



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860

# *Herd the News*

July/August 2017

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

## **UCCE Livestock Advisor Roger Ingram Retires, Succeeded by Dan Macon**

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) livestock and natural resources advisor Roger Ingram, Auburn, retired June 30 after 31 years of efforts to sustain the sheep ranchers and rangelands of Nevada and Placer counties. Ingram is a CWGA member and recipient of the 2015 Golden Fleece Award.

Ingram joined Nevada County UCCE in 1986 after serving for three years as an extension agent with Texas A&M University, his alma mater. During his first seven years in Nevada County, Ingram also had a role with the 4-H Youth Development program, which he gave up in 1993 when we began working for Placer County rangers. In 2017, Ingram also accepted the role of UCCE county director in Placer and Nevada counties.

Early on Ingram devoted his attention to grazing management. When research began to show the benefits of low-stress livestock handling, Ingram brought in experts from around the county to provide hands-on demonstrations. Local ranchers learned that low-stress techniques were easier and safer for handlers, reduced livestock injuries, which helped the bottom line.

Beginning farmers and ranchers and a new generation of land holders were a priority for Ingram's education program. In 1992, he and a fellow livestock advisor created the California Grazing Academy – an intensive three-day training program that has continued to provide innovative grazing information to farmers, ranchers, and land management professionals for 25 years.

When the similar need among goat producers became apparent, Ingram launched the California Browsing Academy in 2003. This later became the California Multi-Species Academy as interest in sheep production grew in the foothills. Modeled on the grazing academy, the multi-species academy also had an emphasis on experiential learning to reinforce classroom instruction.

Ingram became more focused on soil health in range and irrigated pasture management later in his career. He said soil health is an area where more research is needed to understand the grazing management principles that will improve the soil and provide ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration.

Dan Macon, a Placer County sheep producer and CWGA Vice President who most recently served as the assistant rangeland specialist at UC Davis, will succeed Ingram as livestock and natural resources advisor in Placer and Nevada counties.

In his last county newsletter, Ingram stated that the future will hold many challenges for agriculture and encouraged producers to look beyond those challenges to see the opportunities that will be there as well. In retirement, Ingram will work with his own sheep and Border Collie sheep dogs.

### **In this issue:**

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Welcome New Members
- 4 CWGA Annual Meeting
- 5 Showlamb & Seedstock Workshop
- 6 CA Legislative Update
- 8 USDA Wildlife Services Sued by Conservationists
- 9 Online Niche/Specialty Breed Sale
- 10 Wildfire Plan for Livestock
- 12 Lamb Market & MPR
- 14 CWGA Member Spotlights
- 18 Wool Outlook
- 19 Be Prepared for New CA Antibiotic Regulations
- 20 CA\$H in Your Member Benefits
- 21 Advertisements
- 24 Calendar

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## Presidents Message – *Ryan Indart*



Dear CWGA membership,

“Dreams can come true...if we have the courage to pursue them” – Walt Disney

I would like to change this quote to: “Dreams can come true...if we have the TIME to pursue them”! Then, that old adage comes to mind – You have to make the time!

I feel like we are always in a battle against the clock. I love the fact that we are able to actually win that battle once in a while. This quote by Walt Disney rings true to me not because I have been able to achieve my dreams with any success – rather the opposite is true – most things I think about doing never get done. This quote is inspirational because it reminds me to, in my impatience, to stay motivated, dedicated and keep my eye on the prize to those dreams and goals not yet achieved.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, not 3 weeks ago, my family and I hooked up our Coleman “Sheep Camp” to my Dodge pickup and embarked on a two week journey that had been a dream of mine, of ours, for over 10 years. I can’t tell you how good it felt to hook the Sheep Camp up to the hitch of my pickup, with my entire family of girls, buckled in with excitement, ready for the big adventure! This Journey would take us through northeastern California, eastern and northeastern Oregon, eastern Washington, the Panhandle of Idaho, Western Montana over the Continental Divide and into South Central Montana, North Central Wyoming, Yellowstone, South Western Wyoming, Southeastern Idaho, south Central Idaho, then back home to the central valley. The objective of the trip was simple: get out of California and see the beautiful western states, home to many of our sheep ranching friends. We visited Nancy East in Alturas, Tom and Karin Watson in Hermiston Oregon, Truman Julian and his family in Kemmerer Wyoming, Henry and Kathy Etcheverry in Lava Hot Springs Idaho, and then finally visited Monica and the Western Range staff in Twin Falls Idaho.

Visiting dear friends, seeing beautiful ranching country and staying at “off the grid” RV parks in between – we managed to pull off the trip of a lifetime without even leaving the country or getting on an airplane. With the fresh memory of my girls playing “Pick a Song” from Daddy’s phone on every leg of the trip – I still have songs like Willie Nelson’s “On the Road Again”, AC/DC’s “Back in Black” and Merle Haggard’s “Mama Tried” playing over and over in the back of my mind. I am overwhelmed with gratitude that we were able to accomplish this memorable road trip – for my kids and Beatriz especially. This country has so much to offer and see – all you need to do is hook up the “Sheep Camp” and hit the Road!

One aspect of this late spring/summer worth noting is the excessive heat we have experienced. While it is expected and normal to have heat in California in the summer, we had two significant heat spells in May and June that set records. As you all know, this is right in the middle of breeding season for most of us. Because of this, we decided to leave our rams in until the end of August, to take advantage of breeding back any ewes that had absorbed fetuses during those early hot days. If this does verify, we could have heavier lambing into the winter

months. I am hopeful that all of your ewes bred up well, despite the heat, in anticipation of another successful lambing season this fall.

I am happy to report that Erica, almost single handedly moved our office from downtown Sacramento to 25 Cadillac Drive, Suite 214 in Sacramento, just east of the American River in East Sacramento. She is to be commended for her effort in this process as it was not easy dealing with multiple locations that didn't work out, for one reason or another. The good thing is, we all feel that this final location on Cadillac Drive ended up being the best option to fit our needs after all – I guess good things come to those who wait. Please tell Erica thank you the next time you see her.

As many of you already are aware of, in lieu of a Legislative day at the capital, we have decided it would be more effective to have local district office visits with our state senators and congress people. This is a change of pace from past years, and yields itself to be more intimate and allow us to express both our local and industry concerns from a “constituent's” or voter's perspective. We know reelection is a priority for our politicians – we might get more traction if we approach them from a district office perspective. If you want to be involved in these district office visits, which I highly encourage, please stay tuned to a fall schedule from Erica.

