



HERD theNews!

MAY & JUNE, 2023

President's Message



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

Dear CWGA Membership,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As many have marketed the 2023 California lamb crop, and ewes are turned out, others are at peak season moving livestock around the state providing wildfire prevention services with targeted grazing. Whichever it is for you, I hope you are enjoying the change of season and all that it brings to our work life.

I want to bring some very important points to your attention as producers and employers:

ASI Lamb Import Survey: By now you should have received an Email from CWGA regarding survey participation in an effort by ASI to explore unfair trade practices regarding imported lamb. Please complete the survey and return it to the Law Firm mentioned in the email. Your information is confidential and only will go to the Law Firm – it will not be shared with ASI or anybody else. **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL.** If you need for the survey to be re-sent, please call or email Susan at 916-444-8122. They are due back by June 27th.

Herder Wages: A reminder to work with your agent (i.e., Western Range Association or Mountain Plains) to be sure you are paying appropriate California wages. On or before January 1, 2024, the California Labor Commissioner has been directed to issue a report to the Legislature on wage violations, including minimum wage and overtime, affecting sheep herders and goat herders. We continue to work towards resolution of the extreme wages for goat herders set to be implemented January 1, 2024.

Finally, mark your calendars for the Annual Convention in Paso Robles this August 16th & 17th. It is mid-week this year so please do plan accordingly. More information will be available soon for room bookings and registration. Just 2 months away!

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully,

Andrée Soares, President

NEWS AT A GLANCE

President's Message

Ram Sale Update

Convention News

Market Report

ALB Update

News & Current Events

In The Kitchen

Upcoming Events

Business Ads

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

MAY-JUNE

RAM SALE UPDATE!

The 103rd California Ram Sale was held April 15, 2023, at the Kern County Fairgrounds in Bakersfield. The three weeks prior to the sale were stressful for the ram sale committee because the state had taken over the International Ag Center in Tulare, where the sale was scheduled, for a flood command center.

The staff and co-chairs scrambled to find a new venue and thanks to input from Philip Esnoz we ended up at the Kern County Fairgrounds. The Kern County Wool Growers and Auxiliary stepped up and made it all possible. Many thanks go out to them for preparing and serving all of the meals and bringing a record crowd to this year's sale.

The weather was good and there were high quality rams at the sale for the buyers to select from. The UC Davis vet crew made sure that the rams were in good health and the quality committee assured everyone that the rams were range ready.

The ram sale committee will be meeting in the near future to recap the sale and make plans for the 2024 sale. The committee will concentrate on making adjustments in the sale that coincide with the changing needs of those that are buying rams and those who are supplying rams to the sale. This is a vital part of what the CWGA does and any input from you is most appreciated.

Contact Wes, John or Susan and let us know what you are thinking.

2023 California Ram Sale Averages

30 White Face Rams Sold - \$774 Avg.

53 Crossbred Rams Sold - \$638 Avg.

230 Suffolk Rams Sold - \$708

Overall - 313 Rams Sold - \$705.00



CALIFORNIA RAM SALE

MAY-JUNE

CWGA CONVENTION

MAY-JUNE

California Wool Growers Association 163rd Annual Meeting & Convention



AUGUST 16 – 17, 2023

Paso Robles Inn, Paso Robles, CA

Registration packets will be mailed/emailed soon.

Lodging Information

Paso Robles Inn

1103 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA

Standard Room Rates: Tuesday, Wednesday - \$169.00

Thursday - \$245.00

Call: 805-238-2660

Room block: California Wool Growers Association

Hotel information including map and directions available at:

paso.robles.inn.paso.robles.ca

2023 CWGA PHOTO CONTEST

The CWGA photo contest is an opportunity for individuals to show off their photographic talents while highlighting California agricultural life and the people who provide our food and fiber.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be received no later than August 10, 2023.

Email entries to: susan@woolgrowers.org

For more information contact Susan Taylor – 916-444-8122 or at the above email address.

CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to any member of the California Wool Growers Association and their immediate families. Immediate family is defined as any family member who is a spouse, parent, child or sibling living in the same household.
2. Categories are:
 - Animals
 - California Landscape
 - People
 - Rural Life
3. All photos will compete for the “People’s Choice” award, to be determined by the CWGA Convention attendees. Awards will be given for 1st through 5th place.
4. All prize-winning photos will become property of the California Wool Growers Association. Photos may be published in the “Herd The News” newsletter.
5. Each contestant must include name and address. Please include the title and geographic location of each photo.
6. All entries must be received no later than August 10, 2023.



