



Herd the News

January/February 2018

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

Slaughter Lamb Market: Review & Outlook

Beginning calendar year 2017, USDA-NASS reported the number of U.S. market lambs at 1.345 million head, which was slightly below 2016's (down 25,000 head or 0.7%). The January 1, 2017, NASS survey of producers put the national number of ewes one year and older down 70,000 head year-over-year (decline of 2.3%), suggesting a smaller lamb crop in 2017.

So, Federally Inspected (FI) lamb slaughter in 2017 was forecast to be below a year earlier, and it was (dropping 2.8%). The average slaughter weight declined compared to 2016's. So, 2017's commercial lamb production posted a decline from a year earlier of 3.6%.

On a quarterly basis, the national average formula carcass prices for 2017 were below 2016's in both the first (down 0.8% year-over-year) and the fourth quarter (dropping 4.8%). Prices peaked in the summer (July-September) quarter and reached their highest for that timeframe since 2011's. For the full calendar year, slaughter lamb prices increased 6.2%, and the national average formula carcass price was just over \$300.00 per cwt., the highest since 2014.

U.S. lamb imported tonnage for 2017 will come in larger than expected. For the first ten months of the year (latest data available), volume imported was 12% above 2016's. October's imports surged 29% above 2016's, setting an all-time high for that month. Imported tonnage was the main factor causing U.S. slaughter lamb prices to be below a year earlier in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The number of lambs on-feed in Colorado (the largest lamb feeding state), are estimated monthly by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service office in Greeley, Colorado. That count has been above a year earlier each month since July 1, 2017. That increase has been supported by early sales of feeder lambs in drought-impacted Northern Plains and Western states. As of December 1, 2017, the number of lambs in Colorado feedlots was up nearly 26,000 head (12%) compared to a year earlier.

More lambs in feedlots than a year ago may keep early 2018 slaughter lamb prices near those of 2017's fourth quarter. Still, prices are forecast to be above a year ago. After the first quarter of 2018, slaughter lamb prices are likely to mirror 2017's.

Source: Livestock Marketing Information Center www.lmic.info

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Presidents Message – *Ryan Indart*



Dear CWGA membership,

Every year, between the dates of December 15th and 20th, we take our entire team of herders and our foreman Emilio, together with my entire family, to La Ramada Mexican Restaurant in Kerman, CA, to celebrate Christmas dinner. Without a doubt, it is the most important two hours we spend with our crew all year. We often start preparing more than a month in advance for this special night. With the help of Beatriz and the girls,

we assemble a gift bag for each herder, containing an eclectic ensemble of useful items including next year's calendar, notepads to keep track of sheep, pens, a coffee mug, water bottle, chocolate covered almonds and raisins, a dozen eggs from the Indart Chicken Coop, a half dozen navel oranges from the ranch, and a personalized card signed by our entire family expressing our gratitude and thanks for their hard work and daily sacrifice.

Most of our men have young families back home in Peru, and their tireless effort caring for the sheep, day in and day out, allows these men to reap the rewards of their toil by putting food on the table and bettering the lives of their families back home in Peru. We explain to our girls why our men don't get to see their families and their children very often, in most cases once every three years. To see the tears well up in their eyes in response to this explanation is validation of a life lesson they will never achieve in school, through a text book, a presentation, or a field trip. We also explain to them how fortunate they are that Daddy and Mommy get to come home every night to care for them and be with them. This knowledge inspires compassion and love in our daughters for our men, and in turn our men embrace and care for our daughters like their own – like family. So when we gather at La Ramada to celebrate the meaning of the season, we also share our gratitude for all the things in life we hold dear. It is an important opportunity to get our entire family together – to celebrate the intimate reasons why we work so hard every day.

The site of my daughters spread out amongst our men, cleaned up and work clothes put away, around a single large rectangular table with a red and white checker table cloth, elicits emotions of deep gratitude and love for the blessings of these men and our family business – the blessings we cherish every day. Hand in hand, as we bow our heads, my daughters lead us in saying Grace in Spanish, as the rest of the men follow along. Before dinner arrives, going around the table one at a time, everyone is given an opportunity, including my daughters, to say a few words about what they are grateful for, what the Christmas season means to them, and how special it is to be in this moment, breaking bread with family. Finally, we give a special toast to all of their families in Peru, wishing them good health, happiness, love and prosperity in the coming year. The memory of this special night, year in and year out, is a vision that will forever be etched in my mind and one that I am eternally thankful for – the most valuable two hour investment of the year.

We don't see our crew of herders as "Herders" – we see them, and treat them, as the integral part of our family that they are. This is the rule rather than the exception on most Western States commercial sheep operations, and a five minute talk with any sheep rancher utilizing foreign labor will verify this claim. The truth is, without our men, we could not run or operate our businesses, and most of us would inevitably be forced to find another occupation, or liquidate our herds. Because of this truth – the health, success and long term viability of the American Sheep Industry has been, and is today, highly contingent upon a workable, practical foreign Ag Worker Visa program. To that end, and often contrary to public perception, our Industry is a shining example of the historical success of the H-2A program.

