



# *Herd the News*

September/October 2018

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

## **158<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Convention of The CA Wool Growers Association – Cecilia Parsons**

There is always something new to be learned at the California Wool Growers Association's annual convention.

From fetal programming to social media interaction, sheep producers attending the two-day program in cool weather Cambria, came away with new ideas and directions to improve their operations.

Speakers are also drawing different segments of the industry to this meeting. Club lamb and seed stock producers are realizing the opportunity to hear about nutrition and reproduction from experts in those fields.

The show industry is often the public's vision of the sheep industry, speaker Allen Pettey noted. Pettey, who is an instructor in the Animal Science Department at UC Davis, expanded on the previous year's presentation on nutrition, focusing on nutrition pre-breeding through late gestation.

"Show sheep" have different nutritional demands than commercial sheep. Genetics, feed sources and their environment all affect their ability to thrive and produce.

Not meeting nutritional demands during critical times in development will affect their lifelong productivity, Pettey said.

As an example, fetal programming will influence fertility. Cutting off energy to ewes after breeding season has an effect on the future productivity of replacement ewes out of those ewes.

As more purebred sheep producers look to feed supplements to increase performance, nutritionist Jed Asmus had some advice:

"If the supplement has a strong smell - it's not good."

Speakers also provided useful information on improving fertility, flock health, antibiotic use and vaccines during the Friday session.

Saturday's program "Ranching in the Public Eye" focused on social media and interaction with the media, as opportunities to present a positive image of the sheep and wool industries. Members also heard from veteran shepherds Wes Patton, Joe Pozzi, and Lloyd McCabe on sheep industry issues.

During the business portion of the CWGA meeting new officers were elected. President Dan Macon; Vice President Ed Anchordoguy and Treasurer Andrée Soares.

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## Presidents Message: Our Heritage & Our Future – Dan Macon



*Photo Courtesy of Sarah Lillegard*

Dear CWGA membership,

As I sat down to pen my first article as president of the California Wool Growers Association, I was somewhat shocked to realize that our annual meeting was more than 30 days ago! I suppose there's nothing like being busy to make time pass quickly – this past month has certainly been busy. Writing this article has provided a good excuse for me to slow down and think about the importance of our organization, and our industry.

This morning, I had the opportunity to help Emilio Huarte and his crew ship Talbot Sheep Company yearling ewes out of their mountain range. The corrals we used are more than 80 years old – we found a seal on the scale from 1928 – and there were several earlier seals we couldn't read. As the sun came up behind the sheep this morning, I was struck by the fact that we were only the latest in a long line of sheep producers to use those corrals. The annual cycle of summer grazing and fall lambing – and sharing the work involved – is part of our heritage. And it is part of what I truly love about our organization and our industry. Sharing the work, and the stories that go with it, reminds me of the cooperation that lead our predecessors to found the California Wool Growers Association in 1860.

But the challenges of the 1860s are not the challenges we face today – although there are some similarities. As independent producers, we have typically relied on others to process and market our products. While our independence is a strength in many ways (for example, most of us raise the kind of sheep that best fit our environment and our markets), cooperation is often critical to our collective success. Working together, we can influence the laws and regulations that impact our ability to market our products. Working together, we can help provide resources to new producers (like educational materials, support for investment, and access to information). Working together, we can help an increasingly non-agricultural public understand the benefits of sheep grazing for reducing fire threats, invasive weed problems, and ecosystem restoration.

Like any segment of California's agricultural community, the sheep ranching community is not monolithic in its issues or its outlook. The issues that concern Emilio are somewhat different than some of the issues that concern me. For Emilio, who manages a large scale operation, the issues of immigration, exchange rates (especially with New Zealand and Australia), and trade policy loom large in his business. For me, as a small-scale, part-time rancher in the Sierra Foothills, land use, access to USDA-inspected processing, and options for protecting my sheep from predators are critical. The California Wool Growers Association, as the voice for all sheep producers regardless of size, addresses all of these issues. More importantly, in my mind, our association provides a forum for all of us to learn from one another.

Earlier this week, we held a conference call to talk about California's growing wildfire problem and the opportunities for sheep producers to help mitigate this problem. Grazing – especially with sheep and goats – is vitally important to

protecting our natural resources as well as our urban and suburban communities; this importance is finally being recognized by folks outside of our industry! This recognition creates tremendous opportunity for us! Stay tuned for more details this fall!

Finally, I want to thank Ryan Indart for his leadership and vision for our organization and our industry. Ryan's enthusiasm and focus on providing value for all of our members (large and small) has been infectious. I came home from our annual meeting excited about our organization and ready to go to work. With Ryan's leadership, CWGA has created a new California Guard Dog Fund that will help provide financial support for important legal cases. Ryan also led us through an important strategic planning process, which is paying dividends for us financially and politically. I have big shoes to fill!

"Shepherd" is a word that I particularly like. The primary definition is probably obvious to all of us, I'm sure! The second definition on [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) is equally pertinent – "a person who protects, guides, or watches over a person or group of people." For the leadership of the California Wool Growers Association, we add this second meaning to our primary responsibilities. While we face many challenges in 21st Century California, I'm confident in our tenacity, unity and enthusiasm as an organization. We'll need the foresight and energy of our founders – and the effectiveness and communication tools of our youngest members! I'm tremendously excited about these next two years. I'm humbled that my colleagues have confidence in my abilities to help "shepherd" our organization.

