



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860

Herd the News

January/February 2017

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

CWGA Recipient of ASI Let's Grow Grant

In December, CWGA was awarded an American Sheep Industry Let's Grow Grant for its project – *Improving Lamb Marketing, Quality, and Profitability: Options for California Producers*. The Let's Grow Committee awarded 14 grant projects totaling more than \$200,000 to support continued growth in the sheep industry.

CWGA's grant project will develop four one-day interactive producer and industry stakeholder workshops in December 2017 and/or January 2018. The workshops will focus on applying advanced and current management practices that, when combined with California's lamb production system and resources, will help mitigate the inconsistent U.S. seasonal supply (and subsequent lamb quality) issues resulting in a more steady supply of quality lambs throughout the year. The workshops will be held the following locations: Kern County, Hopland Research & Extension Center, Rio Vista, and either North Central Valley or Sierra Foothills.

The workshops will be held in a ranch setting to allow for interactive discussions and demonstrations of the different management practices being presented. Each meeting will allow ample time for interaction and discussion on implementing the practices, adapting per operation type (i.e. large commercial, mid-size, farm-flock), and the benefits and the costs of these practices. Interactive aspects may vary by location, but expectations are for each workshop to consist of as much hands-on interaction by attendees on the topics presented as possible.

Innovative practices that will be presented include aseasonal lambing systems, improving ewe productivity through genetic selection, adopting best management practices (such as electronic identification), utilizing ultrasound technology to pregnancy check ewes or employing teaser rams to increase ewe efficiency, engaging in a forage, feeding, or nutritional ranch analysis, and adopting specialized feeding programs designed to shorten or extend marketing periods based on market supply and demand conditions.

If California producers are successful in implementing these practices to better manage quality lamb supplies, it will help California producer profitability and sustainability. In addition it will provide other regions of the U.S. with a production model that can be adopted and adapted, depending on production and market factors, to further advance the industry's efforts in mitigating the domestic seasonal lamb supply issues.

Details on the workshops will be made available this spring.

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Presidents Message – *Ryan Indart*



Dear CWGA Membership,

Today is Sunday, January 22nd, 2017. A steady rain has been falling for several hours and the front yard is engulfed in standing water. The water is falling off the roof of the house through the rain gutter and out into the yard. It is difficult to not become entranced by the rhythmic and steady pitter patter of the drops hitting the roof, the puddles, the shrubs, and the trees. What a peaceful, beautiful gift it is to watch and listen to the rain fall, especially considering the drought that all of us as Californians have suffered through over the last 5 years. We all have our stories of the drought I am sure, but as I sit here feeling so blessed today that we have finally had a great start to our water year due to several storms that have hit the state in January, I would be remiss to not allow my mind to drift back to the end of January 2014, to what I consider to be the height of the drought for folks in my area. I remember all too vividly filling up a water trough for one of our bunches of ewes and lambs that were feeding on an alfalfa field right south of Kerman. I had a t-shirt and jeans on and I was sweating profusely because it was bright and sunny and 80 degrees! I thought to myself, “Is this really happening? I should be wearing a wool sweater and beanie right now.”

I will never forget that day, because it was the same day I was interviewed about the historic and horrific drought that California was experiencing, from none other than an LA times reporter. Surprisingly, the story on the drought they ran was a good one, not only because it highlighted the actual water/precipitation drought we were experiencing and its profound effect on California Agriculture, but more importantly the Regulatory/Legislative Drought we are all too used to in California. They received the truth from me that day, whether they liked it or not, and they published it as well. I would only agree to an interview as long as they agreed to not filter my words and message, in order to fit an agenda. I am grateful this day for this rain, and the drenching storms we have received thus far in 2017. I hope and pray it continues, and that this drought will finally be over. A good winter, however, should not lull us into complacency. It is far too easy to forget how difficult the last 5 years were, just because the ground is saturated, there is feed in the hills and snow in the Sierras. Now more than ever, we have to continue to be vigilant and engaged in our political process and demand that our Federal and State Government/Politicians enact sound, common sense water policy that benefits not only the environment, but more importantly agriculture, society and the people that live here in this beautiful state. We all know that the biggest, most responsible and active Environmentalists in this state are its farmers and ranchers! And because of that, we need to continue to make our voices heard.

One way to accomplish this objective is to join our Legislative/Government Affairs Committee chaired by Emily Rooney. If you have a desire to get more involved in the political process and in the laws and policies that affect all of us as California Sheep farmers, then I encourage you to not only join the committee, but also take part in two upcoming events in 2017. The first is the ASI Legislative

Action Conference from March 27 – 30, in Washington DC. I will be attending this trip as well as Erica, but we need more people to represent CWGA. I strongly encourage you to join us, as the more voices we have, the better off we are. The second event is the California Legislative Day in Sacramento in late spring. This is another great opportunity to meet with the State representatives and staffers who more directly affect our local laws and policies. Please consider joining us in at these events, because we as California Sheep farmers are only as strong as our united voice, one that I am proud to say has traditionally and historically been very strong.

