THE Wisconsin Shepherd

Spring 2018

A publication of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative

The Wisconsin Shepherd is a quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, a non-profit organization dedicated to the diverse interests of the Wisconsin sheep industry. Inquiries about WSBC and address changes for WSBC and *The Wisconsin Shepherd* should be directed to Jill Alf, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, WSBC, 7811 Consolidated School Road, Edgerton, WI 53534; 608-868-2505 or *wisbc@centurytel.net*.

EDITOR
Bob Black, 920-623-3536

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Brittany Alf, 513-850-3603

WSBC officers & directors:

Alan Thorson, President: *Columbus*
metrohamps@hotmail.com
920-344-1235

Jeff Nevens, Vice President: *Lodi*
aandjnevenslivestock@frontier.com
608-576-9474

Sue Rupnow: *Columbus*
profshowsupply@aol.com
715-590-4660

Deb Petzel: *Centuria*
dspetzel@gmail.com, 612-578-1528

Steve Bingen: *Allenton*
sbingen@outlook.com, 262-388-3324

Ryan Bingen: *Allenton*
ryan.bingen@gmail.com
262-339-9816

Keith Schultz: *Fort Atkinson*
levelhillsfarm@sbcglobal.net
920-397-0732

Todd Baumer: *Mindoro*
hiwayccolumbias@charter.net
608-769-3249

Doug Wilson: *Shawano*
rdougwilson@outlook.com
715-304-9134

David Troxel: *Plainfield*
dmtroxel@hotmail.com
715-335-6854

Stephanie Formo: *Blue Mounds*
stephanieformo@gmail.com
320-424-2978

Jill Alf, Secretary:
wisc@centurytel.net
608-868-2505 (after 5:00 eve)

President's Message

Welcome to the spring 2018 publication of The Wisconsin Shepherd. This issue is chock full of exceptional articles and great information! Thank You to Bob Black, Debbie Petzel, and all others who contributed to the content in this quarters issue. Hopefully by the time this spring issue reaches your mailbox, spring will have actually arrived. As I write this, my thoughts go out to those dealing with a record breaking snowstorm covering a large swath of the state.

I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the annual meeting which took place on March 10, 2018 in Arlington, WI. It's always enjoyable to catch up with old friends and hopefully were able to meet some new as well. Speaking of new faces, I would like to welcome Doug Wilson, Dave Troxel, and Stephanie Formo as new board members of the WSBC, along with Jeff Nevens, Ryan Bingen, and Keith Schultz who were reelected by the membership to serve another term on the board. As with all the past Board of Directors I've had the pleasure of working with, this is a great group and I look forward working alongside them overseeing the business of the coop, providing opportunities for the membership, and promoting the diverse sheep industry in the state of Wisconsin. I would be remiss if I didn't take a second to thank Sara Hildebrandt, Tim Miller and Maralyn Fowler for their dedication and time serving on the board over the last three years. I look forward to their continued contributions on behalf of the WSBC.

2018 Looks to be a great year. Every year I feel like I say the same thing regarding the upcoming year, but I believe it to be true. Planning for many of our core events/activities is well under way, the committee tasked with revamping the website has started their work, as well, the WSBC is on firm ground both financially and with the people we have in place. Just as importantly, if not more, is the group of volunteers willing to go the extra mile for both the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival and all WSBC events. It truly is remarkable, it doesn't go unnoticed and we truly can't thank you enough. One of the biggest challenges our cooperative will face in the coming years will be continuing to find ways to, not just in quantity, but quality, maintain our volunteer force that is the backbone of almost all WSBC programs.

With that said, we are always looking new and exciting opportunities to support our membership and the sheep industry in the state of WI. If you are aware of any opportunities, do not hesitate to share them with members of the board for discussion of when, or how the WSBC fits into the event/idea. Discussion is happening about better, more effective ways to communicate with membership, the board has accepted the challenge of possibly coming up with one new initiative for 2018 and we look to forward to a great 2018 for the WSBC.

Happy Shepherding.

Alan Thorson
President, Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative

Cover photo: "Standing in the Grounsel" by **Marlene Bell**, Big Sandy, TX.
1st place in the Just Lambs category at the 2018 WI Sheep Breeders Co-op Photo Contest.

Dr. Jeff Held Receives Art Pope Award

Following completion of his PhD in ruminant nutrition at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1990, Jeff Held moved on to become Professor and South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension Sheep Specialist where he has been integral to that state's sheep industry for nearly three decades. Held was presented with the Art Pope Award at the 2018 annual meeting and recognition dinner of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op by WSBC Director Steve Bingen. The award recognizes active involvement within and exceptional service to the industry over many years, both within Wisconsin and nationally. Son of Elmer and Etta Held of Oakfield, WI, he learned the industry from the ground up, shearing sheep in high school and college to earn money which in turn nurtured his interest in connecting with producers. "My experience growing up on a sheep operation and involvement in 4-H…led me to a career," Held acknowledged, who serves as an Animal Science Professor at SDSU and continues to be actively with wife Mary and sons Aaron and Austin in the family's nationally recognized Hampshire and Southdown flocks. Early in his tenure at SDSU he established a shearing clinic and later helped launch the annual Newell ram test. He is also credited with beginning the Lamb Bonanza, a scholarship program that showcases the support by SDSU of lamb and wool production in the state. South Dakota ranks sixth in sheep production in the country, something Held attributes to a strong interest by producers in infrastructure and a determination to make genetic improvements. He was presented with the Shepherd's Award in 2013 by the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association for his contributions to that state's sheep industry. He has also worked closely with that state's producers through the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program and is a member of their Hall of Fame. Held has been a presenter at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, has judged the Wisconsin State Fair and most recently judged the All-American Junior Show held in Madison in 2017.

Jeff Held, an Oakfield, WI native and now Professor and Extension Sheep Specialist at South Dakota State University, was presented with the Art Pope Award at the recent annual meeting of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders held at Arlington.

The Pope Award was established in 1995, named for Dr. A.L. Pope, a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Meat & Animal Science faculty for 43 years and a long-time and respected breeder of purebred Hampshires. Pope retired to emeritus status in 1993. Nominations for this recognition are not limited to Wisconsin residents. For more information on the annual awards sponsored by the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, refer to www.wisbc.com.

Sources: Steve Bingen, Presenter, Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op; SDSU Sheep Extension Specialist Honored by S.D. Sheep Growers/Farm Forum, October 25, 2013

APPLY NOW!

2018 WISCONSIN SHEEP BREEDERS COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

- Parents or applicant must have been members of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Coop for a minimum of (2) years including the year of application.
- Must be a high school senior graduating in 2018 or college student age 25 or younger.
- Applicant must be enrolled in UW-Madison Agriculture Short Course, technical school, community college or an accredited 4-year college in the fall of 2018.
- Previous WSBC scholarship winners are not eligible to re-apply.
- Applicant must have carried sheep as a 4-H or FFA project for a minimum of 2 years.
  Up to $4000.00 in scholarships will be awarded annually based on qualified applications submitted. Scholarships to be divided at the Scholarship Committee member's discretion.
- Applications available online at www.wisbc.com and must be postmarked by June 15, 2018, (late applications will not be considered.) and returned to Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, 7811 N Consolidated School Road, Edgerton, WI 53534. Questions: wisbc@centurytel.net or (608) 868-2505.
- 2018 scholarships will be announced at the 2018 Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival to be held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Jefferson, WI, September 7-9, and will be paid any time after January 1, 2019 upon submission of scholarship recipient's Fall 2018 college transcripts and a Spring 2019 class schedule.

