



HERD theNews!

President's Message



"Delivering Lasting Value to Support all Segments of the California Sheep Industry"

NEWS AT A GLANCE

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Business Ads

**P.O. Box 68
Catheys Valley, CA
95306
916-444-8122**

Nov./Dec. 2022

Greetings. I hope this newsletter finds you somewhat rested and healthy in your households. As we wrap up this year and prepare to begin the next, I'm sure you can't help but reflect on where we've been and wonder what the future might hold. Perhaps we've learned, once again or finally, that market prices for meat will not sustain this industry. We've known that about the commercial wool market for some time. For many, the rising cost of doing business in this state has become overwhelming. As we all plan our coming year, I hope all can find some opportunity for positive change. It may be time to do even one thing differently than in the past. That one thing may be what gets us through this down cycle. Considerations such as ethnic vs. traditional lamb markets; targeted grazing, USDA Programs, insurance options, should all be on the table for those making business plans for 2023.

By the time you are reading this, the Board will have had our December meeting in Los Banos. Rest assured that the finances of the Association are in good standing. Committees are being established and all participation is welcome.

I wish a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to your families and your operations.

Respectfully,

Andrée Soares
CWGA President



CWGA Committee Chairs

2022-2023

California Guard Dog Fund Committee - Phil Esnoz

Communication Committee - Dan Macon

Finance/Budget Committee - Cole Bakke

Labor Committee - Ryan Indart

Legislative/Government Affairs Committee - Florence Cubiburu

Member Services - Lloyd McCabe

Production, Education and Research Committee - PERC - Morgan Doran

Ram Sale Committee - Wes Patton & John Olagaray

Targeted Grazing Committee - Roger Ingram

Trust Fund Committee - Phil Esnoz

2022-2023 Excutive Committee

Andrée Soares

Phil Esnoz

Cole Bakke

Florence Cubiburu

John Cubiburu

Morgan Doran

Ryan Indart

Roger Ingram

Dan Macon

Lloyd McCabe

Wes Patton

CWGA NEWS

CALIFORNIA RAM SALE

Nov./Dec. 2022

SAVE THE DATE 103RD ANNUAL CALIFORNIA RAM SALE

APRIL 15, 2023
TULARE, CA

California Wool Growers Association
P.O. Box 68, Catheys Valley, CA 95306
(916) 444-8122

info@woolgrowers.org

www.californiawoolgrowers.org

RAM SALE UPDATE

Tentative entries are in and allocations made. We are planning for 520 rams at the 2023 sale. Rams will be from California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah.

162 Crossbred Range Rams
319 Suffolk Range Rams
5 Registered Suffolk Rams
32 White Face Range Rams
2 Registered Rambouillet Rams

ASI Update

From Sara Maki Smith, Region 8 Director

I am providing a snapshot of current activities at ASI.

Plans were distributed to the wool council for their tour and meeting in San Angelo, Texas preceding the ASI convention in Ft. Worth.

We are planning the USDA Foreign Ag Service audit of ASI export funds for next August. The audit firm that ASI uses for the reports to the ASI board of directors had staff at the ASI office two days this week and will be doing remote audit in the coming weeks. We have had half the ASI staff doing some preparation work with accounting staff spending a great deal of time sharing documents to the firm.

We have a communications assistant scheduled to start on Monday. She has a master's in communications and fits the traditional role I have had at ASI with two staff in this important area.

Next week has part of the wool team on the east coast for the primary meeting of ag exporters and USDA.

The other half will be at the Textile Exchange meeting in Colorado Springs.

We receive guard dog contributions and RAMPAC contributions daily again this week (\$45k and \$2k respectively). Industry Partners are responding, and we will do a reminder to that target group.

A lot of time in the past month spent on the targeted grazing project of ASI for a new handbook and a potential grant to help with the costs.

Animal Health met with the American Vet Medical Association and Jim Richards for a collaborative effort in the next farm bill with joint interest in topics like the minor use minor species that ASI wants to update.

Shearer Grants and classing school support continue, and we have Heather at the ND school late in the week.

The holiday gift bag project for the website and SINEWS is nearly ready.

Amy represented ASI at the NIAA anti-biotic meeting in Washington DC last week and this week with the Animal Ag Alliance also in DC. Next week she joins animal health chair Wolf and Allflex in Canada to review the electric id system for sheep. As a side note, cattlemen anticipate a federal rule on ID in cattle before the winter is through.

On the administrative side, we met with our primary banker this week and continue to move ASI fund ii investments into the much improved cd market.

Last week several sheep volunteer leaders joined ASI staff at a joint meeting with the cattlemen on our federal lands disease management planning. The ASI president and the public lands committee chair joined staff late last week for the ALB sustainability in person development meeting. The wool marketing side will rely on this project results similar to lamb.