## Welcome New Members

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

*Ron Alves, Alves Livestock, Oakdale, CA*

*Jack Anderson, Cuyama Lamb, Maricopa, CA*

*Sharon Heringer, Heringer Ranches, Novato, CA*

*Russell McKeith, College of the Sequoias, Tulare, CA*

*Sandra & Tony Montero, Sheetmetal Lambs, Capay, CA*

*Lee Pettey, Wishbone Ranch, Red Bluff, CA*

*Stan Potratz, Premier Exp. Sheep, Washington, IA*

*John Quinn, Capra Environmental Services, Elk Grove, CA*

*David Turoff, Placerville, CA*

*Steven Wiler, Davis, CA*

## CWGA Needs Your Email Addresses

As we live in an increasingly digital world, email is a timely, cost effective means of communication. Sometimes CWGA does not have enough notice on meetings, events, or breaking news to mail out. But these important updates can be sent via email as soon as received. So, it is critical that we have your email address because more information will be sent via email.

CWGA's *Herd the News Weekly*, a weekly electronic email update with industry news, information, and events is emailed to members every Friday. In addition, the American Sheep Industry *ASI Weekly* newsletter is now only sent to those with an email address. We realize not everyone likes email, but having an email on file helps CWGA in its efforts to keep you up-to-date and provide member support.

If you are not receiving CWGA emails and you do have an email address, please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org) to update your contact information.

## 2018 CWGA Award Recipients

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### Master Shepherd Award ~ John Olagaray

John Olagaray has been a long-time member and supporter of CWGA and the sheep industry. John grew up in a Basque family sheep operation and in 1999, John branched out on his own and established the Five-O Ranch. John runs sheep in Nevada and Rio Vista, in addition to growing wine grapes in Lodi.

John is passionate about sheep and has shared this with his family. John is dedicated to the sheep industry, CWGA, and all the great people within it. This is ever present at the California Ram Sale for which he serves as the co-chair. Some colleagues have compared to John to a border collie. John is not afraid of hard

work and goes until he can't go anymore as evidenced every year at the Ram Sale.

As many know, John may not be a public speaker but, once you get John talking about all things sheep and farming watch out!

### Master Shepherd Award ~ Jeanne McCormack

A long-time member and supporter of CWGA, Jeanne McCormack is dedicated to the sheep industry. Jeanne with her husband Al Medvitz run McCormack Ranch established by her father in 1896. McCormack Ranch consists of 3,700 acres and lies in the historic Montezuma Hills along the Sacramento River.

Jeanne continues the commitment to sustainable farming established by her grandfather – the animals are pasture-fed and range free, grazing in large (200 – 300 acre) pastures, given no antibiotics or hormones and handled using low-stress, humane methods.

McCormack Ranch was the first to supply lamb to Niman Ranch, a respected provider of high-quality, natural lamb. Jeanne is dedicated to educating people about local food production, the sheep industry, conservation and sustainability.

*The Master Shepherd Award is presented to an acting or past officer, director, chairperson, or committee member of the CWGA. This individual has proven support and leadership in the Association, and dedicates themselves and their time to the sheep industry.*



### Golden Fleece Award ~ Mike Corn



Mike Corn was honored for his unrecognized contributions as the co-owner of Roswell Wool to the California sheep industry over the years.

Corn owns and operates sheep, cattle and goats, lambing around 3,000 white-faced, fine-wool sheep, mainly a merino cross ewe annually. He is a fourth-generation rancher whose family has been raising sheep in the Roswell area since the 1880s.

Corn is the majority owner of Roswell Wool Warehouse, which he and his partners purchased in 1992. Roswell is now the largest wool warehouse by volume in the United States and they recently opened a facility in Long Beach,

Calif. Corn says he believes the warehouse continues to be successful because it is operated by "producer oriented" owners who are also part of the sheep industry.

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



## 2018 CWGA Award Recipients

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### Retailer– Marketer Award ~ Pendleton Woolen Mills



The history of Pendleton Woolen Mills is one of opportunity, exploration and innovation. British weaver Thomas Kay laid the foundation when he arrived in Oregon in 1863. His expertise lives on in Pendleton's tweed, flannel and worsted wool apparel. Kay's grandsons, the three Bishop brothers, opened Pendleton Woolen Mills in the early 1900s. They joined Kay's weaving skills with stunning Native American-inspired designs in the Pendleton Trade blanket, a benchmark for beauty and quality for over 100 years. Family-owned and operated for more

than six generations, the uniquely American story of Pendleton Woolen Mills continues today.

The foundation of Pendleton Woolen Mills is its vertical manufacturing—controlling wool manufacturing from wool purchase to finished product. Wool processing occurs in Pendleton-owned mills and much of the manufacturing takes place in Pendleton-owned facilities. Pendleton's history of social responsibility is part of its 100-year heritage as an American brand.

*This award is presented to a company that does a superior job in marketing the products of the California sheep industry.*

### CWGA Awards 2018 Scholarship



The 2018 CWGA Scholarship recipient is Josephine (Josie) Hamilton of Rio Vista. Josie is a sophomore at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo majoring in Agribusiness.

During her senior year of high school Josie was not exactly sure what she wanted to do when it came to her future. Last March, Josie accompanied her parents to Washington D.C. to visit California legislators as advocates for the American Sheep Industry, with high hopes of getting in lots of visits to tourist attractions. When lobbying for the American Sheep Industry in Washington D.C., she fell in love with the idea of speaking out for something she felt passionate about.

After college, Josie plans to come back to the Delta region and continue her family's ranching legacy and help promote, educate, and defend agriculture. She wants to shine light on how important agriculture is and educate people to see all its amazing contributions. Josie wants to be a part of supporting an industry that benefits and supports everyone.