DEADLINE - JUNE 15

Dr. David Thomas Receives Camptender Award

San Antonio, TX - Sheep genetics, the American dairy sheep industry, numerous agriculture science students, and countless sheep producers owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. David Thomas, who retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2017 after over 39 years of active involvement in sheep research, teaching, and extension.

He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor's degree in meat and animal science in 1971 and returned to the faculty twenty years later in 1991 after serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya with his wife, Lynda, completing masters and doctorate degrees at Oklahoma State University, and serving on the faculties of Animal Science at Oregon State University and the University of Illinois. At Wisconsin, he supervised sheep operations at the Arlington Ag Research Station, as well as the dairy sheep operation at the Spooner Ag Research Station.

While it's hard to overlook his hands-on work with sheep producers in Oregon, Illinois, and Wisconsin, his biggest contributions to the sheep industry came on the national level through his involvement with the National Sheep Improvement Program. He was one of the original contributing scientists to the development of this genetic technology for the sheep industry and continued offering his expertise as a member of the NSIP Technical Committee until his retirement. He was also instrumental in the founding of the Dairy Sheep Association of North America and established the only dairy sheep research program in North America.

Dr. Thomas certainly proved his worth as a researcher with his foundational work defining the inheritance of spider syndrome in sheep. He also conducted the largest study in the U.S. comparing hair breeds of sheep with productive wool breeds that showed the superiority of hair breeds in hot, humid environments. This was over 25 years ago when hair breeds were more a curiosity than the important part of the industry that they are today.

The above is excerpted from the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) citation presented by ASI Secretary/Treasurer Susan Schultz at the awards presentations in San Antonio, TX during the ASI national convention in January.

Dr. David Thomas, Professor (ret), University of Wisconsin-Madison, received the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) 2018 Camptender Award at the national ASI convention in San Antonio, TX in January. Presenting the award was Susan Schultz, Ohio, ASI Secretary/Treasurer and Mike Corn, ASI President from New Mexico.

The Camptender Award recognizes industry contributions from a professional in a position or field related to sheep production. Following are excerpted comments from industry letters of support for Dr. Thomas on behalf of his nomination for the Camptender Award.

"One of Dr. Thomas's largest contributions has been his instrumental advancement of quantitative genetic selection in the U.S. sheep industry through his impact on the National Sheep Improvement Program."

NSIP Executive Committee:
Russell Burgett-Program Director
Dr. Reid Redden-NSIP Chairman
Lynn Fahrmeier – NSIP Vice-Chairman
Ben Lehfeldt – NSIP Vice Chairman
Walt Williams- NSIP Secretary/Treasurer
James Morgan- NSIP Past-Chairman
Dr. Ron Lewis- NSIP Technical Advisor

"Professor Thomas was also an excellent teacher. The student evaluations of his teaching performance in AS 430, Sheep Production, were always outstanding. He was the highest-ranked instructor in our department. Hundreds of students learned sheep science and sheep management from him. Dr. Thomas held a three-way appointment in this department – teaching, research and Extension State Sheep Specialist. He was highly respected for his work in all three categories."

Daniel M. Schaefer, Professor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Animal Sciences

"As a passionate small ruminate researcher and educator, Dr. Thomas created invaluable industry connections between UW-Madison, sheep dairy experts throughout the world, and sheep dairy producers throughout the United States of America, Canada and the United States of mexico. It is not an exaggeration to propose that the sheep dairy industry would be far behind where it is today without (his) involvement."

Laurel Kieffer
President, Dairy Sheep Association of N. America
Project Manager, Sheep Dairy Association of WI

Sheep to Shawl Added to Festival Lineup

The 2018 Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival will add a new competition to its event line-up this year. The Sheep-to-Shawl Competition will be held on Sunday, September 9 in the Activity Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. Teams of up to eight members will compete in the process of creating a shawl, from wool fleece to woven fabric, using traditional methods and equipment. They will prepare the fleece, spin the singles, ply the yarn, and weave a shawl in a four and a half hour time period.

Up to five teams will compete. One member of each team will be an educational liaison whose role will be to interact with the public and share information on the process of turning a fleece into a finished product. Finished shawls will be judged by a team of knowledgeable judges and cash prizes awarded to the top two teams. Prize sponsors are Henry and Roy Clemes from Clemes & Clemes, Inc. and Carol and Paul Wagner of Hidden Valley Farm and Woolen Mill.

Teams will register on-line through the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival website, www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com. Deadline to register is Friday, August 24. For additional information, contact Deb Jones, Fiber Garden LLC, at deb@fibergarden.com. Start getting your teams together!

ASI Wool Handling School Comes to Festival

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) will bring its two-day Wool Handling School to the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival this year, headed up by Lisa Surber, PhD, a member of ASI's Consultant Team. The school will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 7-8 and will include a full range of wool topics ranging from animal welfare to wool measuring methods; contamination to a wool grading overview. The school will also focus on practical experience such as shearing practices – including shearing demos – throwing fleeces, skirting, types of wool and end uses and fleece preparation. Registration will be limited. For more information, go to www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com.

A Letter to the Editor...

I was both saddened and ashamed of the behavior of a small group of people at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the WSBC Membership. It is imperative that when the WSBC membership makes a decision, they take into account actual facts about a subject rather than an opinion of a small group trying to promote a movement. Here are some facts:

Fact: A scientific study is not considered valid unless it can be reproduced.

Fact: The lone study that the movement is citing regarding a correlation between tail docking length vs. prolapse incidence and its use in the overall guise of animal welfare and "best practices" has not been reproduced.

Fact: Other studies have suggested that other aspects such as genetics and feed programs are the main causation of increased prolapse incidence.

Fact: Because of these contradictory studies, and the lack of reproduction of the cited study, their claim that there is scientific proof of short docking causing increase incidences of prolapses cannot be substantiated. It is only their opinion.

Fact: Our personal sheep program follows the long docking guidelines promoted by this movement. This is our choice to follow. Nobody is forcing us to do it.

Fact: We still have cases of both vaginal and rectal prolapses!

Fact: We now have had 4 cases of fly strike over the past four years, of which two occurred in 2017.

Fact: Other empirical data being submitted to the WSBC from concerned breeders across the state are substantiating our observations; that is, they have long docked ewes that are prolapsing, and they have short docked ewes that are not prolapsing.

Fact: Dr. Kennedy of Pipestone has repeatedly come out saying that genetics plays a major role in the incidence of prolapses, even recommending the culling of those genetics from the flock.

Now that the facts have been stated, here are some opinions. As a published scientist, I recognize that all studies, on both sides of this debate, need to be reproduced in order for a valid scientific claim to be made to substantiate any action by our membership. The actual science is not there to support this current movement, plain and simple. The membership of the WSBC needs to act as adults in the evaluation and implementation of any science-based findings, and not base it on the opinion of one member citing findings of one non-reproduced study. Junior members are watching and learning from everything we do!

