



Herd the News

July/August 2018

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

Japan Now Open to U.S. Lamb

After a nearly 15-year absence, U.S. lamb has officially regained access to Japan, USDA officials announced July 12. Japan closed to U.S. lamb in December 2003 as a result of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) detected in the U.S. cattle herd.

“Japan was a primary market for U.S. lamb before losing access, so obviously our lamb producers and the lamb industry are very excited about this opportunity to again export our quality products to an upscale market,” said USMEF Chair Dennis Stiffler, president of the Texas division of Halperns’ Purveyors of Steak and Seafood and former chief executive officer of Mountain States Rosen, a livestock producer-owned processor and distributor of lamb and veal products.

“The Japanese have proven in the past that they are very receptive to the unique flavor of U.S. lamb, and 95 percent of all lamb raised in the U.S. is grain-fed. It’s a very succulent protein that will stand up well to competitors’ products in the Japanese market. U.S. lamb has been well-received in other upscale markets, including Taiwan which reopened to U.S. lamb in 2016. But Japan presents an exceptional opportunity for significant export growth.”

Already the leading value market for U.S. beef and pork, Japanese consumers are expected to embrace U.S. lamb’s flavor and consistency, along with the essential nutrients that make it part of a healthy diet.

Dan Halstrom, USMEF president and CEO, thanked U.S. agricultural and trade officials for their efforts to restore market access for U.S. lamb and said the announcement lays the groundwork for a much-needed boost for lamb exports.

“As is the case in other markets where U.S. red meat has been successful in regaining access, this is the result of tremendous work by U.S. government officials and the U.S. meat industry,” said Halstrom. “There is great demand for high-quality, grain-fed red meat in Japan, as demonstrated by the success of U.S. beef and pork. The U.S. lamb industry is anxious to capitalize on opportunities in Japan’s restaurant and retail sectors, and USMEF is eager to begin promoting U.S. lamb in Japan.”

As noted in the Food Safety and Inspection Service Export Library, the Japanese market is open to meat and meat products derived from sheep and goats slaughtered on or after July 11, 2018. To be eligible to ship these products to Japan, establishments must operate under the approved USDA Export Verification (EV) Program for Japan (program details are available online), must successfully complete an on-site USDA audit to ensure compliance with EV Program requirements and must be added to the Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers. Exporters with questions may email Travis Arp or call 303-623-6328. More details are also available in this USDA GAIN Report.

Japan’s lamb imports reached a record value of \$168 million last year, up 26 percent year-over-year. Through May 2018, imports were 43 percent ahead of last year’s pace in value at \$95 million, while volume was up 28 percent to 12,265 metric tons. Australia is the top supplier of lamb entering Japan with 60 percent market share so far this year, while New Zealand supplied 38 percent.

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Presidents Message – *Ryan Indart*



Dear CWGA membership,

I couldn't figure out why everyone was passing us, and then I realized the speed limit was 80 MPH! It was July 10, 2018, and we had just stopped at Starbucks, loaded up on coffee, milks for the girls, and breakfast sandwiches and were headed south on I29 out of Sioux Falls, headed to Hawarden Iowa. The morning air was crisp but heavy, almost as if forewarning us of the impending 90-degree, 90% humidity guaranteed to wet our brows with

relentless sweat later in the day. The typical Midwestern summer, right?

The National Lamb Feeds Association (NLFA) Howard Wyman Leadership School Bus, carrying all the students, staff and some board members, was way out in front of us already, due to our late start that morning. Trucks were passing us doing 90 MPH, and I thought to myself...I love this place! I put the petal down to keep pace with the traffic, as miles and miles of corn and soybean fields flew by us on either side of the freeway, with the occasional cattle on pasture, like an endless ocean of green as far as the eye could see, a stark contrast to the dry, hot, water starved central valley that we were all too accustomed to. It was truly eye candy for all of us!

In this part of the country, once you head out of town, the only real paved roads are the Interstates. We came to our exit, County Road 13, turned left and headed into Iowa en route to Hawarden, to visit the Rule Sheep Company. Sixteen miles on a gravel county road, we were in the heart of the upper Midwest. Over every hill and around every bend, we passed one beautiful, perfectly manicured farm and homestead after the next. All I could think of was – There is a real pride of ownership out here. Then, out of nowhere, Beatriz turned to me and made a comment that rang true and resonated deeply with all of us, as if to point out the obvious yet, not so obvious to the rest of us. "I can't believe how clean each house and yard is – no trash on the side of the roads, no trash or junk in the front yards. The lawns are all mowed and everything is so clean and neat!" I thought to myself, she is so right – you don't see any 'Adopt a Highway' signs out here. What a breath of fresh, yet humid, air – literally!

The deep green, sediment filled river water, originating on the Coteau des Prairies plateau in north eastern South Dakota, poured powerfully over the rocks and cliffs at the falls, creating a heavy mist that enveloped the entire park, and all the visitors, all but adding to the humidity of the morning air. The Big Sioux River cuts right through the heart of Sioux Falls, and is the namesake and main attraction of the town itself. It is July 8, 2018, and we had the entire morning to burn before my NLFA Board meeting at 1 pm. As we entered the park in the Yukon, I turned to Beatriz and asked her, "Where is the guard shack and how are we going to pay to enter and visit the park today? Her answer was, "There is no entrance fee". It had been 7 years since we had been there, with two less kids, and I seemed to have forgotten that. The surrounding landscape was beautifully manicured and spotless, grass mowed, no trash, no garbage, no graffiti – a common theme in this part of the world it seems.

People from all walks of life, tourists from different states and countries, all respectful, neighborly, pleasant and nice – all scattered around taking in the beautiful scenery. Historical placards were placed at various locations along and overlooking the river within the park, teaching people about the historical significance of the falls and town, during the early years of our country's settlement. Then my eyes noticed something unbelievable – there were people walking all the way up the river's edge, on the wet rocks flanking the falls, above and below and throughout, like it was one big camping trip on some river up in the Sierras! No barricades, no warning signs, no ropes or guards. Just people being respectful, being careful and being trusted. I thought to myself in amazement – This is what personal responsibility looks like! It was truly remarkable. Another breath of Fresh, yet humid, air! You would be hard pressed to find any state park in CA, with any historical significance, with this kind of liberty and freedom. Perhaps the "Fly over States" aren't so bad after all?

