



Herd the News

March/April 2019

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

CWGA Hosts 99th Annual California Ram Sale

Sacramento, CA. – California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) is hosting the 99th annual California Ram Sale on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Porterville Fairgrounds.

More than 500 rams including Composite, Crossbred, Dorper, Merino, Hampshire, Oxford, Suffolk, and White-Faced rams will be offered from California, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah.

Ultrasound carcass measurements (i.e. loin eye area) and a Range Ram Index will be provided on all sale rams. The Range Ram Index utilizes ultrasound carcass data collected at the sale and will help to identify the potential genetic merit of those rams in passing superior genetic traits such as larger loin eye area or heavier carcass weights into producer flocks.

This year's Ram Sale Trade Show will feature a variety of sheep health and equipment companies showcasing products developed to address sheep production, nutritional, and health needs.

Ram Sale information including the sale catalog, sale schedule, lodging information, directions, etc. is available on the CWGA website at - www.californiawoolgrowers.org.

To request a Ram Sale Catalog, contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122.

Sale Schedule – Saturday, April 13, 2019

9:00 am	Buyer Check-In & Ram Preview
9:30 am	Trade Show
11:30 am	Complimentary Buyer BBQ Lamb Luncheon
1:00 pm	Ram Sale Auction

Location: Porterville Fairgrounds, 2700 West Teapot Dome Ave. Porterville, CA 93257

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

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

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Happy Easter to You and Your Family!



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Presidents Message – Dan Macon



Dear CWGA membership,

As I write this, the sun is shining here in the Sierra foothills, and our grass is finally starting to grow. We're nearly done with lambing, and my thoughts are turning to moving our sheep back to our spring/summer ranch and getting on the schedule for our shearer. Before I know it, our irrigation water will come back on, and I'll begin every day for the next six months moving water and feeding guardian dogs. As ever, time moves on!

Time moves on for our association, too! I feel like I just returned from the American Sheep Industry conference in New Orleans! In less than a month (on Saturday, April 13, to be exact), sheep producers from all over California and the West will converge on the fairgrounds in Porterville, CA, for the 99th Annual California Ram Sale! As always, Dr. Wes Patton and John and Connie Olagaray and our Ram Sale Committee have done an outstanding job organizing this year's event! More than 500 range rams, including Hampshires, Suffolks, White-Face, Composite, and Crossbred rams have been consigned. And once again, we'll be providing ultrasound carcass measurements and a Range Ram Index designed to help buyers evaluate each ram's potential for passing on superior carcass traits. I hope you'll join us at the Ram Sale. If you'd like volunteer before or during the sale, please contact Erica at the office – we can always use more help!

As you may have heard by now, the California Department of Industrial Relations recently made significant changes to the rules governing overtime and hourly wages for agricultural workers. These new rules, which were promulgated following the passage of AB 1066, removed the sheepherder exemption relative to overtime (even though sheepherders remain subject to special exemptions in federal immigration/labor laws and regulations). While we are still working to determine the exact impact and interpretation of these changes, they could (obviously) have devastating impacts on our entire industry.

This issue affects all of us, large and small producers alike! For those of us who employ herders to care for our sheep, these changes could put the price of hiring a herder out of reach. For those of us who are small-scale producers (like me), the potential loss of infrastructure (like access to shearers, pharmaceutical products, veterinarians, feed suppliers, etc.) could be equally damaging. To coordinate our association's response to this issue, I have appointed an ad hoc Labor Committee chaired by Ryan Indart and Dominique Minaberrigarai. The members of the committee are Andree Soares, Ben Elgorriaga, Steve Elgorriaga, Florence Cubiburu, Frankie Iturriria, and Richard Hamilton. We have also contracted with Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLC to manage a grassroots effort to maintain this critical exemption. In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to California legislators in key districts, as well as to the Newsome administration, regarding this issue.

Obviously, our efforts on this problem will require significant financial and time resources in the coming months. As you might imagine, Erica will be focused on

this topic for the foreseeable future. We established our California Guard Dog Fund with this kind of challenge in mind – and your contribution to our Guard Dog Fund is vital! If you’ve already contributed to the California Guard Dog Fund, thank you – I hope you’ll add to your gift (as I did this week)! If you have not, please consider a contribution this month to the California Guard Dog Fund to lend an extra hand to protect the California sheep industry on all fronts. And please reach out to your non-member friends – this will affect us all!

Finally, it’s not too early to start making plans to attend this year’s Annual Meeting and Convention! We’ll be gathering at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden, Nevada on August 22-24, 2019. The meeting will kick off with a local industry tour on Thursday, a wool and fiber quality workshop on Friday (capped off with dinner at JT’s Basque Bar and Dining Room!), and our annual membership meeting and Shepherds Ball on Saturday. Erica is planning another outstanding event; I hope you’ll make plans to join us!

