

# Targhee Talk

*The Newsletter of the United States  
Targhee Sheep Association*



**January 2015**

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**See your sheep in print!**

Targhee Talk submissions for the April Edition are due March 15th.

Please send your great Targhee stories, pictures, and newsworthy items to Ustargheesheep@gmail.com

or through the U.S. mail:

Targhee Talk  
8912 Saddle Red Ave  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
89143

Cover Photo Courtesy of  
A&J Nevens Livestock  
Lodi, Wisconsin

## 2015 USTSA Starter Flock Program

The U.S. Targhee Sheep Association will again be offering a free registered Targhee Starter flock to a deserving youth at the 2015 USTSA National Show & Sale. The winner must be present to receive the flock and will be awarded one (1) ewe lamb, one (1) yearling ewe, and one (1) brood ewe donated by members of the USTSA. Each animal will be a USTSA registered animal, and at least QR in Scrapie Codon 171 genotype. The winner will also receive a \$150 credit for use toward purchase of additional animals at the National sale courtesy of the USTSA.

Applications, due April 1st, are now available to download at [www.ustargheesheep.org](http://www.ustargheesheep.org) or by contacting Mardy Rutledge at the USTSA office ([ustargheesheep@gmail.com](mailto:ustargheesheep@gmail.com) or 702-292-5715). Any young person, ages 9-17, as of January 1, 2015, may apply. Applicants should possess a keen interest in the U.S. sheep industry, commitment to raising Targhee sheep over time, and a firm belief in the abilities of the breed. Applicants must demonstrate proof of care, facilities, and transportation. Aside from receiving the flock of sheep, the winning youth, will be paired with a Targhee breeder living near them who will act as a mentor.

Last year we received an outpouring of donations and was able to award two starter flocks. This, however, is contingent upon receiving enough donations. If you have the means and would like to donate, either a ewe or monetarily, please contact Jeff Nevens at 608-592-7842 or at [aandjnevenslivestock@frontier.com](mailto:aandjnevenslivestock@frontier.com)

## Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association Announces 2015 Starter Flock Giveaway.

The Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association will be giving away a starter flock of three Targhee ewes in 2015 to a lucky Wisconsin youth. Applicants must be aged 12 to 17 as of January 1, 2015, must be a resident of Wisconsin, and must not currently raise Targhee sheep. The winner must also be eligible and agree to exhibit their animals at both the 2015 Wisconsin State Fair open sheep show and Wisconsin Junior State Fair sheep show. The winner will receive a combination of ewe lambs, yearling ewes and/or brood ewes, and take ownership of the animals before any 2015 State Fair ownership deadlines.

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## 2015 National Show & Sale

The dates have been set for the 2015 National Show & Sale for Thursday, July 23-25, in Big Timber, Montana at the Sweet Grass County Fairgrounds. More information will be published in upcoming issues of Targhee Talk and on the USTSA website, as they become available. The hosting committee is thinking to keep with the same new schedule used last year in Brookings to allow for sufficient time for the junior and futurity shows. If you have further questions, please contact the USTSA office, or the show and sale chairperson, Carolyn Green.

### Deadlines to keep in mind

- **February 20th** is the first day NSIP entries can be sheared.
- **May 1st** is the first day side Micron tests may be taken.
- **May 31st** entry and event forms due. Entry forms and packets will be available in the April newsletter as well as online.
- **June 15th** all registrations and information for catalog due.

## President's Notes

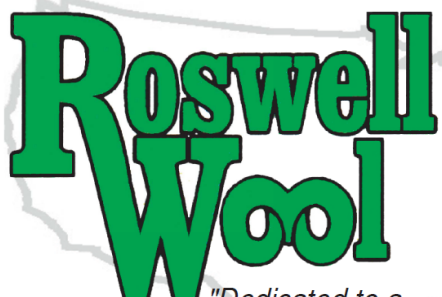
I would like to start this message with a huge thanks to Carolyn Green and the Montana Targhee Association for all the time and effort it has taken to find a great location for the 2015 USTSA National Show & Sale. This was not an easy endeavor, finding the right combination of facilities with fiscal responsibility to the USTSA and its members. And every year, it is getting more and more difficult. So their attention to details like this are greatly appreciated! Can't wait for the trek to Big Timber this July!

