



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860

# *Herd the News*

September 2016

## **Sheep and Lamb Market Update**

— *Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC)*

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

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

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The sheep and lamb industry started out the third quarter with heavy stocks of product in cold storage following several months of significantly high levels of imported product. Due to this buildup of supply, prices were expected to trend downwards through the duration of the year. However, prices have recently been higher than expected across much of the sheep and lamb complex since July. The 3 Market Average (CO, TX, SD) feeder lamb price was tracking consistent to year ago levels but has experienced a recent uptick, with the latest reported price at \$203 per cwt., \$10 higher than year ago levels. Sioux Falls live slaughter lamb prices were slightly below year ago levels during the first two quarters of this year. Since July, that price has been tracking about \$6.00 to \$10.00 per cwt. above a year ago with the last reported price at \$165 per cwt. live weight. Boxed lamb shoulder and loin prices have shown strength since July also, but racks and legs have continued to price below year ago levels.

On the production side, U.S. numbers this year are so far very similar to 2015's. Year-to-date, total sheep and lamb slaughter is down less than 1% compared to 2015. Mature sheep slaughter is down 6% year-over-year and lamb slaughter is about even with year ago levels. Dressed weights have averaged about 1 pound lighter than last year, and year-to-date total lamb and mutton production is 1% below last year's.

The volume of lamb in cold storage has moderated some from its record high levels, but it still equates to about one quarter's worth of domestic lamb production. U.S. lamb imports have slowed some in recent months but are still at high levels. In 2015, total lamb imports were equal to 128% of total domestic Federally Inspected (FI) lamb production. In 2016, through July, lamb imports were 14% above year ago levels, and were 143% of FI lamb production compared to year-ago at 123% of FI production (through July). The lamb we import mainly comes from New Zealand and Australia.

Outlook for the duration of 2016 is a continued pace of slaughter and production very similar to 2015's, with some potential of softening prices due to large levels of frozen product and imports. Looking into 2017, prices have not given producers strong signals one way or another to either decrease or increase their breeding flocks. Additionally, pasture conditions were fairly good this year. Currently, LMIC does not expect the national sheep flock to change in size very much, but modest increases in production combined with an faster rate of increase in U.S. population (relative to lamb production) and stable to slipping lamb imports could provide some modest price support in the lamb market into 2017 and 2018.

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## Presidents Message – *Ryan Indart*



Dear CWGA Membership,

Today is Sunday, September 11, 2016. Today marks my first President's message to you. But more importantly, it marks the 15 year Anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Terror attacks. Thousands of innocent American lives were lost to this evil threat 15 years ago. As was the case with the Pearl Harbor and is the case with the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, may we never forget and always hold in our hearts the memory of those who died in vain on this tragic day. As Americans, may we also always remember that the Freedom and Liberty that we all cherish and hold dear as is not free. Freedom has a price, and often times the price paid is the ultimate price, and is all too often paid by the soldiers who have fought and died to protect us. Sadly but true, it is also paid by innocent Americans simply carrying out their daily lives.

So on this day, my family and I will convene at the dinner table and say Grace like we always do on Sunday evenings. We will also say an extra prayer for the innocent American lives lost on this day 15 years ago. We will pray and give thanks for all the brave first responders who lost their own lives trying to save others. We will also pray and give thanks for all the American soldiers who have fought and died trying to protect our freedom. Finally we will pray that an attack like September 11<sup>th</sup> never happens again, and that as Americans we will always stand united, regardless of our political ideologies, against any terror threat that tries to harm this great country and undermine the way of life we all cherish.

I am honored and humbled that you chose me to be your President. Like my Father Tim before me and my Grandfather John before him, we have been proud members of the California Wool Growers Association for three generations. I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride that you chose me to lead this organization, and follow in my Father's footsteps several decades ago.

There is an old saying that "You are only as good as the people that surround you". This saying rings true in the case of the CWGA executive officer team. It has been such a privilege and honor to work with and be a part of such a fine group of people these last few years. I have so much respect for all of them. With Frankie as President, Dan as Treasurer and Erica as our Executive Director, and the help of the Strategic Planning Committee volunteers, we have charted a new course for this Association - one that honors and respects our heritage and history yet embraces change and adapts to the challenges that face us as an industry and an Association, so that we can achieve financial sustainability and serve the membership as effectively and efficiently as possible.

