



The North Dakota Sheep Industry Newsletter

A joint publication brought to you by the NDSU Extension Service and the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association

Reid's Remarks

Reid Redden, Newsletter Editor

I once heard a quote from a climatologist: "Weather is only normal 2 percent of the time." This cold and wet spring was very different from the three previous springs I experienced as a North Dakotan.

Although it was annoying, in retrospect it was a good spring for the regional sheep industry. Parts of North Dakota and most of the surrounding states were very concerned with drought conditions after a dry summer, fall and winter. This widespread precipitation pattern should result in longer grazing seasons and greater production of livestock feed resources.

The lamb market appears to have hit bottom and be showing some signs of slight improvement. However, most would agree that we need higher prices to remain sustainable in the future. Winston Churchill said, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

In my opinion, this down market provides an opportunity for us to expose lamb to those who use the excuse that lamb is too expensive. I will admit that I did not eat lamb regularly before the collapse of the lamb market in 2012. However, my family has lamb at least once a week; plus, we try to expose our friends to lamb every chance we can.

We are fortunate that the NDSU Meat Lab markets lamb and it has reduced its prices in accordance with the price of lamb, whereas this is not true for most all national retailers. Therefore, I encourage you to work with your local meat processors and retailers to make lamb available to local customers and get the word out that we've never had a better time to buy lamb.

Because lamb is an uncommon protein for most consumers and many people who raise sheep, we are hosting an event to try to educate sheep producers and potential consumers about lamb. The first annual North Dakota Lamb and Wool Expo on Aug. 2 in Jamestown will include a cooking with lamb workshop, plus seminars on lamb fabrication, market forecasts, lamb quality characteristics and regulations for lamb marketing.

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Photo by Charlie Stoltenow, NDSU

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■ Message From the Association

Brad Gilbertson, NDLWPA Vice Chair

I need to start out this time with a big thank you to Reid and Brent. It seems that we had more readers and more “discussion” about the producer interview than ever before. So thanks, guys. An editor’s job is to increase circulation, and it looks like Reid is doing a great job. In fact, I’m already thinking of something controversial to say at the end of this to further help out.

I know many of you may have had issues with the interview in the last newsletter, and I have to admit that I did, too, at first. Luckily, I had a couple of weeks to think about it before I had to write this. My wife will attest to the fact that sometimes it takes me a couple of weeks to really get my head wrapped around something. I finally determined that as long as the sheep business has a large percentage of “hobby” producers, we will always have this argument.

Now before everyone jumps on my use of the word “hobby,” let me say that if you don’t raise sheep to buy groceries, you may be a hobby producer. If you work a full-time job and also raise sheep, you may be a hobby producer. And finally, if you buy all your feed, you may be a hobby producer. That doesn’t mean that your opinion doesn’t count; it just gives you a little different perspective than Brent has.

This seems to be the way our industry is headed. I was shocked in 2011 at the Suffolk board of directors meeting to look around the table and not find one person there who made a living in production agriculture. Does that mean they never will be able to steer a breed? Of course not. The same can be said about the interview in the last issue. Each of us needs to be raising what works for us and what keeps us in groceries.

I get to see both ends of this argument. We have a purebred flock of Suffolks and also a flock of commercial ewes. I will be the first guy to admit that I could not make a living raising purebred sheep. Although with \$1.05-per-pound lambs, I’m not sure I can make a living raising commercial sheep, either.

Let’s take a second and look at the other major species involved in animal agriculture. The beef guys are down to about eight major breeds of cattle. The swine guys are down to about four major breeds of hogs, and for the most part, the dairy guys are down to just one breed of cow.

However, most people in the sheep industry can rattle off 30 breeds of sheep without really thinking about it too hard. Why is that? Probably because the way we harvest lamb is so much different from the way we harvest beef or pork. Those guys have whittled it down to a few breeds because that’s what makes them money. Also, there is a much smaller percentage of “hobby” farms that raise beef or pork. When we take a look at the guys who are raising sheep for grocery money, I think you will find that they all raise a fairly similar kind of sheep.

Does that mean they are raising the “right” kind? Absolutely not!

That is what makes our industry so great and so terrible. We all need to be raising what fits our program. If your goal is to wallpaper the den with banners, then you probably already know what direction your program is headed. If your goal is to make money, then you are probably already doing it. If you don’t really know what you are trying to raise, I have a few rams for sale.

I think what I’m trying to say is that if you really like the sheep you are raising, and they fit you economically, then why do you care what the rest of the world is doing? If you like what you see every morning when you go to the barn and you can sell them, then you are doing fine. But if you have 10 Natural Colored ewes, please don’t be surprised when most of the research going on today does not concern you or your program.

With all that being said, I’d like to be the first guy in the history of this newsletter to quote Rodney King: “Can’t we all just get along?” I think we should all take a look at this industry as a whole and realize that we are all on the same team. Some of us are lineman and some of us are quarterbacks, but we all have the same goal: to put tasty American lamb on someone’s plate. Some of us want to do it with fat lambs and some of us want to do it with seedstock, but we all want the same thing.

I just happen to have the perfect way for you to be more aware of the ultimate goal here. Please plan to attend the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Expo in Jamestown this year. There will be some very interesting sessions on cooking with lamb and lamb quality, and a great lamb dinner.

One of the best things we can do for our industry is to know what our consumers want. No market ever grew because a producer made more; they all grow because a consumer demands more. I think there will be a vendor fair and a stock dog training workshop, also. Reid has put countless hours into this event and it looks like there will be something for everyone. Then on Saturday we

will once again have the Jamestown Sale starting at 1 p.m. I have seen a few of the entries, and there will be some very good rams there this year.

Even if you are not in the market for your next ram, it will still be a great weekend to catch up with old friends and maybe swap a story or two. So everyone, please put down the newsletter and get busy haying so we can all get together in Jamestown on Aug. 2. See you there!