Big Timber will also be a showcase for the US Junior Targhee Sheep Association. Formed last summer in Brookings, the juniors generated a great deal of enthusiasm and creativity for what they would like to see in their events at nationals. I look forward to see what they have come up with for Big Timber! For those who may not have seen how the junior membership has grown, I would encourage any and all USTSA members to come and take a look this year, regardless if you are selling or buying. We truly are blessed to have such a great group of juniors and their families!

And lastly, I would like to ask a question to the overall membership: Are we doing everything we can to provide the best wool clippings to the fiber industry? If you take a look around on-line and at various fiber festivals, you are seeing an ever growing presence of Targhee wool, everything from yarns to finished products. And the on-line reviews of the great traits of Targhee wool and its' beneficial uses in various applications is amazing! We cannot forget how important the dual-purpose portion of this breed is, not only for us producers, but for the consumers too.

May all of you and your families be blessed with a great 2015, and I hope to see as many of you as possible in Montana this July!

Your President,  
Jeff Nevens



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## USTSA Show & Sale Schedule of Events

7/22	Wednesday
8:00 am	Pens available for early arrivals
7/23	Thursday
10:00 am	Sifting begins - deadline for sheep to be in the barn  Health, registration, micron, & EBV paperwork to be turned in at this time
12:00 pm	Wool & Photo Contest entries due
3:00 pm	National Junior Show, immediately followed by the Youth Futurity
5:30 pm	Adult Jackpot
6:00 pm	Dinner
8:30 pm	USTSA Board of Directors Mtg
7/24	Friday
10:00 am	Open Show
12:00 pm	Wool Show
2:00 pm	Annual Membership Meeting
3:30 pm	Annual Meeting
6:30 pm	USTSA Social
7:00 pm	Banquet followed by Benefit Auction
7/25	Saturday
12:00 am	National Sale (Rams followed by Ewes)

## 2015 Directory Fee Schedule

### 1/4 Page Ad

\$25.00

3"W x 1 7/8"H

Design Fee \$15.00

### 1/2 Page Ad

\$40.00

3"W x 3 7/8"H

Design Fee \$20.00

### Full Page Ad

\$70.00

3"W x 7 7/8"H

Design Fee \$30.00

### Centerfold

\$150.00

6.5"W x 7 7/8"H

Design Fee \$50.00

### Inside Back Cover

\$100.00

3"W x 7 7/8"H

Design Fee \$30.00

### Outside Back Cover

\$125.00

3"W x 7 7/8"H

Design Fee \$30.00

## 2015 Directory & Standards

Its already been three years since the last edition! Please, act quickly and contact Mardy Rutledge (ustargheesheep@gmail.com or 702-292-5715) to reserve a breeder spot in the 2015 Directory and to update your contact information in the Breeder's Directory. There is no additional charge for being listed online in the Breeder's Directory. However, if you would like to place an ad in the National Directory, cost for ads and design layout appear to the right. Members are welcome to create their own ads and submit them in pdfs. Please follow the sizing requirements. When using photographs, remember to use high quality images. Members choosing to have the USTSA office design their ad will be charged a design fee. Ad placement will be offered to those in the 2012 Directory first and than on a first come first serve basis. USTSA members wishing to update their previous ads will not be charged design fees.

### The deadline for submission is March 1st.

This is a great opportunity for you to advertise your business. The 2015 National Directory & Standards will be in use for three years, and one of the principle ways the USTSA office communicates information to the public. We have kept prices the same as they were since 2007! This is quite the bargain from our printer, Main Street Office in Three Forks, MT. We appreciate your continued commitment to the USTSA. I look forward to hearing from you

## New USDA Report Looks at Family Farms

A new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS) looks at family farms. The Family Farm Report, 2014 Edition, shows some interesting conclusions.

Family farms have ownership. The report shows that family farms accounted for 97 percent of U.S. farms in 2011. Small family farms alone - annual gross cash farm income (GCFI) below \$350,000 - made up 90 percent of farms. They also operated 52 percent of the nation's farmland. Small farms accounted for a small share of production - 26 percent - although their share of production was higher for specific commodities. ERS notes that small farms accounted for 56 percent of poultry production.