This is our Association collectively. We may not always agree, and we need to be comfortable with "agreeing to disagree", while always maintaining the utmost respect for each other. No one ever made any progress by "going along to get along". We need to remember that often times it is our different perspectives, our different points of view that in the end sets the table for progress. Our differences, our collective brain power and passion is what makes us strong, as long as we challenge this energy productively. If we don't challenge each other,

then we will never improve ourselves and this association. We are all on the same team, and the best interest and perpetual success of CWGA is the common goal we all share.

A quote from Ken Blanchard, highly acclaimed American author on leadership and Management, sums it up: "None of us are as smart as all of us."

Thank you for entrusting me with your confidence and faith. We will do everything in our power to make this Association the very best it can be. I hope and pray that you all have a very successful fall lambing season, and I hope and pray that we have another wet winter, to help all of us overcome the drought that has so severely plagued this state. I look forward to seeing all of you at the December meeting!

*"Life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it" - Lou Holtz*



## Past Presidents Message – Frankie Iturria

Last month, it was great to see a good number of you in Gardnerville, NV at the 156<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of CWGA. Friday morning, a few of your fellow sheep producers went out to Genoa Lakes Golf Resort for 18 holes of golf. An informational session followed that afternoon with many great speakers who discussed a wide variety of topics affecting our industry. That evening, many of us enjoyed a great dinner at JT's Basque restaurant where the picon punches were flowing. Saturday was busy conducting the business meeting for the organization. The weekend couldn't have gone any better and our director, Erica, is to be commended for a job well done! Thank you to all who took the time to present all the information and reports at our convention as well.

I would like to congratulate our award recipients from the Sheepherder's Ball. It is always great to recognize the individuals that do so much for our industry. Congratulations to Marin Sun Farms for the Retailer – Marketer Award, Chuck Morse for the Golden Fleece Award, and to Richard Hamilton, our Master Shepherd. These individuals are very deserving and need to be congratulated!

Time marches on and in my case, my term as president of this organization has come to a close. Your new president, Ryan Indart, is ready to lead this organization into the future. I am confident that he will be an excellent leader and take us to a new level. Good luck Ryan!

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to lead this organization for the last two years and all who helped me throughout my term. To my Executive Directors, Lesa Eidman and Erica Sanko for giving me much support and guidance. They kept me in line and focused and I couldn't have done the job that I did without them. To my executive team Ryan Indart and Dan Macon who helped me face many issues head on. These two men share the same passion for our industry that I do and it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with them. And lastly to the CWGA membership for your continuous support. The wealth of knowledge and experience shared by all of you was truly invaluable.

Even though I am stepping down as president, I still plan on staying active in this organization and assisting where necessary. Good luck everyone and we will be seeing you soon!

**CWGA LOGO MERCHANDISE...WHAT DO YOU WANT?**

**CWGA IS ORDERING NEW CWGA LOGO MERCHANDISE IN 2017 & WANTS TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF ITEMS YOU WANT TO HAVE.**

**HATS...VESTS...WINDBREAKERS...TRAVEL MUGS...BUMPER STICKERS... SIGNS????**

**SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO [INFO@WOOLGROWERS.ORG](mailto:INFO@WOOLGROWERS.ORG)**

## 2016 CWGA Award Recipients

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### Master Shepherd Award – Richard Hamilton



Richard Hamilton has been a long-time member and supporter of CWGA and the sheep industry. Richard has held numerous leadership positions at all levels in CWGA and served on many industry commissions, committees, and working groups. Because of his long-time involvement, Richard has a good memory for CWGA historical events, including the background as to why things were done as they were.

Richard has implemented many innovative practices in his operation including the development of composite ewe flock for more multiple births and milk production to match, pregnancy checking ewes to sort single births from multiples, use of composite rams to reduce ram cost per lamb born, and involved with in the development of grid based marketing through Niman Ranch.

### Golden Fleece Award – Chuck Morse, Mendocino County Agriculture Commissioner

Chuck Morse serves as the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures for Mendocino County. He has been a key advocate in working with the County's Board of Supervisors to ensure the continuation of the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Program in response to lawsuits filed by animal welfare groups in 2015. Chuck's efforts have established a precedent for other California Counties to follow if subject to similar lawsuits targeting the USDA Wildlife Services Program. While not a sheep producer himself, Chuck realizes the importance and necessity of the Wildlife Service program for the California sheep industry.