In conclusion, I can't help but feel optimistic about our future as a state and a country. I am filled with a sense of renewal and faith. We need to remember that we as farmers and ranchers are the backbone of this society, and we have a higher calling to strive toward. We are humbled and filled with gratitude for this greater responsibility. We need to continue to be positive leaders, example setters and solution providers in our communities and in our state. I hope and pray that all of you have a successful and prosperous 2017 and invite you to attend the next Board of Directors meeting on March 10th in Los Banos.

ASI's 2017 Spring Legislative Action Trip, March 27 – 30, 2017

Now is the time to increase your political activity!



AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
YOUR INDUSTRY ADVOCATE SINCE 1865

Political advocacy is an ongoing and active part of CWGA's mission and role to deliver lasting value to all segments of the California sheep industry.

The ASI Spring Legislative Trip March 27 – 30, 2017 offers members the opportunity to meet with their elected Congressional Representatives and Senators (and staff) to discuss the issues facing our industry.

Every meeting you engage in with your elected official, strengthens your relationship with those offices. Building relationships with elected officials represents an important part of influencing the political process. A personal visit is the most effective way of communicating with elected officials. Personal stories about our industry are the most effective and provide decision makers with valuable insight into our industry.

Issues and legislation can change quickly, which further highlights the importance of maintaining an ongoing relationship with your elected official. Why not start that relationship by joining fellow CWGA members on Capitol Hill in March.

California has 53 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives, the most of any state, with representatives serving on each of the House committees, along with two senators in the U.S. Senate. In order to meet with as many representatives possible and voice our concerns, we need you to attend.

Tentative Schedule

Monday, March 27th – Travel to Washington DC

Tuesday, March 28th – Meetings with USDA Agencies, Capitol Hill Visits

Wednesday, March 29th – Capitol Hill Visits & Industry Legislative Reception

Thursday, March 30th – Return to California

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

Tentative deadline to register – March 3rd.

Did You Know... Throughout its history, Congress has met in three cities: New York City; Philadelphia; and its permanent location of Washington, D.C., which was established in the Residence Act of 1790.

Board of Directors Adopt New Membership Dues Structure

In 2015, the members of the California Wool Growers Association adopted a new strategic plan at our annual meeting in Gardnerville last August. This plan, which we are beginning to implement, lays out our organization's strategic direction over the next five years.

The elements of the plan are focused on achieving our mission: *The California Wool Growers Association will deliver lasting value to support and grow all segments of the California sheep industry.*

As part of this effort, the membership directed the board of directors to examine our dues structure, with an emphasis on ensuring the long-term financial stability of the organization. At our December board meeting, your directors and officers adopted a new and simplified dues structure; one that we believe will help grow our organization and provide important financial resources for the priorities established in the strategic plan. **The new dues structure will be effective March 1, 2017.**

In addition to supporting your organization with your membership dollars and purchases of sheep health products, we hope you'll contribute in other ways. Please consider purchasing your veterinary supplies, nutritional supplements, and vaccines through CWGA. We need your participation in our committees, at the ram sale in April, at our upcoming workshops, and at our annual meeting. We need your guidance in developing policies and programs that will help grow our industry. We need your help representing all segments of the sheep business in Sacramento and Washington, DC.

Thank you for your continued support of the California Wool Growers Association. Please contact us if you have any questions or ideas!

Ryan Indart, President – 559-333-1407, rcindart@gmail.com

Dan Macon, Vice President – 530-305-3270, flyingmulefarm@gmail.com

Ed Anchordoguy, Treasurer – 707-824-9146, anchlamb@comcast.net

New Dues Structure – Effective March 1st

Regular Member (0 – 25 head) - \$60.00

Regular Member (26 or more head) - \$100 + (Number Breeding Ewes x \$0.10 per ewe)

Regular-Feeder Combined Member - \$100.00 + (\$0.10 x No. of Ewes + \$0.03 x No. of Feeder Lambs)

Feeder Member - \$100 + Number Feeder Lambs x \$0.03 per feeder lamb

Allied Industry Member - \$75.00

Young Member (less than 21 yrs. of age) - \$35.00

* Number of Ewes/Feeders as of January 1st of the current membership year.

Do You Have Your *Eat Lamb...Wear Wool* License Plate Frame Yet?



The chrome frames are a thin rim license plate frame that reads *American Sheep Industry -- Eat Lamb...Wear Wool*

Member Cost \$15.00 each plus tax & shipping.

Only a few left, get yours before there gone!

To order, call the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org

Annual Meeting Information

Plan to Attend CWGA's Annual Meeting on August 18 – 19th in Cambria

The 2017 CWGA Annual Meeting & Convention will be held on August 18 – 19, 2017, at the Cambria Pines Lodge in Cambria, CA.

Lodging Information

For online reservations <http://www.cambriapineslodge.com/grouplogin%20with> and enter the following CASE-sensitive group code and password: *Group code: CWGA, Password: cwga.*

Or call 800-966-6490 and mention the CA Wool Growers Association.

Deadline to reserve rooms is July 28, 2017.

Things to do in Cambria

Nestled amid majestic pines and the glimmering sea along California's Central Coast, Cambria is a lovely village with countless scenic wonders. Exit the beaten path and discover one of the West Coast's most unique destinations, where natural beauty and outdoor recreation abound. From historical attractions and natural preserves to popular entertainment venues and premier dining, Cambria puts you in a prime position to enjoy the area's top attractions.