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, concerns, or ideas! You can reach me at (530) 305-3270 or by email at flyingmulefarm@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members

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

Robert Ball, Ball Brothers Sheep Co., Lewisville, CA

Kayla Coughlin, Rolling C Kisses, Browns Valley, CA

Camille Gordon, Wilton, CA

William H. Goring, Goring Ranch, Deweyville, UT

Sam Kennedy, Glendale Farm, Hampshire, TN

James Malooley, McMinnville, CA

Scott Martin, Tracy, CA

Pamela Oshay, Penn Valley, CA

Kathy Sheesley, Browns Valley, CA

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

CWGA Guard Dog Funds Received

The CWGA Guard Dog Fund was established in 2018 to support and engage in legal activities related to sheep, livestock, and agriculture in California. The fund is the only Association resources devoted strictly to support and engage in legislative issues and litigation.

Sharon & Ron Harston, Sebastopol, CA

Gary & Wanda Johnson, Boonville, CA

Dan Macon, Flying Mule Farm, Auburn, CA

Nevada Wool Growers Association

Dennis Pluth, Pluth’s Homestead Ranch (Est 1882), Clearlake Oaks, CA

Kathleen Robidart, Round Timbers Ranch, Lodi, CA

Andrée Soares, Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc. Los Banos, CA

From the Flock

A firsthand report from California sheep and wool producers

For this issue we asked California Ram Sale consignors about accessibility to sheep animal health products.



Lloyd McCabe
Yolo County

Initially, I was having a problem securing antibiotics. However, I met with my local veterinarian and he now provides me with the medicine I need for my flock.

I am extremely concerned about future accessibility to antibiotics and vaccines in the future.



Cecilia Parsons
Tulare County

It appears that the days of going down to the feed store and expecting to buy antibiotics and vaccines needed for processing lambs the next day are over.

There have been challenges in obtaining certain health products for livestock in the past year, and not only because some of them require a vet prescription. Tetanus antitoxin and eye ointment are two examples of products that could not be found anywhere earlier this year, even at the vet. Last year Bo-Se was on back order for months. Penicillin was difficult to obtain at one point last fall. A fellow sheep producer told me today that the sheep salt with selenium is no longer available from a long-time source. Most sheep producers I know keep LA 200 and Penicillin on hand, but due to shortages or needing a prescription, that is becoming difficult- unless you plan ahead.

If I want to continue my current flock health protocol, I am going to have to let the vet know what I will need and hope he can find it in time.



Blair Summey
Placer County

I am a small sheep producer, so my needs are small as far as quantity. I have an excellent working relationship with my vet Dr. Robin Skillman and I purchase the vast majority through her practice. However, she is not immune to antibiotic shortages from manufacturers and as a result I am currently unable to purchase Zactran, which is crucial in the treatment of footrot and pneumonia. I have been forced to use Draxxin, which is far more expensive and nowhere as effective for footrot as Zactran.

Cost of shipping has also had an effect on some of my vaccines. For example, I vaccinate for soremouth and the shipping costs nearly doubles the cost of the vaccine. I am hopeful I will be able to purchase Vibrio and Blue Tongue vaccines this coming year through the California Wool Growers Association.

Prevention is a key factor in the health of our flock and with the loss of antibiotics in the form of feed additives I have had to modify our prevention for late term abortions by administering injectable LA200 during the last trimester which has increased our cost and labor/man hours administering the antibiotics.

Plan to Attend CWGA's Annual Meeting in Minden, NV

The 2019 CWGA Annual Meeting & Convention will be held on August 22 – 24 in Minden, NV.

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

Lodging Information:



For online reservations go to www.carsonvalleyinn.com (Select Reservations/Group Sign-In) and enter the following group code: 1528.

Or call 800-321-6983 and mention the California Wool Growers Association.

Room Rates: Hotel: Sun/Thurs \$92.00, Fri/Sat \$115.00

Registration: Opens May 2019

Things to do in Carson Valley

Carson Valley is a place where you can choose to do as much or as little as you prefer. You can soar in a glider, hit the links, tour museums, tackle bike trails and ski slopes, find a bald eagle in your viewfinder, bounce your way into a desert sunrise in search of wild horses or wrap the day in the raucously communal setting of a Basque restaurant. Then again, you can set aside moments to pause, reflect and rediscover the power of simply “being.”

Just 45 minutes south of Reno and only 12 miles east of South Lake Tahoe, Carson Valley offers an abundance of authentic adventure.

To learn more about what the valley has to offer go to - <https://visitcarsonvalley.org/>.