We are quickly coming up on our Annual Convention in Cambria. Please take an opportunity to book your room(s) now as the early bird deadline is July 28<sup>th</sup> and the final deadline is August 4<sup>th</sup>. As with everything she does, Erica has succeeded in once again assembling an impressive three day convention of wine tasting, golf, workshops, speakers and of course Association business. Attending the annual convention is the best opportunity we have to get involved in our Association, stay tuned in to the issues affecting our industry and most of all visit and spend time with our friends and families.

I hope and pray that all of you continue to have a great summer and a successful end to your breeding season. My family and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in Cambria in August.

## Member Information & Updates

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### Welcome New Members

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

*Evelyn Frucci – Red Bluff, CA  
Dusty Johnson – San Ardo, CA  
Tommie Johnson – San Ardo, CA  
Kyle S. Wood, UC Davis Sheep Facility – Davis, CA*

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

*Direct them to the CWGA office for membership details or to our membership brochure at <http://www.cawoolgrowers.org/CWGA%20Brochure.pdf>.*

### Eat Lamb....Wear Wool License Plates are Back!



Support your sheep industry and order your ‘American Sheep Industry -- Eat Lamb...Wear Wool’ license plate frame today!

*Member Price - \$15.00 plus tax & shipping.*

To order contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org).

Save shipping and pre-order for delivery at the CWGA Annual Meeting & Convention in Cambria.

# CWGA's Annual Meeting is August 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> in Cambria

The 2017 CWGA Annual Meeting & Convention will be held on August 17 – 19, 2017, at the Cambria Pines Lodge in Cambria, CA.

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE – JULY 28<sup>TH</sup> ~ REGISTRATION DEADLINE – AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Registration packet available at - <http://www.cawoolgrowers.org/convention/convention.html>

## *Lodging Information*



Call 800-966-6490 and mention the CA Wool Growers Association. For online reservations <http://www.cambriapineslodge.com/grouplogin%20with> and enter the following: *Group code: CWGA, Password: cwga.*

**Deadline to reserve rooms is July 28, 2017.**

## *Schedule of Events*

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017**

1:00 – 3:00 pm      Local Industry Tour – Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles, CA

### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017**

Morning              Sheepherders Golf Tournament

10:00 am – Noon      CWGA Committee Meetings

1:00 – 5:00 pm      Improving Your Show Lamb & Seedstock Operation Workshop

1:30 – 5:00 pm      CWGA Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 – 7:00 pm      Welcome Reception

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017**

8:00 am – noon      CWGA Annual Membership Meeting

12:00 – 1:00 pm      Past Presidents Lunch & Tri-Lamb Presentation – *Ryan Mahoney*

1:15 – 2:15 pm      Economic Tools for Sheep Producers  
                                 – *Bridger Feuz, Univ. of Wyoming Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist*

2:15 – 3:15 pm      Wildlife Restoration Project & Sheep Grazing on the Topaz Solar Farm  
                                 – *Katie Tierney, Althouse and Meade & Frankie Iturriria, F&I Sheep Co.*

3:15 – 3:30 pm      Break

3:30 – 5:00 pm      Media/Interview Training – Meeting with Your Legislative Representatives  
                                 – *Chase Adams, American Sheep Industry*

6:00 – 7:00 pm      Cocktail Reception

7:00 pm              Shepherds Ball & Banquet

## *Shepherd's Ball Auction Items*

*Weatherby Vanguard Select Rifle*

*California Elite Sheep Mineral or Sheep Protein Tubs (buyer choice)*

*Vorn Lynx 12/20 liter Backpack in Realtree*

*Yeti Tundra Roadie 20*

*One Night Stay & \$100 gift certificate at the Peppermill Reno*

*Pendleton Wool Blanket*

*And lots more great items!*





## IMPROVING YOUR SHOW LAMB & SEEDSTOCK OPERATION

*Workshop hosted by the California Wool Growers Association*

**Friday, August 18, 2017  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Cambria Pines Lodge, Cambria, CA**

**Workshop Cost \$25.00 ~ Registration Deadline August 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Please join the California Wool Growers Association at its 157<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Convention on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> for a workshop focusing on issues facing show lamb, seedstock, and small flock producers.*

*Presenters include industry experts in sheep feed and nutrition, genetics, reproduction management, and quality assurance. In addition, information on upcoming changes to California's antibiotic regulations and current industry efforts to combat foot rot and blue tongue will be presented.*

*Although this workshop focuses on the show lamb and seedstock sectors, it is open to all sheep producers large and small.*

**Proper Nutrition  
to Improve Ewe  
Performance**

**How to Identify,  
Manage, &  
Prevent  
Abortion**

**Improve Fertility  
in Your Flock**

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[www.cawoolgrowers.org](http://www.cawoolgrowers.org)

# California Legislative Update

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## CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Confirms Lassen Wolf Pack, Collars Adult Wolf

On July 5, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced the successful collaring of a female wolf in Lassen County on June 30. The female is the first wolf residing in California to be radio-collared; though wolves radio-collared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have previously ventured into California, such as OR-7 and OR-25, those wolves have ultimately returned to Oregon.

According to the CDFW, "The tracking collar...will collect data relative to her activity patterns, survival, reproduction and prey preferences."

Based on visual markers, CDFW believes the newly-collared wolf to be the female of the previously-identified Lassen Pair, though the Department will test DNA samples collected at the time it trapped and collared the wolf to confirm.

On July 1, CDFW sought to conduct a routine follow-up check on the female wolf. At that time, wildlife biologists encountered what appeared to be the tracks of wolf pups, and a number of photos captured on a nearby US Forest Service trail camera confirmed the presence of at least three pups belonging to what has now been dubbed the Lassen Pack.

According to a CDFW official contacted by CWGA, the breeding male of the Lassen Pack has not been seen recently.

CWGA is following up with CDFW to determine whether the agency intends to make use of radio-collar data to inform livestock producers (and if so, how), and CWGA will also seek to ensure that the presence of wolves does not negatively impact grazing leases on the Lassen National Forest. For more information, see the CDFW press release at <https://cdfgnews.wordpress.com/>.

## CWGA to Sue U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service over Yosemite Toad & Yellow-legged Frog

In early June, the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) Board of Trustees voted to take a lawsuit on behalf of CWGA and the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA). CWGA and CCA will challenge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) 2016 designation of critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog and the Northern distinct population segment of the Mountain Yellow-legged frog and the Yosemite toad. CWGA opposed the 2014 listing of the three amphibian species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), which rejected sound science suggesting that livestock grazing is not detrimental to the species and also opposed the subsequent designation of the critical habitat.