Finally, I share I did a half dozen emails plus a zoom meeting with USDA and lamb representatives this week in support of the Section 32 lamb meat purchase. I believe we are close to the formal announcement of likely \$8 million to buy lamb for the food banks and believe we will have the right mix of cuts and specifications to help with the old crop lambs and the extra meat that has gone into the freezer.

ASI UPDATE

Nov./Dec. 2022

I am thinking USDA will be working for January to March delivery period hopefully with roasts, chops and stew meat. A second award and delivery period could be in the works and I question if before or after the Easter/Passover season.

Zahrah received two calls from newer members of the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association this week with questions on what meetings and events to register for at the ASI convention. Both producers were prompted by the ASI convention brochure we mailed to the association membership there.

I share below the convention information that Zahrah provided for response.

Hello ASI Executive Board members,

This email is in regards to your hotel details for our ASI Convention- January 18 – 22, 2023, in Fort Worth, TX.

Schedule The executive board lunch on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from noon-1:00pm is only for board members. ASI is hosting a dinner for NLPA on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 6:00pm-9:00pm, spouses are welcome to join.

Hotel- ASI will pay for your hotel room Tuesday, Jan. 17 through Sunday, Jan. 22. You will need to pay for any additional days and the price may be different than our group rate.

Travel- You may book your travel yourself and use the travel reimbursement form attached or book through our travel agency, Corporate Travel Management (978) 326-3143. If also booking for a spouse, you will need to pay their pro fees. Please note, the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport is roughly 25 miles from the Omni Fort Worth Hotel.

Convention Registration- <https://rebrand.ly/ASI2023>

Zahrah Khan



ASI UPDATE

MPR Lamb Data: This week: 3,000 Last Week: 1,100 Last Year: 2,900

Wooled and shorn lambs 90 - 160 lbs. \$104.00 - \$127.85, wt. avg \$127.85, up \$0.22

Direct Slaughter Lambs – Demand light to moderate. **Wooled & Shorn: Midwestern states** – 2,000 head on formula basis. **Mountain States**: 6,000 head on formula basis. Part load woolled 135 lbs \$ 130.00 fob. 800 head old crop lambs 180-200 lbs \$ 80.00 per cwt. **West Coast** – 5,000 head formula basis. 1,200 head wool lambs 110-133 lbs \$111.00-129.00 fob, some at \$ 130.00 del, to ethnic interests. Trading on all classes slow seasonally. Supplies moderate on harvest lambs, light in terms of feeder lambs. Harvest weights attractive in all areas, though increasing slightly. Forward contracted harvest lambs for November and December, 135-165 lbs, depending on each contract, range from \$ 125.00-130.00 del with yield guarantees.

Producers should take the time to fully understand what is happening in China with the continued long term Covid situation and how it is impacting every part of our lives. Riots in China continue over the strict Covid policies again this week. Not only the processing of wool, but all other industries as well. Additionally, the low water flows in the Mississippi River continue limiting shipping and processing of corn, soybeans and wheat, as well as the production of eco diesel in the southern states. Additionally, we now have the railroads, both freight and passenger, were talking a possible strike, which would impact a large part of the grain, coal, steel and many other goods that move across the country as well. Lamb industry spokesmen are continuing to send the message to Washington, that food safety and quality remains a high priority in the U.S. and the impact that is being felt by the sheep industry due to the high volume of imported meat into the US. Food safety should be a priority of Homeland Security! Diesel fuel remains at all time highs as the US is so dependent on the trucking industry to move the supply chain to consumers.