Tentative Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Local Area Industry Tour

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Ram Sale Committee Meeting

Wool & Fiber Quality Workshop

Board of Directors Meeting

Dinner at J.T.'s Basque Bar & Dining Room

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Annual Membership Meeting

Past Presidents Lunch

Antimicrobial Use & Stewardship Update

Delving into Sheep Industry Labor Issues

Cocktail Reception

Shepherds Ball & Banquet

Calling All Photographers

Start taking your pictures as CWGA will be hosting a sheep photography contest again at this year's Annual Meeting.

Contest pictures are utilized in CWGA publications, social media outlets and other Association materials.

Look for details in the next issue of *Herd the News*.

99th Annual California Ram Sale Catalog

California Guard Dog Fund - Fundraiser

2 - Guard Dog Pups: 3/4 Pyrenees & 1/4 Anatolian, DOB: 12/25/18

Donated by Estill Ranches, Winnemucca, NV

Round 1 - Registered Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
1	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	1	Suffolk
2	Chris	Stavros	Salt Lake City, UT	1	Suffolk
3	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	1	Rambouillet
4	Andy	Edmondson	Loma Rica, CA	1	Merino
5	Andy	Edmondson	Loma Rica, CA	1	Merino

Round 2 - White Face Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
6	Nash	Hansen	Fairview, UT	1	White Face
7	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	1	White Face
8	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	White Face
9	Cecilia	Parsons	Ducor, CA	1	White Face
10	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	2	White Face
11	Cole	Estill	Winnemucca, NV	3	White Face
12	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	1	White Face
13	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	2	White Face
14	Henry	Ratay	Corning, CA	1	White Face
15	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	1	White Face
16	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	White Face
17	Cecilia	Parsons	Ducor, CA	1	White Face
18	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	2	White Face
19	Cole	Estill	Winnemucca, NV	2	White Face
20	Henry	Ratay	Corning, CA	2	White Face
21	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	1	White Face
22	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	White Face
23	Cecilia	Parsons	Ducor, CA	1	White Face
24	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	1	White Face
25	Henry	Ratay	Corning, CA	2	White Face
26	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	White Face
27	Cecilia	Parsons	Ducor, CA	1	White Face
28	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	White Face

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Round 3 - Crossbred Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
29	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred
30	Reed	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	4	Crossbred
31	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred
32	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred
33	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	5	Crossbred
34	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred
35	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Crossbred
36	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred
37	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	4	Crossbred
38	Justin & AJ	Olsen	Manila, UT	3	Crossbred
39	John	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred
40	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred
41	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	2	Crossbred
42	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	1	Crossbred
43	Brady	Olsen	Santaquin, UT	5	Crossbred
44	Anna	Estill	Gerlach, NV	3	Crossbred
45	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred
46	Reed	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	4	Crossbred

Round 4 - Suffolk Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
47	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	4	Suffolk
48	Lloyd	McCabe	Dixon, CA	3	Suffolk
49	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk
50	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
51	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk
52	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	4	Suffolk
53	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	5	Suffolk
54	Brady	Olsen	Santaquin, UT	5	Suffolk
55	Justin & AJ	Olsen	Manila, UT	3	Suffolk
56	Austin	Goff	Rupert, ID	5	Suffolk
57	Reed	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Suffolk
58	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk
59	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
60	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
61	Layne	Shepherd	Genola, UT	5	Suffolk
62	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
63	Chris	Stavros	Salt Lake City, UT	4	Suffolk
64	Mike & Kandi	Duff	Blackfoot, ID	5	Suffolk
65	Cole	Estill	Winnemucca, NV	2	Suffolk

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Round 4 - Suffolk Range Rams cont'd

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
66	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
67	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Suffolk
68	Kurt & Carol	Heupel	Weldona, CO	4	Suffolk
69	Jim	Stavros	Fairview, UT	3	Suffolk
70	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk
71	Dawson	Shepherd	Genola, UT	5	Suffolk
72	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	5	Suffolk
73	Richard	Jacobsen	LeGrand, CA	3	Suffolk
74	Jack	Massera	Salinas, CA	2	Suffolk
75	John	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
76	Henry	Ratay	Corning, CA	3	Suffolk
77	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	4	Suffolk
78	Lloyd	McCabe	Dixon, CA	5	Suffolk
79	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk
80	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
81	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk
82	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	4	Suffolk
83	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	4	Suffolk
84	Justin & AJ	Olsen	Manila, UT	3	Suffolk
85	Austin	Goff	Rupert, ID	5	Suffolk
86	Reed	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Suffolk
87	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk
88	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
89	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk

Round 5 - All Other Breeds Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
90	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	4	Hampshire
91	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	2	Hampshire
92	Jack	Massera	Salinas, CA	3	Hampshire
93	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	3	Hampshire
94	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	2	Oxford
95	Henry	Ratay	Corning, CA	2	Dorper

Round 6 - Composite Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
96	Nancy	East	Alturas, CA	4	Suffolk x Texel x Columbia
97	Nancy	East	Alturas, CA	4	Suffolk x Texel x Columbia

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Round 7 - Crossbred Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
98	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred
99	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred
100	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	4	Crossbred
101	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred
102	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	3	Crossbred
103	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	4	Crossbred
104	Justin & AJ	Olsen	Manila, UT	3	Crossbred
105	John	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred
106	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred
107	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	3	Crossbred
108	Anna	Estill	Gerlach, NV	2	Crossbred
109	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred
110	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred
111	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	Crossbred
112	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	3	Crossbred
113	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred
114	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	Crossbred

Round 8 - Suffolk Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
115	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
116	Chris	Stavros	Salt Lake City, UT	4	Suffolk
117	Mike & Kandi	Duff	Blackfoot, ID	5	Suffolk
118	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
119	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	5	Suffolk
120	Kurt & Carol	Heupel	Weldona, CO	4	Suffolk
121	Jim	Stavros	Fairview, UT	3	Suffolk
122	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk
123	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	2	Suffolk
124	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk
125	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
126	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk
127	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	5	Suffolk
128	Austin	Goff	Rupert, ID	5	Suffolk
129	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk
130	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk
131	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
132	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
133	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk
134	Kurt & Carol	Heupel	Weldona, CO	4	Suffolk

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Round 8 - Suffolk Range Rams cont'd

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
135	Jim	Stavros	Fairview, UT	3	Suffolk
136	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	2	Suffolk
137	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk
138	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
139	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk
140	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk
141	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk
142	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	3	Suffolk
143	Kurt & Carol	Heupel	Weldona, CO	4	Suffolk
144	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
145	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
146	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	4	Suffolk
147	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
148	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
149	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Suffolk
150	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
151	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
152	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Suffolk
153	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
154	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
155	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk
156	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk

Thank you to all our Buyers, Consignors and Sponsors for your continued support!

California Public Lands Council Update

The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and CWGA are working to reinvigorate the California Public Lands Council (CalPLC) to provide a voice for sheep and cattle producers who graze on public lands.

If you are a Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management permittee, you'll be receiving a dues request in the near future. These California PLC dues will cover our state contributions with the national Public Lands Council (PLC) and will also help fund regional meetings with permittees and agency personnel. CalPLC dues will also help support legal and policy efforts focused on federal lands issues. Stay tuned for details! If you have questions on CalPLC, please contact CWGA President Dan Macon at flyingmulefarm@gmail.com.

Now Accepting Applications for the 2019 CWGA Scholarship

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. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior and/or student enrolled in a California Community College, 4-year University within California, California State University, or University of California, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Applications are due June 1st. To download the application, visit www.californiawoolgrowers.org (under news).

Range Ram Index: A Tool for Selecting Range Rams

Each lot of rams sold at the Ram Sale will be assigned an Average Range Ram Index Value (Ram Index) so you, the buyer, can be better informed in making your ram selections. The Ram Index estimates the potential carcass merit of the lambs sired by range rams with superior carcass characteristics. When purchasing rams, the Ram Index will help to identify the ram's potential genetic merit in passing genetic traits such as loin eye size or weight onto the ram's offspring.



How the Ram Index Is Calculated

- The Ram Index is calculated using the following carcass characteristics: loin eye area (LEA), loin depth, fat thickness (BF), and ram weight.
- These characteristics are given numerical values to measure the ram's genetic merit value relative to other rams at the California Ram Sale.
- The Ram Index is calculated using a base value of 100 for which comparisons can be made between rams with differing Ram Indexes.
- Rams with average carcass characteristics are assigned a Ram Index value of 100.
- Rams with a Ram Index over 100 (e.g. 110) will exhibit more desirable carcass characteristics (i.e. larger LEA, less BF) relative to all of the rams at the Ram Sale.
- Rams with a Ram Index under 100 (e.g. 85) will exhibit less desirable carcass characteristic relative to the other rams at the Ram Sale.
- There is potential economic incentive in selecting rams with higher Ram Index values.

