

**February 7,2018 - Advisory Board Meeting  
NDSU-Hettinger Research Extension Center**

**Animal Science Report**

**Graduate Students:**

- Graduate students and undergrad technicians:
  - Alison Crane –PhD – Animal Science (graduate and is now the Kansas State University Sheep & Goat Extension Specialist)
  - Amanda Long – M.S. – Animal Science (Chris Schauer and Travis Hoffman)
  - 2-3 Animal Science internships for the summer

**Strategic Plan - Progress towards goals: *Evaluate alternative livestock production systems that increase profitability while maintaining environmental stability***

- Outreach efforts:
  - Fall Ram Test - Field Day March 10, 2018
    - 82 rams from 25 producers: Rambouillet, Columbia, Dorset, Targhee, GeneLink
  - Shearing and Wool Classing School: November 18-20, 2017
    - Shearing School – 24 students from ND, SD, OR, MN, NE, CA, and WY
    - Wool School – 19 students from ND, SD, MT, MN, and Canada
  - Sheep Schools with Extension Service
    - Beginning sheep school with ND LWPA and starter flock recipients (September) 60+ students
  - OFDA: Newel Ram Sale, Rapid City Stockshow, Fiber Festival in Watertown, SD, processed over 1420 samples from 45 producers
  - Received \$27,036 to conduct nation-wide carcass ultrasound training in sheep for certification for the National Sheep Improvement Program
    - I will be hosting schools in TX, ID, ND, WI, and the west coast
  - The HREC was featured in back-to-back issues of the Sheep Industry News, the monthly publication of the American Sheep Industry Association
- Sheep Research:
  - Alison's PhD program: all refereed publications are completed
    - Effects of DDGS on male fertility (performance, semen quality)
    - Effects of lasalocid and DDGS in lamb finishing rations (feedlot performance, N and S balance, S gas cap)
  - New project: ***Impacts of flax on female and male reproductive traits when supplemented prior to breeding in sheep*** (Amanda Long M.S. program)
    - Received \$38,000 to fund salary as well as product donation
    - Acquired \$20,000 in funds for the ewe and ram trials
      - Ewe trial is lambing right now, with ram trial starting this spring
  - Coordinate a national level program evaluating fecal egg count in Polypay sheep, collecting FEC data on 3,000 lambs and blood cards on all sires (about 50)
  - Pursuing funds through SBARE to evaluate the impacts of Banamine on pain responses of either rubber ring castrated and tail docked or surgically castrated and burdizzo docked lambs.
  - Pursing a research project to determine if there is a genetic marker for “blown legs” in Rambouillet rams

- Cattle Research:
  - Grazing studies with Range and Wildlife program (Integrated project – Strategic Plan #5)
  - Mineral calf backgrounding trial with Livestock Extension program
- Publications:
  - Refereed journal articles: 4 in 2017, 1 so far in 2018
  - Extension Publications: Publish with Extension Sheep Specialist
- Extension Specialist: Dr. Janna Kincheloe