Auction Trading Slaughter Lambs: Choice, some Prime 1-3: PA – 2,624 head: 50-80 lb lambs strong, over 80 lbs weak. Wool lambs: 12-57# - 333.50; 40 – 63# - 268.87; 59 – 74# - 264.33; 60 – 88# - 206.69; 186 – 96# - 187.12; 476 – 115# - 160.82; 28 – 164# - 139.81; Hair lambs: 8 – 46# - 236.29; 19 – 52# - 285.83; 99 – 64# - 264.40; 142 – 75# - 206.32; 97 – 85# - 202.12; 111 – 93# - 194.95; 158 – 108# - 172.89. **MT – 3,230 head.** Lambs \$ 12.00-15.00 higher, ewes \$ 1.00-10.00 higher. Good demand for lambs to ethnic outlets. 162 – 56# - 222.09; 303 – 63# - 207.90; 114 – 73# - 175.42; 291 – 86# - 153.91; 406 – 94# - 133.68; 521 – 117 - 118.80. Hair lambs: 96 – 58# - 238.64; 35 – 77# - 206.00; 22 – 80# - 155.00, lot 173.00; 52 – 116# - 140.95. **TX – 1,798 head.** Ewes \$ 10.00-20.00 higher, Lambs steady. Wool lambs: 30- 64# - 237.87; 27 – 74# - 228.19; 79 – 85# - 172.61; 35 – 94# - 157.25; 11 – 108# - 111.00. Hair lambs: 23 – 56# - 204.59; 113 – 66# - 275.66; 39 – 74# - 259.72; 40 – 85# - 200.00; 58 – 92# - 189.36; 27 – 102 – 174.81. **SD - Sx Falls Regional – 2,021 head.** Ewes and lambs steady to \$ 5.00 higher. Wool lambs: 93 – 61# - 348.47; 71 – 72# - 197.77; 59 – 85# - 165.84; 9 – 92# - 169.00; 1,014 – 137# - 127.43; 75 – 151# - 122.08; 42 – 175# - 110.25. Hair lambs: 10 – 47# - 220.00; 58 – 51# - 292.48; 13 – 67# - 270.00; 39 – 77# - 207.49; 6 – 83# - 195.000; 71 – 110# - 125.66. **Newell:** 618 Ewes steady to \$10.00 higher. **CO: 859 Head.** Ewes steady, lambs \$ 11.00 higher. Wool lambs: 78 – 66# - 200.00; 5 – 71# - 200.00; 27 – 84# - 155.38; 28 – 96# - 189.67; 96 – 106# - 138.75. Hair Lambs: 3 – 43# - 315.00; 21 – 74# - 177.50; 54 – 85# - 190.50; 47 – 90# - 183.86.

Equity CO-OP Auction- SD – 350 head fall shorn 140 lb lambs \$120.75. Undertone steady.

Direct feeder lambs: Trading slow due to limited supplies. Demand light.

Western Video Market- Nov 29th Willamette Valley, OR. 3,325 head offered, 90% sold. 500 head 95# shorn and weaned \$ 119.00, gather, no shrink. 465 head mixed feeder lambs, 97#, \$ 115.00; 1,860 head 97 # \$ 107.00 fob 3% shrink on truck, immediate delivery. All with Circle 7 slide with \$.90 slide to weight stops. No recent price comparison available in this area, undertone lower.

Auction Trading Feeder Lambs: MT – 871 head: Lambs \$ 10.00-15.00 higher: wool lambs: 43 – 57# - 252.50; 205 – 74# - 166.03; 362 – 83# - 147.09; 101 – 95# - 124.03; 112 -106# - 129.05; 31 – 140# - 103.00. **TX – 80 head:** wool lambs: 29 – 69# - 200.00. Hair lambs: 17 – 33# - 289.78; 3 – 45# - 287.00. **IA – Kalona – 1,258 head:** Ewes unevenly steady, lambs mixed: 40-70 lbs \$ 20.00-60.00 lower, over 70 lbs \$ 10.00-30.00 higher: Wool lambs: 61-32# - 280.06; 16 – 43# - 235.33; 27 – 55# - 294.48; 1102 – 63# - 272.95; 86 – 74# - 240.82; 7 – 9 – 91# - 232.50; 142-121# - 139.79; 35 – 128# - 144.15; 43 – 157# - 133.63. Hair lambs: 5 – 33# - 280.00; 18 – 47# - 318.43; 5 – 52# - 332.50; 209 – 62# - 268.75; 25 – 86# - 224.36. **SD – Newell: 4,853 head** – wool lambs 50-90 lbs \$ 17.00-26.00 per cwt higher, over 90 lbs steady. 26 – 44# - 213.00; 81 – 55# - 218.30; 436 – 64# - 223.23; 1081 – 78# - 195.21; 1321 – 84# - 181.98; 271 – 96# - 149.68; 408 – 102# - 140.89; 12 – 110# - 123.00; 46 – 124# = 125.05.

Replacement sheep: Newell, SD (all open)

Age	Head	Avg Wt	Price
1-2	38	154	230.00 per head
4-6	101	165	185.00
>6	21	156	150.00
<u>Ewe Lambs</u>	27	77	193.00 per cwt
	46	85	181.00
	100	95	152.28

Wanted - 40 head of Targhee purebred yearling rams. Call 303-913-0396 for details.

CME Corn Settlement Prices – all lower this week

Dec 22	Mar 23	May 23	July 23	Sept 23	Dec. 23	Mar 24
\$6.35 -35	\$6.46 -25	\$6.47 -23	\$6.44 -20	\$6.08 -14	\$5.98 -13	\$6.05 -12

USDA – AMS, Market News Reports

USDA Wool Reports No domestic wool sales reported this week.