Ram Index as a Ram Selection Tool

- Helps to identify rams that will sire lambs with more desirable carcass traits such as loin eye size.
- Utilizes live animal ultrasound which can provide reliable estimates of carcass quality characteristics.
- According to U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES), genetic selection for larger loin-muscle area should be expected to improve carcass merit and carcass value of market lambs.
- According to USSE research, rams with larger loin-muscle areas (i.e., loin eye area), measured between the 12th and 13th ribs, sire progeny with larger and more valuable carcasses.
- If you are marketing your lambs on a carcass value-based system such as double dressed weight there is potentially a financial incentive for selecting rams with high index numbers.
- Ultrasound technology has proven to be an objective measurement of carcass traits in live animals and an important means for the improvement of beef and swine carcass characteristics.
- Carcass traits are highly heritable and in utilizing rams with highly desirable carcass traits, a producer can implement changes in progeny carcass traits, such a larger loin eye size, in a relatively short period of time rather than relying on traditional selection methods that focus on phenotypic characteristics.
- Will benefit the industry as whole in producing a more desirable product for the consumer.

For further information on using genetics to improve productivity visit the U.S Lamb Resource Center at <http://lambresourcecenter.com/production-resources/best-practice-resources/>.

Legislative Update

Bipartisan Legislation Addresses Livestock Haulers

Rep. Collin C. Peterson (Minn.) and Rep. Greg Gianforte (Mont.) have reintroduced two pieces of bipartisan legislation to relieve certain sectors of the trucking industry from the Federal Motor Carrier Association's electronic logging device mandate.

The Small Carrier Electronic Logging Device Exemption Act of 2018 will exempt businesses which operate 10 or fewer commercial trucks from the requirements of the ELD mandate, and the Agricultural Business Electronic Logging Device Exemption Act of 2018 will exempt agricultural businesses.

"This important legislation will eliminate regulations for small trucking companies and will help reduce unnecessary stops and delays which threaten the agricultural products they help to transport," said Peterson. "These bills are a win for small businesses in rural America and our farmers."

"Electronic logging devices are more Washington red tape that ties up truckers and puts livestock and Montana livelihoods at risk," Gianforte said. "These bills will help reduce the unnecessary burden this federal mandate pushes onto Montana's small trucking operations, farmers, and ranchers."

The ELD mandate requires commercial drivers who prepare hours-of-service records to connect an electronic logging device to a vehicle's engine to record driving hours.

Feds Propose Delisting Gray Wolf from Federal Endangered Species Act

On March 6, Acting U.S. Interior Director David Bernhardt announced that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will seek to lift federal protections for gray wolves across the lower 48 states by delisting the species from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. With the gray wolf population flourishing throughout the lower 48—the population now exceeds 5,000 wolves—the Department of the Interior believes that the species has recovered to the extent that it no longer requires federal protections.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service similarly proposed delisting gray wolves in 2013 during the Obama administration, but declined to finalize the rule after a federal court reversed a similar Administration decision to delist gray wolves throughout the Great Lakes region. Should the new delisting proposal be finalized, litigation from environmental groups is a certainty.

While the proposed federal delisting is a step in the right direction, it is worth noting that federal delisting alone will not result in better management of gray wolves in California, as the species remains fully protected under the California Endangered Species Act.

Representatives Prioritize Agriculture in U.S. EU Trade Negotiations

Last week, Representatives Jackie Walorski (R-Ind.), Ron Kind (D-Wis.), Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) and Angie Craig (D-Minn.) led 114 house members in sending a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in support of agricultural products being a key negotiating objective in any trade talks with the European Union (EU). As evidenced by this letter, the Hill also strongly supports including agriculture in any trade negotiation. Unfortunately, the European Commission has consistently stated that it will not include agriculture in the negotiation process.

Grazing Fees Set for 2019

The federal grazing fee for 2019 will be \$1.35 per head month for lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and \$1.35 per animal unit month for public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. An AUM or HM - treated as equivalent measures for fee purposes - is the use of public lands by one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month. The newly calculated grazing fee was determined by a congressional formula and takes effect March 1. For details visit www.blm.gov.

Legislative Update

CA Bill Introduced to Incentivize Plant-Based School Lunches

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (D-Van Nuys) has introduced AB 479, incentivizing California public schools to serve plant-based lunch options for students. Under AB 479, dubbed by the author the Healthy Climate-Friendly School Lunch Act, local school districts would have the opportunity to seek a reimbursement from the state for serving plant-based entrees and plant-derived “milk” products. The reimbursement however would be dependent on an appropriation by the legislature. The legislation also includes training for staff and recipe development to encourage the serving of these plant-based items. The author cites California’s ambitious climate change goals and the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as the impetus for the bill.

McCarthy Introduces Legislation to Repurpose High-Speed Rail Funding to Water Infrastructure Projects

Congressman Kevin McCarthy has introduced legislation that would repurpose recovered Federal funding from the California High-Speed Rail project to critical water infrastructure projects in California and the West. McCarthy released the following statement on this legislation, H.R. 1600, the Repurposing Assets to Increase Long-term Water Availability and Yield (RAILWAY) Act.