The upper Midwestern sheep production system, specifically the Pipestone System, is uniquely and dramatically different than most California production systems. Pipestone members focus primarily on production efficiency, within the confines of the greater agricultural and climatic ecosystem they operate within, with their main performance metric and driver being dollars of profit per ewe, inclusive of drys. Pipestone members primarily span the states of South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. Because the winters in this part of the country are extremely harsh, where several feet of snow can lay on the ground for weeks and months on end, accompanied by freezing temperatures – there is no feasible way to keep ewes and lambs on pasture. In order to produce animal protein, the climate has dictated that they house and feed all their animals in barns and under protection, sometimes even year-round. It is a "Dry Lot" production system.

As many of you are aware, the two main crops produced from this part of the country are corn and soybeans, with the occasional hay field. Even if they could "graze" their animals out on the farm in the spring, summer and fall, it wouldn't make any economic sense to do so because they make more money per acre growing their annual crops, hence the second reason for the Dry Lot system. Many of the Pipestone members produce their own feed and ensile it or bale it, or they receive a credit from the feed mill they sell their commodities to when they purchase their feed pellets back from the mill. Either way, a small portion of their farming acreage is subsidizing their livestock production system because the feed inputs are often times self-produced and not purchased. Many of the members also compost their manure, or just spread the manure directly back into their cropping fields, keeping a portion of the carbon and most of the nitrogen on the farm.

This unique combination of Dry Lotting sheep and crop farming allows a corn, soybean and hay farmer to diversify into producing animal protein, while not sacrificing precious and productive farming acreage in doing so, the same way I wouldn't graze my composite ewes year-round on a 20-acre field that would be more economically suited for almonds or pistachios. The phrase "highest and best use" is applicable here. Total Enterprise profit is increased with the addition of the dry lot, and more people can enjoy the sensational animal protein and nature's best fiber that we all love so much. The Pipestone system, and its members, have adapted to the unique agricultural and climatic constraints of their region to not only maximize enterprise and economic profit, but also provide the world with more lamb and wool in the process. It is truly a win-win. They would consider this model "Sustainable", and so would I.

With the regional study area being the Pipestone system and the center point being Sioux Falls, South Dakota - this year's NLFA Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School was one of the best we have hosted in years. Half of the time of the school focused on Industry and farm tours and the other half focused on Industry presentations, group work and a case study. It was interactive, educational and very informative. Judging by the caliber and pedigree of the students, our industry is in good hands as we continue to evolve and adapt. I would highly recommend the NLFA Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School to anyone reading this who hasn't yet attended – it is worth every dollar and hour spent.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you these last several years. This will be the last article I write you. Most of you are probably cheering the good news thinking, *Thank God, no more long, verbose, random articles from Indart!* For those of you whom I have offended I apologize, but nonetheless I remain true to my

Continued on page 4.

convictions. I am humbled deeply by the trust and confidence you have afforded our executive team these last several years, as we navigated our way out of adversity into what I hope to be a sustainable CWGA business model, capable of adapting to and assisting in leading a constantly changing and evolving CA Sheep Industry.

I want to thank Dan Macon, Ed Anchordoggy and Frankie Iturriria, as well as the entire Strategic Planning Committee, for their unwavering commitment and dedication to our strategic plan, our Association, and our Industry – I am honored to know and have worked with such fine, generous Industry leaders. Lastly, I want to thank Erica Sanko, mainly for putting up with me! Everyone reading this knows who does all the work. Erica, you are valued more than you know. Thank you for your steadfast commitment and devotion to our Association, and the tireless resolve and perseverance you have shown, day in and day out. On behalf of our Industry and our Association, we are truly grateful and thankful for all you do.

Lastly, I leave you with one of my favorite quotes of all time – one that resonates deep to the core. This quote embodies and encompasses all I know and love about our Industry, and the people who comprise it.

Excerpt From "The Strenuous Life" Speech, Chicago, Illinois, April 10, 1899

I wish to preach, not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life, the life of toil and effort, of labor and strife; to preach that highest form of success which comes, not to the man who desires mere easy peace, but to the man who does not shrink from danger, from hardship, or from bitter toil, and who out of these wins the splendid ultimate triumph. – Theodore Roosevelt

Sheep people are the best people I know, without a doubt. No matter how difficult the circumstance, we will always persevere. If Armageddon arrives - cockroaches, coyotes, Russian thistle, hairy fleabane and Sheep people – will be the survivors! May God always bless you all, this Industry and this beautiful country of ours!

Welcome New Members

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

Trish Clader, Clader Ranch, Newcastle, CA

Jeff & Joan Davidson, Marysville, CA

Rex & Lisa Guard, Lazy "G" Ranch, Friday Harbor, WA

Aisha Hernandez, Paso Robles, CA

Amanda King, King Diamond Ranch, Petaluma, CA

Matt Mickel, Mickel Brothers, Spring City, UT

Patty & Kelly O'Brien, Shamrock Sheep Company, Bloomington, CA

Nicola Pusterla, Pusterla Ranch, Penryn, CA

Ken Wixom, Wixom Livestock, Blackfoot, ID

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!

Are You Wearing Your CWGA Logo Merchandise Yet?

It's fair, festival, and BBQ season. Show-off your CWGA merchandise and support CWGA. All items are ordered from the online store and shipped directly to you.

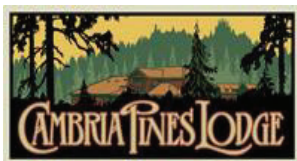
A variety of CWGA logo items to choose from including hats, polo shirts, sweatshirts, vests, work wear, and more. Mens, ladies, and youth sizes available.

Go to <http://californiawoolgrowers.org/merchandise> to access the online store and show your support for CWGA!

CWGA 158th Annual Meeting & Convention ~ August 16 – 18

The CWGA 158th Annual Meeting & Convention is August 16 – 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.



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.