The lawsuit against USFWS will have its basis in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (Act), a federal law which requires agencies to assess and minimize the impacts of regulations on small businesses. According to PLF attorney Reed Hopper, USFWS claims to be exempt from the RFA in designating critical habitat because the designations only regulate federal agencies, not small businesses. Hopper disagrees, arguing that "an agency should do an RFA analysis if the rule affects small business entities even if they are not directly regulated. Of course, under a critical habitat designation the landowners are directly regulated, not just the federal agencies."

## Ingredient in Popular Weed Killer Going on List as Cancerous

Regulators in California took a pivotal step in early July toward becoming the first state to require the popular weed killer Roundup to come with a label warning that it's known to cause cancer. Officials announced that starting July 7, the weed killer's main ingredient, glyphosate, will appear on a list California keeps of potentially cancerous chemicals. A year later, the listing could come with warning labels on the product, officials say. Monsanto, the chemical's maker, has filed an appeal after losing in court to block the labeling, arguing that Roundup doesn't cause cancer and that the labels will harm the company's business.

# Legislative Update

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## Livestock Groups Call for FMD Vaccine Bank

CWGA and the American Sheep Industry Association joined with cattle, pork and dairy producers as well as more than 100 other state and national organization to urge congress to include funding in the upcoming farm bill for a foot and mouth disease vaccine bank.

Citing economic and food and national security concerns, an *ad hoc* coalition of more than 100 agricultural organizations and allied industries groups urged Congress to include in the next Farm Bill language establishing and funding a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine bank.

FMD is an infectious viral disease that affects cloven-hooved animals, including cattle, pigs and sheep; it is *not* a food safety or human health threat. Although the disease was last detected in the United States in 1929, it is endemic in many parts of the world.

The ability to rapidly vaccinate susceptible livestock in the face of an FMD outbreak is critical and absent funding in the next farm bill, the U.S. is not prepared to adequately respond in the face of an FMD outbreak.

The letter in its entirety can be viewed at the following link:

<https://d1cqrq366w3ike.cloudfront.net/http/DOCUMENT/SheepUSA/FMD%20vaccine%20bank.pdf>.

## CWGA Urges Trump Administration to Review National Monuments

In detailed comments filed on July 10, CWGA urged the Department of Interior to review all monument designations since 1996. CWGA joined with other stakeholders to support the rolling back of past monument designations to the smallest possible area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected or resend those designations that lack definite objects to be protected, and urges executive adherence to that statutory obligation in future designations.

CWGA contends that these monument designations exceed statutory authority in their size and scope. In addition, CWGA commented that these designations across the board were enacted without meaningful public outreach and local stakeholder input.

On April 26, President Trump signed an Executive Order calling from the Department of Interior to review National Monument designations made under the Antiquities Act since 1996 and to develop “recommendations for such Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions” to better balance monument protections with the “appropriate use of Federal lands and the effects on surrounding lands and communities.”

While the Antiquities Act was originally intended to protect “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [and] other objects of historic or scientific interest,” recent presidents have instead used the Act to bypass Congress and local communities and to place heavy restrictions on massive areas of land.

CWGA has long opposed such designations, because they often form the basis for removal or curtailment of sheep grazing on public lands.

## Appropriations Committees Include Funding for Sheep Station

In July the House Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee approved a Fiscal Year 2018 spending bill that preserves the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, and gives direction encouraging USDA's Agricultural Research Service to hire the two vacant positions at the station to help maintain important rangeland research. The work of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station is critical to the sheep industry. The station's historical sage grouse range data is unparalleled. The station has been around for more than a century. Its budget for fiscal year 2017 consisted of roughly \$2.1 million.

# Lawsuit Filed Against Federal Wildlife Services in Northern California

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On June 21, Conservationists sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services over its wildlife-killing program in Northern California. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in San Francisco, seeks updated environmental analysis of the program's killing of native wildlife such as coyotes, bobcats and foxes.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires Wildlife Services to rigorously examine the environmental effects of killing wildlife and consider alternatives that rely on proven nonlethal methods to avoid wildlife conflicts. The environmental analysis of the wildlife killing program in northern California is more than 20 years old. According to the complaint filed today, Wildlife Services must use recent information to analyze the impacts of its wildlife-killing program on the environment and California's unique wild places.

"Wildlife Services' cruel killing practices are ineffective, environmentally harmful and totally out of touch with science," said Collette Adkins, a Center for Biological Diversity attorney representing the conservation groups involved in the lawsuit. "It's long past time that Wildlife Services joined the 21<sup>st</sup> century and updated its practices to stop the mass extermination of animals. Nonlethal methods for dealing with human-wildlife conflicts have been shown to work. We have no choice but to sue the agency and force a closer look at such alternatives."

The lawsuit is brought by the Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds Project, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Project Coyote, the Animal Welfare Institute and WildEarth Guardians. It targets Wildlife Services' program in California's North District, which includes Butte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Trinity and Yuba counties.

"Wildlife Services is acting in clear violation of the law," said Tara Zuardo, Animal Welfare Institute wildlife attorney. "The agency cannot be allowed to continue haphazardly and cruelly killing thousands of wild animals in Northern California each year without weighing more humane alternatives."

Wildlife Services is a multimillion-dollar federal program that uses painful leghold traps, strangulation snares, poisons, aerial gunning and other methods to kill wolves, coyotes, cougars, birds and other wild animals—primarily to benefit the agriculture industry. Last year the program reported that it killed 1.6 million native animals nationwide, including 3,893 coyotes, 142 foxes, 83 black bears, 18 bobcats and thousands of other creatures in California. Nontarget animals, including protected wildlife such as wolves and eagles, are also at risk from Wildlife Services' indiscriminate methods. In California, the program continues to utilize leghold traps on animals—despite a state-wide ban on the devices.

"Killing native wildlife at the behest of the ranching industry is morally unconscionable and scientifically unsound," said Erik Molvar of Western Watersheds Project. "Carnivores play an important ecological role, and exterminating them upsets the balance of nature. We should leave the wildlife alone and change ranching practices instead." To view the complaint go to - <https://awionline.org/sites/default/files/press-release/AWI-WL-CA-WS-NEPA-complaint-filed-06212017.pdf>

## Unleashing a New Tool to Stop an Unexpected Invader

The National Feral Swine Damage Management Program, within the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services (WS) program, has unleashed detector dogs as a new tool to help stop the spread of feral swine, one of the United States' most destructive and ravenous invasive creatures.