- Hearst Castle – <http://hearstcastle.org/>
- Moonstone Beach – <http://visitcambriaca.com/attractions-california/natural-wonders/moonstone-beach/>
- Pacific Wine Trail – <http://pacificcoastwinetrail.com/>
- Piedras Blancas Light Station – <http://www.piedrasblancas.org/index.html>
- Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery – <http://www.elephantseal.org/>
- For more things to do go to <http://visitcambriaca.com/>.

Tentative Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017

Local Area Industry Tour

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

Shepherders Golf Tournament

Ram Sale Committee Meeting

Workshop: Tools for Show Lamb Producers

Board of Directors Meeting

Welcome Reception

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017

Annual Membership Meeting

Past Presidents Lunch

Workshop: Economic Tools for Sheep Producers

Media Training for Sheep Producers

Cocktail Reception

Shepherds Ball & Banquet

Calling All Photographers

CWGA will be hosting a sheep photography contest at this year's Annual Meeting. Look for details in the next issue of Herd the News.

Member Information & Updates

Living in the Digital World & CWGA's Need for Member Email Addresses

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

Last year, CWGA introduced *Herd the News Weekly*, a weekly electronic email update with industry news, information, and events. This publication is emailed to members every Friday. In addition, those with an email address receive the ASI weekly newsletter with national industry news. We realize not everyone likes email, but having an email on file helps CWGA in its efforts to keep you up-to-date and provide member support.

If you are not receiving CWGA emails and you do have an email address, please contact the CWGA office to update your contact information to ensure you are receiving the latest information from CWGA.

Send in Your Local News to Share with CWGA Members

The *Herd the News* and *Herd the News Weekly* publications are designed to offer you valuable information on the California and national sheep industry. We are requesting producer groups, local associations, and allied industry stakeholders submit information about what is happening in your local area. We want to share upcoming events, meeting, workshops to members and stakeholders. The more we can learn from each other the better we can support and provide value to all segments of our industry. Please submit local information and events via email to erica@woolgrowers.org.

Missed a Let's Grow Webinar?

A variety of resources and materials focusing on how to improve the productivity of your sheep operation have been funded through the Let's Grow campaign. Let's Grow funded webinars focus on a number of topics



including genetic selection, nutrition, parasite management, and ewe performance. All webinars are available on the Let's Grow Website at

http://www.sheepusa.org/Growourflock_Resources_EducationalWebinars.

Have You Taken Look at the Lamb Industry Resource Center Yet?

The Lamb Resource Center is your one-stop shop for industry resources and information.



Recently added is the *Best Practices Resource Database*, a searchable listing of existing resources that address topics of importance, such as animal handling, environmental stewardship, genetics and selection, meat quality, reproduction management and more. To access the Database go to - <http://lambresourcecenter.com/production-resources/best-practice-resources/>.

Visit www.LambResourceCenter.com for a variety of production industry resources.

Sheep Book App Available for Tracking Flock Data

For sheep producers looking for a web based application along with a mobile app to help manage their sheep data, Sheep Book may be for you. The app allows producers to track lambing data and generate reports by rams or entire lamb crop. It also allows producers to enter breeding information on a ewe flock and project lambing dates. This application will generate individual ewe productivity by keeping annual sale prices for your lamb crop. There is a 30-day trial period after which the app costs \$15 annually. Check it out at <http://sheepbook.net>

2017 California Ram Sale – April 8th, Porterville

Mark your calendars, the 2017 California Ram Sale will be held on April 8th at the Porterville Fairgrounds. For directions and sale information go to - <http://cawoolgrowers.org/sale/ramsale.html>.

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

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 7th, 1:30 pm – *Farmquip Sheep Equipment Program & Demonstration*



Farmquip will be presenting its CRUTCH AND WEIGH COMBO Sheep Handler on Friday afternoon. Representatives will be hosting a live interactive demonstration on the workings of the crutch and weigh combo sheep handler and how it can benefit your operation. Learn how the sheep handler can save you time, money, and sore backs. Attendees will have an opportunity to test the equipment as sheep move through the handler. Learn more about the handler at - <http://www.farmquip.co/products/index.htm?c=147&pc=1&catname=Sheep+Handling+Equipment>

Saturday, April 7th

8:00 am – *Buyer Check-In & Ram Preview*

8:30 am – *Trade Show Featuring Sheep Health & Equipment Companies*

Come early for this year's Trade Show with representatives from Animal Health International, Cargill-Vigortone, FarmQuip, and other sheep product companies. Stop by the Cargill-Vigortone booth where they will be debuting the new California Elite Sheep Mineral developed by sheep producers for sheep producers. (Learn more about the California Elite Sheep Mineral on page 15.)

11:00 am – *Buyer Lamb Lunch*

Enjoy a California BBQ Lamb lunch before the sale starts. Thank you to Superior Farms for donating the lamb for this year's BBQ!

1:00 pm – *California Ram Sale*

Selling over 500 range rams from California, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. Crossbred, Hampshire, Suffolk, and White-Faced rams will be sold. Ultrasound carcass measurements (i.e. loin eye area) and a Range Ram Index will be provided on all sale rams to help identify the carcass traits and the genetic potential of those rams.