Mid-size and large-scale farms get it done. The report shows that large-sized and mid-sized family farms made up only 8 percent of all U.S. farms in 2011, but accounted for 60 percent of the value of U.S. agriculture production. About 3 percent of farms were non-family farms producing 15 percent of U.S. farm output. About 85 percent of nonfamily farm output was on farms with GCFI of \$1 million or more. Most nonfamily farms - 78 percent - had GCFI below the \$350,000 cutoff used to identify small farms.

Off-farm income helps. Small family farms were more likely to rely on off-farm income, which helps keep those smaller operations afloat, according to the report.

No poverty here. The report does note that the median household income for only two types of farms - retirement or low-sales farms - was below the median for all U.S. households in 2011. Yet the net worth of nearly all households operating retirement or low-sales farms, 96 percent and 97 percent respectively, was higher than the median income for all U.S. households.

The entire report is available at [www.ers.usda.gov/media/1728096/eib-132.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1728096/eib-132.pdf).

*Reprinted in part from Farm Futures*



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## 2014 In Review from ASI

- 1. Forest Service (FS) Framework for Bighorn Management** - In the spring, the FS announced its framework to decide the fate of sheep operations in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Nevada due to the management of bighorn sheep. The plan, developed in conjunction with the Western Watersheds Project in an effort to avoid future lawsuits, was designed to do a threat assessment of contact between domestic and bighorn sheep and deliver grazing options. The framework does not require the FS to offer alternative grazing to affected ranches, which prompted a bi-cameral bi-partisan letter from 37 members of Congress to federal land managers urging fair treatment for ranchers, requiring alternative allotments be offered. In March, a federal judge announced that the Payette Forest decision would remain in place requiring the removal of 70 percent of sheep grazing. This was met with an industry funded appeal launched in May. The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) launched a national legislative campaign in May, with congressional direction, to resolve the framework written in conjunction with an anti-livestock grazing group.
- 2. Ag Secretary Proposes Closing Sheep Station** -- In June, Secretary Vilsack announced to Congress that he would close the nearly 100 year old Agricultural Research Service's U.S. Sheep Experimental Station (USSES) in Dubois, Idaho, within the year. The only USDA facility in the United States dedicated to sheep research. The department's plans were designed to avoid additional lawsuits from an anti-grazing organization. U.S. Representatives responded to the sheep industry's opposition to the plans with a reminder to the department that Congress must be involved in decisions to close a station. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues its plans to abandon the station with an option to place some funding in the Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb. The House Appropriations Committee directed Congress in November that the agency would need to include their plans in the fiscal year 2015 budget. ASI was indirectly informed in December that the agency would not abandon the station in 2015.
- 3. PETA** - In July, the activist-driven group sponsored an anti-shearing video against the U.S. wool industry. In this biased effort by extremists, PETA endeavored to end the shearing of sheep and the use of wool, giving no thought to the impact this would have on the care and well-being of sheep.
- 4. LRP-Lamb Suspended** - In February, the Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb program sales were suspended. The product has been updated and reviewed by the USDA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and is expected to be available for industry use in the first half of 2015. LRP-Lamb is the only risk management tool available to the sheep industry.
- 5. Grow Our Flock Coordinator Hired** - Alan Culham accepted the offer to fill the 3-year project coordinator position with the ASI's Grow Our Flock program. This position serves as ASI's contribution to the Industry Roadmap as approved by its board. The ASI Board of Directors approved a \$500,000 supplemental wool budget to fund production efficiencies with commercial sheep producers in conjunction with the Grow Our Flock campaign.
- 6. Farm Bill Signed into Law** -- After four years of debate, a new Farm Bill was signed into law on Feb. 7. Sheep specific provisions include a new Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program; authorization of the Livestock Indemnity Program to assist with disasters that kill sheep and lambs and a cost-share provision for sheep killed by federally re-introduced or regulated predators including avian predators; extension of the Wool Fabric Provision for five years to correct a trade issue under the 20 year-old North American Free Trade Agreement; and maintains the industry-supported country-of-origin-labeling (COOL) language.
- 7. Court Determined Department of Labor Violated Law** -- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in June invalidated Department of Labor (DOL) rules that exempt herder employers from key labor protections, including wage-and-hour rules and requirements for workers' housing conditions. In October, the DOL was told it must engage in the notice-and-comment rulemaking process to set wage and housing requirements for cattle, sheep and goat herders under the H-2A visa program, but it does not have to do so on an expedited basis. These special procedures are critical to the operation of the H-2A herder program.
- 8. WTO Rules Against COOL** -- In October, the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruled the U.S. COOL laws discriminate against Canada and Mexico. The U.S. will appeal the WTO decision.
- 9. Deal Reached on CROmnibus** -- In December, Congressional leaders unveiled a massive \$1.01 trillion spending bill designed to keep most of the federal government funded through September 2015. Some of the issues of interest to the sheep industry included Wildlife Services initiatives, scrapie eradication funding, rejection of the closing of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, collaboration on bighorn research and compensation to livestock producers for livestock loses due to wolves.
- 10. Wolves** - Wolves remained in the news in 2014. A federal judge restored protections to wolves in Wyoming in September. Then in December, following another federal court ruling, gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region were again given protection under the Endangered Species Act.