There are countless examples all over the country that exemplify and illustrate the powerful force of wealth creation that is afforded to both the employer, and the employee, as a result of an effective foreign worker Visa program. The example of our foreman, Emilio Leon, is no different. Through good markets and bad, drought and deluge, bad policy and good – through his humble, unselfish dedication to our family and our business for more than 20 years, Emilio has single handedly put several of his children through college, bought a home in Clovis and two homes in Peru. This is just one example of what "staying the course" can accomplish. An original H-2A Visa holder back in 1996, through our sponsorship, Emilio Leon is now a proud American Citizen. Quite remarkable. Emilio has realized the "American Dream" – all as result of his own effort, and without the H-2A program, none of it would have been possible. With an abundance of admiration and respect, I am honored to consider Emilio a part of our family. He is an example to all of us.

With the help of an American Sheep Industry (ASI) "Let's Grow" grant, CWGA, with the remarkable planning and determination of Morgan Doran, chair of our Production Education and Research Committee (PERC) and Erica Sanko, successfully completed a round of four one-day workshops in mid-January. I want to personally thank and congratulate Morgan and Erica, those members who hosted the workshops at their ranch, and everyone else who contributed their time and energy into the planning and implementation of these highly informative workshops, for a job well done. We all care deeply about this industry, which is why we volunteer our time to ensure its success. The CWGA inaugural "Let's Grow" workshops are no exception to this, and the positive feedback we have received from members and non-members alike, has been remarkable. The "Let's Grow" grant workshops are just another result of the Strategic Plan your Association implemented less than two years ago, and another concrete example of how we are trying to push this Association into the brightest future it has seen in decades.

Finally, we just completed another successful ASI Annual Convention in San Antonio Texas. It is highly impressive, the level and breadth of involvement, participation and leadership the California delegation brings to the National stage. We are represented on over 95% of all the committees and councils making up ASI, including but not limited to, Animal Health, Legislative Action, Lamb Council, Let's Grow, Production Research & Education, Resource Management, Wool Council, Young Entrepreneurs and the list goes on and on. In addition, many of our members serve on affiliated boards and associations including the American Lamb Board, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, National Lamb Feeders Association, and Western Range that all met during in San Antonio. Also, there is no doubt that our Executive Director, Erica is not only well respected in our Industry at the national level, but also well liked and appreciated for her valuable work. She represents CWGA, and our Industry, quite well!

I hope to see many of you at our Board of Directors meeting in Los Banos in March, and until then, let us all hope and pray that the current weather pattern breaks, and we that we receive the much needed rain on the valley floor and snow in the Sierras that our livelihoods so direly depend on. To that end, I leave you with two of my favorite quotes of all time:

"Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be" – John Wooden

"Tough times never last, but tough people do" – Robert Schuller

Welcome New Members

CWGA is very pleased to welcome the following new members to CWGA:

Thomas & Helen Byl, Mehrten Creek Sheep – Exeter, CA

Virginia Dains – Auburn, CA

Brian & Mary Heffernan, Five Marys Farm – Fort Jones, CA

Sarah Keiser, Wild Oat Hollow – Penngrove, CA

Rita Martin, Millsaps Ranch – Orland, CA

Peggy Taylor – Marysville, CA

Ute Wirth & Charles LaFlamme – Corning, CA

Do you know a producer or industry stakeholder that is not a member of CWGA? If so, please share this issue of *Herd the News* and urge them to support their industry and join CWGA today!

ASI's 2018 Spring Legislative Action Trip, March 5 – 7, 2018



AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
YOUR INDUSTRY ADVOCATE SINCE 1865

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 American Sheep Industry (ASI) Spring Legislative Trip on March 5 – 7, 2018, offers members the opportunity to meet with their elected Congressional Representatives and Senators (and staff) to discuss the issues facing your 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.

California has 53 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives, the most of any state, along with two senators in the U.S. Senate. In order to meet with as many representatives possible and voice our concerns, we need you to attend.

Tentative Schedule

Monday, March 5th – Travel to Washington DC

Tuesday, March 6th – Meetings with USDA Agencies, Capitol Hill Visits, & Industry Legislative Reception

Wednesday, March 7th – Capitol Hill Visits

Thursday, March 8th – Return to California

Deadline to register – February 11th.

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

Member Updates

2018 Sheep Shearing School, May 7th – 11th

Learn to Shear Sheep the New Zealand Way!

Shearing school participants will learn to shear sheep using the methods taught by certified instructors of the National Shearing Program. This five-day hands-on course, jointly sponsored by the National Sheep Shearing Program and the University of California Cooperative Extension in Mendocino County, is intended for both the beginner as well as the advanced shearer. It is especially designed to teach you how to shear sheep so that you will maintain a quality wool clip and minimize stress to both you and the sheep. In addition, you will learn about the shearing machine, how to care for and maintain the hand piece and how to sharpen combs and cutters. You will also learn how to handle the fleece once it's off the sheep including the proper way to throw it onto a table for skirting.

The course fee is \$300 per student and covers the instructor's fee. The ASI workbook/DVD is provided by the American Sheep Industry Association. All shearing equipment is provided.

Registration information: cemendocino.ucanr.edu/Sheep_Shearing_School

2nd Annual Online All Breeds Sheep Sale is August 1 – 2

CWGA is hosting its second annual Online All Breeds Sheep Sale on August 1 & 2, 2018.

Ram Lambs, Stud Rams, Yearling Rams and Ewes of all ages and breeds will be auctioned off in the sale.

The sale will be broadcast at susantaylorshowservices.com.

Stay tuned for further details.

Don't Forget to Order Your CWGA Merchandise

Purchase your CWGA logo merchandise and support CWGA. All items are ordered from the online store and shipped directly to you.