Disclaimer: "First and foremost, I must make it perfectly clear to any and all members of the WSBC that this letter solely reflects my views on this issue, is not written using the input of any other board member, and is not representative of the views of the WSBC Board of Directors as a whole. Even if I was not a current member of the board, I would still be submitting this letter for consideration for publication." Jeff Nevens

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Nevens, A&J Nevens Livestock
N1225 Hillestad Road, Lodi, WI 53555
608-592-7842

A Letter to the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative's Board of Directors and its Members

An open letter in the winter issue of The Wisconsin Shepherd, written by several prominent members of WSBC, asked for better service to all members by its Board of Directors. This was a direct plea for better, more transparent communication between the cooperative's leadership and its members, specifically requesting improved budgeting and accounting practices.

In the weeks between the publishing of the letter and the WSBC's annual meeting on March 10th, the leadership did not reach out to any of the cosigners of the letter to discuss the issues raised. During the WSBC's annual meeting the members concerns about the scheduled board meetings were addressed in a condescending and disrespectful way. The report of an *internal* audit of the finances did not placate the concerned members. The members' requests for posted board meetings and improved accounting practices were denied. This exchange exposed a real and growing distrust between the coop's leadership and an actively engaged group of its members.

This past winter the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA) sent a letter to the WSBC soliciting support in an outreach and education effort to address the animal welfare issue caused by extreme short tail docking of lambs. The WSBC's leadership ignored the request, and unanimously decided not to allow the issue to be on the agenda of the annual meeting. These decisions reflect poorly on an organization that purports to represent the entire sheep industry in the state of Wisconsin, as evidenced by State representation in the American Sheep Industry Association. Their decisions not to engage and cooperate with other groups with similar goals for the dissemination of scientific information for profitable sheep production are in direct conflict with the WSBC's purposes listed in the by-laws, see Section 3.1 *The purpose of this cooperative shall be to engage in any lawful act or activity for which cooperatives may be organized under Chapter 185, exclusively for educational, scientific and promotional purposes…* More troubling though was the leadership's effort to censor the discussion. The membership of the coop deserves to be informed of such official communication.

At 2018 the annual meeting, a broader motion to cooperate with the WVMA's and UW Extension's effort for outreach and education in the field of Animal Welfare, including the training of judges and participants, was put forth by members on the floor under "other old business", (as a discussion about extreme short tail docking had been engaged at last year's annual meeting). This motion failed by one vote: 24-25. Assuming all eight of the directors present voted against the motion, (given their previous actions), the other members present voted 24-17 in favor of the motion. The results of the vote highlight the disparity between membership and leadership of the WSBC.

The current distrust of the WSBC's leadership and their lack of responsiveness to members concerns are not sustainable. Leadership of such organizations must communicate and engage respectfully with all its members. It should not censor or dictate. Good listening and thoughtful responses are a must for this organization to continue into the future.

Bob & Penny Leder
Brandon & Michelle Knutson
Warren & Ellen O'brion
Barb Salas
Maralyn Fowler
Mark & Marie Kjorlie
Paul & Carol Wagner
Shelby & Lisa Paskey
Don Hausser

2018 Master Shepherd Award Winner Wool Division - Kathryn Ashley-Wright

By: Jeff Nevens - Director, Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op

Arlington, WI - I have the honor today of presenting the 2018 WSBC Master Shepherd – Wool Award to an individual who has grown her flock by leaps and bounds over the last twelve years, whose passion for fiber has not only produced great fleeces on her own farm, but has also created a thriving Wisconsin business utilizing not only her own produced fiber, but also that of many other state and local producers. And that person we're honoring today is Kathryn Ashley-Wright, of La Farge, Wisconsin.

Kathryn was not born to an agricultural family. She was born in suburban Albany, New York, then at the age of five, her family moved to Hillsboro, Wisconsin, where her mother was a nannie on a dairy and crop farm. Her early exposure to sheep was the occasional appearance and then sudden disappearance of orphan lambs on the farm.

In first grade she learned to knit and that interest in the fiber arts really blossomed during college at University of Wisconsin-Madison while she majored in women's studies and rural sociology. She even brought a spinning wheel to campus!

In the fall of 2006, while still in college, she purchased her first sheep – three bred Merino ewes - and while she was taking finals that winter, those ewes were lambing back home under the care of her mother. Having her own livestock and experiencing the care and raising of their offspring really fueled a fire in her for fiber.

Once graduated, this passion continued to grow and Kathryn wished to see the whole process, first hand, from start to finish. She bought a farm in 2009 in La Farge, and then purchased the local yarn shop in Viroqua, renaming it Ewetopia and focusing mainly on dyeing of product for resale. However, she wanted more: She had her own flock of sheep, owned a fiber arts business, and processed product for sale, but there was one piece missing – she dreamed of owning her own mill.

The pieces of that puzzle for Kathryn fell into place over a couple year period. First, she just missed purchasing the processing equipment from a mill in Caledonia, MN, but found another used spinner and carder for sale. She had to purchase the remainder of her equipment new from Michigan. Then a building in La Farge, which was perfect for her mill, came up for sale. Once the pieces were all in place, Ewetopia opened its fiber mill in December of 2016.

Kathryn focuses her product line on raw fiber from local producers. She has developed a product line called Origins, a breed specific yarn and fiber subscription service where on a bi-monthly basis, a subscriber receives samples of locally produced, breed-specific yarns and roving that she has created. Currently she is processing an average of a few hundred pounds of washed fiber every month and travels the country with Ewetopia.

Kathryn Ashley-Wright, La Farge, WI, received the 2018 Master Shepherd - Wool Award at the annual Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op recognition dinner held in conjunction with the Arlington Sheep Day. In addition to her flock of sheep, Ashley-Wright owns a yarn business called Ewetopia and offers full service custom milling for fiber.

Not only has Kathryn's business facilities grown, but her flock size has also grown dramatically from that initial purchase of three bred ewes, expanding to over 50 breeding ewes, initially focusing on all white fiber production. She has crossed those Merinos and their offspring with Border Leister and Cormo genetics, and has also added a natural colored ram into the mix. This has generated a multi-faceted fiber supply that provides her mill and shop high quality fiber with varied colors and character. And with 3 children, ages 9, 7 and 4, the days of giving away bottle lambs are becoming a thing of the past.

In a relatively short amount of time, Kathryn Ashley-Wright has taken a passionate hobby to the level of exceptional business and quality fiber production.

Presentation of the annual Master Shepherd Awards were made in conjunction with the 2018 Arlington Sheep Day, held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arlington Agricultural Research Station, Arlington, WI.

Alf Family Honored With Master Shepherd Award

Wynn Wittkopf - Presenter

Arlington, WI - No matter what show you go to, near or far, virtually everyone knows Alf Hampshires, the result of three generations devoted to the sheep industry. Jill's father, John Grunzel Jr., raised and exhibited Shropshire sheep as a young boy and developed a prominent Suffolk flock in the early 70's. Jill's passion for raising sheep dates back to happy times spent with her father in the barn and traveling to shows and sales. Unfortunately, at the age of twelve Jill lost her father, and her family's Suffolk flock was dispersed about a year later.

When her children, John, Jordan, and Jessica, were old enough to be in 4-H, Jill sought to develop her own flock. Despite her Suffolk background, she had as a child, fallen in love with the Hampshire breed while watching the Bob Mullikin family exhibit their sheep at the Rock County Fair. Little did she know then, that she'd eventually become friends with the Ron Pullin family from Iowa, who purchased most of the Mullikin flock. The Alfs purchased their first Hampshire ewes from Springdale Farms of Belvidere, IL. Since then, the focus of the Alf breeding program has been on producing attractive profiling, complete sheep with the kind of breed character known to the Hampshire breed.