*The Golden Fleece Award is presented to a member of CWGA or a public official who through their position has made a lasting contribution to the California sheep industry.*



### Retailer-Marketer Award – Marin Sun Farms

Marin Sun Farms proudly operates the last remaining USDA slaughterhouse in the San Francisco Bay Area.



**MARIN SUN FARMS**

Marin Sun Farms's lamb is 100% grass fed, pasture raised, raised sustainably on small farms in California with no antibiotics or hormones. Through Marin Sun Farms's direct distribution, eaters in the SF Bay Area and Los Angeles are enjoying this special lamb in restaurants, and business kitchens, at special events and purchasing it at independent butcher shops, grocery stores and meat clubs.

*The Retailer-Marketer Award is presented to an individual or company that does an outstanding job in marketing the California sheep industry.*

### Past President Award – Frankie Iturriria

The Past Award is presented to Frankie Iturriria in appreciation of his efforts as a leader and an advocate for the California Sheep Industry. Frankie's steady hand, vision and calming influence have been critical for our organization. Furthermore, he has been able to be a bridge between CWGA's history and heritage and the new opportunities that lie before us. Thank you for your dedication to this Association, and being an example and leader to us all.

# CWGA Members Adopt Strategic Plan

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At the 2015 CWGA Annual Membership Meeting, the membership created a Strategic Planning Committee to develop a new strategic direction for our organization. Over the past year the Committee has been working to create an organizational vision for the next 10 years.

In March 2016 the Board of Directors adopted the following vision statement: *The California Wool Growers Association will deliver lasting value to support and grow all segments of the California sheep industry.*

At this year's Annual Membership Meeting, the membership adopted the proposed Strategic Plan. A summary of the goals and objectives, amendments to CWGA's organizational structure, and membership categories is provided below.

## **Goals/Objectives**

- Provide a variety of products to members and additional revenue streams to the Association.
- Provide a one-stop shop for information for and about the sheep industry and, where appropriate, provide direct services to members.
- Provide tools and resources to assist producers.
- Facilitate improved marketing of sheep products.
- Support and promote education and research that improves production potential and returns to producers.
- Unify the voice of the California sheep industry on local, state, and federal issues.
- Facilitate internal and external communication about the California sheep industry.
- Provide leadership for a prosperous and thriving future for CWGA.

## **Organizational Structure**

The Board of Directors will be comprised of not less than 20 and not more than 40 members. Voting Board Members must produce or manage sheep. The Bylaws will direct the Nominating Committee to seek Board members that represent geographic and operational diversity.

The standing and ad hoc committees will take on new and critical roles. These committees will meet at least annually (during the annual meeting) to evaluate issues, develop relevant policies, and provide strategic direction to the board of directors.

Standing Committees:

- Executive Committee (comprised of current officers and chairs of the standing committees)
- Finance/Budget
- Trust Fund
- Legislative/Government Affairs
- Member Services (including marketing, member development, revenue development and Certified California Lamb program).
- Communication (including networking, outreach and websites)
- Producer Education and Research Committee (including think tank, research priorities, grant funding, annual convention and workshop planning)
- Ram Sale

The Strategic Planning and Nominating Committees will develop job descriptions and expectations for officers, directors, and committee chairs this fall and focusing on the implementation of the Strategic Plan over the next year. The Nominating and Executive Committees will initiate efforts to transition the organization to the new structure by the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting.

# CWGA Board Adopts Policies at Annual Meeting

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The following policies were adopted by the Board of Directors at the 2016 Annual Meeting. CWGA resolutions stand as adopted for a period of five years, unless amended or deleted by action of the Board of Directors. At the end of that five-year period, resolutions are dropped unless extended for another five-year period by a vote of the Board of Directors. CWGA works cooperatively with the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) on Federal issues and also refers to the ASI policy manual in order to unify the voice of the California sheep rancher.

Below is a summary of the adopted policies. A complete list of all CWGA policies and details is posted on the CWGA website at - <http://cawoolgrowers.org/>

## **ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE ISSUES**

**NATIONAL TRACEABILITY PROGRAM** – CWGA recognizes the need for a National Traceability program and the current Federal Scrapie Eradication Program in place should satisfy any new requirements of a Federal Traceability program. CWGA will work with the California State and Federal Agencies as an active participant in the development of an economically feasible and responsibly managed National Traceability program.