Weekly Retail Lamb Report - Lamb Cuts reported 40.57% higher and Veal Cuts 56.25% higher. For the week Roast ad space was sharply lower and Chops ad space was sharply higher. Lamb features offered more ad space for Shoulder Round Bone Chops, Loin Chops, Ground Lamb, Shank and Stew Meat-Lamb.

Weekly Lamb Carcass Cut Out Value (Friday) \$ 485.10, up \$ 5.27 this week.

Lambs on Feed in CO feedlots Dec 1 total **157,960 head**, down 18% from Nov 2022, but up 11% from Dec 2021. 2022 inventory is 109 % of the past 5 year average numbers on feed in Colorado.

Weekly Summary of MPR Lamb Carcasses: 12/02/2022

HOT WEIGHT	# HEAD	% TOTAL	4,467 TOTAL HEAD
45# & Down	254	5.5	Wkly Weighted Avg \$ 356.93, down \$26.84
45-55 #	254	5.5	
55-65	614	13.2	
65-75 #	1081	23.2	
75-85 #	957	20.6	
85 # and	1484	31.9	

CWGA Updates from Dan Macon

Forest Service Vacant Allotment Meeting

This meeting included leadership from Region 5 of the Forest Service (which covers California), as well as CWGA, CCA, CFBF, UCCE, and two county supervisors who are also ranchers. There are 40+ vacant grazing allotments in California, a number of which are sheep allotments. Most of these are vacant due to lack of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. Cole Estill and Grant Azevedo represented CWGA. USFS was somewhat surprised to learn that there were sheep producers interested in these vacant allotments. We got several examples of other approaches to completing NEPA (and I will be getting more details on these). UCCE and USFS will be working on a “myths and facts” paper to help local ranger districts, county farm bureaus, local cattlemen’s associations, sheep producers, etc. figure out how to move forward on getting vacant allotments re-occupied. USFS leadership also said their priorities are wildfire risk reduction and post fire management, and that they realize grazing can be important in both. They are also working on a programmatic NEPA analysis of using targeted grazing outside the allotment system.

Wolf Compensation Program Meeting

This meeting was the result of the joint letter we sent to the Resources Agency earlier this year. I wore my UCCE hat, and Anna Estill (who lost 20+ ewes to wolves in 2018) represented CWGA. Currently, CDFW will reimburse producers for the fair market value of any confirmed or probable livestock kills. They will also reimburse producers for 100% of the nonlethal tools they are using to deter wolf depredation within known pack areas. The discussion centered around adding “possible” wolf kills to the reimbursement criteria, and creating some sort of Pay for Presence program to provide incentives for producers who are living with wolves and experiencing indirect losses (from stress, added labor, etc.). CDFW’s initial proposal for this program excluded sheep producers because they thought no producers had experienced losses to wolves. Anna helped them understand that this was not true. CDFW also believed that there was no research showing that sheep in California experience stress-related losses associated with wolves.

California currently has 3 known wolf packs and an unknown number of dispersing wolves. There are currently no collared wolves in California, a point which many ranchers brought up. The known packs:

- Whaleback (Siskiyou County) – approx. 15 wolves, significant cattle depredation.
- Lassen Pack (Lassen County) – approx.. 12 wolves, some summer cattle depredation on USFS land, some winter depredation on private land
- Beckworth Pack (Plumas and Sierra Counties) – at least 5 wolves, but evidence that this may be two packs and more wolves. So far, only one confirmed depredation. CWGA members McPherrin Sheep Company and Anna Harvey operate within or close to the home range. (and Rosie and Francisco from McPherrin were also at the meeting).

CWGA Updates from Dan Macon

Wolf Compensation Program Meeting - Con't

I provided the following feedback:

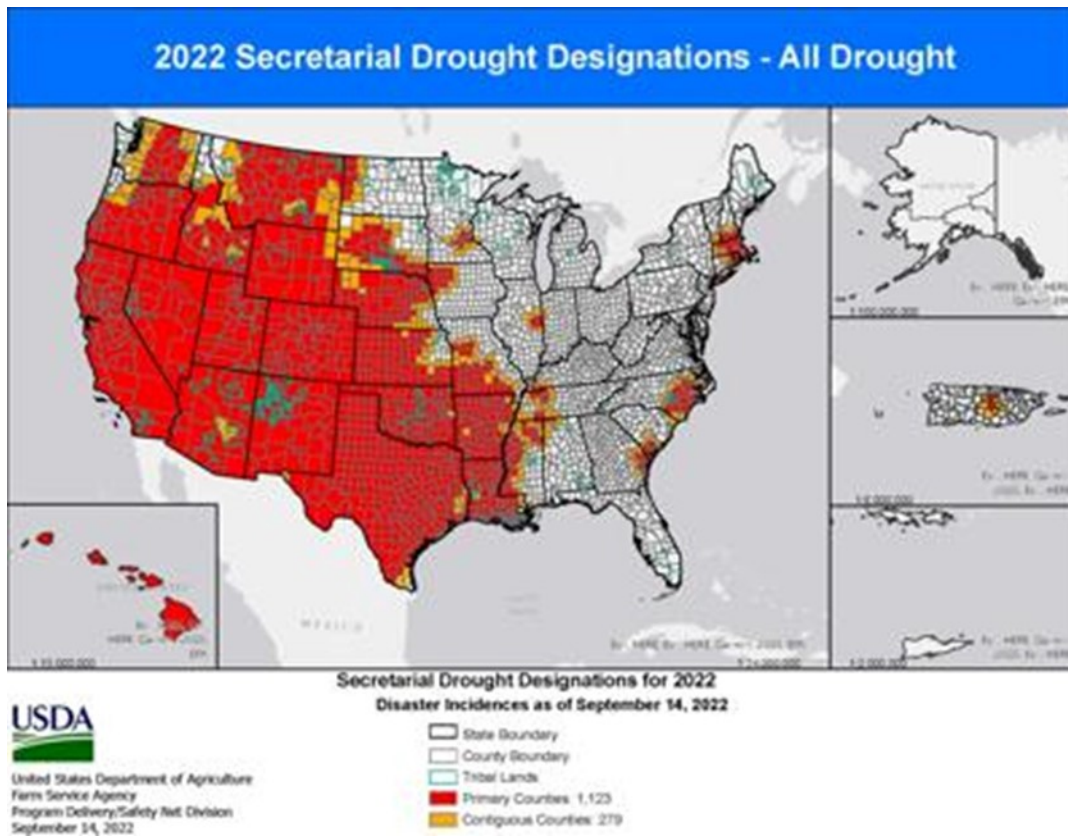
- While CDFW believes the legislation authorizing this program refers specifically to “livestock” (which wouldn’t include livestock guardian dogs), I strongly urged them to find a way to reimburse producers for LGDs killed by wolves. I think we have support from the environmental groups on this.
- There are currently sheep producers within the known home ranges of the known packs. The lack of reported depredations is likely due to several factors:
 - * Range operations often don’t realize they are missing sheep until the sheep are counted onto the trucks at shipping.
 - * Nonlethal tools (LGDs, herders, etc.) may be working to deter wolves from sheep (at least for now).
 - * Producers don’t trust CDFW and so they don’t report losses (especially since until now there’s been no reimbursement).
- While there is not currently any research demonstrating indirect losses in sheep from wolves in California, the same can be said about cattle (the main study on indirect cattle losses was done in Montana). I pointed out that there is research from Sweden that quantifies the following indirect losses:
 - * Lower conception rates and higher abortion rates (Anna confirmed that this happened in her sheep).
 - * Lower weight gains
 - * Wool break
 - * Lower grazing efficiency due to nervous sheep (and therefore a loss of grazing land)
 - * Increased labor
 - * Increased LGD costs (more dogs and more vet bills).
- Our joint letter outlined a more comprehensive Pay for Presence program, which would place higher priority on paying producers who were adopting proactive practices (like LGDs, herders, etc.) and who had experienced direct losses.

CDFW will be taking comments on their plan through the end of November, with the hope of finalizing all 3 prongs (direct compensation, compensation for nonlethal tools, and pay for presence) by early 2023.

Of particular note, I asked directly if they would consider a 100% reimbursement for herder wages while sheep were within a pack’s home range – they said they would. This would mean if a USFS allotment is within a home range, they’d pay herder wages and any associated expenses (with the exception of a plane ticket). They’d also pay to purchase LGDs, as well as any associated costs.



Tax Rules For Weather Related Sales of Livestock



Over the past several months, many livestock producers have wanted information concerning the application of the weather-related sales of livestock rules provided by the IRS.

The IRS recently released “Notice 2022-43: Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought.” It reports that livestock producers may qualify for the four-year extended period for replacing breeding, dairy and draft animals that were sold in excess of normal beginning Sept. 1, 2021, and throughout 2022.

The beginning of the replacement period is the first 12-month drought-free period (Sept. 1 to Aug. 31). Producers electing to replace animals will have until Dec. 31 of the fourth year. More detailed information can be found by searching for IRS Notice 2022-43. In addition, the secretary of Agriculture’s federal disaster declarations for this year allow the gain from sales of any livestock in excess of normal for 2022 to be reported on livestock producers’ 2024 income tax return. The following map provides proof of the declarations by county from the secretary.