■ Reid's Remarks

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Other workshops include working with wool, alternative sheep grazing systems and training stock dogs. Sheep shearing, wool handling, and wool grading (OFDA 200) demonstrations (bring a few samples if you'd like) are scheduled. The expo also will have educational seminars on lamb health and a keynote address on the future of the sheep industry. See the events section for the full agenda and registration details.

Please put it on your calendar and encourage as many people as you can to attend. I feel strongly that we must take some responsibility for the marketing of our own industry.

Another important issue for the sheep industry is the development of the next generation of shepherds. Your association and NDSU Extension have developed a great program called the Perpetual/Starter Flock Program to address this issue. As most of you know, 10 youth each will receive 10 commercial ewes. I have been fortunate to be able to help out with this program, and I am optimistic that it will help develop the next generation of leaders in the sheep industry.

However, this program is dependent on your help to identify good applicants and be willing to serve as their mentor. Applications are due Aug. 1. The board has increased the upper age limit from 18 to 22. Applications are available at www.ag.ndsu.edu/ansc/sheep-files/2013StarterFlockForm.pdf.

As always, I encourage you to contact me with questions, comments or suggestions at (701) 231-5597 or reid.redden@ndsu.edu.

■ Flock Health

Iodine Deficiency in Sheep

Larry L. Berger, Ph.D., University of Nebraska

In March, I received a phone call from a sheep producer in northeast Iowa. She was very frustrated and ready to try any reasonable solution to solve her problem. She had lambed about a third of her 150 ewes. To that point, nearly all the lambs were dead at birth or were too weak to nurse if they were born alive. Ewes that had live lambs had little or no milk. Several ewes had died during lambing.

Up to that point, the ewes appeared fairly normal. Most of the lambs that were born had enlarged thyroid glands (goiter) and very little wool. The veterinary diagnostic lab in Ames had confirmed iodine deficiency both from outward symptoms and by autopsy.

A new source of trace mineralized salt had been purchased from a supplier that catered to sheep producers and emphasized the low-copper content. However, based on the iodine concentrations, it appears that noniodized salt was being used in the formulation. Although iodine deficiencies are rare due to the feeding of iodized salt, the purpose of this review is to emphasize its critical role as a nutrient and why it is essential to prevent significant losses in any ewe flock.

Iodine Requirements in Sheep

Under normal feeding conditions, sheep require 0.1 to 0.8 parts per million of iodine in their diets. Sheep appear to be more susceptible to an iodine deficiency than the other farm animal species.

Underwood and Suttle (1999) described four factors that can affect the supplemental iodine requirements. First is the amount of iodine being consumed from feed, water, soil, etc. Second, there is the intake of dietary constituents, called goitrogens, which interfere with the thyroid gland's ability to trap iodine and to convert it into thyroactive substances. Third, an adequacy of selenium is required for proper iodine metabolism. Fourth, environmental factors, such as cold stress, can increase the iodine requirement because the rate of basal metabolism must increase to maintain core body temperature.

Iodine Intake

The amount of iodine supplied in the basal diet depends on several factors. Location has a major impact on the amount of iodine in feedstuffs. For example, Hercus et al. (1925) estimated that 22 to 50 milligrams (mg) of iodine per acre

fell annually in the rainfall on the Atlantic coastal plains, but only 0.7 mg per acre would fall in the Great Lakes region.

The iodine in sea water is volatilized into the air, so prevailing wind can have a major impact on the iodine being deposited through rain. For example, if the prevailing wind is away from the coastline, being near the sea does not ensure high iodine concentrations from feedstuffs grown in that region.

Plant and soil interactions have a major impact on the supplemental iodine required by grazing animals. Grasses tend to be lower in iodine than legumes. Statham and Bray (1975) reported that the risk of iodine deficiency was greater during periods of high rain fall compared with the dry season. Increased herbage production during the rainy season provided less opportunity for soil contamination.

Because many topsoils are higher in iodine concentration than the plants growing on them, soil ingestion can be a major source of iodine. Iodine status of grazing animals often decreases as the grazing season progresses. Alderman and Jones, (1967) reported as much as a five-fold reduction in iodine concentration in plants with increasing maturity.

Selenium Status

The impact of selenium deficiency on iodine metabolism has been confirmed in sheep (Donald et al., 1994) and cattle (Arthur et al., 1988). Selenium is required for the synthesis of a protein that is required to convert thyroxine to the more metabolically active triiodothyronine. This protein is not present in the thyroid gland, but it is synthesized in the liver and kidney. Thus, a marginal selenium status can increase the iodine requirement because the thyroid has to synthesize more thyroxine to get the same metabolic response.

Cold Stress

Farm animals, especially cattle, sheep and horses, often are raised in environments where cold stress occurs every winter. One mechanism animals use to adapt to cold stress is to increase their rate of basal metabolism, which results in increased heat production. The rate of basal metabolism primarily is controlled by thyroxine levels in the blood. Thyroxine requires four atoms of iodine per molecule. Consequently, cold stress indirectly increases the iodine requirement.

Clinical Symptoms of an Iodine Deficiency in Lambs

Goiter, or enlargement of the thyroid gland, is an attempt by the body to compensate for the insufficient production of thyroid hormones. Goiter is most common in the newborn from a dam without any obvious signs of an iodine deficiency.

Potter et al. (1982) reported iodine deficiency in ewes causes impaired brain maturation in the fetus and lambs being stillborn and without wool. Lambs born alive often have high mortality rates shortly after birth due to the role of thyroid hormones in producing lung surfactants required for oxygen uptake.

Lambs born in the winter or early spring often are subjected to mild cold stress. If thyroid hormones are limited, the lambs may not be able to increase their rate of basal metabolism to maintain body temperature. Thyroid deficiency in young lambs will result in reduced wool growth because the wool-producing secondary follicles require thyroid activity beyond that needed for the growth of other tissues (Ferguson et al., 1956).

Summary

Sheep appear to be one of the most sensitive species for an iodine deficiency. Unfortunately, ewes usually will not show signs prior to lambing. Once lambs are born with goiter, it is too late to avoid losing a majority of the lamb crop. Feeding a properly fortified trace mineralized salt based on iodized salt is a key to a successful sheep enterprise.