## 2015 Shearing Schools

March 24-25, 2015  
University of Kentucky Beginning Shearing School  
Versailles, KY  
Contact: Don Ely; 859-257-2717 dely@uky.edu

April 6-10, 2015  
Washington State Beginning Shearing School  
Moses Lake, WA  
Contact: Sarah Smith; 509-754-2011; smithsm@wsu.edu

April 11, 2015  
Washington State Advanced Shearing School  
Moses Lake, WA  
Contact: Sarah Smith; 509-754-2011; smithsm@wsu.edu

April 17-18, 2015  
Maine Two-Blade Shearing School  
New Gloucester, ME  
Contact: Richard Brzozowski; 207-781-6099; cichard.brzozowski@maine.edu

April 17-18, 2015  
Maine Beginner Shearing School  
New Gloucester, ME  
Contact: Richard Brzozowski; 207-781-6099; cichard.brzozowski@maine.edu

April 25-26  
Vermont State  
Location TBD  
Contact: Jim McRae; 802-483-2463; vtshearer@yahoo.com

May 11, 2015  
California Beginner Shearing School  
Hopland, CA  
Contact: cemendocino.ucanr.edu/sheep\_shearing\_school

## Breakthrough Offers New Knees for Sheep

A new scanning technique could allow the veterinary profession to regenerate the meniscus layer in a sheep's knee and beat arthritis.

Cornell University researchers are monitoring the progress of sheep after undergoing the new treatment, with no signs of arthritis six months after operating. The stem cell procedure regrows the layer cushioning the tibia and fibular after using a 3-D printer to make a biodegradable "scaffold" corresponding to the sheep's meniscus.

This fresh insight, from Jeremy Mao at Columbia University Medical Center, included discovering the concentrations and timings influencing the speed at which stem cells were recruited for meniscal repair, which were then "laced" into the scaffold. In humans, a damaged meniscus results in arthritis and reduced activity, explained the University of Cornell team.

"Most middle-aged people who end up with a degenerate meniscus have it surgically trimmed, but if you lose more than 20 to 30 percent, then you are very prone to arthritis," said Professor Lisa Fortier, College of Veterinary Medicine. "If everybody who needed it could replace their meniscus, they could slow arthritis and maintain their full function."

This method, which appeared in a December edition of Science Translational Medicine, could potentially be an improvement on the currently used cadaver tissue, which has a low success rate.

*Reprinted in part from The Sheep Site*

## Genetic Condition in Sheep Could Help Fight Huntington's Disease

A nervous system disorder in sheep might someday help people who suffer from Huntington's disease.

According to one South Dakota producer, if research is approved, there could be a need for an additional 75,000 ewes each year to provide a potential treatment used to treat patients with the disease.

Larry and Sue Holler of White spoke at the Dakota Lamb Growers Cooperative annual meeting Aberdeen. Larry Holler is a veterinarian. The couple founded Glycoscience Research Inc. more than two decades ago and maintain a flock of sheep that has a genetic trait that could eventually help combat not only Huntington's, but Parkinson's disease, too.

The Hollers' 400 sheep carry what's called GM1 gangliosidosis, an inherited disease that progressively destroys nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Members of the co-op are considering an increase in production so that when clinical trials begin, lambs will be available to produce the material that could be a medical advance.