“The California High-Speed Rail project is a boondoggle that California and American taxpayers must move on from. Since its inception, the project’s costs have ballooned while oversight and accountability within the California High-Speed Rail Authority has been nonexistent. Last month, Governor Newsom in his State of the State rightfully recognized these shortcomings and announced an end to the project as it was put to the voters.

“The RAILWAY Act would end the Federal government’s involvement in this failed endeavor by repurposing up to \$3.5 billion in recovered Federal funding for the California High-Speed Rail project to water storage infrastructure projects as outlined in the bipartisan WIIN Act. Under the WIIN Act, five storage projects in California are advancing, and when completed, could provide 5 million acre-feet of additional water storage in our state. This is a far better use of taxpayer money that can address more important needs in our state.

“California has experienced over five years of drought, and people across the state have felt the consequences with entire communities on the brink of disaster due to lack of water. The RAILWAY Act would address this crisis head-on by providing significant funding for what California really needs – infrastructure projects that help our state capture and store water during wet years for use in dry ones. The RAILWAY Act builds on the success of the WIIN Act by continuing to increase California’s drought resiliency and helping ensure our communities, families, and farmers have access to life-sustaining water.”

USDA and FDA Announce Formal Agreement to Regulate Cell-Cultured Food Products from Cell Lines of Livestock and Poultry

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have released a formal agreement to address the regulatory oversight of human food produced using this new technology.

The formal agreement describes the oversight roles and responsibilities for both agencies and how the agencies will collaborate to regulate the development and entry of these products into commerce. This shared regulatory approach will ensure that cell-cultured products derived from the cell lines of livestock and poultry are produced safely and are accurately labeled.

Under the formal agreement, the agencies agree upon a joint regulatory framework wherein FDA oversees cell collection, cell banks, and cell growth and differentiation. A transition from FDA to FSIS oversight will occur during the cell harvest stage. FSIS will oversee the production and labeling of human food products derived from the cells of livestock and poultry.

Sheep & Lamb Market Updates

USDA-NASS: American Flock Down Slightly

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), all sheep and lambs in the United States on January 1 totaled 5.23 million head, down one percent from 2018.

Breeding sheep totaled 3.82 million head, down one percent from 3.89 million head one year ago. Ewes one year old and older, at three million head, were one percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs totaled 1.41 million, up one percent.

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

The 2018 lamb crop of 3.24 million was up slightly from 2017. The 2018 lambing rate was 107 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older, up one percent from 2017.

The California sheep and lamb inventory totaled 550,000 head, down 4 percent from last year.

The report shows 16 states where the flock size increased: Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

Source: [USDA-NASS](https://www.nass.usda.gov), www.nass.usda.gov

U.S. Lamb Export Volume Largest Since 2012

Mexico's strong demand for U.S. lamb variety meat fueled a rebound in 2018 lamb exports, with combined lamb/lamb variety meat shipments climbing 77 percent in volume to 12,866 mt, the largest since 2012. Export value increased 19 percent to \$23.4 million, the highest since 2014. While this was primarily driven by larger variety meat exports, lamb muscle cuts also achieved promising growth in the Caribbean, the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines. Japan and Taiwan are also potentially strong destinations, having reopened to U.S. lamb in 2018 and 2016, respectively.

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

Global Outlook for Australian Sheepmeat

The outlook for global sheepmeat demand remains largely positive, but it isn't without risk.

Australia's place in the global sheep trade is highlighted in a newly released MLA snapshot report, accompanied by the recent Sheep industry projections and Global agri benchmark Network Results.

The Australian sheepmeat industry has completely transformed over the last three decades, with many producers transitioning from wool to an increased meat focus. Although the sheep flock declined from 170 million head in 1990 to an estimated 68 million head in 2018, lamb production has broken fresh records in recent years. Just as noteworthy has been the Australian industry's expansion into global markets, breaking away from New Zealand to become the largest exporter of sheepmeat.

Week-to-week saleyard price movements principally reflect seasonal conditions as well as the timing and size of the annual spring lamb crop; however, the steady year-on-year rise in prices in recent years has been propelled by global forces.

The outlook for global sheepmeat demand remains mostly positive, but growing calls for protectionist trade policy in international markets and signs of weakness in the global economy have presented some risks.

Source: [Meat & Livestock Australia](http://www.mla.com.au), www.mla.com.au

On the Trail of Greater Consumer Satisfaction: Third Phase of Revolutionary Lamb Flavor Research Funded



What is a major driver for consumers to choose lamb, and in particular American Lamb, for a premium? Its unique flavor. This fact has been confirmed in every American Lamb Board (ALB) consumer study. The 2015 National Lamb Quality Audit also identified flavor as the most prominent factor defining lamb quality - 71% of the lamb purchasers surveyed indicated a willingness to pay a premium for guarantees eating satisfaction (great flavor).