Originally published by the Salt Institute

2013 Webinar Series

NDSU Extension will be hosting educational webinars on a quarterly basis. To participate, go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/ansc/ndsu-sheep-program and click on webinars. The webinars are free to attend but registration is required.

- **How to Get More Lambs**
Aug. 14 at 7 p.m.
- **Where is the Value in Wool?**
Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.

■ Newer Knowledge

Effect of Sorting and Feeding Management Practices on Finished Lamb Shrink Loss

K. Manthei, J.E. Held, A. Kolthoff and K. Bruns
South Dakota State University, Brookings

Background

In the Upper Midwest, public auction sale barns and direct marketing (packer buying stations) are the primary methods to sell sheep and lambs. They generally are sold on a live weight basis (pounds) with prices reported in dollars per hundredweight (cwt). Therefore the economic return to the producer is based on the live weight at the point of sale.

Typically, sheep are transported to a location and weighed immediately before being sold; this is referred to as the pay weight or final weight. Public auction barns typically have a time lag between delivery and weighing, which ranges from an overnight stand to a few hours after arrival at the sale facility.

With packer buying stations, the animals are off-loaded, then moved directly to a weigh scale. Using either marketing option is expected to result in a fair market value of the animal, or “price discovery.”

Yet another common denominator between these marketing options is a natural phenomenon called shrink loss. Further defined, shrink loss is the difference measured between the initial body weight at the farm and the pay weight. Because pay weight is used to compute the value of the animal, minimizing loss is imperative to maximize animal market value. The sources of shrink loss include excrement, body fluids and tissue dehydration.

Industry experts estimate shrink loss for market-ready lambs (120 to 150 pounds) at approximately 4 percent, but a wide array of factors results in a range of 1 to 6 percent.

Studies focused on livestock shrink loss have determined that distance traveled is a significant factor, with most shrink loss expected to occur in the initial 25 to 50 miles of transport. Yet little information is published evaluating the impact of common pre-marketing sorting, comingling and feed management practices on shrink loss for finished-weight lambs. Thus, a study was designed to measure the effect of common pre-marketing management practices on shrink loss in finished-weight lambs before and after transport.

Objectives

The objective of this study was to determine the effect of common pre-marketing sorting and feeding management practices on finished-lamb shrink loss.

Procedures

A study was conducted at the South Dakota State University sheep unit on March 14-15, 2013, to evaluate shrink loss with finished-weight, fall-born Hampshire-sired and Polypay lambs (n=44). All lambs were offered a finishing lamb diet ad libitum and comingled for more than 60 days before the pre-trial weight was recorded and lambs designated to treatment.

On March 14 at 5 p.m. (CST), lambs were weighed (pre-trial weight), then were allocated randomly by weight and sex of animal (wether and ewe) to a treatment: control (C; n=14), sorted on feed (SF; n=15) and sorted on hay (SH; n=15). These treatments correspond to common sheep industry finished-lamb marketing management practices.

The control lambs were housed in the original pen they had occupied for more than 60 days with ad libitum access to a finishing lamb diet and water. SF lambs were weighed, then moved to a different pen, and had ad libitum access to the lamb-finishing diet and water. The SH lambs also were moved to a different pen with ad libitum access to hay and water. On March 15 at 8 a.m. (CST), all lambs were weighed to record a post-sort weight, then loaded onto a livestock trailer (8 by 24 feet) and hauled for 50 miles. Following the transportation process, lambs were off-loaded and weighed to determine a final weight.

Results and Discussion

Results for shrink loss associated with sorting and comingling are reported in Table 1. Total shrink loss and shrink due to sorting were greater ($P < 0.01$) for the lambs in the sorted on feed (SF) treatment compared with control lambs. The lambs in the control group (C) had less than 1 percent body weight change during the trial. In contrast, the lambs in the SF group had 3.5 percent total shrink loss.

Table 1. Effect of sorting and comingling on shrink loss

	Control n=14	Sorted on Feed n=15	P-Value
Pre-trial wt., lbs.	136.8	137.4	0.88
Post-sort wt., lbs.	136.5	133.7	0.49
Shrink from sorting, % ^a	0.2	2.7	< 0.01
Wt. after hauling, lbs.	135.9	132.6	0.42
Total shrink, % ^b	0.6	3.5	< 0.01

^aShrink from sorting = $(1 - (\text{Post-sort wt.}/\text{Pre-trial wt.})) \times 100$

^bShrink from sorting and hauling = $(1 - (\text{After hauling wt.}/\text{Pre-trial wt.})) \times 100$

The SF treatment resulted in a seven-fold increase in total shrink loss. The majority of body weight loss (greater than 75 percent of total shrink loss) occurred in the 15-hour period before transport. Sorting market-ready finished lambs into a different pen overnight prior to transport to direct-marketing or public auction sale barn marketing options is a common management practice for producers.

Based on our data, the ideal management practice to minimize shrink loss and subsequently improve economic return is to sort finished-weight lambs from the feeding pen immediately before transport.

Results for shrink loss due to changes in sorting and feed management are shown in Table 2. No difference ($P = 0.73$) was shown for total shrink loss in lambs that were sorted to different pens, then given access to the lamb-finishing diet ad libitum (SF) compared with those having ad libitum access to hay (SH). The total shrink loss was 3.5 vs. 3.7 percent for SF and SH lambs, respectively.

Table 2. Effect of sorting and feed management on shrink loss

	Sorted on Feed n=15	Sorted on Hay n=15	P-Value
Pretrial wt., lbs.	137.4	135.7	0.71
Wt. after hauling, lbs.	132.6	130.7	0.67
Total shrink, % ^a	3.5	3.7	0.73

^aShrink from sorting and hauling = $(1 - (\text{After hauling wt.} / \text{Pretrial wt.})) * 100$

Because the SF lamb-finishing diet was identical to that offered for the past 60 days with proven nutritional qualities and high palatability characteristics compared with the modest-quality hay offered to SH lambs, we were surprised to find no difference due to feed management treatment.