The Hollers said there are about 30,000 clinical Huntington's disease patients in the United States and an additional 75,000 people who carry the dominant genetic defect in the Huntington's protein gene. Using current estimates, one lamb could treat one Huntington's disease patient for one year.

After a Food and Drug Administration pre-investigative meeting in January, a clinical trial could be in going by late 2015, according to the Hollers. If that goes as expected, sheep producers will face the challenge of raising enough lambs fast enough to treat Huntington's disease patients.

*Reprinted in part from Aberdeen News*

# NSIP CORNER



## Moving Forward In Montana

By Terri Queck-Matzie

Betty Sampsel says she began using National Sheep Improvement Program data to cull the bottom end of her flock. Coming from several generations of sheep producers, Sampsel has grown the family flock in Stanford, Montana, into one of the top registered Targhee bands in the country. NSIP uses Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) to predict genetic performance, and Sampsel uses the data to select for loin eye depth, as well as wool and maternal traits.

"It's important to breed for balanced traits," says Sampsel, "but to do that you have to know what is there. And the NSIP data helps identify the superior genetics." NSIP's EBVs are statistically created based on generations of progeny performance for various traits, and provide one of the most accurate tools available for making genetic selection based on traits of commercial importance.



Industry Leader Betty Sampsel has turned generations of sheep and experience into one of the top Targhee herds in the country.

Carolyn Green, of Green Ranch near Melville, Montana, says the data "Helps you to see what you can't see." Green grew up in Pasadena, California, and fell in love with farm life on a childhood visit to Iowa. When a Montana job resulted in marriage and settling down on a local ranch, she looked for a way to be useful to the operation, yet "stay out of the guys' and cattle's way." The family sheep herd provided just what she needed.

"I guess you could say I was uninhibited by experience," says Green. "I kept records from the very beginning. And bit-by-bit, I could see improvement. Then when NSIP came along, I was hooked."

Green says her use of data was viewed as suspect in those early days. "Even my husband



Carolyn Green was fresh out of college when she married and settled on a Montana ranch, where she took on the challenge of the ranch's sheep herd.

including NSIP Expected Breeding Values and the Western Range Index – a formula that weighs and compiles the most economically relevant traits for range sheep operations.

To the novice the rows upon rows of numbers listed in the sale catalog can be mind-boggling. Green says that's where the commercial producer has to trust the purebred breeder – and look at their approach. "If you want to make improvement, whether it be in one or multiple traits, buy breeding stock from someone who is focused on making improvements. NSIP makes it easier to see and identify those animals that should produce quality offspring. It's a great tool."

"The purebred producer has the opportunity to add emphasis to certain characteristics in their breeding program," says Lisa Surber, Research Scientist at Montana State University, "and that helps the commercial producer."

Rodney Kott adds this is especially true of traits that are not the most heritable, or are more abstract. For nearly 30 years prior to his retirement, Kott was the driver of an aggressive producer education program at Montana State, introducing commercial producers, as well as purebred breeders, to the benefits of performance data.

Many producers are now growing used to seeing data in sale catalogs, or have a footing in the beef industry where such data has become common. For them, performance trait measurements are essential to choosing the best animals to complement their operation. "Many younger producers are educated in an agriculture that depends on records and data," says Green. "They rely on this sort of information."

And that's a good thing, according to Kott. "Anytime you measure, you get better. Take reproductive performance, a trait that is very

important in the commercial sector where they're selling pounds of lamb. If you look at the history, it took many, many years to make even marginal progress. Since producers started using NSIP data six or seven years ago, progress has been very good."

Montana State's program helps commercial producers improve on a variety of traits, including those measured at the Montana Wool Lab, headed by Surber.

"We're a research-based wool testing lab," explains Surber, who says NSIP complements and extends her efforts. "There's a real need by commercial producers wanting to meet the needs of the garment industry. American industries, especially the knitwear industry,

want to use American wool. Producers have to be able to provide the fiber size, length and quality they require. NSIP measures and provides EBVs for those traits, so culling decisions can be made accordingly."

Targhee sheep are raised for meat as well as wool, and Sampsel, now in her second term on the American Lamb Board, says the progressive approach is needed if American lamb wants to stay competitive in a global market.