Range Ram Index: A Tool for Selecting Range Rams

Each lot of rams sold in the 2017 Ram Sale will be assigned an Average Range Ram Index Value (Ram Index).

The Ram Index will help to identify those rams that will sire progeny with more desirable carcass traits such as heavier carcass weights or larger loin eye size.

- According to the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSE), genetic selection for larger loin-muscle area should be expected to improve carcass merit and carcass value of market lambs.
- Utilizes live animal ultrasound which can provide reliable estimates of carcass quality characteristics.
- Carcass traits are highly heritable.
- Producers can implement changes in progeny carcass traits change so much faster and improvement in the accuracy of breeding decisions is so much better.
- Will benefit the industry as whole in producing a more desirable product for the consumer.

California Legislative Update

AB-8 Proposes to Amend CA Fish and Game Code Relating to Mountain Lion Depredation Permits

Assembly Member Bloom (D-50) has introduced AB-8 to amend Section 4803 of the California Fish and Game Code (FGC) relating to mountain lion depredation permits. This bill would authorize, rather than require, the issuance of a permit under these circumstances. In particular, the bill would change the term “shall” with “may” in the FGC regarding the issuance of depredation permits to take the depredating mountain lion. Per the Fish and Game Code - “Shall” is mandatory and “may” is permissive.

AB-8 proposes to change regulation associated with the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (Proposition 117). The California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 prohibits the Legislature from changing the Act, with specified exceptions, except by a 4/5 vote of the membership of both houses of the Legislature and then only if consistent with, and in furtherance of, the purposes of the act.

Additional proposed amendments are expected to be included in AB-8 prior to the bill be read in the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife in March or April.

For bill details and to follow AB-8 developments (i.e. bill text, amendments, status) go to - https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB8.

CWGA, California Farm Bureau Federation, & California Cattlemen’s Association oppose AB-8.

Potential Implications to Sheep and Livestock Producers:

- This bill would authorize, rather than require, the issuance of a depredation permit.
- Could lead to changes in regulations that require implementing nonlethal methods (i.e. fencing, mountain lion proof enclosures, etc.) prior to CDFW issuing a depredation permit.

CWGA will continue to update members on AB-8 via Legislative Action Alerts over the next few months and asking members for their support in defeating AB-8.

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Finalizes California Wolf Plan

In December the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) released the Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves in California. The press release and links to the final documents are available at CDFW’s website at <https://cdfgnews.wordpress.com/2016/12/06/cdfw-releases-final-wolf-management-plan-for-california/>.

The Wolf Conservation Plan was released in draft form in 2017, with CWGA and other agricultural groups providing extensive comments on the plan. CWGA was also a member of the Stakeholder Working Group that advised CDFW throughout the development of the Wolf Conservation Plan.

CWGA continues to believe that the Wolf Conservation Plan falls short of providing sufficient tools for California sheep producers to protect their livestock from threats posed by gray wolves. However, the finalization of the Wolf Conservation Plan is beneficial to the extent that it provides clarity for producers regarding how California intends to manage gray wolves. It is important to note that the Wolf Conservation Plan is not a regulatory rule, but is instead a CDFW policy, and it subject to change as CDFW’s knowledge regarding wolves in California improves. The Stakeholder Working Group will likely continue to meet at least annually to advise CDFW regarding wolf management in California and CWGA will continue to have an active role in those discussions in an effort to favorably shape wolf management.

In 2014, the California Fish and Game Commission’s decided to list the gray wolf as endangered in California. This is effective Jan. 1, 2017 and prohibits any take, harm or harassment of gray wolves.

Legislative Update

American Sheep Industry Transmits Priorities to the New Administration

In preparation for the new year and new administration, the American Sheep Industry Association, on behalf of the nation's 88,000 sheep producers, provided the Trump Administration a list of priorities -

<https://d1cgrq366w3ike.cloudfront.net/http/DOCUMENT/SheepUSA/ASI%20Presidential%20Transition%20Priorities.pdf> - it hopes will be considered for immediate action. Burton Pfliger, ASI President and North Dakota sheep producer said America's sheep producers are struggling amidst the last eight years of regulatory rampage.

"It is no secret that all of agriculture has been over-burdened with regulation and that has had a significant impact on our ability to compete globally," said Pfliger. "From the current administration's 'waters of the United States' rule to the loss of sheep ranches claiming conflict with wild sheep, there are a number of issues ripe for the new administration to tackle."

America's sheep producers are asking the Trump administration to look at ways the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior and the Department of Labor can immediately take action to stabilize the rural economy. These actions include robust Wildlife Services predation management, supporting the work of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station and delisting wolves and grizzly bears under the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, protecting the health of the domestic herd by withdrawing rules allowing imports from countries with a known history of Foot and Mouth Disease and publishing the final rule on scrapie in sheep and goats are top priorities.

"The specific issues outlined in our letter are commonsense requests that would immediately benefit sheep producers and the local communities they support," said Pfliger. "In addition to regulatory reform, we are hopeful President-elect Trump's administration will focus on fair trade and re-opening markets lost to U.S. lamb. Japan remains closed to our producers and the United Kingdom and European Union maintain significant barriers to lamb trade. Priorities also include federal recognition of the key role the H-2A labor program plays in the sheep industry."