This is a new tool, and WS will continue to train the dogs and use them to detect nutria, feral swine, and possibly other invasive species, in the future. The USDA is working across the country to assess, control, and prevent feral swine damage.

To learn more about this new tool go to - <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2017/07/07/unleashing-new-tool-stop-unexpected-invader>





## ***ONLINE NICHE/SPECIALITY BREEDS SHEEP SALE*** **September 20 – 21, 2017**

*Sale hosted by the California Wool Growers Assn.*

**Entry Fee: \$15.00 per head, \$20.00 per pen lot**

**Entry Deadline: September 1, 2017**

*California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) is hosting its first annual Online Niche Specialty Breeds Sheep Sale.*

*The Sale will be held on **September 20 & 21, 2017***

*Sale broadcast at [susantaylorshowservices.com](http://susantaylorshowservices.com).*

*Ram Lambs, Stud Rams, Yearling Rams and Ewes of all ages & breeds will be auctioned off in the sale.*

*Online sale catalog including pictures and videos will be available on September 10<sup>th</sup> at [susantaylorshowservices.com](http://susantaylorshowservices.com) (click on "current sales").*

*Interested in consigning? Contact the CWGA office at 916-444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org) for an entry form & details.*

**Variety of Sheep  
Breeds will be  
Sold!**

**Composites  
Shropshires  
Wool Breeds  
Hair Breeds  
& More!**

**Ewes of All Ages**

**Ram Lambs, Stud  
Rams & Yearling  
Rams**

**Two-Days to Bid  
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# Now's the time to Develop a Wildfire Plan for Livestock

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With the fires this past summer, we are reminded once again of the risk wildfire poses to all of our farms and ranches. Now is as good time as ever to revisit (or create) a farm and ranch safety plan and update it with any missing information. If you have livestock, you will need to create an emergency plan for your animals.

There are five main components to your wildfire plan:

- Reducing fire risk
- Escape Routes
- Leaving Animals on the Property
- Backup
- Other considerations

## Reducing fire risk

One first step would be to set up a meeting with CalFire to review how to make your house, other structure, propane tank, and property more fire safe. You should consider creating an area of defensible space around your corrals/barns/small pastures adjacent to structures as well as your house. Disking at least ten feet around the perimeter would be a preferred option as well.

## Water Supply

Determine if you have adequate water supply to fight the fire and wet down buildings. Is your source of water a well, irrigation ditch and /or pond? Do you have the ability to pump without power? This would mean a gas or diesel generator to ensure that you would be able to pump water. This would also mean adequate fuel to run the generator. You should still consider a backup generator even if you have gravity flow water because you may not have power for an extended period of time.

## Escape Route

Do you have two separate ways in and out of the property? If not, is there a way to create an alternative route? If you only have one way in and out, what would you do if there was a fire approaching? You should contact friends or family that live out of your immediate area that may be able to temporarily house livestock. Fairgrounds and other facilities will also be available to house livestock during a wildfire evacuation. It is a great idea to contact local fairgrounds and facilities to learn more about temporary housing for livestock. Please note that you should contact friends, family, fairgrounds, and other potential facilities in the near future to discuss the situation.

The process is more than hauling animals and dropping them off. Where do you unload animals? Where will they be housed? What other feed, water troughs, and equipment do you need to bring? Is there someone who could temporarily feed and water while you were gone for a day or two trying to fight the fire on your property?

## Leaving Animals on the Property

Many of us simply have too many animals and not enough transportation capacity to evacuate all of our animals from the path of an impending wildfire. Leaving animals out in a pasture, or “sheltering in place,” is a good option if the conditions allow animals to stay safe during a fire. According to the Humane Society of the United States, large animals may be able to shelter in place during a wildfire if a pasture area meets the following criteria:

- Over 1 acre in size,
- Has no overhead powerlines or poles,
- Has no barbed wire fencing (woven wire fencing is best). *Continued on page 10*
- For high-wind scenarios, the pasture area must also be free of debris and easily uprooted trees.

You will also need to leave enough food and water for your animals to survive for a few days. You will not be able to return to your property to care for your animals until road closures and evacuation orders are lifted. Do not rely on automatic watering systems as power outages are likely in the event of a fire.

Many large animals are injured and killed attempting to escape from the path of a wildfire. Take down any portable fences and give your animals the largest space possible to move around in.

## **Backup**

Do you have a designated backup in case you are away when the fire starts? This person would need familiarity with all of the above and live close by. Related to this is when to make the call to your backup person for hauling animals off the property. You must think quickly as conditions on a fire can change in less than hour. You should develop a decision-making process and a designated critical point that would mean implementing the fire plan.

## **Other Considerations**

Fires can happen suddenly and require rapid action. Keeping emotions in check will be critical to reacting effectively and staying calm. Normally calm animals will be excited by the fire and smoke and will be more difficult to handle. This will require patience to be sure they can be loaded in a trailer or herded to a safer location on the ranch as quickly as possible.

Situational awareness is a good concept to consider. This can be accomplished by developing a network of communication with other ranchers and landowners. Text messaging, email, or phone call can be an effective, quick way to inform others if you are seeing smoke or low flying airplanes as a first alert that a fire is in the area.

Information from CalFire on animal evacuation can be downloaded at the following link at - [http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact\\_sheets/Animalevacuation.pdf](http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Animalevacuation.pdf)

More information available at - UC Cooperative Extension Placer & Nevada Foothill Farming - <http://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/blog/?blogpost=19003&blogasset=24945>

## **USDA Offers Wildfire Recovery Assistance**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following wildfires or other qualifying natural disasters. For more information on these programs, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster) or contact your local FSA office.

## **USDA Livestock Indemnity Program Benefits Available for Livestock Deaths**

Producers who suffered qualifying livestock losses due to natural disasters, including excessive heat, could be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Livestock producers have 30 days to report when the loss of livestock is apparent to their local Farm Service Agency Office. Producers can report the loss by calling their local FSA office. For more information on LIP, please contact your local FSA county office or to find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

## **ALB Best Practices Fact Sheets**



The American Sheep Industry Association's Lets Grow program and the American Lamb Board have funded new best practices tools developed by industry experts. The tools were designed to help increase productivity and profitability among the industry. There are 12 best practice topics covered, including nutrition, breeding and genetics, reproduction, accelerated lambing and more. By implementing as few as three of these best practices, you could see improvements in your flock production. These changes could result in higher profits while helping to meet the growing demand for American Lamb. Visit [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org) or [www.lambresourcecenter.com](http://www.lambresourcecenter.com) to download the new fact sheets.