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Local Industry Tour – Topaz Solar Farms

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

Ram Sale Committee Meeting

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

Board of Directors Meeting

Welcome Reception & CWGA Photography Contest

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Annual Membership Meeting

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18 *cont'd*

Past Presidents Lunch

Ranching in Today's Public Eye

Utilizing Social Media in Your Operation

*The Do's & Don'ts of Interacting with Animal
Welfare Activists*

*Media/Interview Training Part 2: How to Give an
Interview*

*Dealing with Difficult Sheep Production Issues –
Producer Panel*

Shepherd's Ball Cocktail Reception

Shepherd's Ball Banquet & Auction

Shepherd's Ball Auction Items

The proceeds from the Shepherd's Ball Auction allow CWGA to continue its efforts in representing the interests of all California sheep producers and fight for the future prosperity of our industry in California and the West. Below are just a few of the unique items that will be auctioned off this year.

Weatherby Vanguard Select Rifle

Weatherby Shotgun (Model TBA)

Sheep & Goat Nutritional Products

CWGA Historical Safe (see page 11)

Harveys Lake Tahoe Two Night Stay Package

Napa Valley Wine Train Gourmet Package

Allbirds Wool Shoes (Buyer Choice)

ASI 150th Anniversary Pendleton Wool Blanket

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. For a list of things to do go to <http://visitcambriaca.com/>



IMPROVING YOUR SHOW LAMB & SEEDSTOCK OPERATION ~ PART 2

Workshop hosted by the California Wool Growers Association

**Friday, August 17, 2018
1:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

Cambria Pines Lodge, Cambria, CA

Workshop Cost \$25.00 ~ Registration Deadline August 10th

Please join the California Wool Growers Association at its 158th Annual Meeting & Convention on Friday, August 18th for a workshop focusing on issues facing show lamb, seedstock, and small flock producers.

This workshop will delve deeper into the topics presented at the 2017 workshop and provide more group discussion. Topics include feed and nutrition, flock reproduction, quality assurance, and industry issues. Presenters are industry experts on sheep nutrition and reproduction. Although this workshop focuses on the show lamb and seedstock sectors, it is open to ALL sheep producers, large and small, and industry stakeholders.



**Proper Nutrition
Pre-Breeding to
Late Gestation**

**How to Utilize
Supplements to
Improve Flock
Performance**

**Improve Fertility
in Your Flock:
LAP AI, Ram
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Historic CWGA Safe Up for Bid at Convention

California Wool Growers Association's safe dates back to early days when the association office was in San Francisco and financial security had a much different meaning.

Since those early days, this safe has transitioned from security to a significant part of CWGA history.

A decision was made at the March board of directors meeting to auction the safe at the 158th Annual Meeting and Convention Shepherd's Ball on Saturday, August 18. Funds from the sale of the safe will be the seed money for the new California Guard Dog Fund currently in development. (details to be announced)

Members interested in purchasing the safe but are unable to attend the convention will have an opportunity to place a bid via an online auction prior to the Shepherd's Ball Auction. The online auction will open at noon on Friday, August 17 and close at noon on Saturday, August 18. Only CWGA members may place bids.

The highest bid at the completion of the online sale shall be declared the winner of that online sale and establishes the minimum bid for the safe at the Shepherds Ball live auction on Saturday evening.

The winner of the online sale has the right to continue bidding on the safe at the live auction. That person will be assigned a CWGA representative to place bids for them during the live sale. No other bidders from the online sale will be allowed to bid during the live auction.

The online sale will be hosted at www.susantaylorshowservices.com. To sign up as a bidder, click on current sales and view current sales.

Photos of the safe will be posted August 10th.

The live auction will begin at approximately 8:30 p.m. August 18 in Cambria at Cambria Pines Lodge.

Questions? Call the CWGA office at 916-444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org.

ASI Calls for USDA to Regulate Fake Meat

The American Sheep Industry Association joined with six additional meat, poultry and livestock organizations urging President Donald J. Trump to protect consumer health and welfare by ensuring cell-cultured protein products that purport to be meat or poultry are regulated under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Alternative Proteins" are a hot topic right now; the media, business and farmers are looking at the future of these products and their potential impact on the animal protein sector. The products fall into two groups: plant-based, which are currently on the market; and "lab grown" or "cultured," which are derived from animal cells and are still in the development stage.

The letter acknowledges that USDA is uniquely positioned to ensure all meat and poultry products are held to the same rigorous food safety and labeling standard, and that holds true for lab-grown, fake meat products. This request comes following a recent public meeting held by the Food and Drug Administration indicating they would assert jurisdiction as the primary regulator of these products.

The full letter can be found at –

<https://d1cqrq366w3ike.cloudfront.net/http/DOCUMENT/SheepUSA/Barnyard%20Letter%20RE%20Cell%20oCultured%20Meat%207.26.18.pdf>



California Summer Legislative Update

The end of the 2017-18 legislative session will soon be here and proposed measures continue to make their way through the bill process. While much legislation is still active and the ultimate outcome still unknown, the agricultural stakeholders have been successful in urging support for many positive bills and defeating a number of onerous ones already. See below for a summary.

AB 345 (Caballero) – Vehicle Emissions – Failed

This bill would allow farmers to enroll new vehicles (on-road diesel trucks with a GVWR >14,000 lbs.) in the agricultural exemption associated with the statewide diesel truck and bus regulation by January 31, 2019 and allow those vehicles to operate 15,000 miles annually until 2020 and 10,000 miles annually thereafter until January 1, 2023. Furthermore, the bill would retain the low use exemption for all diesel vehicles that operate in California less than 5,000 miles.

AB 2114 (Bigelow) – Livestock Inspection – Senate Floor

This bill will allow a rancher to sell a live animal to an individual to be harvested by a mobile slaughter operator on the rancher's property but for the sole consumption of the buyer. The carcass must be processed by a state or federally inspected facility and the meat is prohibited to be sold pursuant to federal law.

This bill will revise the fee structure for brand inspections taking place at a ranch from \$12 to \$25 for an inspection of 29 head or less and \$15 for an inspection of 30 head or more. This bill will create an annual show permit to be administered by the Bureau of Livestock ID to allow show or exhibition cattle to cross state lines and return to California with a single brand inspection associated with the annual permit.