**ANTIMICROBIAL USE IN FOOD ANIMALS** – There is widespread concern and misperception regarding factors contributing to antimicrobial resistance. Scientific evidence does not support the claim that prudent, as scientifically allowed, antimicrobial usage in food animals is a contributing factor to the development of antimicrobial resistance. CWGA encourages sheep producers to become trained and certified through the ASI Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance program and practice judicious and prudent use of antimicrobials in treating and preventing disease conditions in sheep.

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES**

**SHEEP/BIGHORN SHEEP RESEARCH** – Since it is imperative that the concept of species separation is validated by research, that CWGA pursue efforts to cause the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA/APHIS, and USDA/ARS to work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, state universities and producers in devising reasonable scientific studies by independent scientists to determine the influence of domestic sheep on the health of Big Horn Sheep. These agencies, universities and producers must also rigorously explore through well-designed epidemiological studies, methods to provide population immunity to bighorn populations, and consider the multi-causal nature of disease and death in bighorn sheep, such as range conditions, transplant policy, nutrition-mineral deficiency, predation, stress factors, observed-density-dependent decrease in reproduction and increase in mortality.

**INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT** – The Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not address social and economic impacts to property owners and public lands permittees; CWGA supports the removal of federal and California Endangered Species Act (CESA) protection for wolves, and that CWGA work to change the state and federal ESAs so they can't be misused in the future, and that CWGA cooperate with agricultural and other organizations to accomplish this.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**ANTI-GRAZING POLICIES OF STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES** – CWGA supports grazing policies based on sound scientific data regarding the positive effects of managed grazing on the environment and information from Universities to correct the anti-grazing policies of the state and federal agencies. Require that the potential benefits of grazing, as a land and resource management tool, should be constructively considered for all units administered by the government. CWGA believes that agencies should identify alternative grazing allotments when removing land from grazing and that agency policy for alternate viable grazing allotments should be considered. Positive effects of managed grazing on the environment should be recognized.

**CALIFORNIA GRAZING WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP** – CWGA supports the newly established California Grazing Water Quality Partnership (the Partnership), and CWGA supports the Partnership's efforts to update the 1995 California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan, develop policies to address the 2004 Nonpoint Source Pollution Implementation and Enforcement Policy, and establish a research advisory committee to address current and future water quality research priorities.

**WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES** – CWGA believes the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule has significant technical problems, and the process Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) undertook to develop the rule violated basic due process and long-standing procedural protections. CWGA supports industry efforts to withdraw the rule and work with affected stakeholders, including farmers, to develop a rule that clarifies which waters are and are not covered under the CWA and that is workable for all stakeholders.

### **PREDATOR MANAGEMENT**

**WOLF MANAGEMENT** – CWGA encourages legal lethal control methods when predators engage in livestock depredation, support the creation of a review board where appeals and reviews of wolf kill confirmation may be made, efforts to provide that confirmation of kills be posted no later than thirty days from date of occurrence, and efforts to provide compensation for documented indirect losses (losses in reproductive success, weaning weights, wool quality and other factors) due to wolf predation.

### **PRODUCTION, EDUCATION, & RESEARCH**

**SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOL** – CWGA is very concerned with the production of a quality wool clip and supports efforts to improve the ability of producers to prepare such a clip. Shearing Schools train shearers in the preparation of sheep for shearing, handling of sheep, the most effective techniques of shearing, as well as the packaging of a product in which sheep producers can take pride. CWGA supports Sheep Shearing Schools.

**MEDIA TRAINING** – There is an increasing need for producers to present the sheep industry's position to the media and legislature as this exposure, correctly presented, influences public perception about the California Sheep Industry; and CWGA train members, as needed, to become media spokespersons and witnesses as they represent our industry before the public and legislature.

### **PUBLIC LANDS**

**ILLEGAL OCCUPATION ON PUBLIC LAND** – The nation's livestock industry, in particular those in the sheep community that are dependent upon the public lands, are being portrayed in a negative way across all media outlets, including social media and that CWGA make it known that grazing on public lands is a partnership between the sheep community and government agencies to create a clear, succinct message which reiterates the sheep industry's commitment to positive outcomes on the public lands, and to separate our industry from being identified as part of the small group of occupiers that are acting on their own personal behalf.