"ASI is hopeful the new administration will recognize the role of America's sheep ranchers in managing private land and federal allotments to preserve habitat and natural resources to benefit wildlife and rural economies."

In response to the letter, officials with the transition team have already requested additional information from ASI on a key topic.

Trump Picks Perdue for Agriculture Secretary, Ending Historically Long Search

After the longest search for a USDA chief in modern history, President-elect Donald Trump nominated for agriculture secretary former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, a longtime rural agribusinessman who originally trained as a veterinarian.

Perdue, 70, served two terms as governor, from 2003 to 2011, and was an original member of Trump's agricultural advisory team, announced in August. Although he has a doctorate in veterinary medicine, he spent much of his career in the grain and fertilizer business in rural Georgia after leaving the Air Force in 1974.

Former California Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado, who was apparently in the running until the end, pledged his support for Perdue. "America can rest assured that it will be in good hands with" Perdue, Maldonado said in a statement.

Perdue was one of the few candidates with experience running an organization as large as USDA, which has more than 100,000 workers in the national capital area and around the country. Georgia has about 68,000 state employees. Agricultural groups welcomed the pick of Perdue. *Source: AgriPulse*

Legislative Update

USDA Updates Organic Livestock and Poultry Rules

The US Dept. of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has announced a final rule that clarifies production requirements for organic livestock and poultry. According to a statement from AMS, the final rule bolsters consumer confidence, levels the playing field for producers and ensures organic animals will live in pasture-based systems and are produced in environments supporting their well-being and natural behavior.

The final rule, available at www.ams.usda.gov, instructs USDA to develop regulations to ensure organic products meet consistent standards that include livestock and poultry production, AMS said in its statement.

Recommendations from the National Organic Standards Board, public comments from a range of stakeholders and consultation from other Federal agencies were used to craft the amendments. Important provisions of the rule include:

- Clarifying how producers and handlers must treat livestock and poultry to ensure their health and well-being throughout life, including transport and slaughter.
- Specifying which physical alterations are allowed and prohibited in organic livestock and poultry production.
- Establishing minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for poultry.

In a statement to MEAT+POULTRY, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) said it applauded USDA for working to improve the welfare of animals raised under the certified organic label. "This is a historic moment, as there are currently no substantive federal standards for the raising of farm animals under the law," said Dena Jones, AWI farm animal program director. "The final rule reduces inconsistencies in the animal care provided by organic producers, and helps farmers who raise their animals in accordance with higher welfare standards. Such farmers – whose practices are more in line with consumer expectations for organic products – are currently at a competitive disadvantage to industrial operators who cut corners and treat their animals poorly."

Jones went on to say that the rule falls short in some areas. "It does not, for instance, 'ensure ... that all organic animals live in pasture-based systems,' as the USDA claims. "...While the final rule does not create a pasture-based system, it does ensure that all organically raised animals at least have some access to the outdoors—a significant improvement from the current organic regulatory requirements."

In contrast to AWI, The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) did not appreciate the final rule from USDA's AMS. NPPC said in a statement the new rule dictates how organic producers raise, transport and slaughter animals without scientific justification and eliminates producers from making sound decisions with regard to animal care.

"This parting gift from Agriculture Secretary [Tom] Vilsack is not welcomed," said NPPC President John Weber, a pork producer from Dysart, Iowa. "This unnecessary, unscientific midnight regulation won't win him any friends in the agriculture community he's apparently joining."

NPPC says welfare standards do not fall within the scope of the organic food production law, thus limiting consideration of livestock as organic to feeding and medication practices. "...These new standards will present serious challenges to livestock producers and add complexity to the organic certification process, creating significant barriers to existing and new organic producers."

"The standards seem to be based on public perception – or USDA's understanding of that perception – of what good animal welfare is and don't reflect a consensus by experts in animal welfare and handling," he added.

Source: MEAT+POULTRY



FY 2016

AMERICAN LAMB BOARD'S

Year in Review

Your Lamb Checkoff is working to increase demand and market share for American Lamb, thereby increasing the potential long-range economic growth of all industry sectors. Increasing demand, market share and profitability requires not only building awareness through marketing and promotions but also delivering consistency and quality, increasing production efficiencies and working together on common goals to meet consumer needs.

YOUR LAMB BOARD FUNDS PROGRAMS IN THREE CORE AREAS:

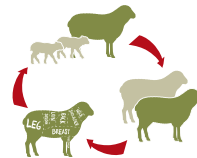
MARKETING & PROMOTION



RESEARCH & EDUCATION



INDUSTRY COLLABORATION



Your American Lamb Board at Work in 2016:

- New Young Leader Program developed
- 2 flavor studies addressing how production factors affect lamb flavor
- Updated nutrition analysis of all American Lamb retail cuts
- Support for the National Sheep Improvement Program
- Development of 12 Best Practices Fact Sheets related to Increasing Your Lamb Crop
- Launch of the Lamb Resource Center—a clearinghouse of information for the lamb industry
- Export promotions in Mexico and the Caribbean
- Halal advertising campaign targeting Muslim Americans
- New Millennial Consumer Study and Marketing Workshop
- 5th Annual Lamb Jam Tour reaching more than 2,500 lamb lovin' consumers, 75 chefs and 45 local food writers and bloggers
- New Blogger Lambassador team with a combined reach of 1.5 million consumers
- "Curriculamb"—culinary education program for chefs and culinary students
- 14 new seasonal lamb recipes and photos and a new "Lamb Cuts 101" cookbook
- 3 new recipe videos garnering 210,052 views
- New Spring Entertaining hub and tools, including step-by-step guides for roasting a leg of lamb
- 6 Partnerships with suppliers and 16 local promotions with industry partners
- ALB's media outreach efforts resulted in 1,518 consumer placements and reached more than 400 million consumers
- 80 placements in foodservice publications
- 5 new affordable menu concept sheets
- 10% increase in followers of American Lamb's social channels
- New "Fit Flock" Campaign and participation at fitness events
- Summer Lambventures campaign (4 new summer lamb menus) reaching 20,000 consumers
- Lamb Lovers Month "Recipes for Romance" contest reached 30,000

americanlamb.com

Mendocino Wool & Fiber Mill Nearing Completion

Construction of The Mendocino Wool & Fiber Mill is nearing completion. After much anticipation and planning, the core construction is now finished and the mill has a foundation, frame, and roof in place. The installation of the plumbing and electrical was completed before the New Year, and owner Matthew Gilbert expects to have freshly painted doors opening later this month.

With construction complete, installation of the mill machinery itself is slated for the 1st Quarter and Matthew expects to get to work on actually milling wool shortly thereafter. An open house celebration is already in the works for the spring.

Matthew and Sarah again express their gratitude and excitement in seeing the fruits of their labor literally take shape in the form of this new construction. Matthew recently traveled to Iowa to visit several existing mills and reports that he was advised to spend Year One focusing on producing consistent results. He expects to be rolling out salable wool yarn by late summer, and says that we can look forward to 100% locally grown, milled, and knitted products by fall of 2018!

Eighty-eight investors contributed to the Direct Public Offering (DPO), together raising \$354,000 to bring the mill to life. To learn about the Mendocino Wool & Fiber Mill go to - <https://www.facebook.com/MendoWool>

National Mill Inventory & Interactive Map

The National Mill Inventory is a project by [Fibershed](#), a non-profit organization working to develop regional and regenerative fiber systems on behalf of independent working producers. This effort began with the goal of illuminating fiber milling capabilities across the United States. Reaching out to mill owners and operators at all scales, Fibershed sought to understand what services are offered, what supply chains are possible, and what components need fortification to support a thriving domestic and decentralized textile industry

The National Mill Inventory seeks to identify textile mills across the United States and create an open-source tool that facilitates regional, regenerative fiber systems and collaborations between fiber producers, processors, designers and wearers. The National Mill Inventory is based on information collected through internet searches and follow-up conversations as possible. It is intended as an overview and a starting point to understand fiber processing and milling opportunities. It is not a certification program, rather it is a resource that we hope serves as a starting point. To learn more go to - <http://nationalmillinventory.com/>

Fibershed explored the possibilities and challenges of textile milling, and created an open-source resource to help build relationships – explore milling capabilities and partners on the landscape. Check out the National Mill Inventory interactive map at: <http://nationalmillinventory.com/explore-mills/>

PETA Re-Launches Campaign on Abuse in the Wool Industry

PETA, the animal rights organization, has a reputation for employing the oldest marketing trick in the book: selling their message with sex. The latest example? Their [campaign](#) to raise awareness of animal abuse in the wool industry, which features a poster of Alicia Silverstone walking naked into a meadow, her head turned over her shoulder, looking back at you with seductive, pleading eyes. The caption reads, “I’d rather go naked than wear wool.”

PETA’s current sheep campaign—typically broadcast with the tagline, “there is no such thing as humane wool”—was launched in 2014 after the organization released [footage](#) of sheep being cut, manhandled, and mangled at wool-shearing operations in the US and Australia. The effort got major press coverage around the world, and led to the prosecution of several of the Australian shearers who were depicted in the footage on animal abuse charges. Now that Alicia Silverstone has put her skin in the game PETA’s wool campaign is back in the media once again. To read more go to <http://modernfarmer.com/2017/01/alicia-silverstone-naked-telling-wool-clothing-bad-believe/>

Should Your Wool Be Responsible Wool Standard Certified?

Textile Exchange's Responsible Wool Standard Could Affect Future American Wool Sales

Large-scale American wool producers might benefit from some minor changes proposed by the Textile Exchange's new Responsible Wool Standard (RWS).

While the America Sheep Industry (ASI) hasn't officially endorsed the standard that was developed in response to animal welfare issues that occurred in South America in 2015, major outdoor clothing brands seemed generally in favor of the standard during the RWS Brand Training at the Outdoor Retailer Show last month in Salt Lake City.

With that in mind, American wool producers should definitely take some time to learn more about the standard, which was developed in conjunction with many of those same manufacturers.