AB 2447 (Reyes) – CEQA – Senate Appropriations Committee

AB 2447 requires projects subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to conform to new community noticing requirements for projects that could result in any increase in air or water pollution. Agricultural activities were originally exempted under the bill, however without notification the exemption was removed in a later draft of the bill. Agricultural stakeholders are working with the author's office and proponents of the bill to again exempt agricultural activities from the scope of the legislation.

AB 2667 (Kalra) – Migratory Bird Treaty Act – Senate Appropriations Committee

AB 2667 would establish an incidental take permit under state law for activities that take birds covered under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Agricultural organizations were strongly opposed to the bill, however their opposition forced the author's office to include provisions that would exempt the accidental take of MBTA species by a routine agricultural activity. Amendments to the bill would also exempt any actions taken by farmers, ranchers or landowners who take migratory birds that depredate or cause property damage and are subject to a depredation permit or order authorized under federal law. The author is expected to take additional amendments that would also exempt forestry activities covered under a Timber Harvest Plan or similar laws and regulations.

AB 2975 (Friedman) – Wild & Scenic Rivers – Senate Appropriations Committee

This bill is a follow up to AB 975 (Friedman) that was defeated last year by a coalition of agricultural and business groups. AB 2975 would essentially remove legislative oversight over the listing of rivers under the state wild and scenic river system. Although AB 2975 does not include the most problematic provisions of AB 975 that sought to expand protections for listed rivers from the riverbank to a ¼ of a mile on each side of the riverbank, the legislature should still have final oversight at the listing of a river or river segment under the state wild and scenic river system. Significant amendments were taken due to opposition by agricultural and business groups that again require legislative oversight for the listing of rivers or segments of rivers under the state wild and scenic river system. With the amendments, the coalition of agricultural and business stakeholders opposed to the bill removed their opposition.

California Summer Legislative Update

AB 3036 (Cooley) – Waste Management – Senate Floor

This bill proposes to redefine “solid waste” under the Public Resources Code to exclude byproducts from processing food, if those byproducts are intended to be used as animal feed. Some counties have sought to restrict the movement of byproducts used for animal feed based on the current definition of “solid waste”.

ACR 217 (Levine) – Point Reyes National Seashore – Assembly Floor

This resolution, adopted by both the Senate and Assembly and transmitted to the U.S. Congress, would recognize the contributions of ranchers and dairy producers operating in the Point Reyes National Seashore and the need for Congress to take additional measures to ensure that ranchers operating in the National Park are protected from the ongoing threat of litigation.

SCR 100 (Lara) – Processed Meat – Failed

SCR 100 states that it would be the desire of the California legislature to include “processed meat” on the list of those constituents known to cause cancer by the State of California pursuant to Proposition 65. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) identified “processed meat” as causing cancer and “red meat” as likely to cause cancer. According to state law, any designation that is known to cause cancer as determined by IARC requires that constituent to be identified on a list compiled by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). As a Senate Concurrent Resolution, SCR 100 only provides a recommendation and does not amend the law. Nevertheless, it’s a bad resolution, calls for OEHHA to list “processed meat” meat based on unsubstantiated information by an agency with no legislative or regulatory oversight by California or the U.S. government and should be defeated.

SB 210 (Leyva) – Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance Program – Failed

SB 210 would establish a new heavy-duty vehicle inspection program under the Air Resources Board (Board) requiring trucks to carry a certificate of compliance to demonstrate the vehicle has passed an annual periodic smoke inspection test and the onboard diagnostic computer demonstrates the vehicle has no current maintenance issues. Without a certificate of compliance or the onboard diagnostic computer states the vehicle is in need of repair, the vehicle will be prohibited from being operated in California over the road. This bill is extremely problematic for various reasons, including trucks entering from other states have no clear pathway to demonstrate compliance until they physically present in California.

SB 1138 (Skinner) – Food Options – Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 1138 would require prisons and other incarceration facilities to provide vegetarian or vegan meals at a prisoner’s request. Originally, SB 1138 made wrongful and unsubstantiated claims regarding meat consumption and cancer. Agricultural groups opposition to the bill was instrumental in convincing the author to remove the bill’s provisions that stated red meat caused cancer and caused harmful environmental impacts.

SB 1260 (Jackson) – Fire Prevention & Protection – Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 1260 would provide structural reforms to the permitted use of prescribed fire to increase fire resiliency and reduce fuel loads. Specifically, SB 1260 will provide an improved training program for individuals who coordinate and manage prescribed fire projects known as “burn bosses.” The improved training and the development of terms and conditions on the use of prescribed fire by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) will be used to establish “due diligence” to ensure that an individual managing prescribed fire who follows their training and the terms and conditions outlined by CalFire will not be automatically targeted for negligence in a court of law should a fire escape outside the designated burn area. The bill will also enact several other beneficial reforms promoting the use of prescribed fire to reduce fuel loads.

Is Your Ranch Ready for Fire Season? – *The New Foothill Rancher*

With record-setting forage production throughout the State, we are reminded once again of the risk wildfire poses to all of our farms and ranches. Wildfire preparations are more complicated for commercial livestock operations. Like residential homeowners, ranchers need to create a fire safe space around their homes; they also need to think about protecting ranch infrastructure and livestock. If you haven't prepared a ranch fire safety plan, or even if you have one in place, the beginning of fire season is a reminder that we all need to be prepared! Here are a few ideas for putting together a plan for your operation.



Assessing the Threat

What is at risk in your operation? Do you have livestock in multiple locations? What is access like to your home place as well as to rented properties? At a minimum, the following issues come to mind:

- We need to protect our home, barns and other infrastructure at our home place.
- Many of us have livestock in several locations. Where we have irrigated pasture, we aren't quite as worried about fire. Where we're grazing on dry grass, we are more concerned. While fire is an immediate threat to the health and well-being of our animals, it can also reduce the amount of fall forage we'll have.
- Access can be a challenge during a fire. Single-lane roads, law enforcement road blocks and other obstacles may make it difficult to access our livestock during a fire.
- Smoke can create health problems for people and livestock alike. About ten years ago, during a particular smoky stretch of the summer, we noticed an increase in respiratory disease in our sheep.