**ILLEGAL DRUG OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS** – Such activity increases the liability and threatens the personal safety of ranchers, landowners, farm and ranch workers and family members along with those using public lands. CWGA will coordinate and collaborate with the affected parties including ranchers, timberland owners, sportsmen's groups, public land use groups, public agencies, county boards of supervisors, legislators and the Governor to communicate and cooperate with the various environmental enforcement agencies, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Drug Enforcement Agency, federal state and local law enforcement agencies, and local politicians in an effort to allocate and appropriate adequate funding and other resources to effectively aid in enforcing existing laws and ordinances restricting and regulating the cultivation, harvesting and distribution of marijuana throughout the State of California, and that a multi-tiered approach is needed to resolve these problems.

## Thank You 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Sponsors!



## Thank You Shepherds Ball Auction Supporters

Proceeds from the Shepherds Ball Auction support CWGA in its continued efforts in representing the interests of all California sheep producers and advocating for the future prosperity of our industry.

Ed Anchorodoguy, Anchorodoguy Lamb  
 John & Delores Brennan, Green Bay Farm  
 John Cubiburu, Cubiburu Livestock  
 Nancy East, Sheeprack Ranch  
 R. Emigh Livestock  
 Will Griggs, Utah Wool Marketing Association  
 Robert & Jamie Irwin, Kaos Sheep Outfit  
 Frank & Renee Iturriria, F&I Sheep Co.  
 Freddie Iturriria, A&F Sheep Co.

Paco & Maria Iturriria, I&M Sheep Co.  
 Nance Jones, Anchorodoguy Lamb  
 Joe Mattos, IOU Sheep Co.  
 Chris Messer, USDA-NASS  
 John & Connie Olagaray, Five-O Ranch  
 Wes & Jane Patton, Glenn Land Farm  
 Beth Reynolds, Cal Poly University  
 Andree Soares, Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc.  
 Judy & Pete Yriarte, Yriarte Livestock

## Member Updates & Information

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### CWGA Accepting Credit Cards Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>

In response to member requests, CWGA will begin accepting credit card payments for membership dues, animal health products, meeting registrations, and merchandise on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### CWGA Past President Frankie Iturriria Appointed to National Sheep Industry Improvement Center Board of Directors

In August, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack appointed two members to the board of directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center. The two members will serve three-year terms of office beginning January 2017.

Re-appointed to the board representing sheep producers is Marsha Spykerman, Sibley, Iowa. Appointed to the board representing expertise in finance and management is Francisco Iturriria, Bakersfield, Calif.

The sheep center was established as part of the 2008 Farm Bill and is designed to improve the competitiveness of the U.S. sheep industry. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service provides oversight of the center.

### CWGA Updating Its Eco-Grazing (or Targeted Grazing) Contact List

CWGA is updating its Eco-Grazing (or Targeted Grazing) directory. If you are currently offering this service or plan to in the future, please complete the information below and return via email to [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org) or mail to CWGA, 1225 H Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Eco-Grazing Contact Information	
Name:	
Ranch/Business Name:	
Phone: (cell, office, home)	
Email:	
Website:	
Location: (Where you serve/provide grazing services)	
Types of Projects: (vineyards, open range, fire/fuel breaks, vegetation, wetlands, etc...)	
Species: (Sheep, goats)	

# Legislative Update

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## Governor Brown Signs Bill Authorizing Farmworker Overtime

Gov. Jerry Brown, a one-time champion of farmworker causes whose relationship with farm labor appeared to fray in recent years, signed legislation Monday granting agricultural workers the same right to overtime pay as other Californians.

The bill's enactment marked a major victory for the United Farm Workers union – and a setback for industry interests – six years after Brown's predecessor, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, vetoed a similar bill.

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.

Some industry interests said the law will backfire on farmworkers if employers reduce worker hours to avoid triggering overtime requirements.

Brown had not signaled how he might act on the measure, and his intentions were an open question at the Capitol. Brown signed the landmark Agricultural Labor Relations Act when he was governor before, from 1975 to 1983, and he has frequently recalled marching with Cesar Chavez, the late labor leader who put Brown's name into nomination for president at the 1976 Democratic National Convention.

But Brown has at times disappointed the UFW since returning to office, including vetoing legislation that would have made it easier to unionize farmworkers and rejecting another bill that would have made it harder for farmers to stall new farmworker contracts.

When Brown spoke at a UFW convention in Bakersfield earlier this year, it was his first appearance at a UFW convention since returning to office in 2011.