# Lamb Markets Show Importance of Mandatory Price Reporting

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If flying blind—without price data—and unprotected in the markets sounds like a nightmare, welcome to what U.S. sheep producers deal with most of the time.

At the end of the last month, the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance for lambs resumed after a year-long absence. The program, like LRP for cattle, is a single-peril price insurance policy offered by the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

“LRP-Lamb was designed to protect lamb producers from declines in lamb prices, said Tim Petry, North Dakota State University extension service livestock economist.

However, the policy's reason for existing is also its Achilles heel.

“It was down about a year for the simple reason that there were no formula prices reported under livestock mandatory reporting for lamb,” Paul Rodgers, deputy director of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) explained to WLJ.

He pointed out that federal mandatory price reporting (properly called Livestock Mandatory Reporting or LMR) comes with confidentiality rules. If there are too few buyers of lamb at any given time, confidentiality rules require that prices not be published. He recalled there were only about three times in 2016 where there were enough packers buying lambs to report the prices.

“That's the reason it went down and that's the reason it's back up; they started reporting formula price which is a key ingredient into the modeling that we use to produce LRP lamb rates. So that's the reason it's back up.”

When asked how the sheep market operates without information, Rodgers chuckled sadly.

“You just asked the key question. That is the reason this stuff is so important to us. Not having formula prices—which are grid prices, on both on the rail or live—for a year really handicaps the entire industry.”

While cattle markets have ample market reports from around the country that come in on annual, monthly, weekly, daily, and even more frequent schedules, sheep markets have comparatively few market reports.

“With sheep, we're down to one daily report,” Rodgers lamented. “That's it.

Just one, and it's pretty obscure. The rest of them are weekly. So our view is, confidentiality means something different as time passes.”

He said that ASI was working with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in an effort to keep within the confidentiality requirements but still get market numbers reported. Not reporting weight data, lagging weight data a week, or combining some weight categories have all been recommendations to deal with the potential confidentiality conflicts.

“Real time market intelligence is necessary to help keep everybody on at least a level informational playing field,” Rodgers pointed out.

“So some producers do kind of know [about prices], but I think what livestock mandatory reporting is supposed to do—what the Agricultural Marketing Service is supposed to do—is to give every participant in the marketplace a bird's eye view of what the market is, rather than just a few people holding that information.” — Kerry Halladay, WLJ editor

*Source: Western Livestock Journal*

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

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## Lamb Remains Common in Dry Dog Food

An analysis of the Dog and Cat Food Ingredient Center focused on the use of lamb and lamb meal in pet food and the labeling of those products.

Today, many of the novel protein diets have moved to other protein sources, noted the author of the analysis, but lamb and lamb meal are still widely used in dry dog food. Cats prefer other meats over lamb, so it has almost no use in cat food.

### Lamb's usage in pet food

In dry dog food, lamb meal is included in 255, or 12 percent of the recipes listed in the database, with lamb listed in 129, or 6 percent of the recipes.

### Lamb meal in more dog food recipes

For further analysis of the 255 companies with lamb meal, the author excluded lamb, deboned lamb and boneless lamb. That yielded 161 products, or 7 percent of the sample.

To look the labeling of these pet food formulas with lamb meal but no lamb, the author examined the list of 161 products for the wording used.

### Dog and Cat Food Ingredient Center

The Dog and Cat Food Ingredient Center is a database of nutritional information and full ingredient lists for pet foods currently available in the US market. The Dog and Cat Food Ingredient Center contains data on which pet food companies are using these novel pet food ingredients, along with the nutritional information about these products.

The database is organized by brand, product line and formula. As an example, Diamond Naturals Lamb Meal and Rice has “Diamond” as the brand, “Naturals” as the product line and “Lamb Meal and Rice” as the formula name. When the analysis’ author refers to formula in this analysis, it is part of the branding of the label or bag.  
*Source: Petfood Industry.com*

## June 2017 Monthly Scrapie Report Available

No classical scrapie cases have been reported in FY 2017. The last classical case was reported in April 2016.

Since 2002, the total number of positive cases in goats is 41; the last goat case was reported in February 2015.

Infected and Source Flocks As of June 30, 2017 – There were two open infected and source flock statuses for classical scrapie. One flock was designated as a Nor98-like source flock in October 2016 as a result of a sheep sampled in September 2016 that tested positive

## Scrapie Eradication Program – Protect Your Flock or Herd

The Scrapie Eradication Program is a mandatory program which requires sheep and goat producers, dealers, markets and slaughter plants to officially identify certain sheep and goats.

Most sheep and goats must be officially identified prior to selling them or transporting them from their place of birth. Records of tags or other official identification and sale and acquisition records must be kept for five years.

There are several precautions that producers can take to minimize the risk of getting scrapie in their flock or herd. Learn how to take precautions and more about national and specific state’s scrapie identification requirements at [www.eradicatescrapie.org](http://www.eradicatescrapie.org).

### FREE SCRAPIE ID TAGS

The National Scrapie Eradication Program provides Official eartags and applicators free of charge to producers.

To get your free official eartags, call 866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824).

## Member Spotlight: Grazing At the Cutting Edge

By Erin Rae & Photographed by Paige Green, Fibershed



“I want to tell the story of sheep,” states the bright, blue-eyed Robert Irwin, one of the owner/operators of Kaos Sheep Outfit. He looks up from under his ball cap and pauses to let that sink in while his hands continue to untangle a section of fence line. Robert’s accompanying grin suggests that he is well aware of his way of saying big things in short sentences and that he enjoys inviting people into their world of food and fiber production.

We are walking and working our way through one of the Bonterra vineyard properties in the heart of Mendocino wine country. Precisely trellised rows of dormant grape

vines are away from us to cover the gentle swells of the landscape and the view is a day-glow panorama of green. Nearby some of the sheep of Kaos Sheep Outfit are browsing on the dense ground cover that is the happy result of the wet winter. Though a vineyard might seem an unlikely place to find ourselves on a Fibershed visit, Kaos Sheep Outfit is knitting together these seemingly disparate landscapes, products, and communities to create a new narrative for sheep ranching.