CWGA CONVENTION

MAY-JUNE

Cole Consulting Weekly Newsletter 06/02/2023

MPR Lamb Data: This week: 1,600 Last Week: 1,700 Last Year: 1,000
 Woolled and shorn lambs ranged 87-157 lbs, from \$136.00-179.27, weekly **wt. avg \$1558.24, up \$6.62.** **Midwestern States:** 4,000 head on formula basis. **Mountain States:** 7,000 head on formula basis. **West Coast:** 5,000 head formula basis. Trading very slow this week, at least 1 plant reduced harvest levels this week, with the weekly slaughter down due to holiday shortened week as well. Non-traditional lambs steady to higher, commercial lambs steady to lower at auctions. Demand turned light as the Cutout value declined sharply this week, available supplies moderate with continued reductions weekly in the % of lambs over 170 lbs being marketed. It is interesting to note that the Year-to-Date Fed. Inspected Slaughter is up 6.1% thru this same week a year ago, but the meat production is down 2% from a year ago.

Auction Slaughter Lambs: **PA – New Holland:** No sale due to holiday. **TX – San Angelo: 3,348 Head.** Slaughter lambs steady, ewes \$5.00-10.00 higher. Wool lambs: 22 - 55# - 216.13; 16 - 60# - 224.00; 6 - 78# - 212.00; 2 - 83# - 200.00; 55 - 96# - 172.78; 27 - 103# - 176.00; 41 - 117# - 165.33. Hair lambs: 8 - 43# - 218.00; 138 - 56# - 223.49; 319 - 65# - 222.90; 184 - 74# - 208.42; 195# - 84# - 198.50; 112 - 94# - 188.05; 142 - 105# - 183.62. **SD – SX Falls Regional: 1,537 Head.** Non-traditional lambs firm, traditional lambs \$6.00-9.00 lower. Ewes steady to \$ 5.00 lower. Wool lambs: 13 - 44# -166.77; 185 - 65# - 192.46; 112 - 73# - 188.60; 19 - 89# - 189.18; 113 - 94# - 184.15; 302 - 126# -175.76. Hair lambs: 32 - 44# - 160.00. **Ft. Collins: 689 head.** Slaughter classes unevenly steady this week. Wool lambs: 85 - 66# - 178.16; 17- 86# - 175.13; 103 - 92# - 180.34; 56 - 103# - 197.55; 25 - 119# - 138.44. Hair lambs: 10 - 45# - 192.87; 35 - 66# - 187.50; 9 - 77# - 185.00. **IA - Kalona: 1,306 Head.** Lambs 30-50 lbs firm, over 50 lbs \$6.00-10.00 higher. Hair sheep firm. Ewes firm. Wool Lambs: 94 - 45# - 199.11; 86 - 54# - 198.28; 125 - 63# - 196.43; 112 - 73# - 204.74; 97 - 84# - 213.33; 53 - 92# - 220.66; 105 - 109# - 237.32. Hair lambs: 36 - 44# - 184.57; 18 - 51# - 206.59; 21 - 64# - 179.17; 20 - 85# - 208.11.

Feeder Lambs: Trading slow, demand light to moderate. Season supplies light with little interest in forward contracts for summer or fall delivery due to the lack of profitability of feeding lambs. Seasonally, traditional slaughter lamb prices increase thru the summer months until mid-fall when supplies increase. **MT** - 1,200 head new crop 80 lbs \$180.00 fob, overnight stand, immediate delivery. **CA** - 1,000 head new crop 102 lbs \$170.00, \$1.00 slide over base wt.

Auction Feeder Lambs: **CO - Ft. Collins 57 Head:** wool lambs: 4 - 32# - 226.98; 4 - 44# - 223.19; Hair lambs: 12 - 42# - 165.00. **SD - SX Falls Regional: 143 Head:** Wool lambs: 7 - 35# - 237.96; 13 - 40# - 210.97; 87 - 54# - 192.73; 8 - 68# - 180.00. Hair lambs: 27 - 42# 145.00.

Territory Wool Sales – Trading remains slow due to light demand, delayed shearing and delayed results on core tests. If you have sold your wool recently, please call and we can trade information. **Western wools:** Classed, OB in nylon packs 173,000 lbs total: 75 mm or longer: Clean Basis: lot 20.9 - \$3.55; 21.5-22 micron, high yielding, low VM, \$3.34 - 3.50; 23-24 micron \$2.30; 24-25 micron \$1.90. Greasy Basis: Bellies \$0.45-0.54; Crossbred wool \$.25-.30, black wool \$.20; pcs .25. Short yearling wool, 22 micron, avg yield, \$1.42 greasy.