A summary of the economic relevance of the total shrink loss can be illustrated by computing the effect on lamb return (\$/head). Using current live finished lamb prices at \$106/cwt, the SF and SH lambs would return \$4 to \$5 less per head, respectively, than C lambs due to differences in shrink loss. Another method to express the economic impact of shrink loss is to determine the finished-lamb prices for SF (\$113/cwt) and SH (\$117/cwt) lambs that equal the return when C lambs are priced at \$106/cwt.

Conclusions

Based on data from this study, the management practice that results in the least lamb shrink loss is sorting and loading immediately prior to transportation to a marketing destination. Conversely, when lambs are sorted into a different pen overnight, expect substantially higher shrink loss independent of feed management decisions. Although transport is an important source of shrink loss, we have shown that on-farm management decisions can have the greatest impact.

Sheep Bleat

An Interview With a Seedstock Provider

Schauer Sheep Co., Hettinger, N.D.

1) What breed of sheep do you raise and how do you manage them? (lambing season, feed resources, etc.)

My wife, children and I have a purebred Polypay flock. We target buck sales of both registered stud bucks and commercial bucks. Due to facilities and time, we lamb the majority of our ewes in May and keep the ewes and lambs in dry lot until weaning at 60 days of age. After weaning, ewes graze improved pastures until we bring them in for flushing two weeks prior to buck turnout, approximately on Dec. 1. During the winter and through to lambing, we feed a combination of grass hay and alfalfa/grass, adding grain for flushing and one month prior to lambing until two weeks before weaning. The lambs are raised on dry lot, primarily utilizing corn and a commercial market lamb pellet. The replacement ewe lambs and stud bucks are fed alfalfa hay with their concentrate, targeting a moderate growth rate (0.6 pound per day), while the feedlot lambs are pushed as hard as possible. At about 90 days of age, selection begins and lambs are sorted into replacement ewe lambs, ram lambs to be sold as yearlings and the feedlot pen. As we lamb in May, we have not sold replacement ewe lambs, as they usually don't fit into other people's production systems. At 1 year of age, the sale bucks are turned out to pasture in May and don't come off until sale time starts in the fall.

Our ewe lambs are bred to lamb at 1 year of age, with no separate breeding season from the mature flock. We have had tremendous success with getting our ewe lambs bred on time, even though they usually lamb within 20 days of becoming a yearling. We also have a small group of February lambers that provide some ewe and ram lambs for the kids to show at the county and state fairs.

2) When and why did you first enroll in the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP)?

I first enrolled as soon as we started raising Polypays, in 2008. One of the reasons we chose Polypays (besides the prolificacy, adaptability to low-quality feedstuffs and their easy mothering), was that the Polypay breed, in general, was a breed that utilized data collection combined with phenotypic traits for its development. Every breed has a place in our industry, but Polypay fit with our goals of raising as many lambs on a small acreage as possible, but without having a pile of bum lambs!

3) What data do you collect for NSIP and what estimated breeding values (EBVs) are generated from this data?

We collect birth weight, birth type, sex, any causes of death or poor performance, weaning weight, postweaning weight and a yearling weight.

The EBVs that are generated for Polypays are birth weight, maternal birth weight, weaning weight, maternal weaning weight, postweaning weight (120 days), yearling weight, number of lambs born, number of lambs weaning and the USA Maternal + Wool Index (a combination of weighting weight, maternal weaning weight, number of lambs born and number of lambs weaned). EBVs are also available for carcass data and wool traits, but we have not focused on these traits at this point.

4) How do you use EBVs in your breeding selection decisions?

When assessing potential bucks and replacement ewe lambs, we only keep offspring that are twins or better, are raised by their own mothers and are structurally correct. We also try to maintain a “moderately sized” ewe flock that will survive in western North Dakota without too much grain, other than flushing and during lactation. We try to only keep RR ewe lambs and bucks, but I know a couple of good ones that are QR slipped by! After we have addressed all of these criteria, then we look at our NSIP data. I tend to utilize the Maternal + Wool Index as my main selection criteria as it combines the traits I am interested in: prolificacy, ability to raise a lamb and weaning weight. As I don’t have a high degree of variability in weaning weight, the number of lambs born and weaned plays the biggest role in my internal selection criteria. When I buy stud bucks, I use the same criteria but will only buy RR and triplet-born bucks. Our goal is to wean at least a 200 percent lamb crop, including the ewe lambs, so structurally sound and prolific are requirements for our selection. Ewe lambs that don’t breed to lamb at 1 year of age are culled. However, to repeat what I said previously, the NSIP data and indexes are my last selection criteria; in essence, to separate the cream of the crop. As an example of improvement in our flock, since 2008, our top bucks have increased from an index of 102 (100 is the average for the breed) to 111, a 9 percent increase in the Maternal + Wool index in five years, with the majority of the improvement coming in lambs born and lambs weaned.

5) How has this data helped you market breeding sheep?

We market out sheep to both purebred Polypay breeders and range and farm flocks that are trying to increase their lambing rate. I believe our dedication to being a moderate-framed, structurally sound, prolific flock has benefited our marketing. One of the criticisms I hear about NSIP is the cost. My NSIP enrollment fee this year is \$150. In my opinion, that is two bids on one ram at a sale. We sell at a couple of ram sales, off the farm and occasionally at the National Show and Sale. If one person is interested in NSIP and bids on a ram, I think I have covered my cost for a year. I would collect all of the data anyway, and the additional information by EBVs easily makes it worth it, even if I wasn’t selling a single ram. From a purely marketing standpoint, participating in NSIP only adds potential customers to people who may be interested in buying a ram or ewe lamb. If they aren’t interested in NSIP, they can still judge the sheep based on their phenotypic traits and the raw data we collect. I hope to sell useful bucks to both NSIP producers and producers who are not utilizing NSIP.

