



Herd the News

March/April 2017

CWGA Hosts 97th Annual California Ram Sale

California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) is hosting the 97th annual California Ram Sale on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at the Porterville Fairgrounds.

Over 500 range rams from California, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. Crossbred, Hampshire, Suffolk, and White-Faced rams will be auctioned off in the sale.

Ultrasound carcass measurements (i.e. loin eye area) and a Range Ram Index will be provided on all sale rams. The Range Ram Index utilizes ultrasound carcass data collected at the sale and will help to identify the potential genetic merit of those rams in passing superior genetic traits such as larger loin eye area or heavier carcass weights into producer flocks. (See page 8 for more details).

On Friday, April 7th Farmquip will be presenting its Crutch and Weigh Combo Sheep Handler at 1:30 pm. 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.

This year's Ram Sale Trade Show will feature a variety of sheep health and equipment companies including Animal Health International, Cargill-Vigortone Animal Nutrition, ZinPro Minerals, Farmquip, and many more. Cargill Animal Nutrition will be debuting its new California Elite Sheep Mineral developed to address sheep specific nutritional and health needs and issues.

Ram Sale information including the sale catalog, sale schedule, lodging information, directions, etc. is available on the CWGA website at - <http://cawoolgrowers.org/sale/ramsale.html>.

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

SALE SCHEDULE:

Friday, April 7, 2017

1:30 pm Farmquip Sheep Equipment Program & Demonstration

Saturday, April 8, 2017

8:00 am Buyer Check-In & Ram Preview

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

11:30 am Buyer BBQ Lamb Luncheon

1:00 pm Ram Sale Auction

LOCATION: Porterville Fairgrounds, 2700 W. Teapot Dome Ave. Porterville, CA 93257

See page 4 for a tentative Ram Sale Catalog.

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

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Presidents Message – *Ryan Indart*



Dear CWGA membership,

Almost every spring, My Grandfather John Indart would take my father, my aunt and sometimes my grandmother up into the hills for a picnic. Whether we had sheep on the east side hills or the west side hills, you could rest assured that Grandpa John had his trusty BBQ supply box in the trunk of his Cadillac ready at all times, along with his rifle, ammunition, shovel, boots, jacket, water and other necessary supplies that a sheep rancher driving an old beat-up Cadillac would need! He was always prepared for the picnic lunch, regardless of where he was. Equipped with a simple grill, a couple cans of pork and beans and some hot dogs, some kindling, matches and newspaper, they would pull over on a nice spring day, hike up into the beautiful green hills, and find their best picnic spot – most often surrounded by sheep grazing on nature’s banquet of Sierra foothill Filaree, foxtail barley and radish. They would find some rocks, make a u-shaped fire pit, make their fire and set up the grill. Grandpa John would open the can of Pork and Beans with the can opener that was, of course, always ready for use when called upon, in the supply box. Over an open wood-fire flame, Grandpa John would stir the pork and beans in the can they came in, not with a spoon from the supply box, but rather with a hot dog, never needing a utensil. They would dine on the simplest and yet greatest of all meals, together as a family, needing nothing more than the trusty supply box and a grocery bag of pork and beans and some ball park hotdogs. Sometimes the best meals are not experienced in a fancy gourmet restaurant in town, but rather in the company of family over a makeshift fire pit on a green Sierra Nevada hillside, surrounded by sheep and Mother Nature.

In keeping up with the tradition set so many years ago by my Grandpa John, four years ago I started what is now called the Annual Round Mountain John Indart BBQ. My Grandmother Doris tells stories of how they would most often find their favorite picnic spot up on Watts Valley Road, east of Clovis in the Sierra foothills. Ironically, or perhaps by fate, our Round Mountain Ranch, lies exactly adjacent to Watts Valley Road. Yesterday, we celebrated again our Annual John Indart Round Mountain BBQ, with my 99 year old grandmother Doris present, amongst family and friends. Kids were able to run free across the open rocky grass hillside, with sheep grazing in the background, climb on rocks and explore nature. It was 68 degrees and sunny, with a slight breeze – an absolutely perfect day. With a view of the entire San Joaquin Valley and the snowcapped Sierras behind us, we dined on marinated lamb kabob, seasoned Elk Burger, and of course ballpark hot dogs and pork and beans – in honor of my grandfather, my grandmother, my father and the sheep ranching tradition of our family.

It is not because I care to bore you with details about our family that I share this story with you, but rather because of how honored and grateful I am, and the passion I feel, for the deep traditions of Family Business and Faith that runs deep through most all of us. It is because of these traditions that I love our Industry. It is because of these traditions, and the unwavering devotion we all have – to our respective family businesses, our Industry and our lifestyle – that binds us

together and makes us strong. When we share these traditions with others, who may or may not ever know or understand our Industry, like we did yesterday, it is truly a special moment – we are sharing this beautiful treasure with people who will probably never experience the lifestyle we are so fortunate to enjoy. It is through generosity and sharing that we pay it forward, something I think all of us can relate to and be proud of.

One of the main focal points of our Strategic Plan is to continue to strive towards being an Association for all Producers, regardless of size, type, location, etc. If you know anyone in the sheep industry who is your neighbor, a friend or just an acquaintance, ask them if they are a member and if they are not, please encourage them to join. If they are willing to pass along their contact information to Erica, she can send them our updated membership brochure that has been enhanced, through our Strategic Planning process, to more effectively communicate the benefits of our membership. Furthermore, we are still looking for volunteers to serve on our various committees. Please contact Erica for more information. The commitment is minimal and the benefit is large – you will be assisting in the continued success of your Association. Lastly, thanks to Nancy East and the PERC Committee, we are making significant progress towards having a Footrot vaccine and a killed Blue Tongue vaccine available soon. There will be more details on this to follow.

For those of you who have volunteered to join us on the Washington DC ASI Legislative trip, thank you. For anyone else who is interested in joining our team, we would love to have you. As CWGA members, our leadership position in ASI is valued and respected. On behalf of your industry, please join us to make your voices heard. Also, I hope to see all of you at the California Ram Sale in Porterville on April 8th. This upcoming Ram Sale is shaping up to be one of our best yet, and is always a great opportunity to see old friends and family, and help your Association by buying a pen of rams! Lastly, I hope to see many of you at the Board meeting in Los Banos this Friday, and I am praying you all enjoy a successful and prosperous spring season!