*CWGA awards one \$1,000 scholarship to an enrolled college student pursuing an academic program with an interest and/or emphasis in the California sheep industry.*

### Save the Date: ASI Convention January 23 – 26, 2019

The American Sheep Industry (ASI) Annual Convention will be held on January 23 - 26, 2019 in New Orleans. Registration and meeting details will be posted this fall. For details go to [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org).

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*Thank You to everyone who helped make the 158<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
& Convention a success!*

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# CWGA Membership Adopts Policies at Annual Meeting

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The following policies were adopted by the CWGA membership at the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting.

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

A complete list of CWGA policies is available at – <http://californiawoolgrowers.org/about/policy/>.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE ISSUES**

**ANIMAL CARE PRACTICES AND FAIR PRACTICES** – Animal Care and Handling protocols have been adopted for the industry through the National Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program (SSQA). CWGA continues to take a proactive stand in supporting standards that are set concerning food safety, animal care and show ring ethics in cooperation with the University of California Cooperative Extension, American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), fairs, expositions, lamb processors and sheep producers and other sheep experts.

**SCRAPIE CONTROL** – Scrapie control is an important part of a sheep safety and quality assurance program. The CWGA Animal Health Committee work with the California Department Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to be an active participant in the development of the National Scrapie Eradication Program.

## **PREDATOR MANAGEMENT**

**COOPERATIVE FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE SERVICES** – The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) contracted with the Cooperative Wildlife Service Program since 1921 to minimize property damage as Wildlife Services was originally designed to be funded by the Federal Government, by the State Government and by local contract counties. Because the Wildlife Services has been effective in reducing predation damages. CWGA supports the continuing commitment of the Federal, State & County partnership in funding the Wildlife Service Program.

**USDA-APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES AVIATION PROGRAM** – USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Aviation Program is vital to the success of the Wildlife Services program and in many ways represents the most efficient method available for protecting livestock, wildlife, and other resources. USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services program currently does not have that funding available now, the CWGA urges the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to recognize the importance of the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Aviation Program in managing predator depredation on livestock, wildlife and other resources and, that in view of the recent review of the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Aviation Program, the USDA Secretary of Agriculture should place the utmost priority in providing sufficient additional funds to initiate as soon as possible.

## **OTHER**

**COORDINATION WITH OTHER INDUSTRY GROUPS** – There are numerous issues facing all segments of the California sheep industry, and there are several industry groups that specialize in representing the interests of those diverse segments, and the problems facing these groups of producers are the same as those of the entire industry, and that by helping to identify the similarities of the problems in order to begin to find the solutions to them; that the CWGA will attempt to and take an active part in helping to promote these efforts.

**MAINTAINING THE CALIFORNIA AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY CONNECTION** – CWGA recognizes the importance of maintaining a connection on a National level with the American Sheep Industry (ASI) or its successor assuring that California will have representation nationally. CWGA urge all producers, feeders and companies to join in support in maintaining the California ASI connection.

**COMPOSTING ANIMAL CARCASSES** – The California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) support pilot projects in Northern California to further explore the feasibility and safety of composting livestock carcasses as a common and legal disposal practice, and CWGA work with interested stakeholders, particularly the Pacific Coast Rendering Association, to ensure the exploration and development of new common disposal practices, including composting, that do not economically harm California’s already shrinking rendering industry, and CWGA support the use of public and private funds to facilitate research projects, and following the completion of the pilot project, CWGA seek legislative or regulatory remedies to allow for the onsite composting of animal carcasses where rendering services are not available or such services are not economically feasible.

**SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HOPLAND RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER** – The University of California (UC) Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) has provided university-owned sheep for a variety of research and extension activities since it was established in 1951. The California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) strongly supports maintaining the university-owned flock at HREC, and CWGA remains committed to working with HREC and UC to identify research and extension needs related to all aspects of sheep production, and work with HREC and UC to identify funding and other resources to support these efforts.

## **THANK YOU, Shepherds Ball Auction Supporters!**

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Proceeds from the Shepherds Ball Auction support CWGA in its efforts to deliver lasting value to support and represent the interests of all segments of the California sheep industry and advocate for the future prosperity of your industry.

*Ed Anchordoguy, Anchordoguy Lamb*

*Florence Cubiburu, Cubiburu Livestock*

*John Cubiburu, Cubiburu Livestock*

*Andy Edmonson, Mendenhall Ranch*

*Ben & Stella Elgorriaga, Elgorriaga Livestock*

*Phil & Denise Esnoz*

*Johnny & Christina Etchamendy, Etchamendy Sheep*

*Martin & Maria Teresa Etchamendy,*

*Etchamendy Sheep Co.*

*Richard & Stacy Hamilton, Hamilton Bros.*

*Jeanne Harguindeguy, Harguindeguy Family Farms*

*Judy Hayes, Hayes Livestock*

*Ryan & Beatriz Indart, Indart Group, Inc.*

*Frank & Renee Iturriria, F&I Sheep Co.*

*Louis Iturriria, I&M Sheep Co.*

*Paco & Maria Luisa Iturriria, I&M Sheep Co.*

*Nancy Jones, Anchordoguy Lamb*

*Dan Macon, Flying Mule Farm*

*Joe Mattos, IOU Sheep Co.*

*Lloyd McCabe, Barmac Farms*

*Al Medvitz, McCormack Sheep & Grain*

*Penny O’Brien, Shamrock Sheep Co.*

*John & Connie Olagaray, Five-O Ranch*

*Michael Olagaray, Five-O Ranch*

*Cecilia Parsons, JSK Columbias*

*Wes & Jane Patton, Glenn Land Farm*

*Joe Pozzi, Pozzi Ranch*

*Rob Rutherford, Whole Options*

*Andree Soares, Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc.*

*Blair Summey, Summey Family Farm*

*Monica Youree, Western Range Assn.*

*Judy & Pete Yriarte, Yriarte Livestock*

# CWGA Membership Adopts California Guard Dog Fund

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The following Bylaw amendment was adopted by the CWGA membership at the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting. The CWGA Bylaws are available at – <http://californiawoolgrowers.org/about/policy>.