Members can choose from a variety of CWGA logo items including hoodies and sweatshirts, headwear, polo shirts, outerwear, work wear, and more. Mens, ladies, and youth sizes available.

Go to http://sierrapromo.com/california_wool_growers_associa/shop/home to access the online store and show your support for CWGA!

CWGA Member Decal Stickers Available

Don't forget to get your complimentary CWGA logo member decal stickers and show your support for your sheep industry! Contact the CWGA office for details.

Reminder...CWGA Has Moved, Please Update Your Files

For those members who utilize bank bill pay or other forms of bookkeeping software please update your files with our new mailing address. This will ensure your payment is received and not returned as undeliverable.

Our new address is 25 Cadillac Drive Suite 214, Sacramento, CA 95825.

Marylyn Garrett Celebration of life

A celebration of life for Marylyn Garrett will be held on Saturday, March 24th at 11:00 am at the West Plainfield Fire Department located at Lillard Hall 24901 Co Rd 95, in Davis. For more information contact Jim Yeager at 530-756-2423 or JYSheep@aol.com.

Legislative Update

CDFW Amends Depredation Policy for Mountain Lions in Santa Monica & Santa Ana Mountain Areas

In December, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) released a new policy for issuing depredation permits for mountain lions to livestock owners in the Santa Monica and Santa Ana Mountain Ranges. Until now, the permits have been automatically issued if the mountain lion has attacked domestic animals. From now on, the producer must first try at least twice to deter the mountain lion with nonlethal means.

Although the new policy applies only to the Santa Monica and Santa Ana Mountain Ranges, it represents a fundamental shift in how CDFW issues depredation permits. Animal rights groups hope the policy may someday expand statewide, a prospect fiercely opposed by cattle and sheep ranchers. To read the new policy go to – <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=153021&inline>.

CWGA will continue to work with other stakeholders in opposing any changes to the depredation permit process for mountain lions.

‘WOTUS’ Rule Implementation Delayed Until 2020

In late January, the White House Office of Management and Budget completed its review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s final rule to delay for two years implementation of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. The controversial Clean Water Act (CWA) regulation, which took effect in August 2015, gave the government broad control over waters, including upstream waters and intermittent and ephemeral streams such as the kind farmers use for drainage and irrigation. It also covered lands adjacent to such waters.

Many livestock and other agricultural organizations challenged the rule in U.S. District Courts around the country, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Sixth Circuit, which consolidate the District Court case under its jurisdiction, put a hold on the regulation in the fall of 2015. In January, the U.S. Supreme Court, however, ruled that the Sixth Circuit doesn’t have jurisdiction to hear such CWA cases.

The EPA now is reviewing comments on a proposal to rescind the 2015 rule and is developing a proposal for a new definition of “waters of the United States.” The Trump administration expects that a new version of the WOTUS rule will be in place long before the 2020 implementation deadline.

BLM and Forest Service Announce 2018 Grazing Fees

The Federal grazing fee for 2018 will be \$1.41 per animal unit month (AUM) for public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and \$1.41 per head month (HM) for lands managed by the USDA Forest Service. The 2017 public land grazing fee was \$1.87.

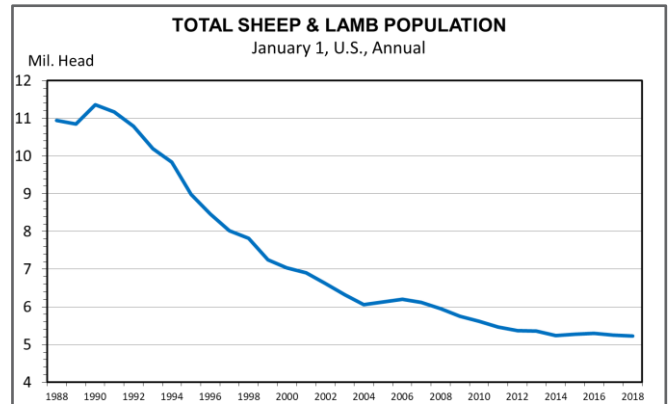
An AUM or HM—treated as equivalent measures for fee purposes—is the use of public lands by one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month. The newly calculated grazing fee was determined by a congressional formula and takes effect March 1, 2018. The fee will apply to nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases administered by the BLM and nearly 6,500 permits administered by the Forest Service.

The grazing fee applies in 16 Western states on public lands administered by the BLM and the Forest Service. The states are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Permit holders and lessees may contact their local BLM or Forest Service office for additional information.

Jan. 1 Sheep and Lambs Inventory Down Slightly

All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 5.23 million head, down slightly from 2017. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.83 million head on January 1, 2018, decreased 1 percent from 3.88 million head on January 1, 2017. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.01 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2018 totaled 1.40 million head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017.

Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.



The 2017 lamb crop of 3.20 million head was down 2 percent from 2016. The 2017 lambing rate was 105 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2017, unchanged from 2016.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2017 was 24.7 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2016. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.44 million head, down 4 percent from 2016. The average price paid for wool sold in 2017 was \$1.47 per pound for a total value of 36.4 million dollars, down 3 percent from 2016.

Sheep death loss during 2017 totaled 213 thousand head, down 2 percent from 2016. Lamb death loss decreased 2 percent from 373 thousand head to 367 thousand head in 2017.