Member Information & Updates

Calling All Sheep Photographers

CWGA invites you to enter the 2017 California Wool Growers Association Photo Contest. All photos will be judged at this year's Annual Meeting. Photos may be used in a 2018 California Sheep Industry Calendar.

All photos must be taken as a high resolution, digital photo. Photos are to be submitted electronically via email to info@woolgrowers.org. Limit three (3) photo submissions per person. **Entry Deadline: July 15, 2017.**

CWGA California Legislative Day at the State Capitol – June 2017

CWGA will be hosting its Legislative Day at the Capitol again this year in June. The date is still being finalized.

As part of CWGA's role to advocate for the California sheep industry, what better way than for you, our members, to meet with your State Assemblymen and Senators in Sacramento to discuss the issues facing our industry on a local and state level. Since many of our members cannot attend ASI's Legislative Conference in March, this opportunity offers an alternative for those to become involved and support our industry.

Tentative agenda:

8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome Gathering
9:00 – 9:30 am	Legislative Briefing
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Representative-Member Office visits (2 to 3 offices)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	No-Host Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Potential Agency Visit (e.g. CA Dept. of Wildlife, Cal-Fire, etc.).

If you are interested in participating, please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or erica@woolgrowers.org.

97th Annual California Ram Sale Catalog

Round 1 - Suffolk Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
1	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	Purebred Suffolk Ram
2	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	1	Purebred Suffolk Ram
3	Mike	Duff	Blackfoot, ID	1	Purebred Suffolk Ram
4	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
5	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
6	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
7	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
8	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
9	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
10	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
11	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
12	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
13	Shirley	Volkman	Livemore, CA	6	Suffolk Range Rams
14	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
15	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
16	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
17	Lloyd	McCabe	Dixon, CA	4	Suffolk Range Rams
18	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
19	Kenneth	Rairden	Waterford, CA	4	Suffolk Range Rams
20	Brady	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
21	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
22	Reed	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
23	Mike	Duff	Blackfoot, ID	2	Suffolk Range Rams
24	Austin	Goff	Rupert, ID	4	Suffolk Range Rams
25	Kurt & Carol	Heupel	Weldona, CO	4	Suffolk Range Rams
26	Marvin	Heupel	Santa Maria, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
27	Justin & AJ	Olsen	Manila, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
28	Dawson	Shepherd	Genola, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
29	Layne	Shepherd	Genola, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
30	Chris	Stavros	Salt Lake City, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
31	Jim	Stavros	Fairview, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
32	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
33	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
34	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
35	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
36	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
37	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
38	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
39	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
40	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
41	Shirley	Volkman	Livemore, CA	6	Suffolk Range Rams
42	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams

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Round 2 - Crossbred Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
43	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
44	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
45	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
46	Reed	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
47	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
48	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
49	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
50	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	5	Crossbred Range Rams
51	Robert	Irwin	Clearlake Oaks, CA	3	Crossbred Range Rams
52	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
53	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Crossbred Range Rams
54	Brady	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
55	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
56	John	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
57	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	3	Crossbred Range Rams
58	William	Buckman	McArthur, CA	5	Crossbred Range Rams
59	Justin & AJ	Olsen	Manila, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
60	Teresa	Terry	San Miguel, CA	2	Crossbred Range Rams
61	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams

Round 3 - Hampshire Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
62	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	1	Purebred Hampshire Ram
63	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	3	Hampshire Range Rams
64	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	5	Hampshire Range Rams
65	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	2	Hampshire Range Rams
66	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	3	Hampshire Range Rams
67	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	5	Hampshire Range Rams

Round 4 - Composite Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
68	East	Nancy	Alturus, CA	3	Suffolk x Texel x Columbia
69	East	Nancy	Alturus, CA	3	Suffolk x Texel x Columbia

Round 5 - Suffolk Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
70	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
71	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
72	Lloyd	McCabe	Dixon, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
73	Kenneth	Rairden	Waterford, CA	3	Suffolk Range Rams
74	Blair & Gina	Summey	Lincoln, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
75	Mike	Duff	Blackfoot, ID	3	Suffolk Range Rams
76	Austin	Goff	Rupert, ID	4	Suffolk Range Rams

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<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
77	Kurt & Carol	Heupel	Weldona, CO	3	Suffolk Range Rams
78	Marvin	Heupel	Santa Maria, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
79	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
80	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
81	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
82	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
83	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
84	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
85	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
86	Brent	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
87	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
88	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
89	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
90	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
91	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
92	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
93	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
94	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
95	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
96	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
97	Jim	Neumiller	Healdsburg, CA	2	Suffolk Range Rams
98	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
99	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
100	Shirl	Shepherd	Spanish Fork, UT	2	Suffolk Range Rams
101	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	4	Suffolk Range Rams
102	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	5	Suffolk Range Rams
103	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
104	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
105	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Suffolk Range Rams
106	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
107	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
108	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	2	Suffolk Range Rams
109	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams
110	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Suffolk Range Rams

Round 6 - Crossbred Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
111	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
112	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
113	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
114	Joseph	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
115	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	5	Crossbred Range Rams
116	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
117	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Crossbred Range Rams

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<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
118	Brian	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
119	John	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
120	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
121	Joel	Shepherd	Moroni, UT	4	Crossbred Range Rams
122	Larry & Linda	Pauly	Delta, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
123	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
124	Hubbard Roselawn Hamps		Monroe, OR	5	Crossbred Range Rams
125	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	3	Crossbred Range Rams
126	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	5	Crossbred Range Rams
127	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams
128	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	5	Crossbred Range Rams