## **ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES Section 10. CALIFORNIA GUARD DOG FUND COMMITTEE –**

The specific purpose of the California Guard Dog Fund is to support and engage in legal activities related to sheep, livestock, and agriculture in California. The California Guard Dog Fund Committee shall exercise control and management over the California Guard Dog Fund. The committee shall invest, manage and protect the same to the best interests of the Association. The California Guard Dog Fund Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the Board but shall not have the authority of the Board or any final decision-making authority.

The authority of the California Guard Dog Fund Committee shall include (i) the review of and recommendation to the Board of Directors to engage in or support litigation or to submit amicus curiae briefs in one or more lawsuits related to the defense of human and civil rights and the conservation of natural resources and protection of property rights in the United States guaranteed by statute and under the United States Constitution, (ii) the institution or funding of litigation, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals, and (iii) such other efforts as the California Guard Dog Fund Committee may determine would further these principles of interest to the public.

The California Guard Dog Fund Committee shall not recommend engaging in or supporting litigation or the preparation of any amicus curiae briefs or funding of any litigation on behalf of the corporation unless the California Guard Dog Fund Committee first determines that submission of the brief or funding of litigation may assist in setting a legal precedent in furtherance of the corporation's purposes and of legitimate interest to the general public.

The California Guard Dog Fund Committee shall not recommend the commencement of litigation unless it first determines that, if the corporation were to prevail in the litigation, the potential exists to further important principles of legitimate interest to the corporation and the general public. The California Guard Dog Fund Committee shall not recommend the commencement of litigation in the name of the corporation unless the California Guard Dog Fund Committee determines that the corporation is more likely than not to have legal standing to commence a suit.

No substantial part of the activities of this fund shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the fund shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office. The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to legal and political purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director or officer, or to the benefit of any private person.

The California Guard Dog Fund Committee shall consist of five (5) members, one of who shall be elected each year for a term of four (4) years and the remaining member being the Vice President of the Corporation who shall serve as the chair. Members may be re-elected to succeed themselves. The members may or may not be members of the Board of Directors. All members must be regular voting members of the California Wool Growers Association and be dedicated to the purposes of this corporation as set forth above.

The President of the Corporation is prohibited from serving on the California Guard Dog Fund committee. Election shall be by the membership at the annual membership meeting.

*The CWGA membership instructed the Board and Committee to begin the process of transitioning the California Guard Dog Fund to a 501(c)(3) fund.*



## CWGA 2018 Photo Contest Winners

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**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – “Lamb Kiss” ~ Beatriz Indart

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – “Old Man & His Sheep”  
~ Dan Macon

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** – “Boys Will Be Boys”  
~ Christina Elgorriaga - Etchamendy

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# THANK YOU, 158<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Convention Sponsors!

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# California Wolf Updates

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## CDFW Acknowledges Presence of New Wolves

Early August, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) updated three important documents on its gray wolf webpage: “Quarterly Wolf News,” “Wolf Activity Map” and “California’s Known Wolves – Past and Present.”

In its Quarterly News update, CDFW formally acknowledges the presence of several new wolves previously sighted by ranchers in northern California. CDFW acknowledged that the Lassen Pair has produced a new litter of pups, with trail camera video confirming at least two new pups on June 29. This is the Lassen Pair’s second litter of pups; at least three pups whelped in 2017 survive. CDFW also reports two uncollared black wolves, one in northern Lassen County and another in southern Lassen County.

Also of note is the expanding geographic range of wolves in California. Legislative Bulletin reported on June 18 that OR-54 had traveled as far south as Nevada County. CDFW’s update reports that OR-54 traveled 748 miles across six counties (Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Plumas, Sierra, and Nevada) between April 15 and the end of June. Another wolf seen in Siskiyou County in recent months, OR-44, was also reported to have ventured westward into Del Norte County between March and May.

CWGA continues to engage with CDFW to try to ensure transparent communication about California’s known wolves.

To receive wolf updates directly from CDFW, click “Subscribe to Gray Wolf Updates by Email” in the upper right-hand corner at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf>.

## CDFW Confirms Three Livestock Depredations by Lassen Wolf Pack

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued the following Livestock Loss Determination reports in August and September:

- August 15 – Lassen Pack killed a one-week-old calf in western Lassen County on August 15.
- September 7 – Lassen Pack killed a six-month-old calf in western Lassen County on September 7.
- September 19 – Lassen Pack killed a 450-pound calf in western Lassen County on September 19.

Ranchers suspect the Lassen Pack in numerous other livestock deaths in which CDFW did not issue a confirmation. CDFW acknowledges in its Wolf Conservation Plan that the number of actual livestock depredations by wolves is likely to exceed the number of confirmed kills. To date, CDFW has investigated 24 suspected depredations in Lassen and Plumas counties, confirming five, finding two others to be “probable” depredations by wolves, labeling five as “possible/unknown” and determining the remainder of investigated livestock deaths to be of “other” origin.