Source: USDA–National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS)

GPS – Collared Wolf Enters California from Oregon

On or around January 24, a gray wolf wearing a GPS tracking collar crossed the Oregon-California state line in eastern Siskiyou County. Dubbed OR-54, the young female is a member of the Oregon's Rogue pack, which utilizes portions of Jackson and Klamath counties. She was trapped and collared by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) biologists in October. At that time, she weighed 83 pounds. Her departure from the pack's territory suggests that she may now be dispersing, or exploring new ground in search of a mate or another pack.

OR-54 was likely sired by OR-7, the famous wolf that traveled widely in northern California in 2012 and 2013 before returning to Oregon, finding a mate, and establishing the Rogue pack. OR-54 is the fourth Rogue pack wolf known to have spent time in California.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) wolf managers are in close communication with their ODFW counterparts, and ODFW is sharing OR-54's location data with CDFW. CDFW will closely monitor her locations as long as she remains in California.

October – December CDFW Wolf Investigations

From October – December California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) and USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) conducted 10 investigations of 11 injured and dead animals to determine if wolves were involved. Results of those investigations include:

- 1 calf confirmed killed by wolves
- 1 calf probably killed by wolves
- 1 adult cow possibly injured by wolves
- 3 calves and 1 adult cow that died from natural causes
- 1 calf and 1 adult cow unknown if killed by wolves
- 1 chicken killed (and 2 missing), and 1 duck injured by a domestic dog

2018 California Ram Sale – April 7th in Porterville

Mark your calendars, the 2018 California Ram Sale will be held on April 7th at the Porterville Fairgrounds.

Contributions and the proceeds from the California Ram Sale support CWGA in its continued efforts to deliver lasting value to support and represent the interests of the California Sheep Industry.

Schedule of Events

8:00 am – Buyer Check-In & Ram Preview

9:30 am – Trade Show Featuring Sheep Health & Equipment Companies

Come early for this year's trade show with representatives from Animal Health International, Bayer, Zinpro Minerals, and other sheep product companies. Stop by the Zinpro booth and learn about the California Elite Sheep and Sheep Choice Minerals developed by sheep producers for sheep producers.

11:00 am – Buyer Lamb Lunch

Enjoy a California BBQ Lamb lunch before the sale starts.

1:00 pm – California Ram Sale

Selling over 500 range rams from California, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. Crossbred, Hampshire, Suffolk, and White-Faced rams will be sold. Ultrasound carcass measurements (i.e. loin eye area) and a Range Ram Index will be provided on all sale rams to help identify the carcass traits and the genetic potential of those rams.

Directions:

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

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

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

Range Ram Index: A Tool for Selecting Range Rams

Each lot of rams sold in the 2018 Ram Sale will be assigned an Average Range Ram Index Value (Ram Index).

The Ram Index will help to identify those rams that will sire progeny with more desirable carcass traits such as heavier carcass weights or larger loin eye size.

- According to the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSE), genetic selection for larger loin-muscle area should be expected to improve carcass merit and carcass value of market lambs.
- Utilizes live animal ultrasound which can provide reliable estimates of carcass quality characteristics.
- Carcass traits are highly heritable.
- Producers can implement changes in progeny carcass traits change so much faster and improvement in the accuracy of breeding decisions is so much better.
- Will benefit the industry as whole in producing a more desirable product for the consumer.

Plan to Attend CWGA's Annual Meeting in Cambria

The 2018 CWGA Annual Meeting & Convention will be held on August 17 – 18 in Cambria, CA.

CWGA is committed to delivering lasting value to support and grow all segments of the California sheep industry. Our annual meeting and convention delivers on this commitment by providing an opportunity for attendees to participate in educational forums, learn about current happenings in our industry, be engaged in association policy making, and provide input in future planning. While at the same time meeting with fellow sheep producers and enjoying the recreational activities in the area.

Lodging Information



For online reservations <http://www.cambriapineslodge.com> and enter the following CASE-sensitive group code and password: *Group code: CWGA, Password: cwga.*

Or call 800-966-6490 and mention the CA Wool Growers Association.

Deadline to reserve rooms is July 16, 2018.

Things to do in Cambria

Nestled amid majestic pines and the glimmering sea along California's Central Coast, Cambria is a lovely village with countless scenic wonders. Exit the beaten path and discover one of the West Coast's most unique destinations, where natural beauty and outdoor recreation abound. From historical attractions and natural preserves to popular entertainment venues and premier dining, Cambria puts you in a prime position to enjoy the area's top attractions.

- Hearst Castle – <http://hearstcastle.org/>
- Moonstone Beach – <http://visitcambriaca.com/attractions-california/natural-wonders/moonstone-beach/>
- Pacific Wine Trail – <http://pacificcoastwinetrail.com/>
- Piedras Blancas Light Station – <http://www.piedrasblancas.org/index.html>
- Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery – <http://www.elephantseal.org/>
- For more things to do go to <http://visitcambriaca.com/>

Tentative Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Local Area Industry Tour

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

Ram Sale Committee Meeting

*Improving Your Show Lamb & Seedstock
Operation Workshop – Part 2*

Board of Directors Meeting

Welcome Reception

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Annual Membership Meeting

Past Presidents Lunch

Sheep Ranching in Today's Public Eye

How to Facebook Your Farm

How to Utilize Social Media

Cocktail Reception

Shepherds Ball & Banquet

Calling All Photographers

CWGA will be hosting a sheep photography contest again at this year's Annual Meeting. Look for details in the next issue of *Herd the News*.