Round 7 - White Face Range Rams

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u># Head/Lot</u>	<u>Breed</u>
129	Teresa	Terry	San Miguel, CA	1	Purebred Rambouillet Ram
130	Nash	Hansen	Fairview, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
131	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	1	White Face Range Rams
132	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	White Face Range Rams
133	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	2	White Face Range Rams
134	Mike	Cox	Fairview, UT	1	White Face Range Rams
135	Cecilia	Parsons	Ducor, CA	2	White Face Range Rams
136	Teresa	Terry	San Miguel, CA	2	White Face Range Rams
137	Matt	Olsen	Spanish Fork, UT	3	White Face Range Rams
138	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	White Face Range Rams
139	Mike	Mann	New Cuyama, CA	1	White Face Range Rams
140	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	2	White Face Range Rams
141	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	2	White Face Range Rams
142	Teresa	Terry	San Miguel, CA	2	White Face Range Rams
143	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	3	White Face Range Rams
144	David	Hansen	Fairview, UT	2	White Face Range Rams
145	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	White Face Range Rams
146	John & Anita	Phillips	Paul, ID	1	White Face Range Rams

Thank you to our Buyers & Consignors for your continued support of the California Ram Sale.



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

How the Ram Index Is Calculated

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



Ram Index as a Ram Selection Tool

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

For further information on using genetics to improve productivity visit the CWGA Ram Selection Resources website page at - <http://cawoolgrowers.org/sale/resources.html>.



BEST PRACTICES FACT SHEETS AVAILABLE at Lamb Resource Center

The American Lamb Industry Roadmap Project established productivity improvement as one of four goals that must be accomplished in order to strengthen the short-term and long-term competitive advantage of the American Lamb industry and return it to consistent profitability.

The American Lamb Board and the American Sheep Industry Association's *Let's Grow* program have funded new best practices tools

developed by industry experts and designed to help increase productivity and profitability among the industry. **There are 12 best practice topics covered, including nutrition, breeding, 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.lambresourcecenter.com to download the new fact sheets.

PRODUCTIVITY BEST PRACTICES
Increasing Your Lamb Crop Series
Use Crossbreeding

Introduction
The most important genetic considerations to make when using crossbreeding are the genetic characteristics of the parent breeds and the way they are combined. The genetic characteristics of the parent breeds and the way they are combined are the most important factors in determining the genetic characteristics of the offspring.

Is for crossbreeding
Crossbreeding is a genetic strategy to improve the genetic characteristics of a population. It involves the mating of individuals from two or more different breeds to produce offspring with a combination of the traits of both parents.

Benefits
Crossbreeding can result in improved productivity, disease resistance, and overall health of the flock. It can also help to reduce the risk of inbreeding depression.

PRODUCTIVITY BEST PRACTICES
Increasing Your Lamb Crop Series
Disease Prevention and Treatment

Introduction
Disease prevention and treatment are essential for maintaining a healthy and productive flock. Understanding the common diseases of sheep and the best ways to prevent and treat them is crucial for any sheep raiser.

Prevention
Prevention is the key to disease control. This includes regular health checks, proper nutrition, and good management practices. Vaccinations and deworming are also important.

Treatment
If a disease is detected, it should be treated promptly. This may involve the use of antibiotics, vaccines, or other medications. It is important to follow the instructions of a veterinarian.

PRODUCTIVITY BEST PRACTICES
Increasing Your Lamb Crop Series
Reduce Lamb Loss

Introduction
Reducing lamb loss is a primary goal for any sheep raiser. This involves identifying the causes of lamb loss and implementing strategies to prevent it.

Causes of Lamb Loss
Common causes of lamb loss include disease, starvation, and weather-related issues. Identifying these causes is the first step in reducing losses.

Strategies to Reduce Lamb Loss
Strategies include improving nutrition, providing adequate shelter, and ensuring proper care during lambing. Regular health checks can also help identify and address issues early.

PRODUCTIVITY BEST PRACTICES
Increasing Your Lamb Crop Series
Manage for Seasonal Changes in Reproduction

Introduction
Managing reproduction for seasonal changes is essential for maximizing the productivity of your flock. This involves understanding the reproductive cycle of sheep and adjusting management practices accordingly.

Reproductive Cycle
The reproductive cycle of sheep is seasonal. It is influenced by factors such as day length and temperature. Understanding this cycle helps in timing breeding and lambing.

Management Practices
Management practices include providing adequate nutrition, ensuring proper care during lambing, and monitoring the health of the flock throughout the year.

PRODUCTIVITY BEST PRACTICES
Increasing Your Lamb Crop Series
Optimal Nutrition

Introduction
Optimal nutrition is the foundation of a healthy and productive flock. It involves providing the right balance of nutrients for different stages of the sheep's life cycle.

Nutrient Requirements
Different stages of a sheep's life cycle have different nutrient requirements. This includes energy, protein, and essential vitamins and minerals.

Feeding Strategies
Feeding strategies include providing high-quality forage, supplements, and balanced rations. Monitoring the condition of the flock is also important.

PRODUCTIVITY BEST PRACTICES
Increasing Your Lamb Crop Series
Select for Profit

Introduction
Selecting for profit involves choosing the best breeding stock for your flock. This includes evaluating the genetic characteristics and overall health of potential breeding animals.

Selection Criteria
Selection criteria include productivity, disease resistance, and overall health. It is important to select for traits that will contribute to the profitability of your flock.

Management Practices
Management practices include providing proper care and nutrition for the breeding stock. Regular health checks and record-keeping are also essential.



California Legislative Update

Marin County Considering Changes to Livestock Slaughter Regulations

Marin County is in the process of correcting an omission in the land use code that for the last 15 years has left ranchers in Marin without a pathway to commercial livestock slaughter in the county. On March 14th, the Board of Supervisors will meet to consider changes to the development code that would allow ranchers to conduct small-scale on-farm slaughter of poultry as well as allow a mobile slaughter unit to provide small-scale USDA-licensed slaughter of all species on ranches in the county. Both of these proposed rules would make it possible for ranchers to bring product to market without traveling across the state, submitting animals to stressful travel and costing the farms time and money.

Substantial pushback from those who oppose ranching and livestock slaughter is expected at the March 14th meeting. It is very important for the Board of Supervisors to hear from the agricultural community on this issue, and members of the public who value local meats produced on local lands should also speak.