6) What do you see as NSIP’s role in the commercial sheep industry in the next five to 10 years?

There are a multitude of traits that producers can evaluate. I believe, first and foremost, we as breeders need to provide accurate data to generate the EBVs. When accurate EBVs are generated, it allows producers to make real change for whatever traits they are interested in. Personally, I believe the industry needs to wean more lambs per ewe. The feed requirements for the ewe do not go up proportionally as she becomes more prolific; therefore, if she weans two lambs instead of one, she has the chance to become more profitable. Feed prices are not going down, so increasing the efficiency of each ewe should be important to all producers. You don’t have to be a Polypay breeder to be concerned about prolificacy and ewe efficiency. Utilizing NSIP in any breed can help you make progress toward these goals.

Marketing Matters

Can Lamb Prices Improve?

Tim Petry, Livestock Economist, NDSU Extension Service

The 2013 lamb market has been disappointing but is showing signs of improvement.

Slaughter lamb prices have struggled as the lamb industry continues the slow process of trying to rebuild lamb end-product demand after a disastrous 2012, due largely to overfinished lambs. The feeder lamb market has been hit with the double whammy of low slaughter lamb prices and record high corn and other feed prices.

With any market, you usually have good news and bad news. The good news in the slaughter lamb market is that weights have returned to normal in 2013. The weekly average dressed weight in mid-June was 71 pounds. That was right at the 2007-11 average and lower than the 79 -pound average for the same time last year. The bad news is that even though weights are down, ample supplies of lamb are on the market.

2013 lamb slaughter numbers are running close to last year's levels, but imports are higher. Commercial lamb and mutton production for January through May totaled just in excess of 65 million pounds, which is about the same as last year. But lamb imports for January through April (May is not available yet), at 54.5 million carcass weight pounds, were up almost 23 percent from last year. That amounted to 9.66 million additional carcass pounds that the already finicky market had to absorb.

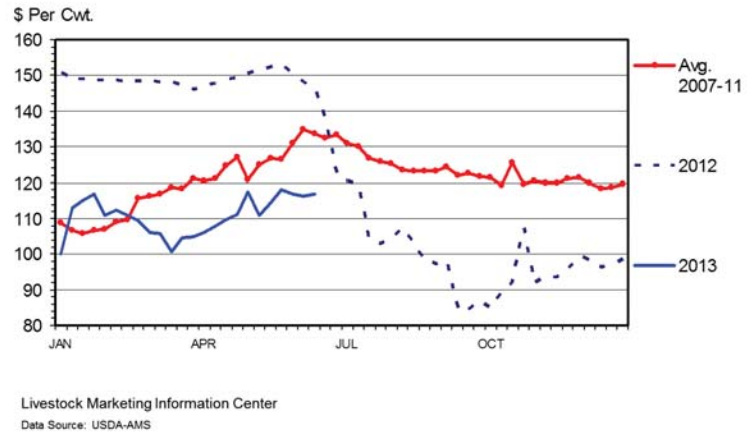
Although the U.S. imports less mutton than lamb, mutton imports also increased 80 percent so far this year. Through April, the U.S. imported about 13.2 million pounds of mutton, compared with 7.3 million last year.

The two major reasons for increased imports of lamb and mutton are the increasing value of the U.S. dollar, which makes the U.S. market more lucrative, and drought in Oceania. The drought caused forced liquidation and increased slaughter of sheep and lambs, and more exports of lamb and mutton.

Historically, Australia provides about 69 percent and New Zealand about 31 percent of U.S. lamb imports. Imports from Australia were up 25 percent and New Zealand's volume increased 20 percent so far in 2013. In its May newsletter, Meat and Livestock, Australia reported heavy marketing of lambs and ewes due to very dry weather. The report stated, "Processors remained booked solid throughout April, as they continued to push large volumes into export markets."

SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES

Wooled, 110-130 lbs, Sioux Falls, Weekly



Back to the good news/bad news scenario: The bad news is that the market has had to absorb more imported lamb at a time when prices already are depressed. The good news is that lamb and mutton imports should decline to more normal levels in the second half of 2013.

Australia and New Zealand reported favorable rainfall in May and June, which bolstered late fall-early winter pasture growth. Industry reports indicate less forced selling of sheep and lambs and even some restocking of lambs in New Zealand.

Keep in mind that lamb imports have been declining gradually since peaking in 2007, and 2012 imports were the lowest since 2002. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is predicting 2013 imports about 11 percent higher than last year but 2½ percent higher in the second half.

Slaughter lamb prices at the Sioux Falls Regional Market in Worthing, S.D., (see chart) have increased seasonally since bottoming in March, when imports were strong. Seasonal highs in prices usually occur about this time of the year. Prices will not plummet like they did last year. Commercial lamb production could be down about 5 percent in the second half of 2013 due to lower lamb slaughter and dressed weights. That and the prospect for lower imports should support prices above last year's depressed levels.

Feeder lamb prices will be dependent on slaughter lamb and corn prices. Prospects for better slaughter lamb prices and lower corn prices than last year would support prices. But the size of the fall corn crop is far from decided at this time.

North Dakota Lamb and Wool Expo



Aug. 2-3, 2013
Stutsman County
Fairgrounds
Jamestown, N.D.

More information:

Reid Redden, NDSU sheep specialist, at (701) 231-5597 or reid.redden@ndsu.edu

Individuals with disabilities are invited to request reasonable accommodations to participate in NDSU-sponsored programs and events. To request an accommodation(s), please Reid Redden at (701) 231-5597 by July 25, 2013.