Lisa Surber heads the Montana Wool Lab at Montana State University and champions a progressive extension program.

"The industry should have good years ahead as protein needs increase around the world," says Sampsel. "More people are trying, eating, buying lamb. But we have our work cut out for us competing with red meat. We have to produce better lamb."

In addition, on the domestic front, as ethnic markets make their desires known, producers will find themselves targeting specific weights and traits to meet the requirements of direct marketing initiatives.

"You have to know what you're selecting for," says Kott. "NSIP allows producers to identify those traits and measure the progress. The data allows a higher level of accuracy in breeding selections."

"And that's what's needed to make timely genetic flock improvement," adds Surber. "Programs like NSIP will play a significant role in moving the American sheep industry forward on all fronts."

More information on the National Sheep Improvement Program can be found at [www.nsip.org](http://www.nsip.org).

### Elite Report – Targhee Sires with 2013 - 2014 Offspring NSIP - US Range (April 2014)

ID	Prg:Fks	BWT	MBWT	MWWT	PWWT	YWT	NLB	YEMD	YGFW	YFD	YSL	USRnge	Sire Dam
Flock	Inbrd.Coef	kg	kg	kg	kg	kg	%	cm	kg	mm	mm		
610028-2011-11H274	53 : 1	0.10	0.89	2.38	3.57	6.22	25.50	0.4	9.2	0.9	-0.8	111.7	61002820077H7161
Hughes Newford Co	5%	84%	52%	55.0	80%	77%	51%	70%	89%	56%	64%		61002820088H8150
610040-2011-YE0443	17 : 1	0.02	0.22	2.22	1.98	3.20	23.40	2.0	12.3	1.8	-1.1	111.6	61002820077H7161
Green Ranch	4%	78%	60%	49.0	73%	74%	51%	71%	77%	74%	66%		6100402009W7920G
NSIP Targhee Ave				1.3	2.4	4.1	7.5	-1	6.9	.3	1.1	104.7	

\*for EBV definitions go to: <http://nsip.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/NSIP-EBV-Descriptions-Rev-aa-of-Sept-2011.pdf>

Betty Sampsel (Hughes Newford Co.) and Carolyn Green have the top two Targhee rams on the National Sheep Improvement Program 2014 Elite Report.

## President

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Term expires: 2015

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toddtaylor@wisc.edu  
Term expires: 2017

### West:

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307-738-2378  
bwilliams@rtconnect.net  
Term expires: 2015

## Targhee Wearables!!

USTSA's line of clothing and accessories are available for purchase on USTSA website's homepage.

If you don't find the size or color you're looking for, please contact Mardy for ordering.

## Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program Lambing Course

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2015 Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program Lambing Time Short Course and Bus Tour which will be held on February 6th and 7th in Pipestone. We have an excellent program planned and we will be touring two outstanding sheep operation. The program starts with an optional Friday evening discussion. Saturday will begin with lambing time management and health topics. The afternoon will be spent touring and viewing two successful sheep operation.

Topics include: Changing the US Sheep Industry, Handling Common Ewe Health Concerns, Virtual Lambing Barn Layout and Creep Design Tour, Telling the Sheep Production Story to Consumers, Antibiotic Availability and How to Establish a Vet/Client/Patient Relationship, Cost Effective Ewe Feed Rations, and Managing the Leading Killers of Baby Lambs.

The purpose of this short course and bus tour is to help producers recognize and effectively deal with common lambing time problems. We are fortunate to have highly qualified sheep veterinarians on the program to share their thought on common lamb and ewe health problems. Touring two top area sheep operation in the afternoon will provide an opportunity for individuals to see firsthand how other sheep producers recognize and deal with lambing time problems. You will see how they lay out their lambing barn, set up creep pens, graft lambs, dock, vaccinate, feed and management of their lambs and ewes. The farm demonstration session will provide an excellent learning opportunity.

For those who are unable to attend, consider our web based Lambing Time Management Series which consists of 6 recorded topics that can be view through an Internet connection in the comfort of your home or office.

For more information visit [www.pipestonesheep.com](http://www.pipestonesheep.com) or contact Jodi Christensen, [jodi.christensen@mnwest.edu](mailto:jodi.christensen@mnwest.edu) (507) 825-6806.