Working towards us on the same fence line is Jaime Irwin, Robert’s spouse and partner in Kaos Sheep Outfit, and she is followed closely by Mic, one of their Border Collie employees. Perhaps a little immune to Robert’s pause, Jaime picks up where he left off “I really want to hit that home. I want people to understand the ecosystem restoration opportunities that sheep ranching could and should provide.” Building off one another’s enthusiasm, the Irwins describe their model of ranching that pulls from agrarian traditions of the past and present to create diverse, resilient agricultural systems that are the engines for ecosystem restoration for our future.

The Irwins are part of a burgeoning movement of shepherds bringing their animals onto croplands in a new/old version of pastoralism. These ranchers, shepherds, and farmers are exploring how the well-timed movements of animals through cropland can result in increased profit, enhanced ecosystem function, and produce more nutrient dense food and high quality fiber. The Kaos Sheep Outfit version of animal integration on cropland is not a new idea by any means, but rather, an extrapolation of some of the historic and existing sheep ranching models. “What we’re doing is not so different from what the mountain state sheep ranchers have always done,” Jaime emphasizes, “moving their herds frequently, never staying too long in any one area.”

Robert and Jaime keep up a spirited exchange over the rows of grapes between us while their practiced eyes and hands zero in on problems in the fence. The topic of landscape health and ecosystem restoration through grazing is on the top of their minds, right up there with the health of their animals and their financial bottom line, and, in fact, much of the conversation focuses on how these are all connected. At times they seem to change topics in order to make an observation such as how the sheep look today, when the next rain is forecasted, how far off bud-break is in the vines, etc. There is a lot of material to cover, and their practiced cadence is telling of their daily routine. With each new observation though, we come back to the health of the landscape as a whole as these daily monitoring exercises are used to inform their management decisions.

Jaime reminds us that central to these themes of improved ecosystem function, healthier animals, and more nutritious crops is healthy soil, and more specifically, an increase in soil carbon. An increase in soil carbon translates into an increase in soil organic matter, which is the hallmark for more productive and resilient agricultural operations. Equally important, an increase in soil carbon also means a decrease in atmospheric carbon. While the precise changes in soil carbon are difficult to track, it is widely accepted that soil carbon

sequestration hinges on an intact relationship between microbial organisms and plant communities, and that this relationship is enhanced by the appropriate presence of animals.



For the first time since we came into the vineyard Jaime actually stops working, she draws our attention to the ground, to the recently grazed plants at our feet, and excitedly talks about soil health. She explains how the presence of the sheep, and their rumen in particular, acts as a catalyst for the nutrient cycling between the biological life in the soil and the plant communities. This knowledge leaves her eager to try tracking the changes in soil carbon in the areas that they graze. She adds that more research on soil health and soil carbon done on land where managed grazing is occurring amongst perennial crops, annual crops, and combinations of the two is a key component in empowering more ranchers, farmers, and shepherds to work together to create these dynamic “carbon farming” systems and solutions.

As we move closer together along the fence line they laugh as they tell their genesis story, Jaime shaking her head over the nerve they had to just keep knocking on doors and asking until someone finally gave them a chance and let them bring their sheep into a vineyard. Soon after their first “yes” a couple of managers from Bonterra saw Robert moving sheep in a small neighboring vineyard. They asked if he could do the same thing at their significantly larger vineyard, and with that Kaos Sheep Outfit was off and running. Well, almost. They were definitely running, but it was during the middle of the drought and a hard time to start a livestock business, not to mention increase your flock size. The Irwins persevered, relying on their experience and grit to get them through the long hours and slim margins. Moreover, they focused on maintaining their relationships with the communities surrounding their fledgling business, whether they were other shepherds, ranchers, farmers, vineyards, non-profit entities, or the end consumers, giving them a robust support network that helped them through the rough spots.

Kaos Sheep Outfit brings sheep into vineyards sometime after harvest and before bud-break, usually for a three-four month window from November to March. As Jaime notes though, “There are no rules, everything changes at least a little every year.” The fence Robert and Jaime are repairing sections off of is part of the vineyard, it creates a paddock, or enclosed grazing area, in the middle of the vineyard. In this way, the sheep are moved through the vineyard in small, concentrated sections focusing their impact on the landscape to the area where it is needed most. Depending on the time of year and particulars of the site, the flock is watched over by a livestock guardian dog, a human shepherd, or sometimes both.

On our drive into the vineyard we passed the tractor barn and Rob noted that they pretty much just “park their tractors” when the sheep are in the vineyards. The sheep act as lawn mowers, weed eaters, do some pruning, and provide much needed fertility. All of these services translate into fewer passes of a tractor through the vineyard. Every opportunity to decrease the number of tractor passes is an opportunity to save money and burn less fossil fuel, not to mention decrease the soil compaction that the weight of a tractor causes. Robert estimates that the current savings is an average of about \$70 dollars per acre, and thousands of gallons of unburned fossil fuel.

That was about five years ago that the vineyard managers at Bonterra gave them a leg in the door and the opportunity to prove that their method of contract grazing would be both financially beneficial and enhance the ecosystem of the vineyard. Immersed in this bucolic scene, with sheep out browsing in between the rows of vines, it is hard to remember that this is not the norm, that most vineyards do not employ sheep to jump start their nutrient cycles and to eat the grass and other plants that they would alternatively spray or mow down. The Irwins are, in some respects, breaking new ground with this type of management and as such they have to allow time to show clearly the benefits of their presence. After the first few seasons together, Robert relays how he continually worked to build trust, “I was just flat out 100% honest with them. I opened my books for them, I

## ***Member Spotlight: Grazing At the Cutting Edge, cont'd***

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showed them everything.” The vineyard management was able to see what the Irwins were making and balance that against what money Bonterra was saving and the value of the positive changes they were seeing in the vineyard. As before, this emphasis on relationship served them well; their partnership with the vineyard deepened and now the sheep play an integral role in the vineyard management plan.

With the fence fixed we pile back into the truck and make our way to another vineyard and flock of sheep, this one is located outside Middletown in Lake County. The drive is a non-stop mixture of at least two conversations at once, and sometimes three, and it is fun. Though Robert and Jaime leave a lot of room for laughter, they are serious in their intent and work, and serious in their ability to laugh at the inevitably comic moments. We go over more of the basics of their business. In addition to the meat which they sell through Superior Lamb, they produce roughly 47,000 pounds of wool a year. The majority of that wool (about 24,000 pounds) comes from their Rambouillet ewes and has a next-to-the-skin friendly 21-23 micron count. The rest of the wool ranges from 19-20 microns in the lamb’s wool, 24-26 microns in the wool from their Corriedale ewes, and 30-32 microns in the wool from the Black Face crosses.