More detailed information can be found by searching for “USDA secretary of Agriculture drought disaster designations” at www.fsa.usda.gov.

In both scenarios, the treatment only applies to the number of animals sold in excess of normal annual sales.

Article by: J.C. Hobbs, Oklahoma State University associate Extension specialist

Check with your tax professional to see if you qualify.

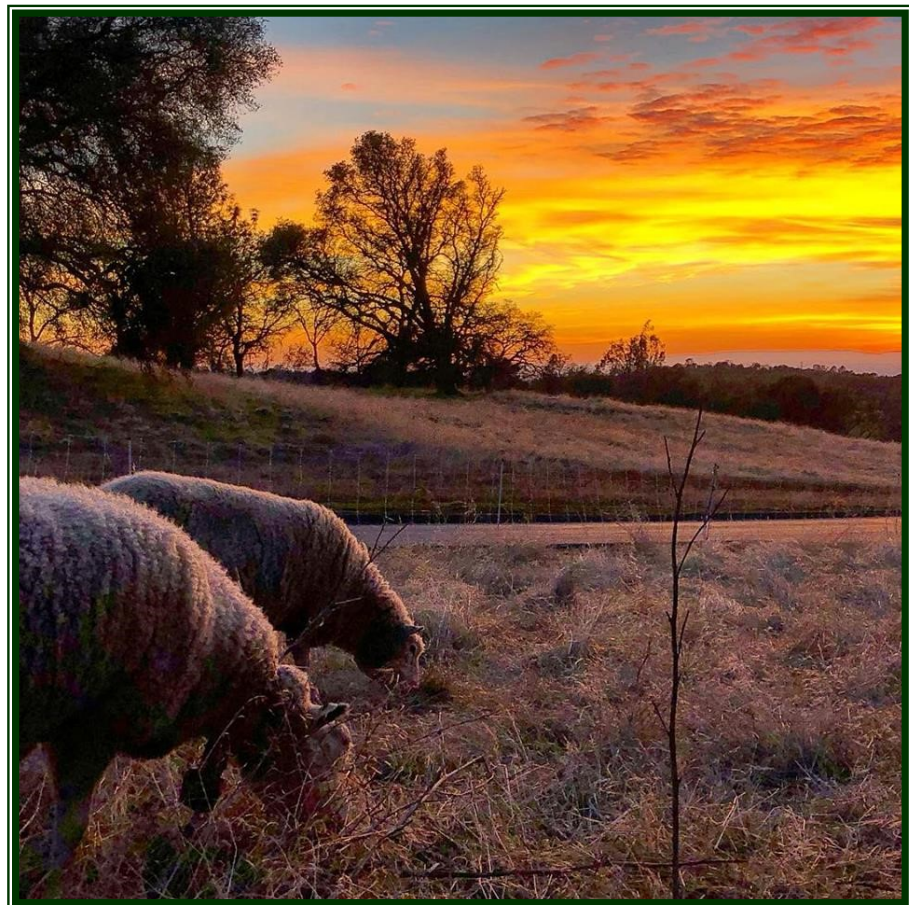
Department of Insurance Requires Rate Discounts for Wildfire Risk Reduction

The California Department of Insurance has finalized regulations which require insurance providers to offer lower rates to property owners who take action to mitigate the risks of wildfire damaging their property. The regulation also requires insurers to provide policyholders with their “wildfire risk score or other wildfire risk classification” and to give policyholders an opportunity to appeal their classification.

According to , “The regulation requires insurance compaa press release from Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Laranies to submit new rates that recognize the benefit of safety measures such as upgraded roofs and windows, defensible space, and community-wide programs.”

Unfortunately, the regulation will not shield policyholders from potential non-renewal or cancelation of existing policies. Rather, the regulation is intended to make wildfire insurance coverage more affordable for property owners and to incentivize adoption of wildfire risk reduction practices.

Under the regulation, insurers have 180 days – or until April 12, 2023 – to file rating plans for policyholders who undertake specified wildfire risk reduction practices and to develop a written procedure for disclosing policyholders’ wildfire risk scores.



Satellite Smartphones Could Answer The Call For Rural Connectivity

While initial services are limited, new technology and strategic partnerships will fuel growth.

DENVER — Smartphones with satellite connectivity could eventually prove vital for rural communities, delivering voice, data and broadband to Americans living in underserved markets. Advancements in battery density, chipset processing power and antenna technology have now made it possible for smartphones to connect with satellites for some basic services.