CME Corn Settlement Prices –

July 23	Sept 23	Dec. 23	Mar 24	Sept 24	Dec 24
\$6.0 +05	\$5.35 +06	\$5.41 +07	\$5.50 +07	\$5.22 +04	\$5.16 +03

USDA – AMS, Market News Reports

Lambs on Feed in Colorado as of June 1, total 65,296 head, down 24% from May (85,092 head) and down 53% from June 2022 (137,833 head).

USDA Wool Reports Wool warehouse sales, fob prices No domestic sales reported this week.

Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) \$AUS to \$USD Exch Rate 0.65 11.7 % Passed In 40,106 Bales

Micron/Grade U.S.\$ Change 75-85% of AUS Value AUS \$0.67 of US\$ EMI
=1209, down 05

17 (US > 80s)	6.26	(0.06)	4.69 - 5.32
18 (US 80s)	5.37	(0.04)	4.03 - 4.57
19 (US 70-80s)	4.65	(0.05)	3.49 - 3.95
20 (US 64-70s)	4.26	(0.07)	3.20 - 3.62
21 (US 64s)	4.14	(0.09)	3.10 - 3.52
22 (US 62s)	4.10	0.00	2.97 - 3.37
23 (US 60-62s)	3.85		2.89 - 3.27
24 (US 60s)			
25 (US 58s)	2.07	(0.22)	1.55 - 1.76
26 (US 56-58s)	1.69	(0.08)	1.27 - 1.43
28 (US 54s)	1.06	(0.04)	0.79 - 0.90
30 (US 50s)	1.00	(0.02)	0.75 - 0.85
32 (US 46-48s)	0.83	(0.02)	0.63 - 0.71

Weekly Retail Lamb Report - For the week the Lamb and Veal retail activity index was sharply higher, feature rate 3.50% higher, and the special rate reported 0.30% lower. Lamb Cuts were 86.31% higher, and Veal Cuts were reported sharply higher. Lamb features offered more ad space for Loin Chops and Ground Lamb.

Weekly Lamb Carcass Cut Out Value (Friday) - \$431.43, down \$9.00 this week.

Weekly Summary of MPR Lamb Carcasses: 06/02/2023

HOT WEIGHT	HEAD	% TOTAL	3,410 TOTAL HEAD
45 # & Down	137	4.0	
45-55 #	84	2.5	
55-65 #	804	23.6	Wkly Weighted Avg \$369.00, down \$5.56
65-75 #	773	22.7	
75-85 #	797	23.3	
85# and up	815	23.9	

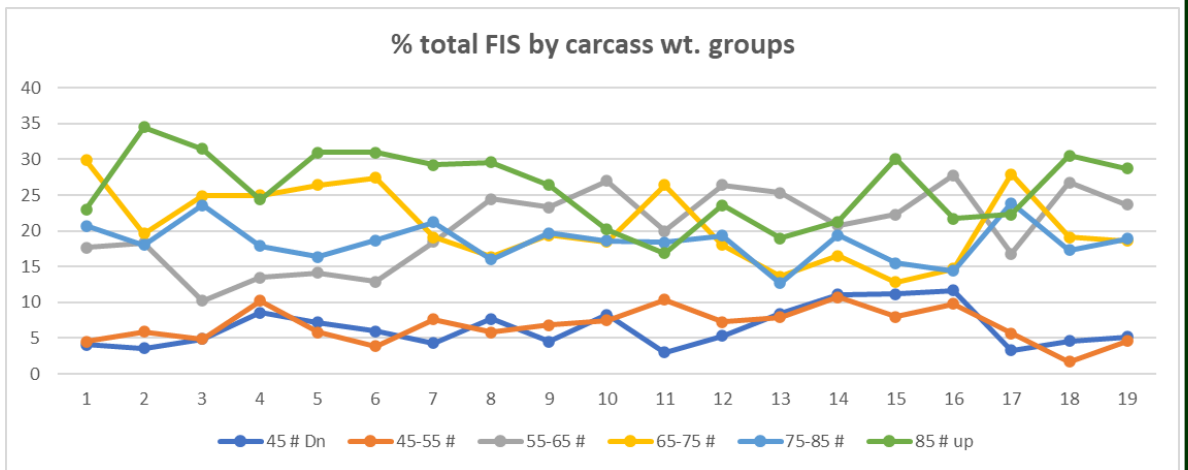
MARKET REPORT

MAY-JUNE

MAY-JUNE

MARKET REPORT

MAY-JUNE



Imported Lamb Meat into the US as of this week was 38,477 metric tonnes compared to 47,128 metric tonnes in 2022, down 19%.