Anyone who has an interest in Marin's ranching community and/or locally produced meat should plan to write letters to the Board of Supervisors and speak at the March 14th meeting. Letters can be sent to the Board of Supervisors at BOS@marincounty.org.

Cattlemen Challenge Fish and Game Commission's Illegal Listing of Gray Wolves

On January 31, 2017, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and the California Farm Bureau Federation filed a lawsuit challenging the California Fish and Game Commission's June 2014 decision to list the gray wolf as an endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act, a decision which formally took effect on January 1, 2017. The organizations are represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation, a nationwide leader in litigation aimed at ensuring limited government, private property rights and sensible environmental protections.

The suit alleges that endangered listing of the gray wolf under the California Endangered Species Act was improper for three reasons. First, the subspecies of gray wolves present in California originate from Canada and are not native to the state, as the law requires. Secondly, the Commission focused too narrowly on wolves in California, ignoring their robust and healthy population throughout their range in the western United States. Lastly, the Commission impermissibly listed the species based on what was, at the time, only occasional presence in the state by a single wolf.

"The Fish and Game Commission took a big bite out of its own credibility with this unjustified listing," said Damien Schiff, PLF Principal Attorney. "The agency managed to label the gray wolf as 'endangered' only by myopically and illegally ignoring its population outside California."

Endangered status for gray wolves could have a significant impact upon ranchers whose livestock fall prey to the apex predators and to the local rural economies that are dependent upon agriculture. CCA president and Butte County cattleman Dave Daley said the lawsuit is necessary for ranchers to ensure the humane treatment of their livestock.

"Under California law, you can't even pursue a species that is listed as endangered," Daley said. "If a rancher sees a wolf attacking one of his or her calves, he or she can't chase the wolf away without breaking the law. Ranchers are not seeking open season on wolves, we just want sensible wolf management that also allows us to protect our livestock. That will require delisting the gray wolf."

The case is California Cattlemen's Association, et. al. v. California Fish and Game Commission, filed in the Superior Court of California for the County of San Diego. For more information visit

<http://www.pacificlegal.org>.

California Legislative Update

Senate Bill 27 Livestock: Use of Antimicrobial Drugs – Implementation Update

Update provided by the California Department of Agriculture

The California Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 27: Livestock: Use of Antimicrobial Drugs (Hill, Chapter 758, Statutes of 2015). Effective January 1, 2016, the law places a significant mandate on the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

Regulated Use

Beginning in 2018, allowed uses of medically important antimicrobials in Livestock include treating or controlling the spread of a disease or infection, in relation to surgery or a medical procedure, or to prevent the contraction of a particular disease known to occur in a specific situation, and specifically prohibits use for the purposes of growth promotion and feed efficiency (FAC § 14401 and 14402).

Further, all use of medically important antimicrobials must be under the direction of a licensed veterinarian with a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship using a prescription or veterinary feed directive (VFD). In order to ensure antimicrobial drugs continue to be accessible, they may continue to be sold at CDFA licensed retail stores (if the federal label allows over the counter sales) and CDFA licensed feed mills (all feeds including those requiring a VFD). As such, activity will focus on regulation development, education, and outreach to ensure optimal compliance in 2018.

Antibiotic Use and Stewardship Program Administration

Senate Bill 27 establishes an entirely new and progressive program in California but minimizes the need for new program administration positions by leveraging existing business infrastructure.

Monitoring and Surveillance

CDFA is partnering with stakeholders and subject matters experts to gather information on antibiotic sales, antibiotic usage, antibiotic resistant bacteria, livestock management practices and related health and economic outcomes (FAC § 14405). Information gathered will help inform producer and veterinarian decision-making and the development of specific antibiotic stewardship guidelines.

Stewardship

CDFA is consulting with producers, State agencies, universities, cooperative extensions, veterinarians, physicians and others to develop antimicrobial stewardship guidelines and best management practices for the more than 20 livestock species and production types important to California. The guidelines will include scientifically validated practical alternatives to the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs, including but not limited to, the introduction of effective vaccines, good hygiene, and other management practices (FAC § 14404).

Be prepared....New California Antibiotic Regulations Take Effect Jan. 1, 2018

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, SB 27 requires injectable and other medically important antibiotics not delivered through feed or water to be purchased with a prescription issued by a veterinarian.

- Many antibiotics already require a veterinarian prescription, but for those that currently do not (i.e. LA200©) will beginning Jan. 1, 2018 can still be purchased at retail facilities with a veterinarian prescription.
- Independent of SB 27, all medically important antibiotics delivered through feed must be administered using a veterinary feed directive per federal regulations largely supported by the industry and pharmaceutical companies.

Member Spotlight: Timeless Shepherding – Jensen Ranch

By CWGA members Marie Hoff & Fibershed



For Bill Jensen and his son, Jim, ranching is in their blood. Jensen Ranch (CWGA Member) has been in the family since 1856, when Jim’s great-great-grandfather, Joseph Irvin, emigrated to Tomales, California from Ireland. Irvin Lane is still the name of the street where the ranch is located.

Though sheep ranching remains a strong source of rural identity in West Marin, by 2012 it was largely dying out in practice. Dropping lamb prices, negligible wool prices, increasing predation threats, drought, recession, and inflated land/cost of living pressures pushed many locals to either drastically reduce stock, or get out of sheep entirely. Many transitioned to just cattle. No problems with price or predation with cattle. But no wool either.

Yet despite all this change, and increased drought in more recent years, Jensen Ranch is alive and thriving. The Dorset — crossed with Suffolk — sheep are in beautiful condition, the grasses are growing freely and evenly, and Jim speaks about the sheep and landscape with avid, active interest. He speaks of growing the flock, rather than decreasing. He speaks of traditions and history, but also of experimentation and innovation.