Depredation reports can be viewed at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf>.

## If you suspect a wolf

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 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.



# Legislative Update

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## California Legislature Passes Major Wildfire Reform Legislation

Near midnight on the last day of the 2018 legislative session, the California legislature adopted sweeping legislation that will help address the root causes of California's recent destructive wildfires – mismanaged forests. SB 901 (Dodd) received bipartisan support in both the California State Senate and California State Assembly and will appropriate \$1 billion for forest management, fuel load reductions and the application of prescribed fire to increase fire resiliency throughout the landscape.

Funding will be distributed in the form of grants by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) in the amount of \$200,000,000 per year for five years. Given wildfires continue to serve as California's largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, grant funds will be generated by the existing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, not a new fee or tax.

Other beneficial regulatory reforms provided for under the legislation, among others, include:

- Requires conservation easements purchased with state funds to maintain and improve forest health.
- Provides that timber removed as a result of a fuel reduction project conducted by, or in partnership with, a public agency or a nonprofit can now be sold commercially.
- Establishes a new Timber Harvest Plan exemption for landowners with less than 100 acres.
- Increases the diameter of trees that can be removed from 30 inches to 36 inches within specified areas.
- Provides an exemption for 150-300 feet surrounding a habitable structure to be treated for defensible space.
- Provides a CEQA exemption for prescribed burns, thinning, or fuel reduction on federal lands that have been reviewed under NEPA for projects conducted by state or local agencies.

SB 901 also included provisions that require utility companies to “harden” their infrastructure to prevent future wildfires and implement wildfire mitigation plans. In addition, the legislation provided new ratepayer protections to ensure ratepayers are not responsible for financial liability attributed to a utility company that acted negligently and as a result, caused a catastrophic wildfire resulting in claims for the destruction of personal and private property.

Although not perfect and additional work will absolutely be necessary moving forward, SB 901 secures a real commitment by the state to address decades of mismanagement, fire suppression and other policies that continue to cause larger and more catastrophic wildfires year-after-year.

## Congress Passes Bill to Protect Grazing at Point Reyes

On September 24, Congress passed H.R. 6687 introduced by Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA), co-sponsored by Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT), to protect historic dairy and beef ranching at the Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County.

H.R. 6687 directs that the Secretary of the Interior “shall manage agricultural property...to maintain working dairies and ranches on agricultural property as part of the seashore's unique historic, cultural, scenic and natural values.” This language would protect ranchers from lawsuits such as that filed by three environmental groups in 2016 which sought to “phase out the commercial grazing of livestock where possible” because livestock ranching allegedly “impairs or threatens to impair natural values, resources, public recreation, wildlife, and other purposed for which the National Seashore was created.”

Finally, H.R. 6687 would direct that dairy and cattle ranches at Point Reyes National Seashore be granted 20-year grazing leases, a long-sought-after goal for ranchers at the Seashore.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.



# Legislative Update

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## U.S., China Trade Dispute Escalates

On September 17, as part of the United States' continuing response to China's theft of American intellectual property and forced transfer of American technology, the Office of the United States Trade Representative released a list of approximately \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports that will be subject to additional tariffs. In accordance with the direction of President Trump, the additional tariffs will be effective starting Sept. 24, and initially will be in the amount of 10 percent. Starting Jan. 1, 2019, the level of the additional tariffs will increase to 25 percent.

The list contains 5,745 full or partial lines of the original 6,031 tariff lines that were on a proposed list of Chinese imports announced on July 10. Changes to the proposed list were made after USTR and the interagency Section 301 Committee sought and received comments during a six-week period and testimony during a six-day public hearing in August. The Office of USTR believes it engaged in a thorough process to rigorously examine the comments and testimony and, as a result, determined to fully or partially remove 297 tariff lines from the original proposed list.

## House Natural Resources Committee Passes Caucus' Endangered Species Act Modernization Bills Through Committee

On September 26, the House Committee on Natural Resources conducted a full committee hearing on the Western Caucus' Bipartisan Endangered Species Act (ESA) Modernization Package. The legislative package of nine bills addresses the shortcomings of the ESA by fixing the listing process, adding framework for a clear de-listing process, addressing the petition backlog issue, removing unnecessary impediments to economic development, involving state and local input, and creating a mechanism that facilitates voluntary conservation efforts.

The House Committee on Natural Resources passed four bills: H.R. 3608, the "Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act," H.R. 6346 "The WHOLE Act," H.R. 6345 "The EMPOWERS Act," and H.R. 6355 "The PETITION Act" through a full Committee markup.

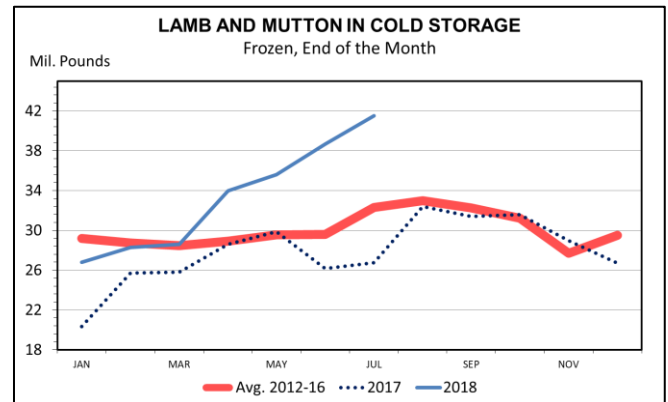
- H.R. 3608, the "Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act" introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock (CA-04) requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to track, report to Congress, and make available online: 1) funds expended to respond to ESA lawsuits; 2) the number of employees dedicated to litigation; and 3) attorney's fees awarded in the course of ESA litigation and settlement agreements. The bill also requires the federal government to disclose to affected states all data used prior to any ESA listing decisions and require that the "best available scientific and commercial data" used by the federal government include data provided by affected states, tribes, and local governments. Finally, this bill prioritizes resources towards species protection by placing reasonable caps on attorney's fees.
- H.R. 6346 "The WHOLE Act" introduced by Rep. Mike Johnson (LA-04) would ensure that all species protections and conservation measures are considered in their totality when determining the likelihood of destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.
- H.R. 6345 "The EMPOWERS Act" introduced by Rep. Steve Pearce (NM-02) provides for greater involvement of State and local governments with regard to ESA petitions and decisions to list species.
- H.R. 6355 "The PETITION Act" by Rep. Bruce Westerman (AR-04) addresses the longstanding issue of petition backlogs, which drain limited federal resources and result in unnecessary lawsuits.