June 8: Western Video Market Sheep and Cattle Sale 1,500 head of lambs consigned. Sell at 10:15 pacific time.



AMERICAN LAMB BOARD UPDATE

April Lamb Market Report Reflects First Quarter Data

The American Lamb Board (ALB) and the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) have released the April market summary report aimed at delivering timely and useful information for American Lamb producers. The report summarizes lamb supplies, prices, trade, retail trends and more for the first quarter of 2023.

Inflationary Environment Lingers

Consumers are still coping with an inflationary environment as retail food prices were 20 – 25% higher in the first quarter than in 2020. However, food inflation seems to moderate each month and wholesale and retail lamb prices are declining relative to last year. While consumers are still buying lamb, they are getting less for their dollar due to elevated prices, which is limiting their willingness to pay higher prices and increase their purchase volumes.

Lamb Supply in Better Position

Compared to last year, the industry is in a better position on the supply side of the market. Lamb and yearling slaughter in the first quarter was 11% higher than a year ago, but slaughter levels were smaller in 2022 due to increasing numbers of lambs on-feed. Lighter weights have offset the larger numbers, with production only 7% higher in the first quarter. Based on weekly data for April, lamb and yearling slaughter is down about 2% with a greater decline in production due to lighter dressed weights. Data shows May 1st with the smallest on-feed numbers since August as those seasonally decline and the smallest May on-feed number since 2010.

Imports Lower in First Quarter

In the first quarter, lamb imports were 9% lower than in 2022. Import volumes from both Australia and New Zealand were also below a year ago for the first quarter, down 7% and 13%, respectively. According to Meat Livestock Australia (MLA), lamb exports to the U.S. saw declines in April.

Retail Features Lamb for Spring Holidays

Consumers continue to adapt to higher meat prices and inflationary pressures by opting for more value-based channels, trading down to lower priced products and brands, and taking advantage of sales. Spending for food at home remains higher than pre-pandemic levels as many people continue to work from home, a change that looks to remain in the post-pandemic environment.

As expected, the number of retail store circulars that featured lamb in April increased relative to prior months for the spring holidays. According to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) retail featuring report, about 14% of retail store circulars featured lamb in April with 20% featuring the week leading to Easter. The average price of all lamb cuts published in the retail featuring report continues to decline, with the April average at just over \$8.00 per lb. versus nearly \$10.00 per lb. a year ago.

Looking Ahead

Consumer trends and economic indicators are still hinting at an impending recession this year. The severity of the economic slowdown will determine how much consumer demand for lamb could be affected as evidenced in past recessions. The Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC) expects feeder and slaughter lamb prices to improve through the remainder of 2023, with annual prices on average about 20 – 25% lower than in 2022.

Supreme Court Limits Scope of “Wetlands” Considered Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday issued its highly-anticipated ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*, significantly limiting the extent to which wetlands may be considered “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) and thus under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers.

Under the Clean Water Act (CWA), the EPA and Corps have jurisdiction over “Waters of the United States,” which includes not only waterways which may affect interstate or foreign commerce, but also “wetlands adjacent” to those waters.

The EPA and Corps have typically determined whether a wetland is jurisdictionally ‘adjacent’ by examining whether it has a “significant nexus” to traditional navigable waters. Under federal regulations, the agencies find that a “significant nexus” exists when wetlands “significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity” of those traditional navigable waters.

All nine justices agreed that the “significant nexus” test should be discarded, with Justice Samuel Alito writing that “‘almost all waters and wetlands’ are potentially susceptible to regulation under that test” and this “freewheeling inquiry provides little notice to landowners of their obligations under the CWA.”

While the justices were unanimous in overturning the “significant nexus” test, the Court was split on the appropriate standard for determining whether a wetland falls under the jurisdiction of the EPA and Corps. Ultimately, a bare majority of justices determined that jurisdictional wetlands are limited to those which have “a continuous surface connection” with a traditional navigable water, “making it difficult to determine where the ‘water’ ends and the ‘wetland’ begins.”