Because many of us have operations that are spread over multiple locations, getting timely and accurate information about where fires are can be challenging as well. I find that www.yubanet.com usually has the most up-to-date information on fire location and size - be sure to check the "Happening Now" tab. CAL FIRE also has a phone app that purports to send alerts when fires start near your location, although I've found that the app doesn't provide the real-time information I need about small local fires. Many of us have informal phone trees with the other ranchers in our area - this can be the best way to get in-the-moment information! Be sure you know the neighbors where your livestock are grazing!

Developing and Implementing a Plan

A ranch wildfire plan should have several main components:

Protecting Buildings, Infrastructure and Information: All of us should make our home places fire safe! Remove flammable vegetation within 100 feet of our homes and other buildings. Don't forget other critical infrastructure like propane tanks, wells, equipment sheds and barns. Also be sure you have protected critical legal documents and insurance information. You should also check CAL FIRE's suggestions for putting together an emergency supply kit (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Emergency-Supply-Kit/>).

Protecting Forage: Many of us stock our operations conservatively to ensure that we have fall forage for our livestock. You might consider creating fuel breaks to protect this forage. Disking or grading around the perimeter of pastures, or at least adjacent to potential ignition sources. Another alternative would be to use targeted grazing adjacent to roads or pasture boundaries. This can reduce the fuel load and slow a fire down. The width of any fuel break depends on the fuel type, topography/slope, and potential flame lengths that a fire might generate.

Protecting Livestock: Try to think ahead to how we might move animals out of harm's way. Given enough warning, could you either haul livestock away from a fire or herd them to a safe location? Many of us, however, have too many animals to evacuate on short notice. Leaving animals in pasture (or "sheltering in place") might be the best option in many cases. If you need to leave animals in place, be sure they have enough feed and water for several days. Will the animals have water if the power goes out? Be sure to take down temporary fences or other hazards that may injure animals as the fire moves through your property.

Water Supply: Water is critical for protecting our properties and for keeping livestock healthy. Do you have adequate water supplies for wetting down your buildings and facilities, or for directly fighting fire? If you have to pump water, do have a backup system in case you lose power? Can you provide stock water if the power goes out? You may wish to consider investing in a backup generator and/or additional water storage.

Escape Routes: Ideally, we should all have at least two routes in and out of our ranch properties. We try to think about at least two alternatives for moving our livestock to safety in the event of a fire - and this means loading and unloading facilities, a plan for gathering livestock, and a clear understanding of the road system near our pastures. Narrow roads can be problematic for navigating with stock trailers, especially when fire equipment is also inbound.

Backup: Obviously, we can't all be on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to a fast-moving fire. Consider working with friends, neighbors or colleagues to have a backup plan to evacuate or otherwise protect your livestock. Consider meeting with your neighbors to go over key livestock facilities, evacuation plans and access routes. Be sure to check in with these backup resources in the event of fire.

Communication Plans: Do you have phone numbers for the other ranchers in your area? Do you know who runs the cows or sheep next door? Most of us probably do! During fire season, many of us text or call our neighbors when we see smoke. Perhaps it's time to formalize these calling trees.

Situational Awareness: If you're like me, your ear can tell the difference between a fire plane and a regular aircraft. Whenever I'm outside this time of year, I scan the horizon for smoke - especially when I hear fire planes overhead. I carry fire tools and a 5-gallon backpack pump in my truck during fire season, as well, and I'm constantly aware of my surroundings when I'm working in dry grass or brushland. Wildfire, obviously, is a significant threat in our region - and one that can be incredibly stressful to livestock and people alike. Preparation - through planning, improving our stockmanship skills, making our homes and ranches fire safe - can help reduce this stress.

For more information, check out these resources:

<http://cesutter.ucanr.edu/LivingWithFire/>

http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Animalevacuation.pdf

http://www.uvm.edu/~ascibios/?Page=Emergency/disaster_Planning_for_Livestock.html&SM=submenuemergency.html

Cause of Yolo County Fire – Improperly Installed Electric Livestock Fence

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) investigators determined the fast-moving 90,000-acre wildfire that burned in Yolo and Napa counties was caused by an improperly installed electric livestock fence on private property. The responsible party has been cited under the state's public resources code for "burning the lands of another."

Cal Fire urges residents to always follow proper installation and operation guidelines on your owner's manuals when installing and/or operations all equipment that can cause a wildland fire.

Wildfire Disaster Assistance Programs Available

As the 2018 wildfire season begins to rage across California, our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected.

Various state and federal government programs exist to provide disaster assistance for those who have been impacted by fires. Although your attention is no doubt focused on the situation at hand, it's important to note that several of the disaster assistance programs have initial notification deadlines that must be met in order to be eligible for funding.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – Cost shares with producers who need to repair or replace fencing or water conservation structures damaged by a natural disaster.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) – Provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. ELAP covers physically damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the producer's eligible livestock.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – Offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible losses may include those determined by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to have been caused by wildfires, hurricanes, floods, blizzards, tropical storms, tornados, lightning, extreme heat, and extreme cold. Producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – Provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing). Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2018 crops. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

Livestock producers who enrolled in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) in 2018 can submit a NAP Notice of Loss. If they didn't have NAP, they can apply for lost forage production and/or increased feed costs due to a disaster under ELAP (Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish). The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) covers livestock deaths.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) – Producers whose trees/vines need rehabilitation or replacing can apply for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

Emergency Loan Program – Available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Presidential or Secretarial disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.

For information on these programs and documentation requirements, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster or contact your local FSA office.

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 Rangeland Research and Extension “Hubs” provide information and tools on science-based solutions for sustainable rangeland management. Hubs include: livestock predator interactions, rangeland water quality, irrigated pastures, rangeland drought, public lands, rangeland decision making, knocking out weeds on rangeland, and pasture nitrogen management.

You can access all the Hubs at <http://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/research/>.

Shearing Demo Teaches Public About Wool Industry



Open sheep exhibitors at the 2018 Alameda County Fair instigated a 'shear in' to show the public how sheep are shorn and varied breeds of sheep that produce wool. Fair goers were able to handle the newly shorn fleeces, and sheep. They asked a lot of questions too. (Why do you shave their fur?)