Livestock Protection Tools

By Dan Macon, UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor Placer-Nevada-Sutter-Yuba Counties

Anyone who raises livestock on rangeland or pasture in California has had to contend with predators. Some research has suggested that conflicts between livestock and predators are inevitable, especially on extensively managed rangelands (Breck 2004). While coyotes, mountain lions, and black bears are the large carnivores that come to mind for most livestock owners, other potential predators include domestic dogs, birds of prey (and other birds), bobcats, and foxes. Recently, gray wolves were noted in Plumas County – and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife predicts that wolves may eventually come as far south as I-80 in the Sierra.

Legal restrictions and public perception regarding lethal predator control make nonlethal livestock protection tools critical for ranchers and small-scale livestock owners alike. Equally as important, many producers (myself included) emphasize co-existence – part of what I enjoy about grazing sheep in our foothill rangelands is the opportunity to be around wildlife. For those of us who cannot be with our livestock around the clock (that would include most of us, I presume!), these tools can also offer peace of mind.

While most of us think of direct losses (that is, livestock death loss) when it comes to predators, there is evidence that indirect livestock impacts (like added labor, lower reproductive success, lower weaning weights, etc.) may be equally significant (Ramler et al. 2014). I'm leading a team of UC researchers that has recently started a long-term study to analyze these indirect impacts in California – I'll discuss this in more detail in the future.

In the next several months, UCANR will publish a guide to livestock protection tools. This article, which reflect both research-based knowledge and real-world experience, are intended to help sheep ranchers of all sizes evaluate the types of tools that may fit their site-specific needs.

Livestock Guardian Animals: Dogs, donkeys, and llamas are the most commonly used guardian animals. Research (and my own experience) suggests that dogs are the most effective option for protecting livestock from the full range of predators present in our region (Gehring et al. 2010). Donkeys and llamas, on the other hand, may be longer lived and easier to maintain (since their dietary requirements overlap with the livestock they are protecting) (Andelt 2004). The effectiveness of any guard animal is directly related to its environment, the predators that are present, and producer attitudes. I've had guard dogs and llamas that were effective; I've also had some that were not. And a guardian animal that works in my management system and environment might not work elsewhere.

Temporary Electric Fencing: Fences can either be physical barriers (like field fencing) or psychological barriers (like electric fencing). In my experiences, few (if any) fences are 100 percent effective. An adult coyote can squeeze through a 4"x6" opening; a mountain lion can scale a 6-foot fence. In our sheep operation, we've had good success using 42" electro-net fencing. These fences, which come in 164-foot sections, feature electrified horizontal poly wires and plastic stays between posts. We use battery powered fence energizers, and I should note that these electro-nets take significantly more power than smooth-wire electric fences (I like to have at least 0.25 joules per net – in other words, a 3-joule energizer is needed to power 12 sections of fence). Research in Montana suggests that electro-net can significantly reduce coyote intrusion into paddocks (Matchett et al. 2013). While I've seen a coyote jump my electro-net fencing while I was building a paddock, I've never observed a coyote inside a paddock once it was electrified (in more than a dozen years of using electro-net fencing extensively).

Attractant Removal: Many predators are also opportunistic scavengers; therefore, a dead animal may attract predators into an area currently being grazed by livestock. Attractant removal involves the removal and disposal of dead livestock, as well as the removal of sick or injured livestock. These strategies can reduce attraction to areas used by livestock and may avoid giving predators a taste for livestock (Wilbanks 1995). Observational evidence in the northern Rocky Mountains and on the Modoc Plateau suggests wolves that are attracted to bone yards may be more likely to kill cattle or sheep in adjacent areas (T. Kaminski, pers. comm.,

2016). Bone yards may also attract livestock guardian dogs away from the livestock they are protecting (N. East, pers. comm., 2016).

Anyone who's tried to dispose of the carcass of a 300-pound ram that managed to die 15 miles from the nearest dirt road will know that this tool presents a number of logistical challenges. Many times, we don't find a carcass before it's discovered by scavengers. Even if we can get the carcass to the road, the cost of transport and disposal in a rendering facility may be cost prohibitive. Burying livestock carcasses is currently legally prohibited in California (Antonelli et al. 2016), as is the composting of mammalian flesh (CalRecycle 2017). In light of these challenges, ranchers might consider moving a carcass as far away from livestock as possible.

Fladry or Turbo Fladry: Believe it nor not, flapping flags hung at the right height can deter wolves. Fladry is a series of cloth or plastic flags attached to a rope or wire that creates a novel visual stimulus wolves find uniquely frightening (Bangs et al. 2006). Over time, wolves may become habituated to fladry, willingly crossing fladry barriers to kill livestock (Musiani et al. 2003). This study also found that fladry may push wolves to neighboring ranches or unprotected pastures. Turbo fladry (electrified poly-wire with flags, powered by a standard electric fence energizer) may be as much as 2 to 10 times more effective than non-electrified barriers (Lance et al. 2010). I would think that fladry may be a useful tool in smaller-scale pasture settings (e.g., heifer calving pastures or sheep bedding grounds). Fladry may not be an effective deterrent for predators other than wolves (Davidson-Nelson and Gehring 2010), although one study has suggested fladry may deter coyotes as well (Young et al. 2015a). If you want to try turbo fladry, USDA Wildlife Services has several miles of it available to loan to ranchers – call the Wildlife Services state office at (916) 979-2675 for more information.