Together, the Jensen family manages 300 ewes, plus their lambs (each ewe has 1-2 lambs), on their 240 acre ranch, plus Mitchell Ranch, a 290 acre property they lease. “Dad and I,” is how Jim talks about their working relationship. Bill is “retired” in the way a rancher retires yet continues to run livestock: he still gets up early to do farm chores. He gives advice, monitors flock health, and helps to prevent any issues before they might become established. His experience on the landscape is critical to the operation. Yet a lot of management decisions and overall direction lie in Jim’s court. Fortunately, Jim’s day job involves monitoring stewardship and conservation of sensitive environments for Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), so land management is not just in his blood, it’s his profession and training.

This balance of old and new, tradition and training, grandpa’s way vs 21st century science puts Jim in a remarkably promising position. He understands the knowledge and perspective of the few remaining Marin County sheep ranchers, yet has interest in and access to cutting edge research and ideas, such as carbon farm planning. With a foot in each field, it’s a best of both worlds situation.

This crux of tradition and experimentation is the quintessential expression of Californian agriculture. It’s the lifeline for ranching in the new millennium, through the challenges of climate change and land prices.

The 2013-2014 drought has resulted in some losses, but according to Jim, “it was a good year to assess the entire operation and look at ways to improve our water infrastructure and reduce risk.” In 2014, winter was difficult. Low rainfall caused the grass to grow in late, creating not ideal conditions for lambing. As Bill pointed out, “people are becoming aware that grass is the most important product on a ranch.” Jim agrees, but realizes that “people are your most important asset, active management decisions are what can save you in a drought, or flood. When you rely on Mother Nature to stay viable, you have to control the factors you can. Quality genetics and sustainable management practices will usually pay for themselves over time. We are fortunate to have amazing technology and equipment available to us nowadays, but overall this small family ranch still runs the same way it has for multiple generations. We have ATV’s and a tractor instead of horses. Dad has even learned to text message as another form of communication on the ranch to become more time efficient.”

All the animals are on pasture. Lambs are born on pasture, and raised on spring growth until summer. Breeding ewes live their entire lives on pasture. The Jensens take care to stock the sheep at rates that allow them to graze grass year-round with little to no supplemental feeding. Raised with care, using carbon farming and responsible land stewardship practices, sheep’s wool production can result in an exponentially positive impact on global climate. Jim is interested in experimenting with a more rotational system, with adding

strategically – placed hedgerows and windbreaks, seeding more diverse and nutritious perennial grasses and productive forage species and with implementing creek restoration as part of their carbon farm plan.

Their current sheep ranching operation is based on the sale of lamb for consumption through the commercial market, although they would like to see more of their coastal grass – finished lambs go direct to consumers, restaurants, or even through a CSA program. The commodity price for their wool usually nets about zero. It costs about \$5 per sheep to shear the wool off, and each sheep yields about 5-8 lbs of raw wool. The commodity price is 80 cents to \$1 per pound. And then there's all the time and effort to round the sheep up, coordinate the shearing team, bale the wool, and transport it. What once was the main product from sheep is now considered by many a byproduct. Bill recalls how at one time there was a demand for wool from the US government, who used it to produce garments for the military. There were subsidies for \$15 per sheep and land prices were low. Today, community and agency efforts to develop direct markets are replacing the subsidy model, and reinventing a market supply chain for Californian wool.

Jim expresses a hope in these new, more direct markets developing for wool, and continues to raise his sheep for quality wool, meat, and land stewardship. He and other ranchers are a living link between past and future: continuing traditions and moving into the future.

Have you been featured in a recent media publication? Know a member who should be featured in the Herd the News? If so, please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org.

Plan to Attend CWGA's Annual Meeting 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

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.

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. 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. For things to do visit - <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

Board of Directors Meeting

*Workshop: Improving Your Show Lamb/Seedstock
Operation*

Welcome Reception

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017

Annual Membership Meeting

National Industry Reports

Past Presidents Lunch

Presentation: Economic Tools for Sheep Producers

Media/Interview Training for Sheep Producers

Presentation: Sheep Grazing on Topaz Solar Farm

Cocktail Reception

Shepherds Ball & Auction

Livestock Market Comments – Tighter Stocks Boosts Lamb Market Prospects

By David P. Anderson¹, Bridger Feuz², and James G. Robb³

Sheep and Lamb Inventory Declines

As of January 1, 2017, the U.S. inventory of sheep and lamb posted a year-over-year decline of 2%, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Slaughter data and USDA's inventory report indicate that producers were very cautious in 2016 and lacked optimism to hold onto ewe lambs to enter the flock. At the forefront of worries likely were government policy/regulations regarding larger operations to maintain hired shepherds to manage flocks. Other factors may also have been at-play including the reduction in market information provided by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and resulting removal of Livestock Price Protection for slaughter lambs.

All sheep and lambs in the U.S. totaled 5.2 million head. The breeding sheep count was 3.86 million head as of January 1st, down 2% year-over-year. Market lambs were reported at down 1% from a year ago. In 2016, the national lamb crop was 3.25 million head, declining 1% compared to January 1, 2016. The national lambing rate (lambs per ewe one year and older) was 105%, just slightly below 2015's.

NASS includes sheep and lamb numbers for 33 states. Twenty states experienced a decline in the number of breeding animals compared to a year ago. In order by size, the states with the largest number of breeding animals are: Texas, California, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Iowa. Of those states, only California (+5,000 head) and Wyoming (+10,000 head) had an increase compared to a year ago in their breeding animal count. Four states continue to dominate the market lamb numbers, in order of head they are: California, Colorado, Texas, and Wyoming.

Stocks

The key market factor over the last several years has been the level of lamb frozen stocks hanging over the market. Stocks of lamb in cold storage, reported monthly, have been the equivalent of over 400% of monthly lamb production (for example January, 2016 stocks were 450% of January, 2016 production). Estimated quarterly ending stocks of lamb have been the equivalent of over 100% of production.

Working off those stocks while not wrecking the lamb market has been the real trick. January 1, 2016 lamb and mutton in cold storage amounted to a record 47.1 million pounds. By January 1, 2017, stocks had declined to 20.3 million pounds, a 67 percent decline.

It would appear that the excessive stock levels have been largely moved without a market collapse. Although, lamb prices declined sharply in October to their lows of the year before rebounding.