## Montana Sheep Specialist Receives National Wool Excellence Award

Dr. Rodney Kott, who spent more than three decades implementing sheep and wool educational programs as the Montana State University extension sheep specialist and was instrumental in the development and continuing evolution of the National Sheep Improvement Program, will receive the esteemed American Wool Council Wool Excellence Award during the ASI Annual Convention.

During his 33 years at MSU, Dr. Kott made significant contributions to teaching, extension, research and service to MSU and the State of Montana as well as the national sheep industry. At MSU, Dr. Kott developed programs for providing educational support to county agents and producers in areas of sheep management, nutrition, breeding, reproduction and wool production.

With his participation in the Sheep and Sken Institutes, Dr. Kott reinvigorated the wool pools in Eastern Montana enabling them to participate in a global market.

"While Dr. Kott is a recognized leader in the field of Extension sheep education and outreach, I believe that it is his personal characteristics that set him apart from others. He has the highest level of integrity, his energy level is unsurpassed and he quietly leads by example," said Steele.

*Reprinted in part from ASI news press*



## Upcoming Calendar of Events

<b>January</b>	
28-31	ASI Annual Convention, Reno, NV
<b>February</b>	
5	Black Hills Stock Show, National Sheep Shearing Contest an Sheep Dog Trials at James Kjerstad Event Center on the Central State Fairgrounds, Rapid City, South Dakota. Contact Dave Ollila at David.Ollila@sdstate.edu
6-7	Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program Lambing Time Short Course and Bus Tour. Contact Jodi Christensen, jodi.christensen@mnwest.edu, (507) 825-6806.
<b>March</b>	
14	Arlington Sheep Days: Public Events Facility, UW-Madison Arlington Agricultural Research Station, Arlington, WI. Contact Jill Alf, 608 868-2505, wisbc@centurytel.net or www.wisbc.com
22-24	Michigan Fiber Festival ( <a href="http://www.michiganfiberfestival.info">www.michiganfiberfestival.info</a> )
<b>April</b>	
6-10	Washington Beginner Shearing School, Moses Lake, WA (Sarah Smith 509-754-2011 or smithsm@wsu.edu)
16-19	Annual Shephard's Extravaganza, Puyallop, WA ( <a href="http://www.shepherds-extravaganza.com">www.shepherds-extravaganza.com</a> )
<b>May</b>	
2-3	Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Fredrick, MD ( <a href="http://www.sheepandwool.org">www.sheepandwool.org</a> )
9-10	New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival, Deerfield, NH ( <a href="http://www.nhswga.org">www.nhswga.org</a> )
11-12	California Wool Handling School, Auburn, California (Jill Hackett at 707-845-0752 or jill@ferndalefarms.com)
<b>June</b>	
4	Roswell Wool Sale, Roswell, NM (Mike Corn 575-622-3360 or mikecorn@roswellwool.com)
13-14	Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival ( <a href="http://www.iowasheepandwoolfestival.com">www.iowasheepandwoolfestival.com</a> )
21-23	Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair, Grayslake, IL ( <a href="http://www.fiberandfolk.com">www.fiberandfolk.com</a> )
21-24	National Lamb Feeders Association's (NLFA) 28th Annual Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, Dixon, CA ( <a href="http://www.nlfa-sheep.org/leadership.html">www.nlfa-sheep.org/leadership.html</a> )
<b>July</b>	
23-25	USTSA National Show and Sale, Big Timber, MT

## Test Your Wool in Reno

The American Wool Council will be debuting a new wool testing device designed for on-farm use during the American Sheep Industry Association's 150th Celebration.

The FiberLux fiber diameter meter is a wool measurement instrument that is being tested by Texas AgriLife in a joint project with ASI. It may offer producers an affordable tool to measure wool on the farm or ranch. The purpose of this type of measurement is to assist producers in improving the quality of their clip through better breeding and to increase the income from their clip by enabling them to sort the fleeces into like lots.

Ronald Pope, Ph.D., Producers' Marketing Cooperative Inc., related that a series of tests comparing the results of the FiberLux and OFDA200 have been completed. The preliminary work shows adequate results for the intended purpose of animal selection and wool separation.

The Fiberlux will be set-up near the ASI registration area on Thursday and Friday of the convention.



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