Over the course of two hours, in front of large audiences, Andy Edmonson of San Miguel sheared six sheep and demonstrated how shears worked and how a fleece is handled post shearing. Explanation of shearing techniques, wool quality and processing was provided by sheep exhibitor Kelly Secord of Oak Hills.

Other sheep exhibitors assisted by bringing in different sheep breeds that were shown at the fair.

What is a common practice for sheep producers is entirely foreign to the general public. They wanted to know if shearing hurt the sheep, why they don't – or do struggle during shearing. How often sheep are shorn and if the sheep would be cooler without their fleece.

They seemed to be pretty happy about wool being such a sustainable product.

Interested in hosting shearing demonstration at your county fair? Contact the CWGA office for details.

Montana Researchers Pioneer Using Wool for Erosion Control

The stuff of socks, sweaters and high-tech underwear now has yet another use, according to a Montana State University study: revegetating roadsides to prevent erosion.

When the research team began the project four years ago, they suspected that wool might have advantages over the straw and shredded coconut hull used in traditional erosion control blankets, which buffer slopes against sun and rain until seeds germinate and plants take hold. The results of the recently concluded study, however, surprised them.

At the square-meter plots that received erosion blankets made of wool blended with straw, the research team observed three to four times more perennial grasses - a result the team called "stunning."

Some erosion-preventing wool products are available internationally. But they are prohibitively expensive to ship and weren't designed specifically for revegetation.

The researchers traveled to three Montana mills and worked with them to produce shredded wool, which was then sent to a Minnesota manufacturer with the specialized equipment for blending the wool with straw to produce the erosion blankets. The researchers then seeded a highway road cut with native grasses and laid down the wool erosion blankets side by side with various other erosion blankets. They observed the site periodically and measured the growth of the grasses during the course of three years.

The researchers do not know what mechanisms, exactly, give wool an advantage but they suspect that the wool holds more moisture for a longer period. And wool, which is about 17 percent nitrogen, likely has a fertilizing effect on the plants as it slowly biodegrades. The researchers said that wool also appears to adhere better to soil on steep embankments.

The research team noted that if wool were widely adopted for erosion control, it could support local manufacturing of the blankets as well as create a significant new market for state wool growers. Low-grade wool that is otherwise discarded could potentially be used.

Source: Montana State University

OVERCOMING THE AFFECT OF *Seasonal Lamb Production* ON DEMAND



LAMB IS UNIQUE FROM OTHER MEATS FOR MANY REASONS, AND ONE OF THEM IS THE SEASONALITY OF PRODUCTION. This situation causes major challenges for our industry's supply chain as it seeks to meet the needs of US consumers. Therefore, seasonality becomes an issue for the entire industry.

To better understand the current situation of seasonality of lamb supply, the Roadmap Implementation Committee (including representatives from all industry sectors and national organizations), commissioned a team of industry experts to compile relevant data on the topic. This new white paper covers in detail:

- Seasonal supply of US and imported lamb
- Demand for lamb by season for traditional and nontraditional markets
- Factors that influence seasonal supply of lamb
- Opportunities to alter the seasonal supply of US lamb
- Case studies of producers that have shifted season of production

It is the hope of the Roadmap Implementation Committee and your national sheep/lamb organizations, including the American Lamb Board, that this work will help identify realistic opportunities throughout the industry that will have big impacts on our domestic lamb supplies and improve our quality and consistency year-around.



Download the

SEASONAL LAMB PRODUCTION WHITE PAPER


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Lamb Market Updates

U.S. Lamb Exports in May Largest Since 2015

Exports of U.S. lamb were 998 mt in May, up 57 percent from a year ago and the largest volume since December 2015. Export value was up 10 percent to \$1.8 million. For January through May, exports increased 43 percent in volume (4,455 mt) and 15 percent in value (\$9.1 million). While much of this growth was driven by larger variety meat exports to Mexico, muscle cut exports increased year-over-year to the Caribbean, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Singapore, the Philippines and Taiwan.

Source: U.S. Meat Export Federation, www.usmef.org

Australia and New Zealand Lamb Prices Breaking Records

Australian trade lambs are approaching a record 800¢ and heavy lambs broke through that mark this week. However, the current market dynamics aren't restricted to Australia. New Zealand (NZ), Australia's principal competitor on the export market, is pushing similar extremes.

Last week, New Zealand lamb prices, converted into Australian dollars, average a record 729A¢/kg cwt, up 15% year-on-year and close to parity with the Australian lamb market. As illustrated below, this recent rally has even eclipsed the last surge in 2011.

So What's Driving this Trans-Tasman Market Surge?

Australia and New Zealand account for about 70% of the global sheepmeat trade, and more so when it comes to exports of high quality prime lamb. The remaining trade is largely contained to a regional level – mostly between European countries or intra-African trade. Put simply, while some production growth is expected out of Oceania, the region cannot keep up with increasing global demand.

NZ lambing rates were a record high last year but the flock has continued to contract, losing hectares to dairy over the last decade and, more recently, impacted by a modest beef herd expansion and a changing environmental regulatory environment. Beef + Lamb NZ have forecast a small lift in to 2017-18 (October-September production year) lamb crop but many lambs were killed in the December quarter last year leaving fewer for 2018 slaughter. NZ lamb slaughter across February-March was back 17% year-on-year, with production compounded further by lighter weights coming through. Slaughter rates have lifted more recently, up 20% year-on-year across April-May but will now enter a period of sharp seasonal decline.

As highlighted last week, Australia also entered a period of elevated lamb slaughter in May, keeping a lid on prices. However, with Australian lamb kills subsequently contracting and NZ nearing the bottom of seasonal its trough, neither producer is able to keep up with current export demand and prices have surged.

And demand abounds. Australian lamb exports lifted 12% in 2017-18, reaching a record 270,000 tonnes swt, led by strong demand from the U.S. and China. Mutton exports jumped 32% in 2017-18, to 161,000 tonnes swt, reflecting on-going dry conditions and an export market ready to purchase any additional volume. Moreover, in the 12-months to May 2018, export value increased 23% over the same period last year, to an unprecedented A\$3.2 billion FOB and reflective of an overall rise in average unit export prices.