Satellite smartphones have gained momentum on recent announcements by Apple, T-Mobile and SpaceX. In conjunction with Globalstar, Apple has equipped its new iPhone 14 with satellite service, giving them a two-year lead in the market. T-Mobile and SpaceX announced plans to offer smartphone satellite connectivity, with beta trials set to begin towards the end of 2023.

According to a new report from CoBank's Knowledge Exchange, satellite smartphones could have a profound impact on residents of rural communities as the technology advances and more robust service offerings become available, "Initially, the service options available through satellite phone connectivity will be limited to basic text and SOS messaging," said Jeff Johnston, lead communications economist for CoBank. "But as new satellites are launched over the next several years, voice calling and more advanced data applications should become available. And smartphones equipped with satellite technology will work anywhere in the U.S., regardless of cellular coverage."

The ability to make calls and send messages in remote areas where no cellular service exists would provide some rural residents with options and flexibility that were previously unimaginable. However, cost will be a key determinant of consumer adoption and the finer details on pricing remain unclear.

Apple is providing the service free of charge for the first two years, and it remains to be seen what they will charge after that. However, it is reasonable to assume that Apple will keep the price low and use the service to increase iPhones sales, given its first mover advantage. T-Mobile said satellite services will be free on its most popular plans, but it's unclear what those plans will cost when T-Mobile rolls out the service in 2024.

While it might appear that consumers can eventually look forward to cancelling their wireless carrier service and using satellite service exclusively, Johnston said this is highly unlikely.

Satellite Smartphones Could Answer The Call For Rural Connectivity - (Con't)

“Satellite smartphones need a clear line of sight with the sky which would limit the service in urban and suburban areas,” he said. “And the capital required to create network capacity in a satellite network comparable to what is currently available in terrestrial networks would be incredibly high. The return on investment would never pencil out.”

Wireless operators interesting in pursuing satellite connectivity could take the T-Mobile approach and offer the service directly with SpaceX or a similar satellite operator. The other option is to partner with Apple, or presumably Samsung as they are also expected to partner with a satellite operator directly.

Wool LDP Available to Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Marketing Assistance Loan and Loan Deficiency Payment programs could provide welcome assistance for wool producers.

Currently, the program offers a 40-cent LDP (per pound grease) for ungraded wool. This has been the going rate for the past two years for ungraded wools, as graded wools have varied from week to week. This week, LDP payments are available for the following micron ranges:

19.6 to 20.5 microns: 20 cents per pound clean;

20.6 to 22 microns: 39 cents per pound clean;

22.1 to 23.5 microns: 54 cents per pound clean;

23.6 to 25.9 microns: \$1.10 per pound clean;

26 to 28.9 microns: 6 cents per pound clean.

Current rates are posted on the American Sheep Industry Association website each Tuesday afternoon. Producers with questions about the Wool LDP Program can contact their local Farm Service Agency office.

Public Lands Council and USFS Sign MOU

Agri-Pulse - Ranchers grazing their livestock on U.S. Forest Service acreage will have a more streamlined approach to sharing data with federal partners under a new memorandum of understanding. USFS and the Public Lands Council announced the MOU Monday to help ranchers and federal forest officials “cooperate to collect and analyze data on rangeland health, ultimately ensuring better management of national forests and grasslands,” according to a press release. Data collected through the MOU will give USFS more information on rangeland health. “This MOU signifies our continued commitment to work cooperatively with our permittees and to build trust, while expanding our collective ability to gather important information about the health and productivity of National Forest System lands,” said USFS Chief Randy Moore. PLC President Mark Roeber said the MOU will “allow permittees and the Forest Service to better share key information and strengthen the partnership between producers and agency officials.” Under the agreement, the USFS will identify allotments where the data monitoring is currently taking place and invite the permittees to participate in a cooperative program.



USDA Releases Nationwide Farmer, Rancher and Forest Manager Prospective Customer Survey

Are you a farmer, rancher or forest manager? Please share your vital feedback with USDA by taking a nationwide survey at link below. The survey is completely anonymous, will take about 10 minutes to complete, is available in multiple languages, and will be open until March 31, 2023. The survey focuses on gathering feedback about the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency.

All farmers, ranchers and forest managers are encouraged to take the survey. USDA would especially like to hear from prospective customers: those who don't know about USDA or have yet to work with USDA, and those who were unable to participate in the past. The survey will help USDA enhance support, improve programs and services, increase access, and advance equity for new and existing customers.

[SURVEY LINK](#)

Livestock Marketing Information Center Report

Livestock Marketing Information Center- The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced a Section 32 purchase of American lamb products. The purchase was supported by the American Sheep Industry Association and the National Lamb Feeders Association.