## Appeals Court Sides with Farm Groups on CAFO Info

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) violated the Freedom of Information Act by releasing personal information, including phone numbers and email addresses, of the owners of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), a federal appeals court ruled today. The [unanimous decision](#) by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis is a big victory for the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), which sued EPA three years ago after it released CAFO information to environmental groups. The court reversed [the decision](#) of U.S. District Judge Ann Montgomery in Minnesota, who found that AFBF and NPPC had not been able to demonstrate standing on behalf of their members.

## Bill to Restrict Use of Traps on Public Lands Introduced

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (Ore.) has introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives a bill entitled Limiting Inhumane Federal Trapping for Public Safety Act (H.R. 5954). The bill would restrict the use of body-gripping traps on public lands administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior, as well as prohibit personnel in both departments from setting these traps. Targeted by this bill are the services performed by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services Agency. Three types of traps - conibear traps, snares and leghold traps - are covered in this bill.

## UC Cooperative Extension Wild Pig Damage Survey

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In managed rangelands and agricultural areas, feral or wild pigs are a significant pest species. However, estimates of total damaged area occurring on these lands are ill-defined and subject to a high degree of variability. Wild pigs can be important vectors of disease, can cause forage and crop loss and set up sites for erosion effecting water quality and allow invasive plant species to establish. They can also prey on livestock. The geographical extent of wild pig damage in California is currently unknown making it difficult to mitigate and manage losses, and estimate the economic impact on private landowners and public lands.

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.

In conjunction with the survey we have developed a smart phone or tablet app that will help landowners and managers identify and record feral pig damage so that we can estimate the land area and economic impacts of feral pig damage over a longer time period. If you are interested in participating in data collection using our mobile application, please fill out the survey and indicate your interest at the end.

If you have questions about the survey or would like a paper copy, please contact either UCCE Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor, John Harper, at 707-463-4495 or [jmharper@ucanr.edu](mailto:jmharper@ucanr.edu) or UCCE Wildlife Specialist, Roger Baldwin, at (530) 752-4551 or [rabaldwin@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rabaldwin@ucdavis.edu).

### 2016 Sheep Industry Roadmap Update

The Sheep Industry Roadmap was created to bring all sectors of the sheep industry together to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the American sheep industry. A large team of industry members identified several specific areas that needed attention, including the quality and consistency of the product, efficiency and new methods of production, demand for our products and communication between sectors of the industry. To that end, four committees were created with a fifth committee created to coordinate the efforts of the other four committees and to act as a reporting agency to the industry. The committees have been working hard since the beginning and have contributed information to help improve each step from producer to consumer. Remember, the plan was not to create another organization in the industry. Rather it was to provide a vehicle to bring those organizations and individuals already involved together to focus on creating a greater demand for a better product and to make each segment of the industry profitable and sustainable.

For those of you who are wondering what is going on with the Sheep Industry Roadmap, the plan is working. The roadmap is providing a forum for discussion and there are many industry members out there working to make needed changes. To read the 2016 Roadmap Update, go to

<http://lambresourcecenter.com/app/uploads/2015/09/2016-Sheep-Industry-Roadmap-Update-2.pdf>.

If you have specific issues you would like considered, forward them along with potential solutions to [Megan@Americanlamb.com](mailto:Megan@Americanlamb.com).

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

The lamb industry resource center was developed to provide the industry with a clearinghouse 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](http://www.uslambindustry.com).



## YOUR NATIONAL LAMB CHECKOFF PROGRAM

The American Lamb Board (ALB) is an industry-funded research and promotions commodity board (national checkoff program) that represents all sectors of the American Lamb industry including producers, feeders, seed stock producers, and processors. The 13-member board is focused on increasing demand by promoting the freshness, flavor, nutritional benefits, and culinary versatility of American Lamb. The work of the American Lamb Board is overseen by the US Department of Agriculture and the Board's programs are supported and implemented by the staff in Denver, Colorado.

The Program is funded through mandatory assessments collected under the federally mandated Lamb Checkoff Program. There is a live weight assessment of \$.007 per pound paid by the seller of sheep or lambs and a first handler assessment of \$.42 per head assessment paid by the entity who owns sheep or lambs at the time of harvest. The assessments are remitted to the American Lamb Board. The Board's expenditures for administration are limited to 10 percent or less of the projected revenues. All remaining revenue are expended on programs related to promotion, research and information for the lamb industry.

For more information and to sign up for the ALB's monthly industry newsletter, visit [www.lambresourcecenter.com](http://www.lambresourcecenter.com). If you have questions or an upcoming industry event to add to the calendar, please contact the ALB office at 866.327.LAMB (5262).