This likely means that isolated wetlands and other ephemeral features may not be subject to federal CWA permitting requirements.” The ruling will likely also necessitate revisions to the Biden Administration’s recent WOTUS Rule, which is partly rooted in the “significant nexus” test. According to NCBA, “the Biden rule is still theoretically in effect, but EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will no longer assess CWA jurisdiction under the significant nexus test.”

Storm Recovery Assistance Available Via USDA’s NRCS, FSA

The California State office of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced \$2 million in financial assistance available for agricultural producers impacted by recent flooding. Financial assistance is also available via the USDA Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), with the deadline to apply for ECP recently extended through October 13. Impacted producers in every county except Lake, Lassen, Mono, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties are eligible to apply for both programs. To apply for assistance contact your FSA or NRCS, office.

BLM Proposal Could Slash Grazing Acres

Source: The Fence Post

The proposed rule seeks to codify and promote the agency's process around designating Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), adds an entirely new use to the balance of uses managed under FLPMA, and establishes a new, non-competitive leasing system for conservation.

The big picture Todd Devlin said he aimed to paint for members of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations during the May 24 hearing titled, "Examining the Biden Administration's Efforts to Limit Access to Public Lands" was the conservation rule must have cooperative agency status, it must go through the full-blown EIS, and it must be an amendment to the Resource Management Plan. This would be the only time in history that the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) would be rewritten without congressional action.

Devlin, a Prairie County, Montana, Commissioner currently serves as Chairman of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Public Lands Steering Committee. Devlin told the subcommittee "The proposed rule from the BLM would fundamentally change the BLM's multiple use mandate under FLPMA without the necessary initial input from Congress, state and county governments, private industry, recreationists and other impacted stakeholders. Additionally, this proposed rule would exclude counties from land designation processes, includes vague definitions, and empowers the agency to approve conservation leases without acreage limitations which could limit critical vegetation management and infrastructure maintenance projects on federal lands."

Devlin said the rule will mandate the BLM to manage for preservation rather than meet their multiple use mandate. FLPMA doesn't list uses, but rather laws that were passed by Congress for uses, like the Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Minerals Act, the Forest Reserve Act. Conservation, though, has not been defined through congressional action.

"Our government was designed to work slowly, to go through the process so we didn't make decisions that were damaging," he said after his testimony. "Our forefathers designed the process that way. Basically what you're doing is giving them Antiquities Act powers by using the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect intact landscapes and that would be defined as conservation and that just doesn't fly."

J.J. Goicoechea, former Nevada state veterinarian and current Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, said he has spent his life, just as his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather did – stewarding the lands that today are part of his family ranch and the lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Forest Service (USFS). He said Nevada is often the bellwether for public land rule success – or failure. More than 85 percent of the state is owned or managed by the federal government. The BLM owns or administers more than 63 percent – 48 million acres – of his home state. The remaining percentage can be attributed to the USFS, National Park Service, Department of Defense, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Goicoechea said the BLM has fundamentally failed to meet their statutory obligations under the regulatory process.

In his written testimony, Devlin said the proposed rule was written behind closed doors without the necessary formal input from states, counties or impacted stakeholders.

“Proposing a rule with such drastic implications for land and resource management across the West with a 75-day comment period treats the legitimate concerns of states, counties, other intergovernmental partners, and the public as second tier. BLM should withdraw the rule or, at a minimum, extend the public comment period to 180 days.”

Goicoechea said the BLM bypassed their responsibility to truly evaluate potential impacts of such actions, eliminated the opportunity for anyone, other than those employed by senior BLM leadership, to meaningfully contribute to the proposal, and reduced stakeholder confidence in the implementation of a final rule.

In his written testimony, he said the BLM has scheduled only five public information sessions and the meeting schedule, coupled with the unidirectional briefing style, has left stakeholders, “some of which will be most impacted by the proposed rule, and federal partners alike with the impression that this process is designed to tell the multiple use community what is happening to them, rather than being an active, transparent, and collaborative partner.”

BLM stated that the proposed rule’s effects would be “too broad, speculative or conjectural.” In his written testimony, Devlin said, “Even a surface-level reading of the proposed rule calls this justification into question, as the issuance of newly established conservation leases or expanded opportunities for the BLM to create areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) will negatively impact all aspects of land management and the agency’s multiple use mandate. Any attempt to rewrite FLPMA implementation in a wholesale manner should be subject to the most thorough environmental analyses, including potential economic impacts, just as the BLM would conduct when studying a specific project’s impacts.”