New Zealand has experienced similar demand growth in recent years, however with supply constrained export expansion has largely come at the cost of its own domestic consumption.

What Next?

August typically marks the seasonal low in New Zealand lamb supply. Meanwhile, poor pasture conditions and high feed costs will likely delay the first wave of new season lambs out of New South Wales. As such, prices may remain elevated until adequate supplies in either country hit the market later this year.

Source: Meat & Livestock Australia, www.mla.com.au

DOCUMENTING PREDATOR IMPACTS ON LIVESTOCK

3 STEPS TO TAKE WHEN FINDING A SUSPECTED KILL

By Tracy Schohr, Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor, Butte-Plumas-Sierra
And Dan Macon, Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor, Placer-Nevada-Sutter-Yuba

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INTRODUCTION

Livestock depredation is a growing concern in the Sacramento Valley and Sierra Nevada regions. Coyotes, mountain lions and black bears are the most common predators in our environment; gray wolves are moving into the Sierra Nevada region. If you find a suspected livestock kill and wish to determine the source of depredation, there are several critical steps to preserving evidence and contacting wildlife specialists. In addition to direct impacts (death or injury), these predators may have indirect impacts on livestock production as well (including impacts to reproduction, livestock performance, and labor costs). Producers can also take steps to document these impacts.

PRESERVING EVIDENCE

If you find a dead animal that you suspect was killed by a predator (or even if the cause of death is not readily apparent) there are a number of steps you should take to preserve the evidence:

1. Minimize your own impact. Watch where you step. Do not walk on tracks (from wildlife or livestock).
2. Cover tracks with cans, buckets or similar objects to protect them from further disturbance.
3. Take photographs of the carcass and surrounding areas (especially signs of struggle, tracks, fur, or other evidence).
4. If possible, keep other livestock, people and dogs away from the scene.
5. Cover the carcass with a tarp to prevent scavengers and/or other predators from feeding on the carcass.
6. Mark the location using flagging, global-position-system (GPS) coordinates, or your smartphone camera. This will help investigators find the site easily.

CONTACTING WILDLIFE SERVICES OR COUNTY WILDLIFE SPECIALISTS

Determining the cause of death (whether from predation, disease, or natural causes) can be helpful in preventing additional losses. If you suspect predation, contact the USDA Wildlife Services regional supervisor or county wildlife specialist:

- USDA Wildlife Services State Office: (916) 979-2675
- USDA Wildlife Services North District (Jim Shuler): (530) 336-5623
- USDA Wildlife Services Sacramento District (Ryan McCreary): (619) 666-6418
- Placer County Wildlife Services: (530) 889-7372

DEPREDATION PERMITS

If an investigation by Wildlife Services determines that a mountain lion was responsible for the depredation, you can work with Wildlife Services to obtain a depredation permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Similarly, if a black bear was responsible, CDFW can issue a depredation permit outside of the designated black bear hunting season. In addition, the California Fish and Game Code states, "that any bear that is encountered while in the act of inflicting injury to, molesting, or killing livestock may be taken immediately by the owner of the livestock or the owner's employee if the taking is reported no later than the next working day to the Department and the carcass is made available to the Department" (F&G Code §4181.1).

Butte County 530.538.7201 • Plumas/Sierra Counties 530.283.6262
Placer County 530.889.7385 • Nevada County 530.273.4563 • Sutter/Yuba Counties 530.822.7515

United States Department of Agriculture, University of California, Placer, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties cooperating.

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>)

Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to John I. Sims, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer/Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397.

IF YOU SUSPECT A WOLF

As of June 2018, CDFW has documented gray wolves in the Sierra Nevada as far south as Nevada County. Wolves are currently protected under both the state and federal endangered species acts; under the California law, lethal control of wolves is not permitted under any circumstance. According to CDFW, “non-injurious harassment [of wolves] is allowed when wolves are within 0.25 miles of livestock, or within 100 yards of a dwelling, agricultural structure, campsite, or commercial facility.”

If you suspect that wolves may have killed livestock, contact both Wildlife Services and the CDFW Wolf Coordinator (Kent Laudon: (530) 225-2186). Investigators will search the kill site for predator sign (including tracks, hair and scat) and will examine the livestock carcass to document injuries (including bite marks and tissue damage) and cause of death. Upon completion of the investigation, CDFW will issue a Livestock Loss Determination. Currently, there are no programs in California to compensate livestock producers for losses to wolves or other predators.

For more information regarding gray wolves in California, go to
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=112302&inline>.

DOCUMENTING INDIRECT IMPACTS

Research in other Western states suggests that indirect losses from predators are more complex, and perhaps costlier to producers than direct losses. Indirect impacts can include reduced weight gain, reduced reproductive success, and additional labor (mostly associated with repairing infrastructure, treating injured livestock, and utilizing nonlethal livestock protection tools). Ranchers should document these costs by tracking weaning weights and rates, conception and birthing rates, and direct labor costs. Your local UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor can help you develop systems to track these impacts.

LIVESTOCK PROTECTION TOOLS

While there is no single livestock protection tool that will work in every situation or to protect livestock from every predator, there are a number of tools (and combinations of tools) that may help prevent losses. For more information on specific tools, see *Livestock Protection Tools for California Ranchers* (ANR Publication 8598), available online at <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8598.pdf>.

UCCE CONTACTS

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Scrapie – New Tool to Protect Goats

Scrapie eradication requires a joint effort in sheep and goats. Genetic scrapie resistance has been an important tool available to the sheep industry but not to goat industries – until recently.

Two goat prion gene alleles have now been shown to confer resistance to classical scrapie. They are S146 (serine [S] amino acid at prion protein position 146), and K222 (lysine [K] at position 222). Goats bearing just a single copy of either one of these alleles have been strongly resistant to infection during natural outbreaks, as well as direct challenge experiments.

In the last 15 years (2002-2017), the European Union has recorded more than 10,500 cases of scrapie in goats. To address this problem for eradication, the European Commission formally requested that the European Food Safety Authority evaluate the strength of evidence for genetic scrapie resistance in goats. The EFSA brought together a panel of European experts to conduct a comprehensive review of research. In its recently published review, the panel concluded that today's evidence for genetic resistance conferred by the S146 and K222 alleles in goats exceeds the evidence that was available for R171 when it was recommended for resistance in sheep. Thus, the commissioned review recommended the use of genetic scrapie resistance in goats to augment eradication programs.