[lambresourcecenter.com](http://lambresourcecenter.com)



# USDA Offers Help to Fire-Affected Farmers and Ranchers

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds farmers and ranchers affected by the recent wildfires in Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington State that USDA has programs to assist with their recovery efforts.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist farmers and ranchers who lost livestock, grazing land, fences or eligible trees, bushes and vines as a result of a natural disaster. FSA administers a suite of safety-net programs to help producers recover from eligible losses, including the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program, and the Tree Assistance Program.

In addition, the FSA Emergency Conservation Program provides funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Producers located in counties that received a primary or contiguous disaster designation are eligible for low-interest emergency loans to help them recover from production and physical losses. Compensation is also available to producers who purchased coverage through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which protects non-insurable crops against natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses or prevented planting.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can assist producers with damaged grazing land as well as farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who find themselves in emergency situations caused by natural disasters. The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial assistance to producers who agree to defer grazing on damaged land for two years. In the event that presidentially declared natural disasters, such as wildfires, lead to imminent threats to life and property, NRCS can assist local government sponsors with the cost of implementing conservation practices to address natural resource concerns and hazards through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.


Farmers and ranchers with coverage through the federal crop insurance program administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) should contact their crop insurance agent to discuss losses due to fire or other natural causes of loss. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator.

When wildfires destroy or severely damage residential property, Rural Development (RD) can assist with providing priority hardship application processing for single family housing. Under a disaster designation, RD can issue a priority letter for next available multi-family housing units. RD also provides low-interest loans to community facilities, water environmental programs, businesses and cooperatives and to rural utilities.

For the first time in its 110-year history, the Forest Service, part of USDA, is spending more than 50 percent of its budget to suppress the nation's wildfires.

Today, fire seasons are 78 days longer than in the 1970s. Since 2000, at least 10 states have had their largest fires on record. This year, there have been more than 46,000 fires. Increasing development near forest boundaries also drives up costs, as more than 46 million homes and more than 70,000 communities are at risk from wildfire in the United States.

For more information on USDA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Center go to <http://offices.usda.gov>



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# Understanding the Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship

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By now, livestock producers are becoming aware of soon-to-be-implemented changes in how feed grade antibiotics are used, in the form of expanded use of the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). Producers using feed grade medications will need to obtain a prescription-like VFD form from a veterinarian before they're able to purchase and feed those medications.

The implications that go along with these regulations have been subjects of much discussion. One implication that will affect some producers more than others is the stipulation that the VFD forms be obtained through a veterinarian -- and not just any veterinarian. The veterinarian writing the VFD form must have what's termed a "veterinary client patient relationship" or VCPR with the producer.

## Veterinary Client Patient Relationships (VCPR) Defined

A relationship with a veterinarian can take many forms, but the VCPR -- necessary to obtain the proper VFD forms (as well as to use prescription medicines, or injectable or water medications in an extra-label fashion) -- is spelled out in state and federal regulations. South Dakota follows the federal VCPR definition, which states that a valid VCPR exists when:

- A veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of (an) animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian;
- There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s); and
- The practicing veterinarian is readily available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy.

Furthermore, the statute states, "Such a relationship can exist only when the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of examination of the animal(s), and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept."

It's that last part that creates uncertainty, since it doesn't specify how frequently a veterinarian must visit an operation. One could say these requirements were written in a purposefully vague manner: since the rules must apply to all food animal operations, a one-size-fits-all approach is not easily attained. One key is how often conditions, animals, and management can change on an animal operation. A cow-calf operation may have used the same type of cattle and management strategies for the past 20 or 30 years, while in a large dairy, disease processes, nutrition, and management may change on a monthly or weekly basis.

## Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Considerations

While one could focus on the uncertainties present in the VCPR definition, some aspects are certain:

- VFD forms can't be obtained from a veterinarian that has never seen your animals or operation.
- If a veterinarian is familiar with you, your animals, and your management, a farm visit to personally examine the set of animals to be treated may not always be necessary before obtaining a VFD.
- Your veterinarian is entitled to determine what "medically appropriate and timely visits" means in the context of their practice and your operation. They have no obligation to provide you a VFD if they feel a VCPR does not exist -- their signature on the line indicates that relationship is present.
- A valid VCPR does not mean the veterinarian can authorize uses of feed grade medications that are not on the label ("extra label" use).