He said counties are ready to work with the BLM to better conserve our lands and resources, but counties deserve the chance to formally engage with the federal government from the beginning, especially when the wholesale reimplementation of federal law is in the balance.

FLPMA mandates that ACECs can only be designated when a resource management plan (RMP) is finalized. The proposed rule, however, would grant the BLM the authority to manage proposed lands of unlimited acreage as ACECs without the requirement of an updated RMP. This gives the BLM a new ability to create de facto Wilderness Study Areas of any size without the input of state and county governments by side-stepping the RMP establishment or revision process mandated by FLPMA.

Devlin said the vague definition of “intact landscapes” is defined by the BLM as “an unfragmented ecosystem that is free of local conditions that could permanently or significantly disrupt, impair, or degrade the landscape’s structure or ecosystem resilience, and that is large enough to maintain native biological diversity, including viable populations of wide-ranging species. Intact landscapes have high conservation value, provide critical ecosystem functions, and support ecosystem resilience.”

He said this vague and unclear definition, combined with the proposed rule’s mandate to analyze landscapes for protection from activities that negatively impact intact landscapes, would encapsulate untold millions of acres around the United States as “intact landscapes” and potentially disrupt necessary actions to make our landscapes and watersheds healthy and resilient.

The proposed rule allows the BLM new authority to grant conservation leases of up to 10 years and unlimited size to tribes, non-profits, individuals and private entities. Devlin said counties and states are excluded from conservation leases despite the work counties engage in to meet mutual goals of improving landscapes and watersheds.

Assuring no uses other than conservation could severely limit opportunities to manage landscapes to reduce wildfire and invasive species threats, livestock grazing, infrastructure maintenance and even recreational opportunities on federal lands, while elevating conservation as a use above the rest of these critical aspects of the agency's mandate. This, he said, is in opposition to a decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in *Public Lands Council v. Babbitt* that relevant statutes, including FLPMA, do not allow for the issuance of permits "intended exclusively for 'conservation use.'

Goicoechea said the agency has failed to define what is considered a "compatible" use or an "incompatible" use with an underlying conservation lease.

"While the BLM has previously stated they believe grazing is a conservation tool, the rule contains no text that would make the industry confident that this rule is not targeted to remove grazing access. Further, the rule makes clear that uses like hunting, fishing, and recreation, when done with a commercial component – like outfitting, guiding, and other conservation activities – would not be defined as a "casual use" and could be precluded due to the presence of a conservation lease. In sum, the BLM has proposed a system that will be rife for abuse and litigation without consistent standards and application."

He said without access to public lands and the forage and water they provide, cattle and sheep producers in Nevada would not be able to sustain viable operations, putting the national beef and lamb markets at risk of increased volatility. In Nevada alone, he said the result would be \$202.6 million in lost grazing economic activity, \$66 million in lost ecosystem services, and an incalculable loss to the culture, rural communities, and land values across the state.

"The greatest threat to sage grouse, mule deer, trout, and other key species in the state is habitat loss due to fire and invasive species encroachment. Grazing reduces fire risk, particularly in years like this, where ample moisture will result in an explosion of late-season forage. Without grazing, that forage will dry up and become fuel for catastrophic wildfire. Grazing reduces these fuels as part of normal operations, preventing the BLM from applying chemical or other treatments that cost an average of \$150 per acre. The cost savings for acres treated across the West totals billions of dollars annually."



MIWW UPDATE

For more information contact California State Director:

April Ward - april.ann.ward@gmail.com

Be a Winner with Wool Enter the 2023 Contest



Current National Winners

Saidi Ringenberg, NE, Senior; Estefania Espindola, Houston CC, Design;
Sunni Ellington, UT, Adult; Henry Lemke, MN, Junior

**California Contest held on Saturday November 11, 2023,
in Contra Costa County**

California Director: April Ward

Email: april.ann.ward@gmail.com or Cell: (510) 205-7017

For more information visit the National Website- www.makeitwithwool.com

MIWW NATIONAL FINALS

January 11-13, 2024

Sheraton Downtown, Denver, CO

NATIONAL MAKE IT WITH WOOL

KAREN WEIGHT, DIRECTOR

480 South 300 West ~ Salem, UT 84653

Email: thew8s@gmail.com

CALIFORNIA SHEEP COMMISSION



May 12, 2023

Dear Sheep Producer:

The California Sheep Commission is now entering its 24th year. Without a doubt, our industry is being challenged like at no time before by low prices, rising operational costs, a tight labor market, increased regulations and more. It is imperative that what we do as a Commission and how we do it, must be grounded in a sound strategy if we are to succeed.