There are both challenges and possible financial benefits that come with meeting the new standard. ASI members Jeanne Carver (Oregon) and Steve Osguthorpe (Utah) were involved in pilot audits of the new standard, and received a premium price for their spring wool from Patagonia for their efforts. Further pilot audits have been or will be conducted with wool producers around the world as the standard starts to take hold.

As clothing lines are developed in the years to come, other brands might very well offer premium prices for wool that meets the demands of the Responsible Wool Standard. With that in mind, here are answers to some basic questions about the RWS.

What's involved in the audit process?

An independent firm (several are expected to be certified by the Textile Exchange) will spend time observing the workings of your ranch. They'll want to see the lambing and shearing process, for example. Experts will evaluate your land management practices. And there will be lots of paperwork, as virtually everything that happens with your sheep and the land they graze will need to be documented. For wool to be certified with the RWS seal, every company that touches that wool from the ranch forward will have to go through a certification process. The only company escaping scrutiny is the final retailer, which merely stocks the product for sale.

How much is this going to cost?

Producers will pay a fee (estimated at somewhere between \$2,500 and \$4,000) to be audited. The standard also requires yearly audits, so that's an annual cost.

How will I benefit from being a part of the RWS?

The honest answer is you might not. But, there's reason to believe that you will. Carver and Osguthorpe have already benefitted from getting on board early in the process and selling their wool at a premium.

The brands represented at the RWS Brand Training in Salt Lake City seemed interested in working with RWS certified wool in an effort to avoid the animal welfare issues that so drastically affected Patagonia in 2015. They realize the wool will be more expensive because of the certification process, but seemed to believe the cost would be less than the type of public relations nightmare Patagonia went through. Companies looking to buy such wool in the next two to three years will expect to pay a premium price for the limited quantities. Keep in mind, however, that not a single brand represented in the meeting committed to buying RWS wool as soon as it is available. Some might choose to follow Patagonia's lead in developing their own standard in the years to come.

Does RWS certification make sense for your ranch? Each individual producer will have to answer that question for themselves. To learn more, visit ResponsibleWool.org.

Source: ASI

Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Guidance for Minor Species

On Jan. 1, 2017, the Food and Drug Administration's new Veterinary Feed Directive regulations for animals became effective. Per FDA Guidance #213, medically important antimicrobials in medicated feed became veterinary feed directive (VFD) drugs, and the resulting VFD feed must be authorized by a licensed veterinarian and distributed and used in compliance with the VFD regulation. Animal producers will no longer be able to use these VFD feeds for growth promotion or feed efficiency.

While a good deal of information has been published about the changes regarding the use of antimicrobials in feed and water for major species (cattle, horses, swine, chickens, turkeys, dogs and cats), there has been little information about how the FDA will regulate VFD drugs in minor species, such as sheep.

Since there are relatively few products approved to treat and prevent diseases in minor species, FDA has historically provided guidelines to veterinarians and others on how to use products on minor species that are approved for other animals in a safe and effective manner. The guidelines, called Compliance Policy Guides (CPG), are also non-binding recommendations to FDA's field enforcement personnel on how they should regulate VFD products.

FDA recently published a new CPG for minor species (updated from an April 2001 CPG) that will be used beginning Jan. 1. While the law and regulations must be followed by everyone (producers, veterinarians, licenses feed mills and feed distributors), the new CPG does provide options for treating and preventing disease conditions in minor species, including sheep, in addition to using only specific labeled products.

The CPG for minor species is available at - www.fda.gov/ucm/groups/fdagov-public/@fdagov-afda-ice/documents/webcontent/ucm074659.pdf.

New Training Module on Veterinary Feed Directive

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) is announcing the availability of a new training, *Module 29 Veterinary Feed Directive*. NVAP worked with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine and Iowa State's Center for Food Security and Public Health to create this training. Upon completion of this module, participants will be able to:

- Describe the need for antibiotic stewardship in regard to antibiotic resistance;
- Understand the FDA's regulatory oversight of animal drugs;
- Describe the Federally-defined key elements of a lawful veterinarian-client-patient relationship;
- Recognize the classes and uses of antibiotics requiring a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD);
- Describe the components of a complete VFD;
- Understand the recordkeeping requirements associated with a VFD;
- Apply expiration date and duration of use guidelines to a VFD; and
- Locate additional resources related to VFDs.

The module, which is free of charge and does not require a user name or password, is available here: <http://aast.cfsph.iastate.edu/VFD/index.htm>.

Find-A-Vet Searchable Database

GlobalVetLINK's Find-A-Vet feature allows animal owners to quickly find a veterinarian in their area who offers digital services such as the establishment of a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) and/or a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). Both a VCPR and a VFD are now required to use many in-feed antibiotics as of Jan. 1, 2017. Go to <https://user.globalvetlink.com/gvl2/find-a-vet> and enter your zip code to find the GVL veterinarians closest to you.

CA Elite Sheep Mineral – Developed by Sheep Producers for Sheep Producers

Cargill Animal Nutrition is pleased to introduce our new California Elite Sheep Mineral.

California Elite Sheep was developed to address sheep specific nutritional and health needs and issues. California Elite balances the most advanced technology trace mineral, macro minerals, and vitamins at the correct levels to address footrot, lameness, and mastitis issues, selenium and thiamine needs, and animal fertility.