Alf Hampshires of Edgerton received the 2018 Master Shepherd Award in the Purebred Division at the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op annual recognition dinner in Arlington on March 10. (l – r) John, Brittany, Jordan and Jill Alf (not shown - Jessica). Jill has been the WSBC Secretary since 2000.

The Alf family is deeply involved in the agriculture and livestock industries. Jill has been employed as the Executive Secretary for the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative for over seventeen years and as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association for nine years. She also works full-time as a purchasing clerk for United Ethanol in Milton. John and wife Brittany live close to the farm. John is an agriculture loan officer at First Community Bank in Milton, while Brittany works in Human Resources for Blue Scope in Evansville. Jordan lives in Edgerton and works for Mid-State Equipment in Columbus as an assistant service manager while Jessica is a gymnastic coach at a gym in Janesville.

The Alf family has made many lifelong friendships within the sheep industry. I personally have enjoyed getting to know them throughout the years and always look forward to seeing them at the shows. As a family, they have volunteered many, many hours and have worked hard to promote the sheep industry, and their willingness to donate their time, prizes, and sponsor numerous awards does not go unnoticed. When I think of Alf Hamps, I think of the word "teamwork," their showring success the result of their efforts as a family, one that understands hard work, dedication, and service. It is my privilege to present the Master Shepherd – Purebred Award to Alf Hampshires, Edgerton, WI.

Get your cameras out!

Lambing time offers a great opportunity for those once in a lifetime shots.
So get ready for the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op Annual Photo Contest
September 7-9, 2018 • Jefferson Fair Park, Jefferson, WI
For more information: http://wisbc.com/photo-contest.php

National Gotland Fleece Show Coming to Jefferson

The National American Gotland Fleece Show is heading to Jefferson in 2018 as part of the expanding fleece shows at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. Already the site of the Midwest Shetland Sheep Breeders Association (MSSBA) fleece show, the festival, now in its seventeenth year, has continued to build on the success of its Open and Junior shows, drawing over two hundred fleece entries in 2017. As an introduction to the Gotland breed of sheep, the following article was provided through the American Gotland Sheep Society (AGSS) and reprinted by permission from *SpinOff* magazine. For more information on the 2018 National American Gotland Fleece Show, contact Heidi Quist at prairiewillowsfarm@gmail.com or 651-238-5370. For complete information on theAGSS, Open, Junior and MSSBA fleece shows, including entry forms, go to www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com.

Gotlands Journey to the United States

By Martin Dally

Originally published in *Spin Off* Fall 2016. ©F+W Media, Inc. All rights reserved. Visit us online at www.interweave.com/spinning.

Handspinners and fiber artists throughout North America have just begun to be aware of the luxurious fiber produced by inquisitive and captivating Gotland sheep. These endearing sheep have only recently made their way to the continent and into the hearts of a few dedicated North American sheep breeders.

Two organizations register Gotland sheep in the United States, the American Gotland Sheep Society which adheres to international standards for the breed in its country of origin and the Gotland Sheep Breeders Association of North America which recognizes all genetics and allows for non-traditional colors such as white, black or brown, in addition to the traditional gray.

Swedish Sheep, English Countryside

In the summer of 2003, I was in England sourcing new genetics for the United States sheep industry when an English shepherd encouraged me to visit David and Lyn Barlow's farm in the beautiful countryside of Devon. According to the shepherd, the Barlows had some very interesting and unique sheep that possessed highly lustrous fleeces of varying shades of gray. I took the shepherd's advice and made the winding journey through lush Devon to the Barlows' hill farm. Little did I know what a large part these sheep would come to play in my future. I was so impressed with the Barlows' flock that I arranged to have genetic material from Zorro, their champion Gotland ram from Holland, collected and sent to the United States in order to start the work of establishing the Gotland breed here. Through the cooperation of two shepherds on separate shores, further imports of top-quality genetics from registered rams in the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Sweden followed, giving the breed a solid foundation. Because live animals and their embryos are not allowed to be imported into the United States from Europe, semen and artificial insemination were the only tools available to begin the breeding program.

The American Foundation

In June 2006, a small group of sheep producers met and established the breeds that would become the foundation on which the North American Gotland would be developed. Bluefaced Leicester, Border Leicester, Lincoln, Cotswold, Shetland, Finn, Icelandic, Wensleydale, Teeswater, and crosses thereof were settled upon, and thus began the work of upgrading. The ewes were inseminated with imported Gotland semen, creating progeny that were 50% Gotland. The resulting 50% progeny were then inseminated, which produced 75% Gotland progeny, and so forth. After five generations of insemination with purebred imported Gotland genetics, some United States Gotland breeders now have animals that are 96.5% Gotland or higher, which animal geneticists regard as purebred. Most North American flocks are still working toward that goal and have yet to fully achieve it.

Not all Gotland fleeces available in the United States are at the same stage of genetic development and therefore may express a wide range of variation in structure and hand. To begin this upgrading program, foundation ewes of varying genetic backgrounds were used to create those first 50% crosses. Those genetics may continue to have an effect on

the character of Gotland fleece as the breed progresses in purity, and one should consider this when choosing fiber.

Traits of Gotland Fiber

Quality Gotland fiber should display a bright luster, even in the raw state. This luster is largely due to the unique scale structure on the wool fibers. Individual wool scales on Gotland fibers are larger than those of other breeds, which allows for more light reflection. The hand should be silky and feel cool to the touch. The structure of the lock should be distinct and well purled (corkscrewed).

Breed Associations

Presently there are two organizations in the United States that register Gotland sheep.

The American Gotland Sheep Society adheres to the international standards set for the breed in its country of origin. Only ewes of 75% and rams of 87.5% Gotland blood can be considered registered. Registered animals must also display correct phenotypic traits. Other Gotlands of at least 50% blood can be recorded in the database and used in the upgrading program. The Gotland Sheep Breeders Association of North America allows nontraditional colors such as white, black, and brown in addition to the traditional gray. The organization recognizes all Gotland genetics, whether from natural breeding with percentage-Gotland animals or from artificial insemination with purebred imported Gotland semen.

Today, you can find small Gotland flocks flourishing throughout the United States and Canada, and their future looks bright. Gotland fiber is highly sought after and appreciated by fiber artists. The sheep are an absolute delight to live with and inspire a shepherd's devotion to the breed.

The Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival will host the National American Gotland Fleece Show this September adding to the growing diversity of the 250 plus fleeces exhibited in 2017. Quality Gotland fiber should display a bright luster, even in the raw state. This luster is largely due to the unique scale structure on the wool fibers. Individual wool scales on Gotland fibers are larger than those of other breeds, which allows for more light reflection.

Martin Dally is a fourth-generation sheep man who has been raising sheep for over sixty years. He and his wife Joy operate Super Sire Ltd., which imports ovine genetics and offers artificial insemination services to flock owners throughout the United States. They market their Oregon-grown fiber through their company, Shepherds Lane.

Resources

American Gotland Sheep Society, www.americangotlandsheep.org
Gotland Sheep Breeders Association of North America, www.gsbana.org
Whitehall Farm, David & Lyn Barlow, www.white-hall-farm.co.uk

Support Your Industry!