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Friday, Aug. 2 (registration required)

- 8 a.m. Registration and vendor fair
- 9 a.m. Workshops:
 - Alternative Sheep Grazing Systems at AL Ranch, Woodworth, N.D.
 - Cooking With Lamb – Nick Forrest, American Lamb Board
 - Working With Wool – Julie Mangnall, North Dakota Hand Spinners
 - Training Stock Dogs – Shannon Fritz, Stock Dog Trainer
- Noon Registration and lunch
- 1 p.m. Welcome – Reid Redden, NDSU Extension sheep specialist
- 1:10 p.m. Lamb Fabrication – Austen Germolus, NDSU Meat Lab manager
- 2 p.m. Lamb Quality Characteristics – Rob Maddock, NDSU Extension meat specialist
- 2:45 p.m. Afternoon break
- 3 p.m. Past, Present and Future of the U.S. Lamb Market – Tim Petry, NDSU livestock economist
- 4 p.m. Flock Health Management – Larry Holler, South Dakota State University Diagnostic Lab pathologist
- 5:15 p.m. Sheep Shearing and Wool Handling Demonstration
- 6 p.m. Lamb Dinner – **hosted by Carnivore Catering**
- 7 p.m. The Future of the U.S. Sheep Industry – Nick Forrest, American Lamb Board
- 8 p.m. Shepherd's Social at Gladstone Inn – **Sponsored by North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association**

Saturday, Aug. 3 (no registration required)

- 9 a.m. Vendor fair
- Noon Lamb industry lunch
- 1 p.m. Ram Consignor Sheep Show
- 1:30 p.m. Jamestown Ram and Ewe Sale – **hosted by NDLWPA**

Registration Fees (Friday only):

Morning workshops

___ \$25 per person

Afternoon and evening sessions

___ \$25 per person

Workshop choice (select one):

- Alternative Sheep Grazing Systems
- Cooking With Lamb
- Working With Wool
- Training Stock Dogs

Full registration (by July 25)

- ___ Adult (\$45 per person)
- ___ Additional adult family member (\$25 each)
- ___ Child, ages 5 to 17 (\$10 each)
- ___ Child, under age 5 (free)

Full registration (after July 25)

- ___ Adult (\$50 per person)
- ___ Family (\$100)

Registration: North Dakota Lamb and Wool Expo

Early registration deadline: July 25, 2013

Make checks payable to: NDSU Animal Sciences

Send registrations to: Reid Redden, Hultz Hall, Room 169, Dept. 7630, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

■ Minutes

NDLWPA Board Meeting

Nathan Robbins called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM on May 2nd at the Seven Seas Hotel in Mandan ND.

Brent moved to suspend minutes. Wyman seconded. Motion carried.

Julie Mangnall read the treasurers report. Paul Klose moved to approve report. Janell Lagein seconded. Report was accepted.

Julie commented that starter flock payments are mostly all current.

Julie commented that she needs information on rams and requested to make it more open to consignors. Dave Pearson mentioned that he and Brody Kronberg (Hettinger Ram Sale Chairman) made some revisions to the consignor letter. He commented that the sale needs at least 100 hd of rams consisting primarily of Suffolk, Hampshire, and Rambouillet because of they are in most demand for regional sheep producers. Discussion followed about opening up consignor to bring yearling ewes to Hettinger. It was suggested that they must bring at least 25 head and must sell 10 head gate cut lots. An entry fee was suggested of \$100 for 25 yearlings. Also, it was suggested to have a flat rate entry fee for individual animals at \$20 per entry.

In review of By-Laws, Dean Swenson moved to amend section 2:A. Annual dues for NDLWPA membership to be \$20 and remove wool check section.

Brad Gilbertson commented on his involvement with legislative actions regarding animal welfare. He was very worried that the original bill would cause shepherds that dock lambs to be felons. Brad was in support that the Ag groups need to be proactive after measure 5. He also commented that we need to be more in contact with other Ag groups. The new bill calls for Ag groups to supply effects of new law on their industry. The board developed a new committee to this issue and other legislative actions that this organization needs to be engaged in. Brad Gilbertson will chair the committee. Wyman Scheetz will be on the committee since he is already on the Ag Coalition. Lyle Warner will be asked to join the committee.

Board had discussion about the successes and areas for improvement on the Starter Flock Program. Julie moved that the program increase its upper age limit from 18 to 22. Curt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Clarification was made that Curt Stanly accepted the role of being mentor contact person and not the Starter Flock Program coordinator/chairman. Reid Redden agreed to serve as Starter Flock program education and application coordinator.

Reid Redden provided an update of NDSU Research and Extension activities.

Discussions were made to increase attendance at the Annual Convention: Ultrasound demonstration; OFDA 2000 demonstration.

Misty Steeke (not present) requested that we purchase a wool blanket for Country Woman of the Year. Wyman moved to send a blanket to the next recipient. Julie seconded. Motion carried.

Julie commented on the MIWW program that was held during the Fiber Arts Festival in Fargo. Brent moved to contribute \$1,200 to the 2013 MIWW program. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

Julie asked for support of the ND Handspinner convention. Last year they received \$750; however, liability insurance was costly. Julie moved to contribute \$500 to ND Handspinner and cosponsor their event to save them \$250 for insurance. Wyman seconded. Motion carried.

Reid asked for support of the ND Lamb and Wool Expo. Brent moved to become Platinum sponsor (\$1,000). Brad seconded. Motion carried.

Curt moved to adjourn. Dave second. Adjourned.



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or

North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association

■ Starter Flock Profile

Allison Voigt
2012 Recipient
Mohall, N.D.

Q: What sparked your interest in this program?

A: When I was younger, I always went out to a family friend's farm and fed bottle lambs. Ever since then, I have wanted sheep of my own. I heard about the starter flock program and knew it was something I'd like to try.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your flock?

A: I just enjoy being around them. I love their friendliness and just the enjoyment of working with the flock.

Q: What is the most exciting event that occurred with your flock?

A: Lambing season was definitely the most exciting event. I am very thankful I had Don and Deb Myaer helping me out. Otherwise, I would have had no clue what I was doing.

Q: What would you tell a friend interested in the sheep business?

Definitely go for it! It is a lot of fun, but there is quite a bit of responsibility. If you want to go into the sheep business, you have to be willing to give up some time, but it is more than worth it!