This product was developed through a collaborative effort involving Craig Edling (Animal Health International), Dr. Larson (Zinpro), Dr. Tomlinson, Dr. Nancy East, DVM, UC Davis (ret.), and California sheep producers.

California Elite Sheep is exclusive to and available through Animal Health International and CWGA. For questions or more information please contact John Garino (916-768-0174, john_garino@cargill.com), Craig Edling (209-531-7037, craig.edling@animalhealthinternational.com) or the CWGA office.

California Elite Sheep is available to CWGA members at \$40.76 per bag or \$1,507 per ton (40 bags).

Contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org to order your California Elite Sheep Mineral today!

Protect Your Flocks Health with Health Products from CWGA

CWGA members have access to discount pricing on over 40 sheep veterinary supplies, vaccines, and nutritional products including as dewormers, vaccines, CIDR inserts, marking paint, feed supplements, and sheep protein tubs.

To download the health product and pricing list go to - <http://cawoolgrowers.org/vaccines/vaccines.html> or contact the CWGA office at 916-444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org to request a product and pricing list.

Sheep Industry Handbook Available

Volume 8 of the newly revised Sheep Production Handbook can now be purchased online at www.sheepusa.org or by contacting the American Sheep Industry at 303-771-3500. Available in this edition is a new chapter on lamb quality as well as a fully searchable USB drive.

The handbook has served as the primary text for college-level sheep production courses in the United States since the first edition was published in 1970. It also proudly serves as the primary reference book for sheep producers across the country.

The information contained in the book has been authored by experts in their respective fields and extensively peer-reviewed to assure that the information is accurate and up-to-date.

Many changes have occurred in the sheep industry, and with these changes, the handbook has also changed - both in length and depth of subject matter. Some chapters have been overhauled and all chapters have been reviewed and up dated.

The cost of the Sheep Production Handbook is \$89.95 plus shipping.

Thank you for your continued support for CWGA & your California Sheep Industry!

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

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

Surveillance for scrapie in the United States is conducted through the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP), a cooperative State-Federal-industry program. The surveillance components of the NSEP include:

1. Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS);
2. Non-slaughter surveillance (e.g., trace investigations, on-farm testing); and
3. The Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP).

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

Remember: Educate, Report and Submit

- **Educate** yourself on the clinical signs of scrapie.
- **Report.** Contact the California VS office at 916-854-3950 if your sheep or goat, older than 12 months, exhibits clinical signs of scrapie.
- **Submit** samples or whole heads from sheep and goats over 18 months of age that die or are euthanized on your premises. Additional information is available on how you or your veterinarian can submit samples or whole heads for scrapie testing. Contact your California VS office at 916-854-3950 or visit the [Scrapie Sample Submission](#) page for information about Scrapie Testing.

To learn more visit www.eradicatescrapie.org or the USDA/APHIS [Scrapie Disease Information](#) website.

California Scrapie Tag Regulations

Everyone raising sheep and goats in California requires official identification issued by the USDA.

The National Scrapie Eradication Program provides free ear tags to sheep and goat producers.

To order your free ear tags, call 1-866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824) or 916-854-3900.

If you apply for an official ID, you must retain records on those animals for 5 years, including the date you identified the animals and the identification numbers applied, such that animals may be traced back to their flock/herd of origin.

Official Identification (official eartags, tattoos, electronic identification or [premises identification numbers](#)) are required when sheep and goats change ownership, except:

- Lambs and kids less than 18 months of age in slaughter channels that have not lambed, kidded, aborted, or are pregnant;
- Low-risk goats (those not exposed to scrapie or to any sheep, unless low risk commercial sheep);
- Castrated animals less than 18 months of age that are not for exhibition.

FY 2016 Scrapie Report Released

Just over 40,000 sheep and goats were tested for scrapie in FY 2016, with only 13 animals confirmed positive for classical scrapie. The last case of scrapie was reported in April 2016. Only two infected and three source flocks were identified in FY 2016. To read the full report go to -

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/annual_report.pdf

Utah Wool Marketing Association



Marketing Wool to the World

Contact: Will Hart Griggs – Manager

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The logo for Roswell Wool, featuring the words "Roswell" and "Wool" in a stylized, green, outlined font. The background of the entire advertisement is a photograph of several sheep in a field under a blue sky.

Mike Corn, Manager

1-800-624-WOOL

mikecorn@roswellwool.com

www.roswellwool.com

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Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul



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Mark Your Calendars

March 10, 2017
CWGA Board Meeting
Los Banos, CA

March 23 – 24, 2017
4th Rustici Rangeland Science
Symposium
<http://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/>

March 27 – 30, 2017
ASI Spring Legislative Action Trip
Washington D.C.

April 8, 2017
97th California Ram Sale
Porterville, CA

Early May 2017
California Sheep Shearing School
Hopland, CA

[http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/Sheep_Shearing_School /](http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/Sheep_Shearing_School/)

August 18 – 19, 2017
CWGA Annual Meeting
Cambria, CA

*Please submit all liability insurance requests
10 days prior to your event to ensure
adequate processing time.*

*Does your local association have an upcoming
event they would like to share with other sheep
enthusiasts? Contact the CWGA office to have
your event listed.*



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860