Imports

Imported lamb has been a big industry concern for many years, and has, at times, been the most important lamb market factor. Lamb and mutton imports were a record 188 million pounds in 2016, up 9.3 million pounds from 2015. While the 9.9 million pounds imported in September were the fewest since February 2014 (and fewest for a September since 2013), imports surged to the largest November on record, 18.1 million pounds. A strongly increasing US dollar value versus the Australian dollar from 2014 into 2016 likely supported increasing imports. But, the US dollar generally declined in value through 2016.

Production, Imports, and Stocks

Domestic lamb production was down about 1 million pounds in 2016 compared to 2015. The change in imports and lamb production indicate that the change in stocks was due to increased consumption, or use, of lamb in the later months of 2016.

Looking Forward

Imports may be affected by drought recovery in Oceania, resulting in slightly reduced imports. But, seasonal demands will create the market incentive to import lamb. Total production of red meat and poultry will be record large in 2017, and likely again in 2018, may be the biggest headwind for lamb price increases. But, starting the year with much smaller cold storage stocks compared to recent years is a clear positive for the market outlook. At this time, the lamb price outlook for 2017 and into early 2018 looks rather consistent with 2016's levels.

Authors: ¹Professor and Extension Economist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, ²Extension Economist, University of Wyoming Extension, and ³Director, Livestock Marketing Information Center

2016 Lamb Muscle Cut Exports Continue Upward Trend

Although U.S. lamb exports were down in 2016, this was largely due to a sharp decline in variety meat exports. While total exports fell 11 percent in volume (8,248 mt) and 4 percent in value (\$18.3 million), muscle cut exports increased 26 percent (2,239 mt) and 16 percent (\$12.3 million) respectively. Leading market Mexico followed a similar pattern, as variety meat exports declined significantly, but muscle cut exports increased 9 percent in volume (965 mt) and 1 percent in value (\$2.8 million). Emerging markets showing promise in 2016 included Bermuda, the Philippines, Vietnam and the United Arab Emirates. *Source: US Meat Export Federation www.usmef.org*

Reduced Processing Restricts Australian February Sheepmeat Exports

Despite a stronger than average January, Australian lamb exports in February were down 3% from the same time last year, at 21,474 tonnes shipped weight (swt; Department of Agriculture and Water Resources). This was, however, 15% higher than the five-year (2012-2016) average for the month, and brought the year-to-date (January and February) total to 41,833 tonnes swt – up 5% year-on-year, and 24% above the five-year average.

Furthermore, there was a slight shift in the composition of lamb exported in February – with 42% being chilled (down from 43% last year), and 58% frozen (up from 57%).

As an indication of supply during the month, eastern states (all states except WA) lamb slaughter averaged around 354,000 head per week in February – a reduction of close to 4% from the corresponding period last year, underpinning the decline in volumes shipped.

Lamb shipments to the US dropped 14% year-on-year, to 5,010 tonnes swt – albeit off a high-base in 2016. Leg volumes eased 1%, to 1,391 tonnes swt, while assorted cuts were down 48% to 824 tonnes swt. Shank (604 tonnes swt), shoulder (596 tonnes swt) and rack (433 tonnes swt) exports, on the other hand, lifted 2%, 25% and 15%, respectively. *Source: Meat & Livestock Australia <https://www.mla.com.au>*

WANTED: SHEEP FOREMAN

BELCAMPO FARMS (Gazelle, CA) is looking for Sheep Foreman. The Sheep Foreman is responsible for all daily operational activities associated with Belcampo's sheep operation. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following: management of breeding, lambing, grazing, herding, record keeping, planning, pasture/grazing management, directing the sheep herder and all other sheep management related tasks. The Sheep Foreman will play a critical role in the leadership and development of the program. To learn more about BELCAMPO FARMS go to <http://www.belcampo.com>.

If interested contact: J.P. Thompson Cattle/Sheep Manager, BELCAMPO FARMS LLC, (831) 245-5559 or jpt@belcampo.com.

Be Prepared – Tips for Shearing Season & Wool Quality

Are you willing to put forth the effort needed to make your wool clip the best that it can be? Even the best shearers in the world can't make the most of shearing day without a little help. That means making sure you're on the same page with your shearer and his crew long before they arrive on site.

Here are some tips to consider as you prepare for one of the most labor-intensive days of the entire season.

- Have facilities ready and prepared for the shearing crew. This includes adequate pen space, working facilities, extra labor to move and sort sheep prior to shearing, as well as processing sheep after shearing. You might need to provide help and assistance moving wool bales or bags away from the shearing site to a storage facility. Sort different wool types prior to shearing to reduce cross contamination. The preferred shearing order remains white face, crossbreds, black face and, lastly, hair sheep or hair sheep crosses.
- Sheep should be held off feed and water overnight prior to shearing. This eliminates fecal and urine contamination on the shearing floor and helps keep wool as clean as possible. It's also easier for shearers to handle the sheep during shearing when this rule is followed.
- Visit with your shearer or shearing crew manager prior to shearing to determine what is to be accomplished at the shearing site: bellies out only, will wool be classed, perhaps skirted? Who is providing the packaging for the wool? What type of packaging is needed? Burlap, film and nylon packs are all approved packaging materials in the U.S. Who will label the bales and keep the wool press record?
- Provide a trash bin on site for disposal of hair type fleeces, bloody wool, skin pieces, heavy tags or contamination items.
- If using a shearing crew, the producer should try to provide electrical outlets for campers, water, restrooms and showers for the crew.
- A hot meal at noon – provided by the grower – is sincerely appreciated by the shearing crew and makes a significant difference in the afternoon work performance of the crew. Mid-shift snacks at break time are also much appreciated by the crew and strengthens the relationship between the producer and his crew.
- Respect for the producer and mutual respect for the shearing crew has to be gained by performance. It continues to be a team effort to make shearing day a positive experience for all involved.
- With fewer shearing crews available, as well as fewer shearers, both domestic and foreign, producers will find it beneficial to do everything possible to complete shearing day with minimal stress on the sheep, working help and shearing crew.
- Shearers also recommend that producers use plastic ear tags and place them in the sheep's left ear, toward the outside edge approximately half way between the base and the tip. Metal ear tags are especially dangerous during shearing.