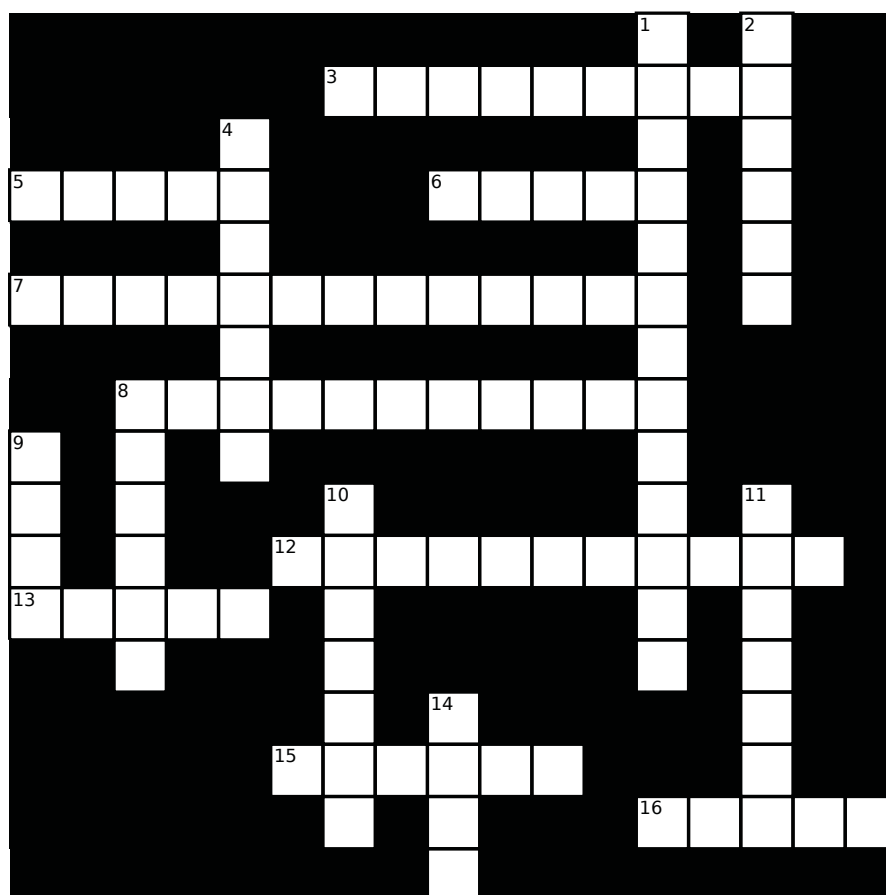
Q: Who has helped you with your flock?

A: I had Don and Deb Myaer (I keep my sheep at their farm) helping me out a lot. Brad Gilbertson, my mentor, and his daughter Codee also helped me out a lot. Last, but not least, my dad helps me with my flock, too.



Photo by LoAyne Voigt

CROSSWORD



Across

- 3 This sheep rancher first 'dreamed' up the sheep breed that is the topic of this crossword.
- 5 The originator of this breed owned a ranch in what state?
- 6 The average _____ diameter is 24-31 microns.
- 7 Who is the NSIP contact for this breed?
- 8 This breed is classified as a _____ - _____ breed.
- 12 Another breed providing a quarter of the genetics to the topic breed is known for its hardiness in range settings and is popular amongst Western U.S. sheep ranchers.
- 13 The average _____ for the fleece is 50-60%.
- 15 This breed is categorized as having _____ wool quality.
- 16 The first cross that took place to create this breed, took place in 1968 at what location?

Down

- 1 Who came up with the name polypay?
- 2 The _____ length ranges 3-5 inches.
- 4 This breed, which is the topic of this crossword, known for its high prolificacy and mothering ability.
- 8 The fourth breed in this four way cross that makes up the topic breed for this crossword is known for its superior mothering ability, carcass quality, early onset of puberty and extended breeding season.
- 9 The first part of the theme breed name, "poly" was chosen because of the meaning _____.
- 10 This breed, also providing a quarter of the genetics, is known for its superior fleece quality, large body size and extended breeding season.
- 11 The second part of the theme breed name, "pay" was chosen to indicate the _____ believed to be had from utilizing this breed.
- 14 This breed provides a quarter of the genetics to the topic breed and is known for its high prolificacy.

1. Prevent predation

- a. Majority of predation occurs from coyote predation on lambs reared on grass
 - i. Guard dogs are thought to be the best protection animal; however, donkeys and llamas can provide some level of protection.
 - ii. Adequate woven wire fencing and snaring also are effective tools.
 - iii. When the initial level of defense fails, contact wildlife services for assistance.
- b. Coyote predation on mature sheep has been more commonly reported
 - i. Guardian animals could provide protection in this case.
 - ii. Remove attractants that increase coyote presence, such as dead piles.
 - iii. Coyote eradication is not feasible; therefore, management is key.
- c. Domestic dog attacks rank second for predation on sheep nationally
 - i. Guardian animals are less effective.
 - ii. Inform neighboring residents that all dogs are capable of predation and remind them of the liability that could result from such incidences.
- d. Predation can occur in many other forms (lions, bears, wolves, birds, humans, etc.); however, these are much less common

2. Prepare for diseases common to high precipitation patterns

- a. Internal parasitism is common during high rainfall and warm temperatures. Be diligent about heading off a problem before it affects flock health.
- b. Rain increases mosquito populations that transmit the Cache Valley virus. If breeding ewes during the summer, protect them with permethrin insecticides or move them to areas that are protected from mosquitoes.
- c. Mineral supplementation, specifically iodine, magnesium and selenium, should be enhanced when forage production is higher than normal.
- d. Foot rot and other foot-related issues are much more common when soils are wet.

3. Genetic selection decisions

- a. Replacement ewe lambs should be removed from high-grain diets at about 80 to 100 pounds and developed on a higher forage ration with some supplemental grain.
- b. Generally, replacement ewe lambs also should be selected from twin or greater birth or rearings.
- c. Purchased or replacement rams should be selected based on performance data, genetic prediction values disease resistance and/or phenotypic analysis that fit the goals of the flock.