Night Penning: Night penning is exactly what it sounds like – it involves bringing livestock into a secure pen at night. Night penning (and to a lesser extent, simply night gathering) sheep can be effective in reducing wolf predation, especially when used in conjunction with livestock guardian dogs and/or human presence (Espuno et al. 2004). While night penning can provide protection during vulnerable periods, it comes at the cost of additional labor and facility construction and maintenance (Wilbanks 1995). In my experience, night penning works with small groups of animals; it simply isn't practical in extensive operations.

Alarms/Scare Devices: Some predators seem to be afraid of novel stimuli. Strobe lights, propane cannons, and siren devices (including radio- and motion-activated guard devices) may temporarily displace or confuse predators (Bangs et al. 2006). Early research into battery-operated strobe or siren devices in fenced-pasture sheep operations across the western United States found that these devices deterred coyotes for up to 91 days and reduced lamb losses an estimated 44 to 95% (Linhart 1984; Linhart et al. 1992). However, habituation can be a problem if these devices are randomly—rather than behaviorally—activated (Shivik and Martin 2001). On the other hand, preliminary research at the University of California Hopland Research and Extension Center (Mendocino County) indicated mixed results with a new type of strobe light that emits random patterns of flashing light (trademarked as FoxLights). While initial results suggest FoxLights may be effective in deterring fox predation, the data collected so far do not support hypotheses of reduced livestock predation by coyotes, black bears, or mountain lions (McInturff et al. 2016).

Obviously, these (and other) livestock protection tools have costs associated with them. Ranchers – and small-scale livestock owners – must compare the costs of these tools with the protection benefits. Costs are easy to tally; benefits are more challenging – after all, how can I measure the number of livestock NOT killed by predators. That said, site- and operation-specific combinations of these tools seem to prevent direct losses, and may reduce indirect impacts in some production systems as well (Stone et al. 2017).

Be sure to check out the Livestock-Predator Information Hub at rangelands.ucdavis.edu/predator-hub.



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. 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



americanlamb.com

Resources to Help Improve Your Operation

ASI's Let's Grow Your Flock Program



A variety of resources and materials focusing on how to improve the productivity of your sheep operation have been funded through the American Sheep Industry's (ASI) Let's Grow campaign. These materials include webinars, articles, factsheets, and other items focusing on a wide-range of topics including genetic selection, nutrition, parasite management, and ewe performance. All information including webinars, articles, and factsheets are available on the Let's Grow Website at <http://www.sheepusa.org/Growyourflock> [Resources](#) [EducationalWebinars](#).

Lamb Industry Resource Center



The Lamb Resource Center is your one-stop shop for industry resources and information. This site has a number of resources including best practices factsheets that address a variety of production related topics (e.g. animal handling, reproduction management), customizable marketing materials for direct to consumer marketing, an ethnic marketing retail toolkit, lamb meat pricing calculator and much more. Visit www.LambResourceCenter.com to access these materials.

ASI Website Resources

The American Sheep Industry (ASI) websites offer a wealth of information on the sheep, lamb and wool sectors including lamb market reports, research on animal health issues, wool quality programs, and much more. To access information on the ASI website visit - www.sheepusa.org and scroll over Research & Education, and Issues & Programs.

National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP)

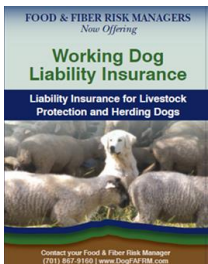
By using breeding stock with genetic predictability, all types of flocks have a foundation of genetic information upon which to build a superior and more consistent product to their customers, whether this be a feeder, packer or consumer. This genetic predictability is achievable through NSIP's Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs). Visit www.nsip.org to learn more.

UC Rangelands – California Grazing & Drought Resources



The mission of UC Rangelands is to develop and advance science-based knowledge to diverse management and policy stakeholders to promote agricultural and environmental sustainability on California's grazing lands. The UC Rangelands Drought Hub, features research and extension information for producers and rangeland managers. You can access the Hub at rangelands.ucdavis.edu/drought. For more information and resources from UC Rangelands go to - <http://rangelands.ucdavis.edu>.

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. Frequently the producers have no liability protection from incidents related to the guardian and herding dogs. WDLI is managed and serviced by Food and Fiber Risk Managers.

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

New CA Antibiotic Laws Effective January 1st

As of January 1, 2018, injectable and all other medically important antibiotics (MIADs) must be administered with a prescription that is ordered by a California licensed veterinarian within a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR).

This means that all MIADs not mixed in feed, including those that are federally labeled for over-the-counter sale, will now require a prescription to be sold or used in California.

Many antibiotics already require a veterinarian prescription (i.e. Zactran, Nuflor). **But for those that currently do not (i.e. LA200, Penicillin) now require a veterinarian prescription.**

Over the counter antibiotics will still be available at a licensed veterinary food-animal drug retailer with a prescription from a veterinarian. Prescriptions may only be dispensed by: the prescribing veterinarian, a veterinary food animal drug retailer (VFADR), or a licensed pharmacy.

This is in addition to current Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) regulating antibiotics delivered through feed legislation on the Federal level that took effect January 1, 2017.