ALB believes that providing consistent, high quality, great tasting lamb to consumers is key to creating more demand for American Lamb. Following the National Lamb Quality Audit, the ALB set out to better understand how various factors affect lamb flavor including differences in production background, days on feed, animal age and gender. Starting in 2016, the ALB has been working with Colorado State University (CSU) on a series of innovative research projects designed to help all segments of the industry provide the best-flavored lamb possible.

ALB Flavor Research Phase I (2016)

Fat and lean compositional differences can be measured using volatile flavor compound analysis, and researchers have been able to associate meat flavor attributes with these methods. The study identified 50 metabolites responsible for lamb flavor which can be used to predict flavor to be mild or bold as well detect off-flavors. This ALB project developed a proof of concept for using these analyses to differentiate lamb flavor and found methods to use them at plant production speeds to segregate lamb carcasses into expected eating quality groups.

ALB Flavor Research Phase II (2018)

With the results of Phase I making it feasible to continue, Phase II was funded at CSU through ALB. Phase II tested the capabilities of Rapid Evaporative Ionization Mass Spectrometry (REIMS) to characterize flavor profiles of various meat tissues types and evaluated its ability to predict carcass characteristics. This study discovered that REIMS is uniquely able to capture high-resolution metabolic profiles faster than other approaches. REIMS (also known by its IKNIFE trade name) essentially burns the surface of a tissue sample to collect a metabolomic fingerprint. By using predictive sensory models developed as part of this phase, off-flavors and carcass characteristics can be identified at a high accuracy. More importantly, REIMS is able to provide this information in real-time which makes it an option for being used in harvest facilities without sacrificing necessary line speed.

Interestingly, Phase II testing found that lamb favor was not statistically different between lamb, yearling and mutton carcasses. Mutton-like and green/hay-like off-flavor intensities were the most frequently seen issues during testing.

Summary reports of Phase I and Phase II Research are available upon request: rae@americanlamb.com.

ALB Flavor Research Phase III (2019)

Now, the ALB has decided to proceed with a third phase, building on the findings of Phase I and II. In the upcoming months, researchers will determine if REIMS can identify and sort difference in sheep meat flavor based on specific and detailed consumer preferences, using data correlated to consumer sensory panels. Differentiating lamb flavor into categories that are meaningful to consumers will improve the industry's ability to market lamb and increase consumer satisfaction.

Phase III is already in the planning process and will begin during Spring 2019.

Member Spotlight: Live Wire Products, Inc.

In 1966, Jack and Nancy Henderson moved to Nevada County from Southern California.

For 10 years, they ran Hendersons' Hardware on Mill Street in Grass Valley, with an accompanying traditional fencing business. But after learning about new fencing technology at the Tulare Farm Show one year, they decided to sell the store and launch their own company, Live Wire Products, Inc., out of their small hay barn in Rough and Ready.

At the farm show, the Hendersons learned about cutting-edge technology coming out of New Zealand, which boasted smooth, low impedance electric fence controllers that offered an affordable and temporary way to contain livestock and manage pastures. This was the kind of product that the American agricultural industry had been looking for, and the Hendersons — possessing a strong entrepreneurial spirit — became the first distributor of New Zealand-style electric fencing in the U.S.

The new technology made it possible to send pulsing voltage effectively to the end of a fence, which caused a fencing revolution in the sheep industry. The fencing does not affect an animal's heart and doesn't start fires. As a result, there was a rapidly growing demand for this brand of containment for livestock species, most notably sheep.

"We were lucky — my parents got into the market early," said Karen Henderson, Jack and Nancy's daughter, who now works in the Penn Valley office.

"For the U.S. market, this became an affordable and effective defense against predators and my parents went on to work with state legislatures to ensure the products manufactured and sold are within the parameters of all new safety laws."

Tragedy struck in 1988, when the Hendersons' Rough and Ready warehouse was not spared from the massive 49er Fire. A year later, however, they found an affordable space in Marysville, where they remained until 2015. Today, their 10,000-square-foot warehouse and showroom is "back home" in Nevada County, located on Commercial Avenue off Pleasant Valley Road in Penn Valley.

Today, Karen is the only Henderson among the staff of five who comes in daily. Her parents, now 86 and 87, only recently stopped coming in every day. Karen's in-depth knowledge of the agricultural industry is an asset to her family's company — she taught agricultural science at Nevada Union High School for 20 years before retiring in 2012.