Given this, the board of directors has voted to conduct a strategic planning session to collectively assess the current situation, understand the market dynamics, determine our industry's objective, and set a course for our future success.

On Wednesday, June 21, at the Stockton Ag Center, from 8:30 a.m. until noon, we will conduct a strategic planning session. We invite you to attend and participate in this vital discussion. If you cannot make it, we want your input and ask that you take a few minutes to complete an online survey. The planning session will be conducted by John Segale, who has been involved in agricultural communications for the past 35 years. John is a senior vice president at Fahlgren Mortine, a national communications company, and has worked for a variety of California commodities.

Here is the agenda for the day:

- **Introductions**
- **Why are we here?**
- **What are our sacred "lamb's"?**
- **Who is the Commission's audience?**
- **Overview of the competitive landscape**
- **Strengths & Weaknesses of the Commission**
- **Opportunities & Threats to our industry**
- **Determining the Objective and the Outcome**
- **How will we get there? The strategy**

Our commission highly values the input, perspective and experience of our producers, and we aim to collaborate as best we can with focusing on the goals of our producers and industry. We acknowledge that the California Sheep industry has, and continues to evolve and change, and we are aiming to best serve the sheep industry as it presents itself now, in 2023, and in the years to come.

California Sheep Commission

P.O. Box 1520

Folsom, CA 95763-1520

t: 916.933.7667

f: 916.933.7055

info@californialamb.com

www.californialamb.com

NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS

MAY-JUNE

Thank you for your attention and we hope to see you on June 21st in Stockton at the Stockton Ag Center. Please complete the RSVP if you wish to participate in the Strategic Planning Session.

Cordially,



David Goldenberg
President/CEO
California Sheep Commission



San Joaquin County - Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton, CA 95206; 209-953-6003
Room: Mokulemne Room, Time 8:30 a.m. - Noon



Please return the slip below if you wish to attend.

California Sheep Commission Strategic Planning Session

I/we will attend the California Sheep Commission Strategic Planning Session

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone email

Return to:
California Sheep Commission
P.O. Box 1520
Folsom, CA 95763-1520



Use the QR Code below by using a smart phone camera, and when recognized and framed, click the link and open the survey. Use the following link in your web browser <https://californialamb.com/survey/> to access our online survey or mail your written comments whether you plan to participate or not. We welcome all suggestions.



California Sheep Commission Strategic Planning Survey

1. Please list your current role with the Commission: officer, board member, producer: _____
2. In your opinion, what is the most important service provided by the Commission: _____

3. In your opinion, are there any services that are currently not offered by the Commission that you think should be?: _____

4. What do you consider the strengths of the California Sheep Commission? _____

5. What do you consider to be the Commission's weaknesses or areas for improvement? _____

6. What do you consider the top three threats to the California sheep industry? _____

7. What are three opportunities the Commission should consider exploring? _____

8. Is there a California Ag commission or federal market order that excels in promoting its products to consumers? _____
9. What makes that organization successful? _____

10. How would you define success for the Commission? _____

Department of Fish & Wildlife Implements Pay for Presence Wolf Compensation Program

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife on Wednesday announced the availability of its “Pay for Presence” wolf compensation program. The Department has previously rolled out programs to compensate producers for direct losses of livestock to wolves and for implementation of non-lethal deterrent measures.

According to a CDFW press release, the Pay for Presence program is intended to compensate livestock producers for the “Livestock production losses associated with wolf-induced stress,” including “reduced calf weight gains and lower pregnancy rates.” Only producers operating within known wolf pack territories are eligible for Pay for Presence compensation. CDFW’s 2021-22 map of known wolf pack summer and winter ranges is available [here](#), and the agency’s methodology for determining these geographic ranges can be found [here](#).

Ranchers grazing cattle outside of known wolf pack territories, including within areas traveled by dispersing wolves, will typically not be eligible for the Pay for Presence program. However, the Department does allow that “Extenuating circumstances may exist whereby the Department will consider eligibility on a case-by-case basis.” CCA thus encourages ranchers who believe they’ve been impacted by wolf presence even *outside* of known wolf territories to contact the Department at wolfprogram@wildlife.ca.gov.