# Lamb Market Updates

## U.S. Sheep/Lamb Sector Struggles with Huge Frozen Stocks, Again

Of all the animal-based proteins, large frozen stocks of lamb and mutton tend to be the most influential on wholesale and live animal prices. Compared to other meats and poultry, the quantity of frozen lamb and mutton as a proportion of production can be dramatically larger. As a proportion of quarterly production beef, pork, and poultry in frozen stocks are small.

However, in recent years frozen lamb and mutton has at times been equivalent to, or larger than, a whole quarter of U.S. tonnage produced. That situation first occurred in 2014, and burdensome frozen tonnage persisted into mid-2016. Then those stocks were finally worked-off. In the second quarter of this year, frozen tonnage again became very large.



The latest USDA-NASS Cold Storage report (data for the end of July) put frozen lamb and mutton tonnage at 55% above a year ago and the largest for any month since the end of May 2016. The types of products in commercial freezers is unknown. Has the build-up been mostly imported product, or domestic? Is it high value cuts (e.g., rack of lamb) or less valuable parts of the carcass?

Based on past experience, we do know that when frozen stocks have been huge in this sector prices have tended to be capped, and less seasonal than normal. When those stocks are finally worked-down, the stage is set for stronger prices. This year's price of slaughter lambs, and hence to some extent feeder lambs, have been lower than forecast over the last three to four months. In fact, lamb prices have been below a year ago, and that situation has been related to market dynamics that have resulted in a surge in frozen products. Declining tonnage in cold storage will eventually uncapp lamb prices, but that transition has not begun.

Source: Livestock Marketing Information Center, [www.lmic.info](http://www.lmic.info).

## Lack of Heavy Lambs Constrains Australia Exports to U.S.

Recent high prices for lambs reflect a constrained supply coming onto the market, in particular a lack of quality heavy lambs. As reported in Prices & Markets, poor seasonal conditions have also delayed the influx of new season lambs out of NSW.

### Lamb Exports To the U.S. Ease 16%

International demand for sheepmeat, supported by a softer Australian dollar, has supported prices with China and the U.S. leading the way as the largest recipients of Australian sheepmeat in 2018.

So far this year, sheepmeat exports to the U.S. have continued to expand, up 8% year-on-year, with lamb and mutton exports climbing 5% and 19%, respectively. However, limited availability of heavy categories saw lamb exports to the U.S. in August ease 16% year-on-year (but offset by increased mutton shipments).

Ever-increasing competition from China has also pressured shipments to the U.S.; in the first seven months of 2018, the U.S. ceased being Australia's largest lamb export market on a volume basis (but it remains Australia's most valuable).

U.S. farm gate lamb prices have declined in recent weeks; however, the price of imported product remains historically high, underpinned by the high cost of lambs in both Australia and New Zealand.

Source: Meat & Livestock Australia, <https://www.mla.com.au>.

# Lamb Market Updates

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## U.S. Lamb Exports Still Climbing

U.S. lamb exports continue to rebound from last year's low totals as July volume jumped 104 percent from a year ago to 1,209 mt and value increased 46 percent to \$2.17 million. Through July, lamb exports increased 54 percent in volume (6,680 mt) and 21 percent in value (\$13.44 million). While much of this growth is attributable to stronger lamb variety meat demand in Mexico, muscle cut exports trended higher to the Caribbean, the United Arab Emirates, the ASEAN region and Taiwan.

Source: U.S. Meat Export Federation, [www.usmef.org](http://www.usmef.org).

## New Zealand Sheep Flock Continues to Decline

ACROSS the ditch dairy is now “king”.

However the switch from sheep to beef cattle also continues with Beef and Lamb New Zealand forecasting further growth in the beef herd at the expense of sheep and lamb.

At a time when Asian demand for sheep meat is on the rise, the reduction in supply from our only real international trade competitor is helping support Australian lamb and sheep prices.

On the back of the forecast lower breeding stock, the NZ lamb crop is anticipated to decline 3.8 percent to 22.8 million head, while the beef herd is forecast to increase by 1.9 percent.

Over the past fifteen years, a distinct pattern of declining supply has been in evidence.

While the 2016, 2011 and 2009 seasons saw bigger flock reductions, at around a 5 percent decline for breeding ewes and 10 percent decline for the lamb crop, the latest forecast remains significant enough to have an impact on the overall flock size.

The Australian flock rebuild stalled into winter as the dry conditions in NSW made it difficult to continue to grow numbers.

However, robust wool and sheep meat prices will encourage a flock rebuild once the climate returns to a more favourable setting.