As mentioned earlier, some producers will navigate these changes in feed-grade antibiotic use much better than others. Those producers are the ones with an existing solid relationship with one veterinarian or one veterinary

clinic. For them, all the dust-up about VCPRs is largely irrelevant because that relationship is ingrained in their operation.

## **The Bottom Line**

Producers who have not had veterinarians visit their operation, or have not used veterinarians at all, will have a harder time adjusting to the VCPR requirement when it comes to obtaining VFD forms. It is not too late to start greasing those skids, though. Schedule a visit with a veterinarian to go over your current uses of feed grade medications and determine whether you will need to obtain VFDs for them. Then discuss what constitutes a VCPR in terms of your operation and the veterinary practice. Coordinating this information with your consulting nutritionist is a good idea. In this manner, you'll be ready for the changes that will occur on January 1, 2017.

Conscientious livestock producers will look at the VCPR requirement not as an opportunity to seek loopholes in the system, rather they will consider it an opportunity for animal health and profitability improvement through veterinary involvement in their animal's well-being.

## **Be Prepared....New California Antibiotic Regulations Take Effect January 2018**

Antibiotic resistance is an issue that threatens human health and animal health. SB 27 signed by Governor Brown in August 2016 ensures livestock producers can continue to use antibiotics effectively to treat, control and prevent disease.

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."

# Protect Your Flocks Health With Health Products from CWGA

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

Download the health product and pricing list from the CWGA website at the following link –

<http://cawoolgrowers.org/vaccines/CWGA%20Sheep%20Health%20Supply%20List.pdf>

Or contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org) to request a product and pricing list.

## **Bluetongue Type 10 Still Available**

CWGA has a limited supply of Bluetongue – Type 10 vaccine available at member discounted pricing. Purchase it now before supplies run out.

Pricing: \$16.00 per 50 dose vial plus shipping.

## ***Bluetongue Vaccine Development Update***

Progress continues on developing a new killed all strain Bluetongue vaccine. Vaccine trials are scheduled for this fall. Release of the new bluetongue vaccine is expected spring 2017.

## ***Footrot Vaccine Development Update***

The samples collected this year were not viable due to a variety of factors. CWGA will be re-collecting samples and biopsies in spring 2017. CWGA will keep members updated on its development. The availability timeline has been delayed with expectations for release next summer or fall.

## **Protecting Vaccines from Heat, Cold, and Sunlight Helps Protect Sheep**

Vaccinations are a key component to preventative care in any producer's herd health plan and proper handling of vaccination drugs is critical to maintaining the product's efficacy. Producers should be aware that heat, cold, and sunlight can affect the efficacy of vaccines during storage or handling.

It is important to keep vaccines at the storage conditions recommended on the product label, which is typically between 35-45 degrees Fahrenheit at all times, including while in transit and inoculating animals.

It is also important to keep vaccines out of the sunlight because ultraviolet rays can also affect the efficacy of vaccines.

## **“Emerging Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan” Available for Review and Comment**

In July 2014, Veterinary Services (VS) presented a “Veterinary Services Proposed Framework for Response to Emerging Animal Diseases in the United States.” A new document, “Emerging Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan,” expands on the framework and describes the processes by which VS will identify, evaluate, and respond to emerging diseases in animal populations. VS is inviting stakeholders to review and comment on the draft plan. Comments should be e-mailed to [VS.SPRS.Feedback@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS.SPRS.Feedback@aphis.usda.gov) no later than November 1, 2016.

The document can be accessed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/program-overview/ct-national-list-reportable-animal-diseases>

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### Mark Your Calendars

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September 19, 2016

Lets' Grow Webinar: Nutrition and  
Supplementation

<http://www.sheepusa.org/>

September 23, 2016

Center of the Nation NSIP Sale  
Spencer, IA

October 1 – 2, 2016

Lambtown  
Dixon, CA

October 19 – 20, 2016

CA Fish & Game Commission  
Eureka, CA 95501

December 2, 2016

CWGA Board Meeting  
Sacramento, CA

January 25 – 28, 2017

ASI Annual Convention  
Denver, CO

April 8, 2017

California Ram Sale  
Porterville, CA

For more industry events go to the  
CWGA website & click *Industry Events*

<http://cawoolgrowers.org>

***Please submit all liability insurance  
requests 10 days prior to the event to  
ensure adequate processing time.***



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