Join the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op

Family memberships only $25 / year

608-868-2505

www.wisbc.com

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival

September 7-9, 2018

Jefferson County Fair Park
Jefferson, WI

wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Bernie O'Rourke and Ron Patterson Recognized

Established in 2011, the Friend of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative Award annually recognizes persons, businesses or organizations that have provided outstanding support and service to the Cooperative or to its primary event, the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. The recipients for 2018 were Bernie O'Rourke, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist, and her husband, Ron Patterson, Agriculture Sales Manager for GLC Minerals.

In making the presentation, Todd Taylor, Shepherd at the UW-Arlington Sheep Unit, said that O'Rourke had been instrumental in both the creation and implementation of the Youth Sweepstakes at the festival, helping to score and officiate in a program that involves over 200 youth each year in twelve areas of competition. He added that she had also officiated the Youth Judging Contest at Jefferson and been a part of the youth programming at almost every Arlington Sheep Day. Taylor went on to say that "Bernie has impacted hundreds of youth through the organization of state 4-H and FFA livestock and meats judging contests, as well as the 4-H skillathon and quiz bowl programs."

Patterson took a lead role in developing the computerized clerking program for the festival fleece shows and sales, and has scored the Youth Judging Contest and overall Youth Sweepstakes programs. He has also clerked every Badger Production Sale, along with national sheep sales held at Arlington and redesigned the US Targhee Sheep Association registry database.

The presentations were made at the recent Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op annual meeting and recognition dinner on March 10 at the Arlington Research Station's Public Events Facility.

Receiving the Friend of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op Award were Bernie O'Rourke and her husband Ron Patterson, shown with sons (front) Kegan, (l.-r.) Cameron and Aiden. Both O'Rourke and Patterson have been instrumental in the success of youth programming at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. They also helped score the judging contest at the All American Junior Show held in Madison in 2017, which, with 250 kids, was the largest contest in the show's twenty four year history.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SHEEP & FIBER FESTIVAL

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SHEEP AND FIBER FESTIVAL

JUNE 2, 2018 - 9 AM TO 5 PM
JUNE 3, 2018 - 9 AM TO 4 PM
11900 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, WOODSTOCK, IL
815-338-5315
www.mchenrycountyfair.com

SPONSORED BY THE MCHENRY COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

Admission $3 per person 7 and under free

Many things to see during this fun 2 day event!

- Alpacas, Goats and Sheep
- Dog Trials
- Crafters and Vendors
- Sheep Show, Shearing, and Skirting Demonstrations

CLASSES OFFERED:

- Becoming a Cat Herder, Raise Your Own Silkworms!
- Beginning Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom
- Elements of Rustic Decorative Fiber Art
- Fairy Garden Tea Cup
- Felting Gnome Faces
- Goat Soap Making "Silver Prairie Style!"
- Painting with Fibers
- Silk Reeling Basics
- Tea Cup Pin Cushion

Class size is limited. Please check the website for updated information.

Sign up NOW by going to *www.mchenrycountyfair.com*

Sheep Dairy Association of Wisconsin News

by Laurel Kieffer, Sheep Dairy Association of Wisconsin Project Manager

The sheep dairy milking season is getting into full production mode once again for most of the sheep dairy farms in Wisconsin and around the country. Sheep milk cheeses are making big news across the world. A sheep's milk cheese from France took best of show at the 2018 World Championship Cheese Contest held in Madison this past March. SDAW members are bringing home many awards with their sheep milk cheeses. Be sure to add sheep milk cheeses to your menu.

SDAW participated in the recent Cheesetopia Extravaganza held in Milwaukee, sharing sheep milk products with foodies, cheese mongers, distributors and retailers from throughout the Midwest. Dream Valley Farm Sheep Milk Frozen Dessert offered guests a refreshing treat as they enjoyed cheeses from nearly 30 artisanal cheese makers.

Our 2018 Board of Directors includes Brian Michielson – President; John Mayer – Treasurer; Patty Koenig (Carr Valley Cheese) – Secretary; and remaining members: Anna Thomas Bates (Landmark Creamery), Debbie Byrne (Cedar Grove Cheese), Persephone Allen (Forever Young Sheep Dairy), and Steve Zajec (Ewenique Farms). Norm Monsen (DATCP) and Gene Schriefer (UWEX) continue to serve in an advisory capacity. Members will continue to share information and product throughout the summer at farmer's markets, June Dairy Month events, and at selected retail outlets.

On the national scene, the Dairy Sheep Association of North America received a NSIIC grant to focus on sheep dairy genetic improvements. DSANA is working with DHIA National, GenOvis (Canada), and other organizations to standardize milk production and component testing and recording, and to establish a viable means to determine dairy sheep estimated breeding values. DSANA member sheep dairy flocks from throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico will have the opportunity to participate. Offspring from the 2017 semen importation and artificial insemination are being born across the USA. Plans are underway for a second importation sometime in 2018. For more information on the SDAW, contact Laurel Kieffer at Kcf.laurel@tcc.coop.

Brian and Tammy Michielson, Maple Hill Farm, Ladysmith, WI, helped at the Dairy Sheep Association of Wisconsin (DSAW) booth at the recent Cheesetopia Extravaganza held in Milwaukee. Brian Michielson is also President of the 2018 DSAW Board of Directors.

PLAN NOW!

Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op

USED EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Now combined with the Shepherd's Auction!

Saturday, September 8, 2018
2:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival
Jefferson Fair Park, Jefferson, WI

Your best opportunity to buy or sell sheep or goat equipment, fencing, gates, looms, spinning wheels, scales, small farm equipment – *you name it!*

It's easy to consign!
Go to www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com and click on Special Events – Used Equipment Auction
Complete the online form and hit submit.

Consignments should be brought to the Warm-up Arena at the Fair Park by 1:00 p.m. Saturday.

ASI National Conveys Ideas and Works to Tackle Industry Concerns

For the fourth time in fifteen years, the American Sheep Industry (ASI) 2018 Annual Convention returned to San Antonio, TX, taking place January 31 to February 3, at the Marriott Rivercenter. Executives and member representatives from state sheep industry associations from across the country "flocked" to the Lone Star State to discuss and address the issues the industry faces on a daily basis.

A very full agenda included a mix of meetings to review and discuss pressing industry concerns and identify possible solutions; presentations and discussions on topics relevant to state associations and their members; presentations by councils and committees on their activities. Agenda items covered included the National Sheep Improvement Program, Production, Education & Research Council & Policy Form, Legislative Action Council & Policy Forum, Wool Council, Lamb Council & Policy Forum, Wool Council & Policy Forum, Resource Management Council & Policy Forum, Let's Grow Committee and more. The program also included an informational session to cover topics of discussion and voting items prior to the ASI Board of Directors session scheduled for the final day of the convention.

Beyond the formal sessions, the ASI brought in speakers from the sheep, livestock, environmental and related sectors to share their stories, insights and observations. Additional activities included networking events such as luncheons and the welcome reception, as well as awards presentations and finals of the National Make It Yourself with Wool competition, followed by a banquet and fashion show.

A highlight of this year's convention proved to be the presentation of the Camptender Award to Dr. David Thomas in recognition of his lifelong achievements in the sheep industry. Dr. Thomas, who retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in January 2017, spent more than 39 years actively involved in sheep research, teaching and extension. In presenting the award, the ASI representative noted: "Sheep genetics, the American dairy sheep industry, numerous agriculture science students and countless sheep producers owe [him] a debt of gratitude."