Currently, Live Wire Products, Inc. stocks a full line of permanent livestock fencing as well as permanent and temporary electric fencing. The company ships fencing tools and supplies across the U.S. and portions of Canada. On any given day, it's not unusual to see a 53-foot trailer tractor with a new shipment sitting outside one of their enormous bays. Some large-scale clients order massive amounts of temporary fencing for grazing their sheep after harvests. Some flocks are as large as 10,000, Karen said.

The store also sells automatic gate operators as well as livestock scales and handling equipment of sheep and beef. Aside from New Zealand, the company prides itself on selling American-made tools and supplies.

Well-known brands include Strainrite Fencing Systems, Bekaert steel wire transformation and coating technologies, Behlan Farm and Ranch Equipment and Powder River Livestock Handling Equipment.



Katie Bielen, Alex Brose, John Marcus, Conner Olsen and Karen Henderson are the people behind LiveWire Products Inc. electric and standard fence suppliers.

Over the years, the Hendersons have also made it their mission to support the beef and sheep industry within California and across the United States. They have been ongoing supporters and donors to the American Sheep Industry, California Wool Growers Association and California FFA. They are known for their generosity when it comes to donating products or contributing to scholarship fundraisers in the community.

For 35 years, customers come to rely on personal and professional advice on electric fencing and pasture management from the on-site staff at Live Wire, which includes Katie Bielen, Alex Brose, John Marcus, Conner Olsen and, of course, Karen Henderson. The company also routinely hosts educational industry fencing seminars for university field days, county extension advisers, livestock association groups and private ranches.

Every phone call to Live Wire Products, said Karen, is met with a friendly, knowledgeable staff member who has personal experience in the fencing industry. Those who visit the office in person will be treated to several very friendly dogs, who come to work daily with staffers.

"The most rewarding part of this job has been the people," said Karen. "I love walking them through the steps, helping them design a fence that works for them."

Source: The Union, www.theunion.com

APHIS Updates Policy on Scrapie Tags Provided to Industry

In response to feedback from and collaboration with the sheep and goat industry, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will provide a limited number of free, plastic tags to first time participants in the sheep and goat identification program through fiscal year (FY) 2020. APHIS is working with the sheep and goat organizations to transition toward electronic identification to improve our nation's ability to quickly trace exposed and diseased animals in the event of an outbreak. Our goal is to start to transition to electronic identification by fall 2020.

Currently, APHIS will provide up to 80 plastic flock ID tags, free-of-charge, to qualifying producers. APHIS will discontinue the availability of no-cost metal tags for producers. Dealers and markets may continue to receive metal serial tags at no cost. The no-cost metal tags previously provided to producers will be phased out in summer 2019, when the currently obligated funding is expended. During the phase out, APHIS will continue to provide, upon request, up to 100 serial metal tags free of charge to producers (either regular orange metal serial tags or blue slaughter-only metal serial tags) who haven't received APHIS-provided tags within the previous 24 months. For those that use the APHIS-provided tags, please note that you also need an applicator as well.

Producers and others who handle sheep or goats in commerce who need additional tags or want a different type of tag may purchase official plastic, metal or radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags directly from approved tag manufactures. A flock or Premises ID is required to order tags from these sources.

To request official sheep and goat tags, a flock ID or both, call 1-866-USDA-Tag (866-873-2824).

The 505S applicator for the official metal tags is available for purchase from [the National Band and Tag Company](#) at (859) 261-2035. The "Allflex Universal Tagger" for application of the plastic tags provided by APHIS is available for purchase from multiple sources including directly from Allflex at (833) 727-2743. A list of approved sheep and goat tag manufacturers is on the [APHIS Scrapie Program website](#).

To report a sheep or goat with clinical signs of scrapie, please contact your local VS office or State Veterinarian. For California call 916-854-3950. APHIS will pay indemnity for adult sheep or goats with neurological or other signs or that are determined to be consistent with scrapie.

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

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Contact Tim Barman by email at Tim@tjdorpers.com or call 661-549-1473.

All pictures and pedigree will be available online at [Susan Taylor Show Services](#) two weeks prior to sale and at [TJ Dorpers website](#).

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2018 SALE AVERAGES

Corriedale- \$793
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Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul



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Mark Your Calendars

March 22, 2019

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

April 9, 2019

**CA Sheep Commission Meeting
Sacramento, CA**

April 13, 2019

**California Ram Sale
Porterville, CA**

April 26, 2019

**Bakersfield Ram Sale
Famosa, CA**

May 4, 2019

**Cloverdale Ram Sale
Cloverdale, CA**

August 1 – 2, 2019

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*Do you have an upcoming event to share with
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