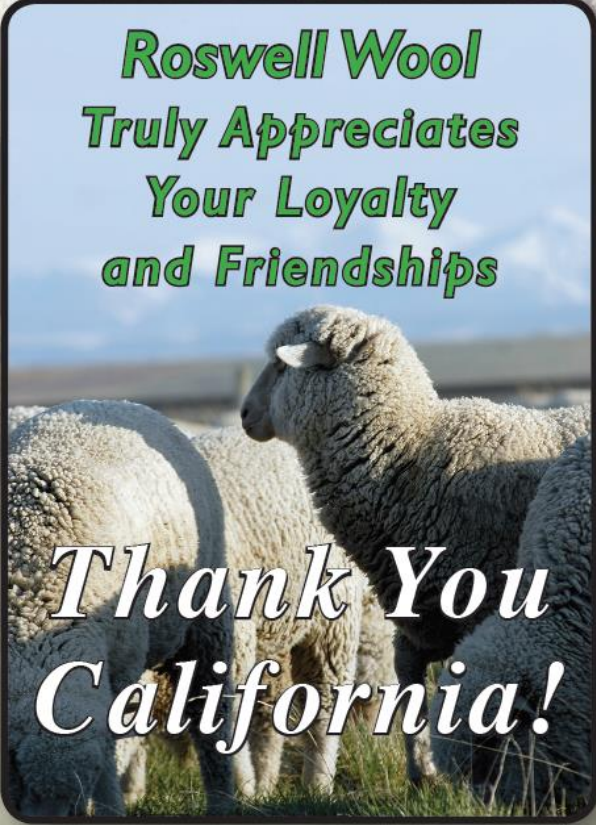
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Mike Corn, Manager

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Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul



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www.woolgrowers.org

Mark Your Calendars

November 19, 2016
Fibershed Wool & Fiber Symposium
Point Reyes Station, CA

December 9, 2016
CWGA Board Meeting
Sacramento, CA

December 13, 2016
North Coast Sheep Producers Forum
Hopland, CA

December 14, 2016
California Sheep Producer's Forum
Sacramento, CA

December 15, 2016
Kern Sheep Producer's Forum
Bakersfield, CA

January 25 – 28, 2017
ASI Annual Convention
Denver, CO

March 27 – 30, 2017
ASI Spring Legislative Action Trip
Washington D.C.

April 8, 2017
California Ram Sale
Porterville, CA

Does your local association have an upcoming event they would like to share with other sheep enthusiasts? Please contact the CWGA office to have your events listed in CWGA publications.



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860