Tips for Wool Quality

Another way to enhance wool quality is proper harvesting techniques on shearing day. The goal is to provide your processor with the most uniform product possible. When preparing for shearing day, at a minimum, consider the following first three steps below to optimize effectiveness and financial return. With a fine, white-face wool operation, the last two steps should additionally be considered.

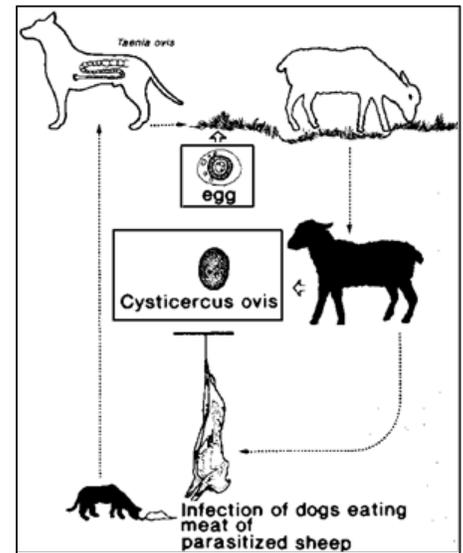
- Minimize wool contamination.
- Sort sheep before shearing and package different types of wool separately.
- Remove belly wool and tags during shearing and package separately.
- Some wools benefit from table skirting to remove inferior wool.
- Class wool in like groups for commercial marketing purposes

Sheep Measles – A Profit Drain

By Melissa Garrod-VanLaningham, DVM & CWGA Production, Research & Education Committee Member

Sheep measles, otherwise known as cysticercosis, are small cysts found in the meat of sheep and goats. The consequence of these ‘measles’ is partial or whole carcass condemnation at the processing house. The cysts are found throughout the meat and only a small portion are on or near the surface. Cysts are most easily seen in the diaphragm, heart, jaw muscles and tongue.

So where do these cysts come from... man’s best friends, the stock dogs. Sheep measles are caused by the tapeworm *Taenia Ovis*. The definitive host for this tapeworm is the dog, meaning the adult form of the worm lives in the dog’s digestive tract. There it grows and reproduces to the point that 1 dog can shed up to 250,000 eggs per day! These eggs can live in the environment for 6 to 12 months. Like most internal parasites, this worm then goes through a larval form in an intermediate host – your sheep. The sheep graze contaminated pastures or feed, ingest the eggs, which hatch into larva and migrate through the lamb’s body, eventually becoming encysted in the skeletal and heart muscle. The next step in the life cycle of this worm is for the intermediate host (your sheep) to be eaten by the definitive host (your dog) thereby releasing the encysted larva into the intestinal system of the dog where it can grow into an adult and start re-infecting your pastures all over again.



So now you’re asking – why does this affect my pocket book? Well, it takes just 5 encysted larva to cause an entire carcass to be condemned at the processing house. While this particular species’ larval form does not pose a risk to humans if consumed, imagine biting into a nice rib chop only to find something crunchy in the center – that can put customers off buying lamb forever!

So what can you do? Tapeworms generally do not cause clinical illness in your dogs, so a healthy appearing dog does not mean it doesn’t have tapeworms. Guard dogs and herding dogs should all be on a regular deworming schedule. Tapeworms are the hardy sort and the over the counter dewormers that work on other worms (roundworms, hookworms and whipworms which can all cause mild to serious illness in dogs) are NOT effective against them. The only readily available and effective treatment for tapeworms is Praziquantel.

If you choose to go the over the counter route, you will need to use 2 different products to protect your dogs and your flock – 1 to eliminate the disease causing worms (usually a pyrantel pamoate or fenbendazole active ingredient) and 1 to eliminate the tape worms. Your veterinarian has products that combine both treatments into one. This is best done as part of a routine annual health checkup and vaccinations. At that time, your veterinarian can get you a prescription for the combination dewormer (Drontal or Drontal Plus) to use throughout the year. Dogs working or living in close proximity to sheep should be dewormed at least every 3 months. This may need to be more frequent if the opportunity for re-infection is high in your operation. Speak with your veterinarian to determine what schedule is the best for you.

Which brings us to the next steps that you can take to reduce the incidence of cysticercosis in your operation. If dogs do not ingest raw sheep meat or offal, then the lifecycle of the worm is stopped. Re-infection of the dog cannot occur, so adults do not mature and produce more eggs to put back on the pasture. Implementing good practices for keeping your dogs away from any dead stock or any home slaughter is extremely important. Controlling scavenging of sheep carcasses by your domestic dogs, as well as, the wild canids in the area is necessary. Bury dead stock at least 2 feet deep or compost it appropriately. If you feed sheep meat to your dogs, then either cook it to 140 degrees F or freeze it for 7 days prior to feeding. Avoid feeding sheep offal all together. *Continued on page 18.*

Sheep Measles, *cont'd*

Another item to consider is what other dogs come onto your property regularly? Restrict access of other dogs to your property – and yes, that means Aunt Lucy’s poodle too. Or at least make sure their veterinarian has dewormed them within the last 6 months. Are your grazing lands part of a hunting club? Ask the club to require proof of deworming before they can let their dogs loose on your land.

And yes – unfortunately the wild canids (fox, coyotes) in your area can also be the definitive hosts for this worm. Obviously you are not going to be able to catch them all to make them swallow a deworming pill every 3 months, but controlling access to dead stock and remnants of home slaughter can go a long way toward breaking the life cycle. Once *Taenia Ovis* is established in your wild canid (definitive host) and deer (intermediate host) population, it can be extremely difficult to control.

Prevention of the tapeworm in the dog is key. There is no treatment for the larval form in sheep, and it takes just 4 weeks for the larva to travel from the small intestine to encyst in the muscle of a lamb where they sit, just waiting to cut into your profits.

Take Steps to Prevent Abortions in Sheep

Prevention is the key to protecting ewes against abortion-causing diseases.

Sheep producers need to watch for abortions, stillbirths and weak lambs during the upcoming lambing season, according to North Dakota State University Extension Service sheep specialist Reid Redden¹.