Eligible producers can apply for compensation retroactive to September 23, 2021. According to [a document overviewing CDFW’s compensation pilot program](#), Pay for Presence compensation rates are as follows for animals that spend at least 3 months of a payment year in a known wolf territory and survive to the end of the payment year:

- 3.5% of fair market value (FMV) for each calf within a “core area” of a wolf territory;
- 3% FMV for each cow within a core area;
- 2% FMV for each cow and calf outside of a “core area” but within a known wolf pack territory.

CCA actively lobbied the Department in the development of its Pay for Presence program. While the program does not reflect all CCA’s priorities and is by no means a perfect program, the availability of Pay for Presence compensation marks significant progress in compensating livestock producers who must bear the burden of ill-conceived state regulations fully protecting gray wolves. Additionally, as this is a pilot program, compensation formulations may be refined in the future.

For more information on Pay for Presence and other wolf compensation programs, visit the [CDFW Wolf Livestock Compensation Grants \(ca.gov\)](#).

Grilled Lamb Kabobs With Sesame Sauce

INGREDIENTS

Lamb Kabobs:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, (quartered)
- 1 clove garlic, (peeled)
- 4 sprigs fresh parsley
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice 1 tablespoon
Kosher salt
- 1 1/4 pounds **American lamb** loin chops, cut into 1-inch cubes (or lamb leg, shoulder or stew meat)

Sesame Sauce:

- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 3 tablespoons Tahini
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice salt and pepper (to taste)

To Garnish:

- 1 teaspoon sesame seeds
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 tablespoon pomegranate seeds
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

DIRECTIONS

In a blender, combine the oil, onion, garlic, parsley, cumin, lemon zest, lemon juice and salt and puree until smooth. Transfer the marinade to a resealable plastic bag and add the lamb. Seal and refrigerate for at least 6 hours or preferably overnight.

Light a grill or preheat a grill pan. Drain the lamb, shaking off the excess marinade. Thread the lamb onto 4 long skewers. Grill over high heat, turning occasionally, until lightly charred, about 5 minutes for medium-rare meat.

Note: The USDA recommends that lamb reach an internal temperature of at least 145 degrees F with a 3-minute rest

Sesame Sauce:

Add yogurt, Tahini and lemon juice to a large bowl and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

In a small skillet, toast the sesame seeds and cumin seeds until fragrant.

Spread the sesame sauce on a large serving plate and drizzle with the olive oil. Sprinkle with toasted seeds, pomegranate seeds and parsley. Arrange the grilled lamb skewers on top. Serve.



HERDtheNews!

Upcoming Events

163rd Annual California Wool Growers Convention

August 16 - 17, 2023
Paso Robles, CA

CWGA Convention - Workshop

Wednesday Morning - August 16, 2023

CWGA Convention - Board Of Directors Meeting

Wednesday Afternoon - August 16, 2023

CWGA Convention - Membership Meeting

Thursday - August 17, 2023

CWGA Convention - Shepherd's Ball

August 17, 2023

FOOTVAX UPDATE

We still have Footvax available to all CWGA members.

If you don't live in California, we can still provide you with Footvax vaccine, with your State Veterinarian's permission.

250 dose bottles—\$1.55 per dose

**To order, please contact Susan at:
916-444-8122 or email - susan@woolgrowers.org**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY-JUNE

**DON'T JUST
FOLLOW
THE HERD**



Personal Ag Management is the leader in FSA Services,
securing millions of dollars for our clients through programs including:

USDA Program Payments
Loan Deficiency Payments
Non Insurable Crops- NAP

Dairy Programs
Payment Limitations
AGI Limits

Conservation Reserve Program
Highly Erodible Land
Livestock Forage Program

4646 Wilson Rd., Ste. 101
Bakersfield, CA 93309
661.831.4676
661.831.2276 FAX

**PERSONAL AG
MANAGEMENT**
Insurance Services, L.L.C.

www.personalagmanagement.com

4132 S. Demaree, Ste. B
Visalia, CA 93277
559.733.1300
559.733.1110 FAX

**Utah Wool Marketing
Association**



Marketing Wool to the World

Contact: Will Hart Griggs – Manager

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

435-843-4286 - Fax

55 S. Iron St. Suite 2 Tooele, UT 84074

www.utahwool.com

www.utahwoolmarketing@gmail.com

SHEEP FOR SALE - FLOCK DOWNSIZING

14 - Dorper Ram Lambs - 4 - 6 mo. old

Brood Ewes - 3 & 4 year olds

5 Corriedale, 5 Columbia, 5 Rambouillet, 5 Suffolk

**Henry Ratay
Corning, CA
530-824-5890**