According to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service pre-solicitation notice, products will be distributed to various food nutrition assistance programs. Products that might be included in the purchase could include lamb leg roast, diced lamb, lamb shoulder chops and lamb loin chops. The USDA AMS lamb purchase will provide short-term relief to alleviate the buildup of lamb supplies that has occurred in the last year. Strong domestic consumer demand for lamb products will still remain a critical driving force to support lamb prices moving forward.

In May, cold storage stocks of lamb were 22.2 million pounds and during the next four months stocks increased with September recording the peak so far for the year at 31.4 million pounds. October stocks fell 9 percent from the prior month to 28.5 million pounds, which is 5 percent (1.4 million pounds) above last year, but 13 percent (4.2 million pounds) below the five-year average. The October decline in stock levels is following the typical seasonal pattern with levels drawing lower during the holiday season. Based on historical patterns, stock levels for November and December are likely to move lower.

The lamb cutout value has been averaging more than \$4.80 per pound for the last month, which is about 22 percent (\$1.33 per pound) below the same period last year, but it is 38 percent (\$1.31 per pound) above the five-year average. The shoulder, leg and rack have all been tracking at a relatively level value for the past few months. The shoulder has averaged \$3.63 per pound since early October, 29 percent below last year but 17 percent above the five-year average. Since October, the leg has averaged \$4.09 per cwt, a 31-percent decrease from the same period last year but 12 percent higher than the five-year average.

Last week, the loin was \$7.08 per pound, down 29 percent from the same week last year while the rack was down 16 percent to \$11.98 per pound. During the last two months, prices for both the rack and loin have been declining about 1 percent or less each week





LAMBING SCHOOL

February 3-5, 2023

Registration required. \$190.

Hopland Research and Extension Center.

Join UC Davis Sheep and Goat Extension Veterinarian Dr. Rosie Busch, UCCE Livestock Advisor Dan Macon, and shepherd Alison Smith (UC Hopland Research and Extension Center) for an in-depth, real-time look at barn and pasture lambing systems.

Over the course of three days, we'll provide real-time information about managing lambing systems, including lambing problems, lamb/ewe nutrition, record-keeping, and lamb survival.

Limited to 20 participants.

Registration:
<https://bit.ly/lambingschool2023>

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS

Nov./Dec. 2022

SHEPHERD'S PIE

FILLING

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 carrots, peeled and finely chopped
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1-1/2 pounds ground American lamb
- 1- 1/2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2-3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cup beef broth
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1/2 cup frozen corn

TOPPING

- 3-4 large potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1/2 cup heavy cream, warmed
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1/2 teaspoon salt (more or less, to taste)

DIRECTIONS

Heat the olive oil in a large cast iron pan over medium low heat. Add the onions and saute until they begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds more. Add the carrots to the onions and cook for another 5 minutes. Transfer the vegetables to a plate or just push off to one side of the pan.

In the same pan, add the ground lamb, breaking it up with a wooden spoon. Season with the salt and pepper, then mix the lamb with the vegetables and cook, stirring and continuing to break up the chunks of meat frequently, until the lamb is browned, about 10 minutes.

To the lamb and vegetable mixture, add the Worcestershire sauce, tomato paste, rosemary, thyme, red pepper flakes, and nutmeg. Stir to combine. Sprinkle with the flour, then stir in to the meat mixture until evenly dispersed, cooking for 1-2 minutes.

Add the beef broth and cook for 3-5 minutes until most of the liquid is absorbed. Then stir in the frozen peas and corn. Remove from heat and let cool while working on the mashed potatoes. Either leave in the cast iron pan, if it is oven safe, or transfer to a square baking dish. Place the potatoes in a large pot with enough salted water to cover them by about an inch. Bring to a boil and cook for 12-15 minutes, until the potatoes are tender enough to be easily pierced with a fork. Drain well.

Add the warmed cream, butter, and salt to the potatoes and mash using a potato masher or ricer, then use to top the shepherd's pie filling in either the cast iron pan or a square baking dish, spreading to the edges and leaving craggy swirls on top instead of smoothing out.

Bake for 45 minutes at 375 degrees F until hot all the way through and the mashed potatoes on top have nicely browned spots in a few places. You may want to place a pan under it in case any filling drips out. Let cool for 10-15 minutes before serving.



HERDtheNews!

Upcoming Events

California Sheep Commission Board Meeting

December 6, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.
CDFA, Room 200, Sacramento

CWGA Board of Directors Meeting

December 8, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.
Wool Growers Restaurant, Los Banos

ASI Convention

January 18 - 21, 2023
Fort Worth, Texas



103rd Annual California Ram Sale

April 15, 2023
International Agri-Center, Tulare, CA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov./Dec. 2022

Utah Wool Marketing
Association



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*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Nov./Dec. 2022