Rules for implementing goat genetics in scrapie eradication programs were left to each European country to develop, but final rules are not yet available. While scrapie resistance alleles in goats have not been formally recognized in the United States, the National Scrapie Eradication Program is considering conducting a herd cleanup pilot project in goats based on S146 and K222 goat alleles similar to that done for sheep in the early days of genetic resistance in sheep.

Goat DNA testing services for S146 and K222 alleles are available at the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory of the University of California-Davis. Details are at <https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/GoatScrapie.php>. Reduced pricing has been arranged for testing done through VGL for members of two of the largest goat organizations (the American Dairy Goat Association and the American Boer Goat Association).

Similarly, testing services are in development at NeoGen Genomics, Inc. (GeneSeek). Service details will be available at this website: <http://genomics.neogen.com/en/research-and-development-genomic-discovery#sheep-and-goat>. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has not established an approval process for laboratories to conduct official scrapie susceptibility genotyping in goats, so testing at either lab would not be considered official testing for regulatory purposes.

Both S146 and K222 are naturally occurring alleles in American goats. The S146 allele is common in American goats and has been identified in seven of 10 breeds of both meat and dairy types, including: Boer, Tennessee fainting goats (myotonic), Nubian, Alpine, Saanen, LaMancha and Pygmy goats. Among these breeds, the S146 allele is particularly common in Boer and Nubian goats. S146 is probably present in additional breeds and will likely be found as larger numbers of goats from those breeds get tested.

The K222 allele is most often observed in dairy breeds. One United States study identified it in Toggenburg and LaMancha goats. Other studies have identified K222 in most European descended breeds, including Alpine, Saanen and Anglo-Nubian. The K222 allele is probably present in additional breeds, too, and will be found as larger numbers of goats from those breeds get tested.

As with sheep, goat producers are encouraged to maintain overall herd health, productivity and reduce inbreeding by selecting goats superior for many traits (not only scrapie resistance) and from diverse families. By using such measures, goat producers can boost or add scrapie resistance while continuing to improve all other aspects of goat breeding quality. Overall, breeding for strong scrapie resistance in goats, as well as in sheep, will provide one more tool to combat scrapie.

Authors: Stephen N. White, Ph.D. & David A. Schneider, DVM, Ph.D., DCVIM (LAIM)

In Memory

Ernest “Bud” Gutzman

Ernest Bates “Bud” Gutzman died April 27, 2018, surrounded by his family. Gutzman was born in Lemhi, Idaho, on June 6, 1932, to Ernest William and Edna Irene “Bates” Gutzman.

Gutzman enlisted in the U.S. Army when the Korean War started. He excelled at the firing range and found himself stationed there for the length of his service. Upon the completion of his service, Gutzman found an opportunity to apprentice in the wool trade, moving to Boston to interview and work.

He was initially stationed to train in Rawlins, Wyo., refining his ability to value wool. After a year, Gutzman was then stationed in San Francisco to work valuing wool for National Wool Marketing Association. This is where he met the love of his life, Norma Ernestina Harris, and the two were married on July 7, 1956.

After a brief time in Stockton, Calif., Gutzman had an opportunity to manage his own warehouse in Santa Rosa, Calif., which he did from 1966 to 1970. He then chose to return to Stockton to manage the California Wool Marketing Association. He received both the Order of the Golden Fleece from the California Wool Growers Association and the American Wool Excellence Award from ASI.

He is survived by his three children Daniel, Andrew and Elise; six grandchildren; and five great grandchildren. Gutzman retired in 2000 to care for his wife, who passed in December 2011.

Steve Mendenhall

Steve Roger Mendenhall was born in 1940 to Robert and Louise Mendenhall. Steve lost his 16-month battle with pancreatic cancer on May 25, 2018. Steve passed away in his sleep on his favorite napping couch with his wife of 38 years next to him in the easy chair.

After graduating Marysville High School in 1958, he served as a jet engine mechanic at Beale AFB until he was honorably discharged in 1963. Steve was a lifelong mechanic, rebuilding engines and fixing equipment at service stations, Sunsweet, and 24 years at Tenco/Holt of California. After retiring, he was able to enjoy his favorite hobby, working on his 55 Chevy convertible and rebuilding two vintage trailers, all while keeping the Mendenhall Wool Ranch sheep farm operating.

He is survived by his wife Terry; his children Karen, Steve Jr., Scott; Brian, Amy, Sharon and Roz; 20 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild; his brother Mike; as well as countless others who called him dad or grandpa. Steve will be greatly missed by many family and friends near and far.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Shriner’s Children Hospital of Sacramento.

CWGA Memorial Funds Received

The CWGA Memorial Donation Fund helps to support CWGA to deliver lasting value to support and grow all segments of the California sheep industry.

In memory of Lucy Vassar ~ Richard Hamilton

CWGA Scholarship Funds Received

The CWGA Scholarship provides assistance to enrolled college students pursuing an academic program with an interest and/or emphasis in the California sheep industry.

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To order, contact the CWGA office at 916-444-8122 or erica@woolgrowers.org.

Product tags can be viewed at the following link - <http://californiawoolgrowers.org/products/healthproducts/>.

Reminder to Protect Your Vaccines from Heat, Cold, and Sunlight

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.

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Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul



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CALIFORNIA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

25 Cadillac Drive, Suite 214

Sacramento, CA 95825

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www.woolgrowers.org

Mark Your Calendars

August 1 – 2, 2018

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

August 17, 2018

**Improving Your Show Lamb &
Seedstock Operation ~ Part 2**
Cambria, CA

August 16 – 18, 2018

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

August 23, 2018

**Yolo County Cattlemen's & Wool Growers
Fall Speaker's Tour & Social**
Esparto, CA

September 14 – 15, 2018

**California Sheep and Goat Grazing
School, Auburn, CA**

September 14 – 16, 2018

California National Wool Show
Boonville, CA

October 13, 2018

CWGA Sheep 101 Workshop
UC Davis, Davis, CA



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