The breeding intentions from the AWI-MLA Sheepmeat February survey signalled that 29 percent of Australian producers were intending to increase the flock and while currently on hold, it's likely to return once conditions allow.

### What Does It Mean?

In global export terms, Australia and New Zealand supply around 70 percent of the sheep meat market and in many of Australia's key international markets NZ is our only real competitor.

On top of the 2017 trade into Asia of \$2.1 billion, OECD forecasts for the next five years suggest that demand for sheep meat from Asia is set to average around a 2 percent growth rate, annually.

With NZ supply forecast to continue to decline, the demand from offshore will need to find a source country to secure product and Australia is the obvious solution.

Our mutton exports into Asia have been tracking 16.6 percent above average in 2018 and lamb exports have been even more impressive, at 35 percent above average.

Asian demand for our sheep meat has underpinned the solid prices enjoyed this season and with the NZ sheep industry continuing to contract, there is not much to suggest this won't continue.

Source: Queensland Country Life, [www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au](http://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au).





## SHEEP PRODUCTION 101 WORKSHOP

*Workshop hosted by the California Wool Growers Association and UC Davis Dept. of Animal Science*

**Date:** Saturday, October 13, 2018

**Time:** 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Location:** Cole Facility, University of California, Davis, CA

**Registration Information:**

- Workshop Cost ~ \$25.00 for members, \$35.00 non-members
- Registration Deadline: October 5<sup>th</sup>
- Late Fee: \$10.00
- Details at [www.californiawoolgrowers.org](http://www.californiawoolgrowers.org)

*Please join us for a Sheep Production 101 Workshop at the University of California Davis. This workshop will focus on sheep production basics, animal handling (e.g. proper vaccination techniques, hoof trimming), breeding practices, nutrition, lambing, and predator management.*

*This workshop is open to ALL sheep producers, large and small, and industry stakeholders.*

**Further details at** [www.californiawoolgrowers.org](http://www.californiawoolgrowers.org).

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# New U.S. Lamb Industry Leadership Roundtable Sets Priorities to Meet Goals

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While some of the Lamb Industry Roadmap recommendations have already been addressed, the four key goals still remain relevant and more work needs to be done. The goals of the Roadmap are:

1. Make American lamb a premier product every time
2. Promote lamb as a premier meat
3. Improve productivity to remain competitive
4. Work together as a whole industry

The Roadmap helped bring the industry together to focus on these goals and it is important to continue to facilitate this collaboration and passion to grow and strengthen the U.S. lamb industry. The Roadmap Implementation Committee has turned the reigns over to the national sheep organizations and sector leaders that have the resources to implement these strategies and commit to industry wide collaboration. These strategies require coordination and collaboration across all sectors and industry organizations. The Roadmap Implementation team has been dissolved and a new lamb industry Leadership Roundtable has been established to help drive changes throughout the supply chain that will increase the industry's productivity and profitability in every segment.

The goal is to provide a forum for leaders from all sectors and national industry organizations to:

- Discuss industry challenges and issues
- Develop strategies to address the four Roadmap goals above
- Work together to gain back market share from imported lamb
- Strengthen our industry's competitive and long-term profitability

Roundtable Members:

- Benny Cox and Peter Orwick, American Sheep Industry Association (ASI)
- Dale Thorne and Megan Wortman, American Lamb Board (ALB)
- Ryan Indart, National Lamb Feeders Assn. (NLFA)
- Rick Stott, Superior Farms
- Frank Moore, Mountain States Rosen
- Reid Redden, Texas A&M AgriLife (Research and Extension Representative)
- Chairman: Dan Lippert, Producer and Feeder

The leadership roundtable held their first meeting in August 2018 and committed to work on the following priorities:

1. Support an expanded role for the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) to improve production efficiencies, increase the supply of out of season lambs and improve the quality and consistency of American Lamb. As NSIP's role is to motivate producers to be more productive and more profitable, they are ideally suited to educate producers about genetic selection as part of a system-wide approach to improving overall production efficiencies.
2. Increase the supply of out of season lambs. The Roundtable aims to increase the supply of packer-ready lambs between May – September by shifting current production and encouraging additional production through an industry wide education and awareness campaign.
3. Improve feedback to producers and feeders regarding carcass quality. The Roundtable supports working towards broad industry commitment of a feedback loop for all lamb processed and ensuring the electronic grading is being fully utilized to evaluate carcass qualities beyond weight.

## North Face Debuts The CALI Wool Collection

Two-thirds of the wool produced by a flock of sheep at Bare Ranch, a large ranch in Northern California, is now going to The North Face.

The ranch was the first to adopt a so-called “carbon farm plan” to change its practices to help reverse its own emissions, sequestering more carbon in the soil than it produces. Last year, The North Face used the “climate beneficial” wool to launch a knit hat that quickly sold out on its website. The company is now adding men’s and women’s jackets made from the wool to the line, along with a new climate-beneficial scarf.



“We’re doing this because it aligns very well with our strategy to reduce our environmental impact and to protect our outdoor playground,” says James Rogers, director of sustainability at The North Face. “The more that we can expand and scale these types of programs, the more good we’re doing. The other [reason] is that we hope it influences the industry as a whole, so the more we can keep programs like this visible to consumers and visible to the industry, the more it can help scale this type of climate-beneficial wool in general.”