They move their animals on a regular basis, usually at least two to three times a week, or more frequently if it is raining. The sheep visit vineyards, pear orchards, alfalfa fields, and other croplands at different times during the year. This year they are working with farmers to plant cover crops that the sheep will graze, thereby encouraging more farmers to incorporate soil health promoting cover crop and grazing rotations into their farm systems. All told, they have about 4,000 sheep that they move over approximately 15,000 acres of different crop and rangeland environments around Lake, Colusa, Mendocino, and Yolo counties. Plus, 2500-3500 lambs they graze seasonally for Emigh Livestock, another California rancher and friend. Running lambs for another rancher helps the Irwins graze the vineyard acreage they are committed to. “I always feel honored,” says Jaime of the trust and responsibility to care for these animals.



To accomplish these time sensitive movements of animals, Kaos relies on a team of dog and human employees, and they take the “dogs as employees” part seriously. As Robert puts it, “that dog is the best man at my wedding.” There are two types of dogs that they employ: Border Collies for herding the sheep and Anatolian Shepherds, also known as Livestock Guardian Dogs, for guarding the sheep from predators. The dogs get sick leave, have regular vet checks, and their overall wellbeing is considered top priority. The Irwins have come up with a whole system for tracking the needs of their team of dogs, and each dog has a medical file left with the owners of the properties they graze should anything happen when they are not there, or in case anyone has questions as to the wellbeing of the dogs. The dogs are an essential piece of this operation and also a subject that generates lots of conversation.

There have been occasions when well-meaning people assume that the dogs have been left uncared for, or perhaps do not have access to water, or any number of other unhappy circumstances. While the Irwins understand that these concerned people mean well, this tendency to assume the worst is a major hurdle in bridging the gap between urban and rural communities. Robert and Jaime understand why many ranchers feel frustrated by the public perception of their work. At the same time, Robert points out that it is good for people to ask questions, to be engaged with what it takes to produce food and fiber, and that sometimes the right questions encourage changes in practice that everyone — dogs, sheep, and shepherds — can benefit from. They are learning to walk this interesting path of ranching in the public eye, and in doing so they create more productive and efficient opportunities for dialogue between these rural and urban communities.

The ecotypes around us transition as we climb up out of the foothills of Mendocino to the higher and dryer elevations of Lake County, trading one watershed for another. Our conversation follows this progression of





water and naturally shifts to fire prevention methods as we come in to the much more arid climate. Fire is on everyone's mind here after the last few years of catastrophic fire seasons. Kaos Sheep Outfit works with officials from our public rangeland areas to reduce fuel load and fire hazard through targeted grazing. Jaime points out an area off the highway that they grazed last year as a fire prevention measure, she notes that when one of the recent blazes came through, that area was one of the few places where the fire stopped. In the coming years they plan to do more fire prevention work in partnership with the local agencies and communities.

The next vineyard is a whole new world. Where the first vineyard was held in the green bosom of the surrounding landscape and the transitions gentle, this terrain is dramatic. The vineyard lies in a bowl of rugged ridge lines that rise up with little vegetation covering their faces. In the basin the vines and ground cover are an island of green, protected from the extremes of the surrounding landscape by those stony sentinels. Differences notwithstanding, here again are sheep amongst the vines, browsing on the ground cover, utilizing the same system of electric fencing to create paddocks within the vineyard for concentrated animal impact; and encouraging the nutrient exchange between plants and the soil microbiology that results in increased soil carbon and improved health for all.

We unload from the truck cab turned interview room and are greeted by the sound of sheep in all directions. At this site there are multiple flocks grazing different paddocks throughout the vineyard and their calls to each other bounce off the sides of the valley. As our ears adjust to the varied bleating of the sheep, the higher pitch of an ATV engine heralds the arrival of Diaz, a shepherd from Peru who works for Kaos Sheep Outfit. He stays with one of the flocks of sheep, building fence, watching over them, and moving them through an acreage as the weather, forage, and landscape dictate. Diaz distracts us with his new apprentice and constant companion, a young Border Collie named Lucy.

Jaime and Robert check in with Diaz, going into that same cadence of information gathering that we witnessed in the last vineyard, collecting his thoughts about the flock, the forage, the dogs, and his personal welfare. Their approach to agriculture emphasizes, and relies upon, these nuanced daily observations of their team and their ability to respond accordingly. Rob walks over to get a closer look at the sheep, combining what he hears from the shepherds with what he sees in the animals to ascertain the health of the flock and landscape. Rather than fighting against the daily variation of the natural world, the Irwins embrace the inherent fluidity, and the unforeseen opportunities that change can bring. They acknowledge that producing food, and wine, is a reflection of that world- there are no one size fits all answers, you have to create solutions that effectively respond to the ever changing circumstances and preserve the relationships you are held within. In his usual matter-of-fact manner, Rob sums up this dance between generating a product and responding to the fluctuating environment simply as, "Well, the right thing to do changes on the daily".

Accordingly, Jaime and Robert eschew prescribing to any one camp of agriculture, political outlook, or general label; challenging themselves to regularly take the measure of something to determine if it is in line with their own goals and values. They opt to solve for the needs of each new landscape, and to look for the overlaps at the edge s of the standard agricultural models — where one form becomes another — that offer fertile and diverse opportunities for people willing to bridge those divides. In the process, they magnify the opportunities of consumers to participate in the creation of these resilient landscapes and agricultural systems. Not only through our purchasing of lamb and wool, but also through products grown in these grazed croplands, such as a glass of wine.

This is the inspired 'story of sheep.'

See more pictures from this article at - <http://www.fibershed.com/2017/06/06/grazing-at-the-cutting-edge/>

## Member Spotlight: Shannon Ridge Family of Wines Introduces New Brand

*Old Pearl brand honors beloved livestock protection dogs*

Lake County, CA – Shannon Ridge Family of Wines has collaborated with Auston Design Group and acclaimed California artist Mike Gray to create the newest label in the family of wines collection. “We are sheep ranchers, grape growers, and winemakers.” says Clay Shannon, President and CEO of Shannon Ridge Family of Wines. “We have created the Old Pearl brand in honor of our beloved livestock protection dogs.”

