



PENNSYLVANIA SHEEP & WOOL NEWS

PSWGA NEWSLETTER-October 2013

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

October 2013

President's Message

Wow! It is hard to believe the summer is over already. Time seems to fly by faster each year. It seems like just yesterday that I was finishing up the spring lambing and getting everyone sorted into breeding groups for fall. Now, those lambs are arriving. And, it is time to look forward to the Sheep Symposium and our annual meeting. There is still time to register if you haven't done so already!

I would like to take a moment to thank all the folks who have been active working to promote the sheep and wool industry this summer. Our queen has certainly done her share. Kudos to you Ashley for an awesome job! Also, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with Ag Progress Days. It was our best year so far! Wednesday was quite crazy as Joanne and Laurie made up their shopping list for many items that we were running low on. Thankfully, the meat held out and we were able to stay open the following day. The food booth sold out of everything this year!

One thing that is on my mind right now is the impact that this government shutdown will have on the lamb industry. It is too soon to tell what the damages might be. But, for those folks looking for lamb, this could be an opportunity for them to meet up with sheep producers who can sell them fresh, local lamb.

I wish you all a great fall. See you at the symposium!

Melanie

2013 Lamb and Wool Queen Updates

Fall is in the air, county fair season is winding down, and the kids are heading back to school. Gone are those late summer nights spent by the campfire and those warm summer days where a quick dip in the creek was more than refreshing after stacking several wagonloads of hay in the barn. Before we know it, it will be time to break out our wool sweaters! It is hard to believe how fast this past summer came and went, but heartwarming to me when I think back at all of the people I have met and places I was able to see.



Over the past few months, I was invited to travel to Penn's Creek Nursing Center. On that note, we loaded my Leicester Longwool ram lamb, Dale, my sister Madi, and myself into the car and up to Penn's Creek we went. My sister and I talked about the methods and techniques of using the fiber, introduced Dale, and just had a lovely day with the citizens. Everyone was so grateful that we took the time to visit, we were invited back a second time to speak with another group. After those trips, I traveled with my family to the Bedford County Fair where I demonstrated spinning with several others during their "Agribusiness Day." During my visit, the 2013 Bedford County Fair Queen, the Dairy Princess, and I all had the opportunity to address the public about our industries prior to that of the Secretary of Agriculture, George Greig. Afterwards, I had time to enjoy the fair, eat some delicious food, watch the celebrity goat-milking contest, meet the "oldest man at the fair" cruise in on a Harley Davidson, talk to the National Clydesdale Queen, and even assist with a few magic tricks during the magic show! While all good times must come to an end, the next exciting event was quick to approach. I attended Ag Progress Days, as did the Princess Catrina Bollinger, to help where we could in the Pa Sheep and Wool Growers booth. I think at one point I was able to make lamb gyros in my sleep, but we had fun doing it!

Although now that I have started my senior year in college, life never has a dull moment, but I am still looking forward to the upcoming Farm City Days and the Keystone International Livestock Expo. Look forward to seeing any of you there....

Harvest your dreams!

Ashley

2013 PA State Lamb and Wool Queen



Thank you to PSWGA Ag Progress Crew!

Hello!

Just a note to thank everyone who helped at the PSWGA booth at Ag Progress. It was a tremendous success! We netted a little over \$3000!!!! We sold out! Over 1000 gyros made! Best year yet! Not only were we extremely busy but we had an awesome group of people helping. Wednesday, especially, would not have been possible without the extra help. Ag Progress set a record in attendees and most food booths ran out of food!

THANK YOU!!!!

Joanne Evans

Sheep Owner vs. Dog Owner Verdict

**From a letter received by
Joanne Evans,**

I have a copy of 2012-2013 directory of Pa. Sheep and Wool Growers and saw your name listed as president and note the following.

I just went on trial last week in W. Chester, Pa for two counts of cruelty to animals and was found guilty trying to protect my sheep. You can find the entire story on yesterdays paper Sept. 15 at www.dailylocal.com "Owner of slain dogs grateful for verdict against shooter."

Not sure how this incident is going to play out in our state laws but it will be setting a president for live stock owners in the future with dogs running loose.

If this has any interest to the sheep growers please feel free to call me.

Gabe Pilotti

H 610 827 7549
C 610 212 2100

***** Please note that when you go to the Daily Local News website you will need to enter "Pilotti" into the search to come up with the article.*****



Notes from ASI Newsletter, October 4, 2013

Federal Government Shutdown

The U.S. government shut down for the first time in 17 years after Congress failed to reach an agreement to fund federal agencies. The impasse means more than 800,000 federal workers were furloughed on Tuesday.

Each federal department has different staffers who will remain on the job. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has people whose jobs directly relate to safety who are considered essential. Other people, paid through permit fees in areas already hit by sequestration furloughs, will remain on the job for now.

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service's in-plant inspectors are unaffected by the budget-induced shutdown, keeping the meatpacking industry operating. Meat grading, which determines the quality grades for lamb, is a voluntary service that is continuing because the industry pays the fees associated with it.

Grain inspectors will continue to work as their budgets are also funded by user fees.

However, a host of other USDA functions, including all the USDA websites, will not be available until government offices reopen.

Daily transactions between livestock producers, as well as purchases of meat products, are contained in USDA market reports, which are not currently available during the shutdown. The lack of market reports will likely

affect the ability of the sheep industry to offer Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb insurance next week. The now one-page USDA website indicated that statistical reports widely followed in the industry would not likely return immediately after the shutdown ends.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is closely tracking the lack of market reporting as an area of major concern. Companies are still submitting mandatory price reports but that information is not publicly available during the shutdown.