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

How to Access Antibiotics for Livestock

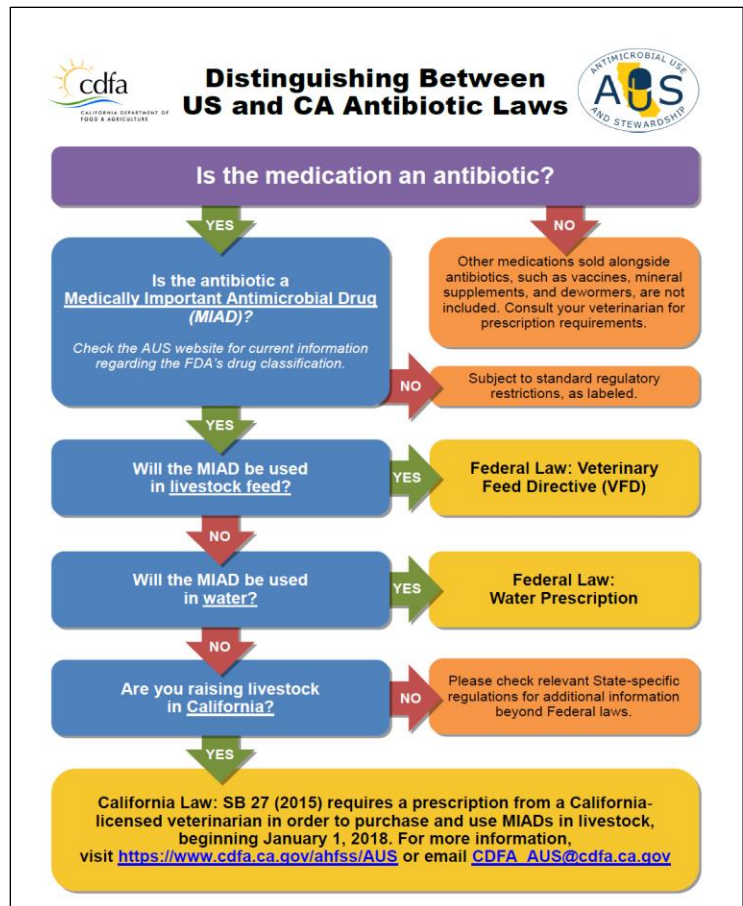
Veterinary Prescriptions

If a veterinarian decides that the appropriate use of a medically important antibiotic is necessary to treat, control, or in some cases prevent disease: before dispensing the drug, the veterinarian must offer the client a written prescription that the client may choose to have filled by any licensed facility or with their veterinarian.

Current Options for Filling Prescriptions

- Veterinary Food Animal Drug Retailer (VFADRs): Licensed by the California Board of Pharmacy, can fill prescriptions for pick-up or delivery. Your veterinarian may be able to suggest a VFADR, or you can look up licensed VFADRs at <http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/about/verify Lic>.
- Licensed Pharmacies: Ask your local pharmacy if they will carry veterinary livestock drugs. Search for your local licensed pharmacy at <http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/about/verify Lic>.
- Licensed Online Pharmacies: Several veterinary internet pharmacies are registered with the California Board of Pharmacy to fill prescriptions in the State.
- Your Veterinarian: Veterinarians may dispense medically important antibiotics to their patients within a valid VCPR.

For more information visit - <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/AUS/> or email CDFA_AUS@cdfa.ca.gov.



What is an antibiotic?

An antibiotic is a medicine (such as penicillin) that destroys bacteria or inhibits its growth.

What is a Medically Important Antimicrobial Drug (MIAD)?

A MIAD is an antimicrobial drug that is important for treating human disease. MIADs include all critically important, highly important, and important antimicrobial drugs listed in Appendix A of the federal Food and Drug Administration's Guidance for Industry #152.

What is SB 27?

SB 27 (2015) is a California Senate Bill that formed the current Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) program. The law requires a veterinarian prescription to administer medically important antimicrobial drugs to livestock, beginning January 1, 2018. This is in addition to current Veterinary Feed Directive legislation on the Federal level that took effect January 1, 2017.