“Numerous infectious agents are commonly found in U.S. sheep flocks, and they can cause diseases such as chlamydia, vibriosis and toxoplasmosis,” he says.

Chlamydia is caused by a pathogen that is transmitted through the placenta and birthing fluids. Unexposed ewes, including ewe lambs, have a high rate of abortion (20 to 30 percent), whereas previously exposed ewes have a much lower rate of abortion (0 to 5 percent).

A high rate of weak and unhealthy lambs can be a sign of chlamydia in a sheep flock, Redden says. He suggests adding feed-grade antibiotics to late-gestation diets to treat ewe flocks diagnosed with chlamydia.

Vaccines can improve resistance to the disease, he adds. However, they are not 100 percent effective and do not provide lasting immunity.

“Chlamydia also has the potential to cause human disease, especially in pregnant women,” NDSU Extension veterinarian Charlie Stoltenow says. “Women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant should limit their exposure to pregnant ewes.”

Vibriosis, also known as campylobacteriosis, is caused by bacteria that are transmittable through birthing fluid. Previously exposed ewes appear to develop protective immunity. Feed-grade and injectable antibiotics can be used to treat the disease during an outbreak. Vaccines are available; however, they must be given every year prior to breeding and during midgestation.

Toxoplasmosis is a disease that almost always is a result of feed contamination by cat feces and/or birthing fluids. Unless ewes previously were exposed to the toxoplasmosis, the infectious agent will invade the placenta and cause placentitis, an inflammation of the placenta.

Exposure during early gestation may lead to fetal reabsorption or expulsion, and late-gestation exposure may lead to stillbirths or weak lambs. No effective treatment is available.

“Prevention is the key to protecting ewes from these disease-causing agents,” Redden says. “Most all ewe abortions result from ingestion of either contaminated feed or birthing fluids of infected ewes, so access to clean, high-quality feed and water during gestation and proper disposal of placentas are crucial to reducing the likelihood of ewe diseases.”

Here is what producers should do if a ewe aborts a pregnancy:

- Separate the ewe from the flock.
- Properly dispose of the placenta, fetus and contaminated bedding to reduce any further flock exposure. Handling these items is a human health risk, so wear gloves.
- Contact your veterinarian to properly diagnose the infectious agent that caused the abortion.
- Maintain current vaccination programs if positive diagnoses have been made on your flock.
- Consider whether using feed-grade antibiotics during late gestation is appropriate for your flock health.

¹Dr. Reid Redden is now an Associate Professor and Sheep & Goat Specialist at Texas A&M University.
Source: North Dakota State University Ag Communication

*** Attention CWGA members, you can purchase the Campylobacter Fetus-Jejuni Bacterin (Vibrio) Vaccine at reduced prices from CWGA. This vaccine provides excellent protection against either Campylobacter species. The vaccine has an outstanding safety records. The vaccine is safe to administer during mid-gestation to provide maximum protections against late term abortions. Contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org. ***

Protect Your Flocks Health with Health Products from CWGA

Its shearing time, so now is a great time to order your vaccines and health products! As a CWGA member, you have access to discount pricing on over 40 sheep veterinary supplies, vaccines, and nutritional products including as dewormers, vaccines, marking paint, feed supplements, and sheep protein tubs.

For product and pricing details please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122, info@woolgrowers.org or download at the following link - <http://cawoolgrowers.org/vaccines/vaccines.html>.

91ST ANNUAL CLOVERDALE RAM SALE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00am Preview of
Rams & Ewes
11:30am BBQ
1:00pm Ram & Ewe



2016 SALE AVERAGES

Corriedale- \$862
Dorset- \$775
Rambouillet - \$600
Shropshire- \$612
Suffolk- \$630
Range Ewes- \$218

Saturday, May 6th, 2017

Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds

Cloverdale, California

Suffolks – Dorsets – Corriedales

Shropshires – Rambouillets – Crossbreds

QUALITY RAMS

Approximately 75 rams consigned
All animals have been vet checked and quality sifted

For information contact:

Sierra Bruhn, Sale Manager (707) 696-9002 email- sierrabruhn@gmail.com
Jim Lewers, President (707) 894-9348 email - jklewers@comcast.net

Bakersfield Ram Sale



Western Stockman's Market Famoso, California

www.westernstockmansmarket.com

Mark Your Calendar

NEW DATE: Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Noon: Free lamb BBQ and open bar

1:00 pm: Sale Begins

Consignors

Brent Shepherd - Brian Olsen - TJ Shepherd - Roxanne Bracco - Joe Olsen -
Joel Shepherd - Edd Sabey - John Olsen - Larry Pauly - Linda Pauly -
Layne Shepherd - Matt Olsen - Mike Mann - Chase Carson - Chris Stavros
Brady Olsen - Raul Carson - Shirley Volkman - RJ Shepherd
Shirl Shepherd - Jim Stavros

Sale Management

Larry Pauly - 435-406-9652

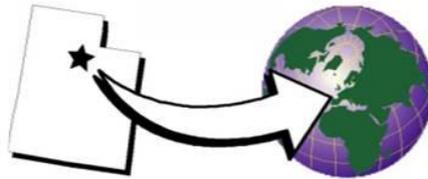
Joel Shepherd - 435-469-9055

Justin Mebane - WSM 661-399-2981

cell 661-979-9894

cell 661-979-9894

Utah Wool Marketing Association



Marketing Wool to the World

Contact: Will Hart Griggs – Manager

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

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Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul



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Cindy Tews - Co-Owner
Wendy Kenison - Co-Owner



CALIFORNIA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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916-444-8122
www.woolgrowers.org

Mark Your Calendars

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

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

April 11, 2017
California Sheep Commission Meeting
Sacramento, CA

April 19, 2017
Bakersfield Ram Sale
Famosa, CA

May 6, 2017
Cloverdale Ram Sale
Cloverdale, CA

June 11, 2017
Northern California Wool
Growers Assn. Annual Picnic
Ferndale, CA

June – TBA
CWGA Legislative Action Day
Sacramento, CA

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.*



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860