ASI Executive Director Peter Orwick remarked, "This is entirely new territory with no mandatory or voluntary reports available to the industry. Several years ago, we had a couple of weeks with no mandatory reports, but at least the information from the voluntary side of market news reporting was available."

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service continues to provide fee for services that are directly related to animal health protection including issuance of export certificates for animal products.

Many congressional hearings were also postponed, including the hearings in Sacramento, Calif., and Albuquerque, N.M., on the proposed rules to remove the gray wolf from the list of threatened and endangered species.

Reject COOL Rule Extension Request

National Farmers Union, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, Consumer Federation of America and American Sheep Industry Association sent a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman last week urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to reject an extension to the implementation of country-of-origin-labeling (COOL).

In a recent ruling, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia rejected the preliminary injunction request for a delay of implementation because the court found that the plaintiffs had not established a likelihood of success on their claims that the revised COOL regulation violates the first amendment or that the revised regulation exceeds the agency's authority, among other findings.

In the meantime, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has established a compliance panel on COOL in Geneva.

The purpose of a compliance panel is to determine whether measures found to violate WTO obligations have been brought into conformity with WTO obligations. The panel is composed of all original members of the WTO panel established in 2009 on the same issue, which will accelerate the process.



Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program



www.pipestonesheep.com

(507) 825-6806



Hello,

Thought you might be interested in our Lamb and Wool Course offerings for 2013. Listed below is a news release with information about our educational course offerings. Additional information and registration information can be found on our web page www.pipestonesheep.com

Any help that you can provide in getting the word out would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions about the Pipestone Lamb and Wool educational course offerings.

Philip Berg

Other online course offerings include:

- [Equipment and Facilities \(LWMP 1202\)](#)
- [Introduction to Sheep Health \(LWMP 1300\)](#)
- [Ewe Ration Formulation \(LWMP 1502\)](#)
- [Wool Characteristics and Properties \(LWMP 1701\)](#)

KILE Report

Found at the KILE press release page...

<http://www.keystoneinternational.state.pa.us/pressreleases.aspx>

10/5/2013

MASSACHUSETTS, OHIO SHEEP TOP KILE BREEDING SHOW

Harrisburg – Exhibitor Sue Searle of Strawberry Fields Hampshires, Cummington, Mass., exhibited the Supreme Champion Ram during the Open Breeding Sheep Show, Saturday, Oct. 5, at the 2013 Keystone International Livestock Show in Harrisburg. [More...](#)

10/5/2013

DELAWARE, PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO YOUTH LEAD WOOL FASHION CONTEST AT 2013 KILE

Harrisburg – Young sheep exhibitors strutted their stuff in homemade wool outfits during the Keystone Lead Line Competition, Saturday, Oct. 5, at the 2013 Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg. [More...](#)

Make It With Wool

Please keep in mind this event will be held on October 19th at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church - Somerset, PA.

Give support to our PA entrants!

Thanks Jodell for overseeing the program.



Provide Feedback on the Industry Roadmap for a Chance to Win a \$500 Gift Card

Lamb Industry:

We need your help! Please review and provide feedback on the latest Strategic Industry Roadmap report. The Roadmap advisory committee, which is made up of representatives from all sectors of the lamb industry, has been working with The Hale Group over the past 9 months to identify and analyze the major challenges facing the American Lamb Industry to recommend the most effective solutions to those challenges, and to develop a strategy for the industry that will strengthen its short-term and long-term competitive advantage and return the industry to consistent profitability.

The four high level goals of the Industry Roadmap are:

- Product Characteristics - Reduce the fat content and improve the consistency of American Lamb products.
- Demand Creation - Achieve a significant increase in demand for American Lamb meat.
- Productivity Improvement - Achieve a significant increase in industry productivity.
- Industry Collaboration - Work toward a common industry goal of meeting consumer desires rather than short-term self-interest.

The presentation that describes the goals in more detail, along with the plan's objectives and action steps, is available now at lambcheckoff.com. We need your feedback! Please review the presentation and go to www.lambcheckoff.com to complete a short survey. Everyone that completes the survey will be entered to win one of two \$500 gift cards. You are also encouraged to participate in one of two open industry calls with the American Lamb Board and The Hale Group to share feedback and ask questions. This will be the last time the industry is asked for input in the development of this roadmap to strengthen the lamb industry in the U.S.

There are two industry conference calls scheduled to discuss the Strategic Industry Roadmap:

Tuesday, October 15 @ 11:00 am Eastern

Thursday, October 17 @ 11:00 am Eastern

To confirm your participation and receive the call information, contact Megan Wortman @megan@americanlambboard.org or 303/759-3001.

American Lamb Board | 3515 S Tamarac Drive | Suite 130 | Denver | CO | 80237

Upcoming Events And Important Dates: Please see also events listed on the website calendar.

<http://www.pasheep.com/events.htm>

October 19th: PSWGA Shepherds' Symposium, PA Furnace, Samuel Hayes Livestock Evaluation Center. Please feel free to bring a display for your farm to set up to share at the symposium. Tables are available for use and it is just asked that you set up and tear down yourself.

January 4-11, 2014: PA Farm Show, Harrisburg Farm Show Complex

January 22-25, 2014: ASI Convention, Charleston, SC

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