4. Prepare for upcoming breeding season

- a. The lambing rate is controlled by many factors: season, nutrition, genetics and management.
- b. The ovulation rate is lower early, peaks at midseason and declines as the ewes approach anestrus. The induction of estrus with teaser rams or hormone therapy can increase the ovulation rate.
- c. Nutritional “flushing” of ewes prior to breeding can increase the ovulation rate. Best responses occur in good to moderately conditioned ewes that are restricted to low-quality feed for a few weeks, followed by a moderate improvement in diet for one to two weeks prior to breeding.
- d. Genetics are a major controlling factor for the ovulation rate. Crossbreeding with breeds known to have a high ovulation rate (Finn, Romanov), selection based on high lambing rate records and selection for animals that have high EBV values for the number of lambs born are all effective methods.
- e. Management after breeding also is critical to reduce embryonic, fetal and neonatal losses. Ewe should not be fed greater than 50 percent of requirement during early gestation and fed adequately during mid and late gestation to develop healthy and vigorous lambs. Vaccinations, biosecurity and/or treatments should be used to prevent pathogenic diseases of pregnancy.

■ Make It With Wool Seeks Contestants

The 2013 North Dakota Make It With Wool contest will be held Aug 10 at Rheault Farm, 2902 25th St. S., Fargo, in conjunction with the Fargo Park District's Fiber Arts Festival.

The purpose of the contest is to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns. All those entering the competition must select, construct (sew, knit or crochet) and model the garments they enter (or have another individual model the garment in the Made for Others division).



The material must be 100 percent wool or a wool blend (minimum 60 percent wool or specialty wool fiber) for each fashion fabric used. If you'd like your fabric tested before you start sewing, please send a 4- by 4-inch sample (no selvage) along with \$4/sample (this will be deducted from your registration fee if you use the fabric for the contest) to:

Becky Harrington
948 173rd Ave. S.E.
Grandin, ND 58038

Allow two weeks for results.

The contest is open to all North Dakota residents or those who go to school in North Dakota.

- **Five divisions are offered:**

Made for Others, Preteens (ages 12 and younger), juniors (age 13 to 16), seniors (age 17 to 24) and adults (25 and older). The age is as of Dec. 31, 2013.

- **State winners in the junior and senior division will earn the chance to represent North Dakota in the national contest in Charleston, S.C., in January 2014.**

- **The registration fee is \$20 (\$10 for national, \$10 for state), payable to ND MIWW.**

Each contestant will receive wool fabric and other prizes.

Full contest rules are available at www.makeitwithwool.com.

For a registration form, visit www.ndlwpa.com/uf/Make%20it%20with%20wool/MIWW%20entry%20form.pdf.

Mail your registration form with all fees to Harrington. The registration deadline is July 26.

- **More information is available at:**

www.ndlwpa.com/uf/Make%20it%20with%20wool/2013%20MIWW%20Brochure.pdf

or contact Harrington at (701) 238-1788 or rmharrington@juno.com.

- **Are you interested in becoming a contest sponsor?**

To learn more, visit

www.ndlwpa.com/uf/Make%20it%20with%20wool/Sponsorship.pdf.



■ Upcoming Events

- **July 23-24**
Lamb Carcass Contest and 4-H Sheep Show
- **Aug. 1**
Deadline for Starter Flock Applications
- **Aug. 2**
Summer Sheep Day, Jamestown, N.D.
- **Aug. 3**
Jamestown Ram and Ewe Sale,
Jamestown, N.D.
- **Sept. 18**
Hettinger Ram Sale, Hettinger, N.D.
- **Sept. 21**
Youth Sheep School and Starter Flock
Pickup, Hettinger, N.D.
- **November (TBD)**
Sheep Shearing and Wool Classing Schools,
Hettinger, N.D.
- **Dec. 13-14**
Annual Convention, Mandan N.D.

NDLWPA Membership Form

This form is a membership application for the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association (NDLWPA) and American Sheep Industry (ASI) Association.



Please print clearly

Name _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____

Email _____

Number of sheep/goats _____

Please check all that apply: Commercial Purebred Club lamb Dairy
 Lamb feeder Shearer Allied industry Business

Please check membership type:

- NDLWPA annual membership – \$20
- NDLWPA annual junior membership (under 18 years of age) – \$5
- ASI annual membership – \$.04/head or \$25 minimum (whichever is greater)
- Joint NDLWPA/ASI annual membership – \$40
- Printed copy of the ASI Weekly Newsletter – \$10

Note: ASI annual membership will entitle you to an email copy of the ASI Weekly Newsletter.

Total \$ _____ Please make checks payable to **NDLWPA**

Send this application and your payment to: Julie Mangnall, NDLWPA Treasurer
11936 79th St. S.E.
Stirum, ND 58069

For more information, call (701) 678-2168 or visit www.ndlwpa.com.

Thank you
for taking
an active
interest in
your industry!



RASPBERRY GLAZED LAMB RIBS

Ingredients

- 4 American lamb spareribs, trimmed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ½ cup red wine vinegar
- ½ cup white wine or chicken broth
- ½ cup raspberry jam, seedless
- 1 green onion, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon water



Recipe and photo from the American Lamb Board

6 x 4" clip-and-save recipe card.
Cooking instructions
on following page.

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Directions

Rub salt, pepper and paprika into lamb ribs. In medium saucepan, combine vinegar, white wine or broth, raspberry jam and green onions. Stir over medium heat until jam is melted. Stir together cornstarch and water; add to raspberry mixture and stir sauce until smooth and clear.

Place lamb ribs on rack in roasting pan. Cover and roast in 375 F oven for 30 minutes. Baste with glaze and roast an additional 10 minutes.

To grill: Grill over medium-hot coals. Cover and grill 4 inches from coals for 30 to 45 minutes or until desired degree of doneness: 145 F for medium-rare, 160 F for medium or 170 F for well. Turn every 10 minutes. Brush on glaze during last 10 minutes of grilling.