Wisconsin State Representative's Perspective

Because a great deal was offered over the course of a three-day period, attendees were required to pick and choose sessions to attend. As the representative from Wisconsin, Keith Schultz, Fort Atkinson, selected those sessions he felt offered the greatest interest and opportunities for the members of our state association.

On Day 1, Schultz spent the morning hearing state executives from across the country share their insights on the processes associations can use for applying for and obtaining grants; suggestions for activities and initiatives that can help sustain and grow membership (member outreach); and tips on governance and other means to improve association operations and processes. Some specific points of interest included:

- the suggestion to make meetings meaningful and to "do something" to show prospective members output that could encourage active membership;
- "culling" membership lists to remove those who fail to pay dues for a specific period (4-5 years);
- hosting unique events to attract participation – for example, a "taste of lamb" or wine/beer pairing class at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Fest
- increasing the use of social media for promotion and to encourage involvement
- moving to digital magazines/e-newsletters vs. print

For the afternoon session, Schultz attended the National Sheep Improvement Program Open Forum, which featured a three-person panel of genetics experts answering questions on best practices for genetic sampling, processing of samples, collecting and maintaining records and analyzing data. The panelists also provided an update on where the NSIP stands in terms recordkeeping and genetic background checks, and how the information it is compiling can eventually be used to allow individual producers to benchmark their flock against averages for flocks across the country and potentially around the globe.

Later that afternoon, Schultz attended the ASI Opening Session, which featured a presentation by Rick Berman, executive director of the Center for Consumer Freedom, a nonprofit organization that promotes personal responsibility and protection of consumer choices. The key takeaway from his presentation was the need for us as an association and industry to be on the offensive when telling our industry's story rather than on the defense – to be proactive in our approach rather than reactive to those attempting to control the message.

Day 2 began with the State Presidents and Breakfast session, where presidents and executives from across the country shared the various activities their organizations are conducting and/or issues of particular concern in their states. The session provided useful insight on what's happening in other areas of the country that could affect our region in time, or that could offer opportunities for future activities or growth in our own organizations.

As a member of the Lamb Council, Schultz participated in the Lamb Council (with ALB)/Policy Forum. The session began with an industry forecast provided by David Anderson, Ph.D., professor and extension economist in the department of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University. He looked at projected lamb sales for the year and the potential impact of weather conditions in specific areas of the country.

Anderson's analysis forecasts a second year of record lamb production with prices remaining relatively level with last year. While consumption continues to rise slowly, it is not yet keeping pace with production levels. Of particular interest to this area, Anderson indicated the southern part of Wisconsin is currently on track for drought conditions (though it is still early), with the central and northern parts of the state at sufficient moisture levels.

The Lamb Council also noted that it has launched an ad campaign targeted to Millennials, who appreciate good quality, are unbiased toward lamb and tend to be more adventurous in their culinary choices. The ads are going out largely via social media, which generates more than 500,000 views per day.

That afternoon included the Industry Awards Luncheon, where Schultz was privileged to see his former instructor and mentor Dr. Dave Thomas recognized with the Camptender Award for his industry achievements.

This was followed by the ASI Board of Directors Informational Session, which prepped attendees for the Board of Directors' meeting with an overview of the association's financials, as well as the topics and issues that would be voted on the next day.

To start the final day of the program, each caucus broke out into sessions by region to give representatives a chance to share and discuss what is happening in their states, expand upon those topics discussed during the week that were relevant to the region and share additional ideas and activities.

All participants then came together for the program's final session, the ASI Board of Directors Meeting. It included a presentation and voting on the association's financial statement, a report on the global situation and outlook for sheep and wool, council and committee reports, the president's report, old and new business, etc. During this session, attendees heard that while the industry is seeing increased demand for wool and lamb globally – led by the demand for wool in China – the demand in the U.S. remains variable. In 2017, 20% to 25% of wool went to military applications, 65% to export markets and only 15% went to consumers here in the U.S.

The finale of the ASI National Convention was that evening's Make It Yourself with Wool banquet and fashion show, at which attendees were able to see the culmination of all the hard work put into the project by youths from across the country.

For more information on the American Sheep Industry Association, go to www.sheepusa.org .

Back in Balance Minerals®

Formulas for goats, sheep, horses and camelids

A bioavailable line of minerals formulated by herbalist and traditional naturopath Alethea Kenney. Created to improve digestion, growth, health, immune function and reproduction. Contains no fillers or artificial preservatives, non-GMO.

For Product and Book Information:
Alethea Kenney, B.S., D. Vet. Hom.
Shevlin, MN 56676
218-657-2502
info@borealbalance.com

Back in Balance Blends:
Herbal Products for Livestocks

For Orders:
North Central Feed Products, LLC
Zena Dunker
70 Alice St., PO Box 10
Gonvick, MN 56644
1-877-487-6040 • ncfpllc@gmail.com
Can ship anywhere in the U.S.

BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION
RAISING AND FEEDING ANIMALS NATURALLY
See website for more information.

Beautiful fiber start with good nutrition.
www.BackinBalanceMinerals.com

Wisconsin Has National Winner in San Antonio

In January, the Wisconsin Make It With Wool (MIWW) Junior and Senior winners competed in San Antonio, TX at the American Sheep Industry Convention. In addition to the competition, the contestants participated in fashion workshops, visited the Alamo, and enjoyed the city's famous Riverwalk.

Senior Winner, Sara Sybesma, from Delavan, WI, patterned and designed her wool pants which have an invisible zipper and are fully lined. She machine knit the shell top by taking a hand-knitting pattern and made modifications to the design. Sybesma's hand-knit tunic has an openwork pattern and slits on the side seams. She graduated from Mount Mary University in 2015 with a major in Fashion Design and now works for a company in the jewelry design field.

Wisconsin junior winner Holley Schwartz won the best hand-knitted garment while participating in the National competition and she also won the National Junior contest. It's exciting to have the National winner from Wisconsin! Schwartz, from Watertown, modeled her A-line dress with cap sleeves knit from the top down in the round. There are six hundred clear silver lined beads in the lace yolk, and nine hundred beads in her lace hem. The dress is knit from 85% fine Merino wool and 15% cashmere. She made her navy blue coat using the moss stitch. The sweater coat has snap buttons and a belt for closure. To accessorize the outfit, she knit a pair of short lace gloves and also crocheted and felted her hat. Holley will be busy in the coming year promoting the wool industry as the National Make It With Wool Ambassador. I want to give a huge thank you to the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op for its continuing support of the Make It With Wool competition. The 2019 national contest will be held in New Orleans, LA. Persons interested in participating in the MIWW contest should contact Wynn Wittkopf. (jwwittkopf@core.com, 262-370-1433). The 2018 Wisconsin MIWW competition will take place on September 8, at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival in Jefferson, WI. Details and entry information for the Wisconsin competition will be available both online at www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com and in the festival catalog.

Wisconsin Make It With Wool (MIWW) winners Sara Sybesma, Delevan (l.) and Holley Schwartz of Watertown, represented the state at the National MIWW competition in San Antonio, TX. As the National Junior winner, Schwartz becomes the 2018 National MIWW Ambassador. This year's Wisconsin contest takes place on September 8 in Jefferson as part of the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival.