The ranch worked with a nonprofit called Fibershed to create a carbon plan, which calls for several changes to the way standard ranches work now. Bare Ranch is applying a layer of compost to its grazed grassland and its cropland, which is predicted to sequester tens of thousands of metric tons of carbon over the next 20 years. Sheep and cattle will graze in rotation, so grass can regrow to keep sucking up carbon. Trees will be planted on more than 100 acres of treeless pasture, giving animals shade and absorbing more carbon. Native plants and trees are being planted to restore the ecosystem around a stream. In total, all of the changes are estimated to help the ranch sequester more than 4,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide each year, or the equivalent of taking 800 cars off the road.

The North Face is hoping to spur more demand across the apparel industry for wool produced this way. “Part of our strategy is to encourage adoption by the entire industry because that’s really how you make change at scale,” Rogers says. More than 100 other wool producers in the U.S. are also now working on or have completed carbon farm plans. Rogers says that what’s needed now is a shift in other major wool-producing regions, such as China, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. “In order to really scale, I think you need adoption on a global level instead of just a regional level.”

To view the CALI Wool Collection go to - <https://www.thenorthface.com/featured/cali-wool-collection.html>.

## 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 Bud Gutzman ~ Anonymous*

*In memory of Steve Mendenhall ~ Anonymous*

*In memory of Helen Matulich ~ Anonymous*

## 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.

*~ Morgan Doran*

## FY 2019 Scrapie Program Ear Tag Changes

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Throughout FY 2018, APHIS provided metal serial or flock ID ear tags to sheep and goat producers free of charge. Due to significant increases in the cost of metal tags, Veterinary Services will only provide metal serial tags in FY 2019 and limit the number of free tags available to producers in order to keep costs within budget.

Producers and other entities may receive up to 100 metal serial tags every 2 years. Markets will continue to get the number of metal serial tags they require.

In response to industry's request to have the metal tags stand out better on white ears, APHIS will provide orange metal serial tags (versus white) going forward. Slaughter-only metal serial ear tags will continue to be blue.

APHIS remains committed to animal disease traceability and rapid response when scrapie outbreaks occur. These changes allow APHIS to continue equitably distributing metal tags to sheep and goat producers, and the markets, within available funding levels. Limiting the funds spent on ear tags allows APHIS to maintain the surveillance essential to eradicating this fatal degenerative disease.

### To order official sheep and goat eartags/devices:

The National Scrapie Eradication Program provides a limited number of free official metal serial ear tags to sheep and goat producers.

Call 1-866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824) to be connected to your USDA Veterinary Services Office or State Office Veterinarian and request that a premises identification number and Flock ID be assigned to your flock. If you want to purchase 840 RFID or 840 visual only tags also request that a National Premises Identification Number or Location Identification Number be assigned to your flock.

If you want to use USDA serial metal eartags, you may request up to 100 serial metal tags (either regular serial tags or blue slaughter only serial tags) every 24 months at no cost from USDA. The 505S applicator for the official metal tags can be purchased directly from the National Band and Tag Company at (859) 261-2035. USDA is no longer providing flock ID style tags to reduce cost and is transitioning from white to orange metal serial tags to make them more visible on white ears. Markets may request the amount needed for the current fiscal year. For more information on this change see the Stakeholder Registry notice.

If you would prefer to purchase a different kind of eartag or device, contact one of the approved tag companies listed at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct\\_to\\_order\\_ear\\_tags](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct_to_order_ear_tags) to purchase the eartags or device and applicator. Approved eartag companies offer a wider range of colors, styles and devices.

Regular program tags are available to all producers. SFCP tags are only available to flocks participating in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program.

### You Are the Key to Declaring the U.S. Free of Scrapie

Scrapie is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) affecting sheep and goats. The presence of classical scrapie in the U.S. sheep and goat population affects industry economically through production losses, lost exports, and increased production and disposal costs.

In order to declare the U.S. "scrapie free", we must be able to prove to the world that we have conducted testing in all sheep and goat populations. This is why your submission of samples from sheep/goats over 18 months of age found dead or euthanized on your farm is extremely important. Without your help, we will not be able to declare the US free of scrapie.

To learn more visit [www.eradicatescrapie.org](http://www.eradicatescrapie.org) or the USDA/APHIS [Scrapie Disease Information website](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct_to_order_ear_tags).

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- AND **EXCLUSIVE** access to:
  - Footvax (*limited supplies available, pre-orders for fall 2018 due October 5<sup>th</sup>*)
  - New CWGA Footrot vaccine (*expected 2019*)
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To order, contact the CWGA office at 916-444-8122 or [erica@woolgrowers.org](mailto:erica@woolgrowers.org).

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

### Vaccination Webinar Archived for Future Viewing

Dr. J Bret Taylor's webinar from Sept. 18 on *Getting the Most Out of Your Vaccination Program* is now archived and available for additional viewing. Taylor is the Director, Research Leader and Supervisory Scientist at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho.

To access a recording of the webinar, go to – <https://youtu.be/xAC79cE2otE>

To view a copy of the slides used in the presentation go to – <http://www.sheepagriculture.com/webinars/getting-the-most-out-of-your-vaccination-program/>

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### **Mark Your Calendars**

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October 6 – 7, 2018

Lambtown Festival

Dixon, CA

**October 13, 2018**

**CWGA Sheep 101 Workshop**

**UC Davis, Davis, CA**

November 19, 2018

Fibershed Wool Symposium

Point Reyes Station, CA

December 7, 2018

Board of Directors Meeting

Modesto, CA

January 19, 2019

UC Davis Aggie Classic Sale

Davis, CA

January 23 – 26, 2019

ASI Annual Convention

New Orleans, LA

**April 13, 2019**

**California Ram Sale**

**Porterville, CA**

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



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