ANTIBIOTIC LIVESTOCK DRUGS IN CALIFORNIA		
Not Medically Important No prescription required	Medically Important Prescription or VFD required after January 1, 2018	
Aminocoumarins Novobiocin (<i>only available in combination with a MIAD in California</i>) Glycolipids Bambergmycins (<i>Gainpro 10, Flavomycin</i>) Ionophores Laidlomycin*** Lasalocid (<i>Avatec, Bovatec</i>) Monensin (<i>Rumensin, Coban</i>) Narasin (<i>Maxiban, Monteban</i>) Salinomycin (<i>Sacox, Bio-cox</i>) Pleuromutilins Tiamulin (<i>Denagard, Triamulox</i>) Polypeptides Bacitracin (<i>Pennitracin, BMD</i>) Quinoxalines Carbadox (<i>Mecadox</i>)	Aminoglycosides Dihydrostreptomycin*** Gentamicin** (<i>Garacin, Gen-Gard</i>) Hygromycin B** (<i>Hygromix</i>) Neomycin** (<i>Neo-Sol 50, Neovet</i>) Spectinomycin* (<i>L-S50, Spectlinx-50</i>) Amphenicols Florfenicol*** (<i>Nufloor</i>) Cephalosporins Ceftiofur*** (<i>Naxcel, Excede, Excenel</i>) Cephapirin (<i>Today, Tomorrow</i>) Diaminopyrimidines Ormetoprim (<i>Rofenaid</i>) Fluoroquinolones Danofloxacin*** Enrofloxacin*** (<i>Baytril</i>) Lincosamides Lincomycin** (<i>Lincosol, Lincomix</i>) Pirlimycin*** Polymyxins Polymyxin B (<i>Terramycin</i>)	Macrolides Erythromycin** (<i>Gallimycin</i>) Gamithromycin*** (<i>Zactran</i>) Tildipirosin*** Tilmicosin (<i>Pulmotil AC</i>) Tulathromycin*** (<i>Draxxin</i>) Tylosin** (<i>Tylan, Tylovet, Tyloved</i>) Tylvalosin (<i>Aivlosin</i>) Penicillins Amoxicillin*** Ampicillin*** (<i>Polyflex</i>) Cloxacillin*** Penicillin** (<i>Pennchlor, R-Pen, Bactracillin</i>) Streptogramins Virginiamycin** (<i>V-max, Stafac</i>) Sulfonamides (Sulfas) Sulfadimethoxine** (<i>Salfadived, Albon, Sulfamed</i>) Sulfamerazine** (<i>Poultrysulfa</i>) Sulfamethazine** (<i>Poultrysulfa, Aureo</i>) Sulfaquinoxaline** (<i>Sul-Q-Nox, Poultrysulfa</i>) Tetracyclines Chlortetracycline** (<i>ChlorMax, Pennchlor</i>) Oxytetracycline** (<i>LA-200, Duramycin, Bio-Mycin</i>) Tetracycline** (<i>Duramycin, Tetramed</i>)
* Feed/water drugs must follow FDA VFD and water prescription requirement as of 1/1/2017. ** May be used in feed *** Federally labeled as prescription-only (regulatory restrictions unchanged by SB 27)		

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As a CWGA member you get EXCLUSIVE savings on over 50 sheep health and nutrition products.

- 5 Different **Dewormers**
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- **Nutritional Products** – California Elite Sheep Mineral, Sheep Choice Plus Mineral, Protein Tubs, Goat Pro Mineral, Redmond Salt & more!
- **Supplies** – Marking Paints, Drench Guns, Repeater Syringes, CIDRs & more!
- AND **EXCLUDE** access to:
 - Footvax (*limited supplies available, taking pre-orders for summer 2018*)
 - New CWGA All-Strain Blue Tongue vaccine (*expected winter 2018*)
 - New CWGA Footrot vaccine (*expected 2019*)
- **EXCLUSIVE Access to Anaplasmosis Cattle Vaccine** for any producers that raise cattle.

Contact the CWGA office to order today at 916-444-8122 or erica@woolgrowers.org. View product details at the following link - <http://cawoolgrowers.org/vaccines/vaccines.html>.

CWGA Needs Your Samples for Vaccine Development Efforts

Campylobacter Fetus-Jejuni Bacterin (Vibrio)

Due to supply shortages in 2017, CWGA is working with a second supplier to develop the Campylobacter Fetus-Jejuni Bacterin (Vibrio) vaccine. We need aborted fetuses and placentas in order to secure the needed isolates to develop this vaccine.

- If you experience any fetal abortions this season, we need you to submit the fetus and placenta to the CAHFS lab located in Davis or Tulare.
- Please list Nancy East, DVM 530-713-5799 as the veterinarian on the paperwork submitted.

CAHFS Locations and Information:

- For DAVIS go to <http://cahfs.ucdavis.edu/about/locations/davis.cfm>.
- For TULARE go to <http://cahfs.ucdavis.edu/about/locations/tulare.cfm>.
- Or call for hours and locations 530-752-8700.

FY 2017 Scrapie Report Released

The annual report for the National Scrapie Eradication Program for fiscal year 2017 is now available.

- Samples for scrapie surveillance were collected from targeted sheep and goats at 206 sites in 41 states.
- Over 42,000 sheep and goats were tested for scrapie in FY 2017.
- At the end of FY 2017, the percent of cull black face sheep found positive at slaughter was zero percent and the percent of cull sheep found positive at slaughter and adjusted for face color was zero percent.
- No sheep have tested positive for classical scrapie since April 2016. Other than one goat in a herd quarantined since 2005 and depopulated in 2017, no goats have tested positive for scrapie since February 2015.
- No classical scrapie infected or source flocks were designated in all of FY 2017.

Utah Wool Marketing Association



Marketing Wool to the World

Contact: Will Hart Griggs – Manager

435-843-4284 – Office 801-201-9706 – Cell

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The logo for Roswell Wool, featuring the words "Roswell" and "Wool" in a stylized, green, outlined font. The background of the entire advertisement is a photograph of several sheep in a field under a blue sky.

Mike Corn, Manager

1-800-624-WOOL

mikecorn@roswellwool.com

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Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul



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Mark Your Calendars

March 5 – 7, 2018

**ASI Spring Legislative Action Trip
Washington D.C.**

March 23, 2018

**CWGA Board of Directors Meeting
Los Banos, CA**

April 7, 2018

**98th Annual California Ram Sale
Porterville, CA**

May 7 – 11, 2018

**California Sheep Shearing School
Hopland, CA**

August 1 – 2, 2018

**2nd Annual CWGA Online All Breeds
Sheep Sale**

August 17 – 18, 2018

**CWGA 158th Annual Convention &
Membership Meeting
Cambria, CA**

*Do you have an upcoming event to share with
other sheep enthusiasts? Contact the CWGA
office to have your event listed.*