NSIP Director Burgett Receives Wisconsin Sheep Industry Award

Cody Hiemke, Presenter

Arlington, WI - The Wisconsin Sheep Industry Award honors people or businesses with a long history of support and service to Wisconsin's sheep industry. Rusty Burgett came to Wisconsin for graduate school in the spring of 2010 and while his service to sheep producers in our state may not have a long history, it has been extensive and incredibly valuable.

For much of his undergraduate days Rusty worked as a student research assistant at Ohio State University (OSU) beef and sheep units. Concurrently throughout his undergraduate years, Rusty worked as a research assistant, assistant manager and then manager of the OSU meat lab.

Rusty's graduate work here at UW-Madison was under the beef extension specialist, but he managed to use sheep as a model for the project. During his graduate work he was a teaching assistant to the sheep production courses and incredibly helpful to Todd Taylor at the sheep unit. It was his first experience with Wisconsin's sheep industry and he didn't hold back. He volunteered extensively at events both through the University and with educational sessions at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival.

After receiving his Masters from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in July 2012, Rusty spent a year as the Farm Operations Manager and Shepherd at Iowa State, where he brought a great commercially-oriented perspective to that program. After fifteen months he made the move back to Wisconsin to manage the Spooner Sheep Research Station from December 2013 to April 2015 where he brought many positive changes to its program.

There were a couple of silver linings to the closing of Spooner, the first being that the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) was looking for someone to captain the ship, and secondly as the ideal fit for NSIP, Rusty could move back to Iowa and marry Christen.

Rusty started as NSIP's Program Director in April 2015. Those of us that work closely with NSIP know first-hand Rusty's invaluable contribution

Rusty Burgett, Program Director for the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP), was the recipient of the 2018 Wisconsin Sheep Industry Award. Burgett received his Master Degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and managed the sheep research program at the UW Spooner Research Station from 2013 to 2015.

to the program. He travels the country educating producers and industry stakeholders, spending an appreciable amount of time in Wisconsin. In 2017 he gave educational talks in 30 states, including taking part in Arlington Sheep Days, Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, the Arlington Production Sale, and in 2016 at the National Targhee Sale. Along with helping to manage the NSIP sale in Spencer, IA, last year Rusty started a new Eastern NSIP Sale in Wooster, Ohio.

The sheep producers of Wisconsin have been fortunate to have had Rusty here as a student, an employee of the university, and his continued presence with his role in NSIP. He is one of the best minds within the United States sheep industry and more than deserving of this award.

Rock County Sheep Producers Select Scholarship Winners

The selection committee of the Rock County Sheep Producers (RCSP) has selected its 2018 Agricultural Sheep Scholarship winners, Paige and Ryan Stilen of Janesville. The twin daughter and son of Tricia Stilen, they are seniors at Milton High School, each with six years in a sheep project, members and officers in both the Milton FFA and the La Prairie 4-H club, and RCSP members for a year and a half.

Ryan will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison Industry Short Course in the fall of 2018. He has been a 4-H member for eleven years, enrolling in eight different projects, while his FFA accomplishments include public speaking, veterinary science and agricultural sales. He has acheived FFA Greenhand, Star Greenhand and Chapter degrees and was a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) grant recipient.

Paige is on the Milton High School JV swim team, has attended the National FFA convention three times, participated in Food for America and plans to attend UW-River Falls seeking a degree in Ag Education. She has participated in twenty two community service projects, from Salvation Army bell ringing to highway cleanup projects and has also exhibited the reserve champion carcass lamb at the Rock County 4-H Fair.

The RCSP scholarship committee of Brandon Knutson, Jeoff Stevens and Martin Newhouse considered the award a tie so the scholarship was increased to a total $400, to be split equally. The money will be awarded after completion of one semester of post high school education.

Scholarships are primarily funded by the annual Rock County Sheep Producers lamb brat and burger cookout scheduled this year for May 4-5 at Country Pride Meats in Clinton. $5 meals (including beverage, chips and a dessert) will be served from 11:00 a,m. until 2:00 p.m. Funds raised support the scholarship program, three RCSP educational events a year, and hiring Rock County 4-H Fair sheep judges.

Paige and Ryan Stilen, both seniors at Milton High School, each received a $200 scholarship from the Rock County Sheep Producers (RCSP). They are shown with (l.) Brandon Knutson, RCSP President and (r.) Director Martin Newhouse. The producers group supports its scholarship program through various fund raisers including its lamb brat and burger cookout scehduled for May 4-5 in Clinton.

Sheep Scanning Certification School to be held at Arlington

Livestock producers have struggled through the years to measure the carcass merit of live animals quantitatively to select for superior genetics. Collecting loin-eye and fat-depth measurements via ultrasonic technologies is an accurate tool to predict carcass merit. However, it has not become widely accepted in the sheep industry. Consequently, not enough trained technicians are available to collect this information for seedstock producers.

North Dakota State University - through sponsorship by the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center - is hosting four sheep scanning educational and certification schools throughout the country to increase the number of trained technicians available to sheep producers. Participants will receive educational material on sheep scanning and be shown methods of collecting loin-eye area, loin-eye depth, back fat and body wall thickness. Participants will also have the opportunity to test their skills to become certified to collect ultrasound data that can be submitted to the National Sheep Improvement Program.

The scanning certification school at Arlington is scheduled for June 11-12. The cost is $200 per enrollee. More information on the Arlington school is available through Todd Taylor at toddtaylor@wisc.edu. Information and registration forms are also available through www.nsip.org, and www.ag.ndsu.edu/hettingerrec.

Pen of Three Carcass Competition Award Goes to Roembke Family

Tim Miller, Co-Chair, Pen of Three Carcass Competition

Arlington, WI - The 2017 Pen of Three Carcass Competition Traveling Trophy was presented to Roembke Hampshires of Cedarburg, WI at the Arlington Sheep Day on March 10 for the top-placing pen. The Pen of Three contest is held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival and supported by the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association, Purina Feeds of Wisconsin and Illinois, Big Gain of Wisconsin and Kent. Exhibitors enter pens of three lambs, which are then judged in the pens. All the lambs were harvested and purchased by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Meats Lab. The first place lamb came from the Roembke pen of three ewe lambs and were enrolled in the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). The first place live placing pen earns a $200 award. In the carcass division, another $200 is awarded for first place, with an additional $100 bonus if the top placing carcass lamb is also part of the top live placing pen.

Roembke Hampshires of Cedarburg, WI received the 2017 Pen of Three Carcass Competition Traveling Trophy for having the top carcass out of their pen of Hampshire ewe lambs. The contest is held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. Shown (l-r) Richard and Sylvia Roembke, and Tim Miller, Co-Chair of the carcass competition.

Additional support for the competition was provided by The University of Wisconsin-Madison Meat Science & Muscle Biology Lab and Robby Weyker, Manager, Dr. Dave Thomas, Brandon Knutson, Ketcham's Sheep Equipment and Alissa Grenawalt, Extension Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison.

The 2018 Pen of Three Carcass Competition entries will be judged on Sunday, September 9 in the Indoor Arena at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival held at the Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Entry fees are $25 per pen of three for current Wisconsin Sheep Breeder Co-op members; $50 per pen for non-members. Entries accepted until ten pens are filled. The entry deadline is August 15, 2018.