Consisting of four estate and sustainably farmed wines, the Old Pearl line-up includes Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and a Red Blend. While each of the dogs hold a special place in their lives, the label honors Pearl as she has truly become a part of the family. Pearl works to keep the ranch’s sheep safe from predators and is currently stationed at the home ranch where she is helping to keep the bears out of the kitchen.

Old Pearl offers Estate Grown quality at affordable prices. “Old Pearl is a rare combination of sustainable grape growing and bold winemaking that embodies the true spirit of California.” says Joy Merrilees, Director of Winemaking and Production. “This lush estate grown vintage is a steal for the quality in the bottle.”

### About Shannon Ridge

Shannon Ridge is a family-owned vineyard and winery located in Lake County, California. The Shannon family continues their commitment to preserving the land, not only for great vineyard sites, but also for the many wild creatures that also call this mountain property home. Using a farming system they have trademarked “Ovis Cycle,” the vineyards are certified sustainably farmed to produce the finest fruit possible. The mountain grown fruit offers the winemakers a full flavor profile from which to create robust, food-friendly wines.

The Shannon Ridge Family of Wines portfolio includes Shannon Ridge High Elevation Collection, Shannon Reserve, Buck Shack, Dalliance, High Valley, Playtime, and Vigilance Vineyards. Contact Clay Shannon or Roxanne Jackson, Shannon Ridge Family of Wines at 707-994-9656, [www.shannonridge.com](http://www.shannonridge.com).

### Wool Market Outlook

Economic conditions and business conditions in the wool textile industry are increasingly positive for wool (and notably wool used in apparel) for the remainder of 2017. Despite this, the key questions for wool producers are whether high fine Merino wool prices levels can be sustained and whether broader wool Crossbred prices can recover.

A Panel discussion at the International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO) Congress seemed to suggest that Merino wool prices could be maintained “at least for a few months”. However, it would not be surprising if the cyclical upturn ceases and turns down in the next 3 months, with prices dipping as the cycle turns.

The message from the Panel discussion was less clear for Crossbred wool. The concern for Crossbred wool was the degree of the structural decline due to loss of key product markets, with synthetic fibers replacing wool. Nevertheless, the cyclical downturn in Crossbred prices, which is due to mills trying to run excess stocks down, seems likely to finish by around August. Prices should start to recover, although the structural decline may mean that prices do not rebound to levels seen 18 months or 2 years ago. *Source: ASI*



# New California Antibiotic Regulations Take Effect Jan. 1 2018

## Antibiotic Use in Livestock



New CA rules take effect Jan 1, 2018

Last year Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 27: Livestock: Use of Antimicrobial Drugs. The law requires the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) to:

- 1) California law will prohibit the administration of medically important antimicrobial drugs to livestock, unless ordered by a licensed veterinarian through a prescription or veterinary feed directive.
- 2) Develop antimicrobial stewardship guidelines and best management practices on the proper use of medically important antimicrobial drugs.
- 3) Gather information on medically important antimicrobial drug sales and usage, antimicrobial resistant bacteria, and livestock management practice data.

## Change is on the Horizon

- Injectable and all other medically important antibiotics must be administered with a prescription or veterinary feed directive (VFD) ordered by a licensed veterinarian thru a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR).
- Over the counter antibiotics will still be available at licensed retail stores with a prescription.
- Use of all medically important antibiotics for growth promotion will be specifically prohibited.

## What is the difference between the VFD and this change?

Source	Federal	California
Drugs	Medically Important Antimicrobials	Same
Formulations	In feed and water	All (injectable, intra-mammary, feed, water, etc.)
New Systems	Feed: VFD w/VCPR Water: Rx w/VCPR	Rx or VFD w/VCPR
Indications	Treatment, control and prevention	Same
Limitations	No use for growth promotion or feed efficiency	Same, plus preventative use in a regular pattern
Effective Date	January 1, 2018	<b>January 1, 2018</b>

## Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship Program

The state program will provide voluntary antimicrobial stewardship guidelines and best management practices. California Animal Health Monitoring System will survey antibiotic use and resistance patterns on a voluntary basis. (All information gathered will be held confidential per the statutory provisions of the law, including from FOIA or PRA requests.)

Email questions to [CDFA AUS@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:AUS@cdfa.ca.gov).

Visit the CDFA webpage for more information and updates at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/AUS>.

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### Bluetongue Type 10 Available

CWGA has a limited supply of Bluetongue Type 10 vaccine available at member discounted pricing. Purchase it now before supplies run out. Pricing: \$16.00 per 50 dose vial plus shipping.

### Bluetongue Vaccine Development Update

Safety trials are underway for CWGA's new killed all-strain Bluetongue vaccine. Everything appears to be on schedule for the new vaccine to be available for 2018. CWGA will continue to keep members posted on the status of this new vaccine.

CWGA's Animal Health Committee recommends members take precautions and vaccinate with the Bluetongue Type 10 vaccine this summer.

### California Elite Sheep Mineral – Developed by Sheep Producers for Sheep Producers

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](mailto:john_garino@cargill.com)), Craig Edling (209-531-7037, [craig.edling@animalhealthinternational.com](mailto:craig.edling@animalhealthinternational.com)) or the CWGA office (916-444-8122, [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org)).

California Elite Sheep is available to CWGA producers for \$39.39 per bag or \$1,575.60 per ton (40 bags). Contact the CWGA office at 916-444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org) for a product tag.

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## Utah Wool Marketing Association



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**Mike Corn, Manager**

**1-800-624-WOOL**

**mikecorn@roswellwool.com**

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*Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul*



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### Mark Your Calendars

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**August 17 – 19, 2017**  
**CWGA Annual Meeting**  
**Cambria, CA**

August 18, 2017  
Improving Your Show Lamb &  
Seedstock Operation Workshop  
Cambria, CA

September 15 – 17, 2017  
California Wool & Fiber Festival California  
CA National Wool Show  
Ferndale, CA

September 20 – 21, 2017  
CWGA ONLINE Specialty/Niche  
Sheep Breeds Sale  
[susantaylorshowservices.com](http://susantaylorshowservices.com)

December 8, 2017  
CWGA Board of Directors Meeting  
TBA

Week of January 15, 2018  
Improving Lamb Marketing, Quality &  
Profitability: Options for California  
Sheep Producers Workshops  
Hopland Field Station, Rio Vista,  
Bakersfield & Auburn, CA

April 7, 2018  
California Ram Sale  
Porterville, CA



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860