The competition is open to wether or ewe lambs, commercial or purebred, averaging at entry between 115 and 175 pounds with between 3/8 and 1 inch of fleece by the festival. Premiums are paid to the tenth place. Enter online at www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com .

Let's Grow Resource Center Established

Having awarded five rounds of grants in the past three years, the Let's Grow Program of the American Sheep Industry Association has developed a vast resource of research and information that will prove beneficial to sheep producers around the United States.

"That information is now available in an easy-to-use Let's Grow Resource Center that was recently developed with information obtained through the grant recipients," said Let's Grow Committee Chair and ASI Secretary/Treasurer Susan Shultz of Ohio. "That information can play a vital role in helping sheep producers increase their flock's productivity and efficiency.

Information will also be added as available from ongoing grant projects. Visit http://sheepusa.org/Resources_LetsGrowResources.

Brady Meudt Receives Master Stockman Award

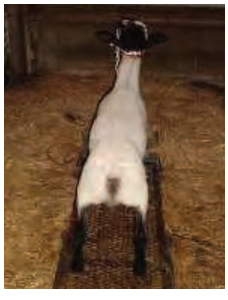
Generously sponsored by Case IH, the Master Stockman Award is one of the most prestigious honors offered each year to junior livestock exhibitors through the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association (WLBA). Out of the applications received within three species (beef, swine and sheep), three $1000 Master Stockman Award winners and two Honorable Mention Master Stockman Award winners are selected annually, with the scholarship checks presented at the Wisconsin State Fair.

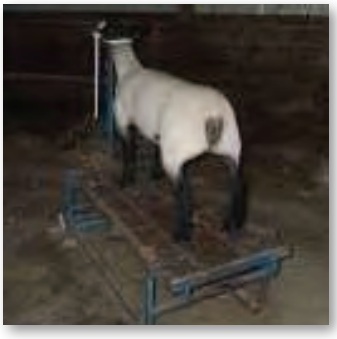
The 2018 Master Stockman Award winner for sheep is Brady Meudt, currently a senior at Whitewater High School and the son of Eric and Jenny Meudt. In addition to a long record of exhibiting at numerous shows throughout Wisconsin, Eric has been an active member of Future Farmers of America, including President of his FFA Chapter, attaining Star Chapter Member and Star Junior status, as well as receiving the Chapter Proficiency Award in Sheep Production in 2016-2017. In his seven years in the Whitewater 4-H Club, he has served as president and vice-president, as well as a Walworth County 4-H Junior Leader for three years.

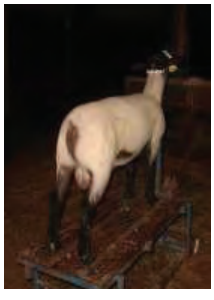
He is also a part of the Whitewater High School Track and Field Team and a member of the National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars, earning his academic letter for being on the High Honor Roll every semester. He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the fall, pursuing a degree in biology with a medical emphasis, with a long-term goal of becoming a Physician's Assistant.

The Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative is a supporting member of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association. In addition to the Master Stockman Awards, the WLBA sponsors the annual Spring Preview Show, Livestock Show Camp and Summer Spectacular. For more information, go to www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com or contact Jill Alf at alfhamp@centurytel.net .

Eric Meudt, Whitewater H.S. senior, received the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association 2018 Master Stockman Award – Sheep, recognizing knowledge, skill, leadership and excellence within a species project work. He will receive a $1000 scholarship sponsored by Case IH which will be presented at the Wisconsin State Fair.







Mint Gold Ranch has the Top 17 NSIP Suffolks with 4.00 or greater PEMD loineyes

- **Top selling Suffolk Ram** at Eastern NSIP Sale Wooster, Ohio
- Top rate of gain **Performance lamb** at 2017 Wisconsin State Fair (1.3 lbs/day)
- **Champion carcass** lambs at many county fairs
- **NSIP Performance** flock since 1995

We can provide rams or starter flocks of ewes and ram for a kick start to anyone's breeding program.
Visit our website for NSIP EBV's (Expected Breeding Values) for loineye and growth. Also udder scores and ram lamb pictures in early June

- Scan the first week of June. All sheep are registered, RR/NN.

We will be consigning to the **Center of the Nation Sale Spencer, Iowa on July 28th and Eastern NSIP Sale on August 11th Wooster, Ohio**. Can arrange for transportation to most parts of Wisconsin and the country.

MINT GOLD RANCH

DALE & JUDY DOBBERPUHL • 5807 County Road X, DePere, WI 54115
920-864-7732 • mintgoldranch@gmail.com • www.mintgoldranch.com

Meredith Food Studios Test Kitchen "Curriculamb"

To reach national media editors and recipe developers with information about American lamb's rich flavor and versatility, the American Lamb Board is hosting "curriculamb" demonstrations at national media test kitchens. The first test kitchen event took place on Monday, April 9, at the Meredith (formerly Time Inc.) Food Studios in Birmingham, AL. The editorial and recipe development teams in Birmingham work for publications like Food & Wine, Cooking Light, Southern Living, Midwest Living, Real Simple, Well Done and more

Industry expert, Cody Hiemke and nationally-recognized butcher and fan of American lamb, Bryan Mayer, joined the American Lamb Board to host the session (see below for full list of attendees). Bryan has an unparalleled love for craft butchery, agriculture, cooking, and teaching. He's been asked to lecture and run workshops at the prestigious Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, The Glynwood Center, the Culinary Institute of America and the James Beard Foundation, and he's contributed to Food & Wine, Bon Appétit, Saveur, Eater, Esquire, Tasting Table, and Civil Eats.

The demo began with Bryan and Cody cooking up and immediately serving bites of the different cuts to showcase the pure flavor of American lamb. While butchering and cooking, they addressed topics like flavor, versatility of cuts, common cuts at retail, seasonal cooking techniques (grilling with lamb was a key focus) and sheep farming in the U.S. American Lamb Board's Megan Wortman helped to answer industry questions and underscored the importance of seeking out American lamb. The American Lamb Board treated attendees to three prepared lamb dishes featuring different cuts and global flavors and left behind samples of ground lamb, sirloin chops, ribs and boneless leg for recipe testing.

Attendees at the demo included recipe developers, test kitchen directors, food stylists, and editors from various Meredith Publications. Food & Wine's video production team shot footage of the demo to circulate to their digital editors.

Source – American Lamb Board News – April 19, 2018

Mark Anthony Christenson March 2, 1957 – January 30, 2018

Mark Anthony Christenson, 60, died on Monday, Jan. 30, 2018, at Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, of complications from adrenal syndrome. Mark was born March 2, 1957, in Eau Claire, the son of Clifford and Jean (Sattergren) Christenson.

He attended schools in Chippewa Falls and graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High in 1975. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from UW-River Falls in 1979, majoring in animal science. He first worked at Feed & Seed in Eau Claire and later at Crossroads Ag for thirty years as Feed Mill Operator. He was also clerk of Town of Wheaton for thirty years. Mark married Diane Heath on Oct. 25, 1980, at First Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. Together they had four children.

Mark was active in the Howard-Wheaton 4-H club both as member and leader, in FFA, in the Moose Lodge, and the Farm Bureau. He was an active member of First Lutheran serving on the council in various committees. Mark enjoyed his fishing trips to Potato Lake with his family, but he was happiest when he was farming. He started his flock of sheep with nine animals for a 4-H project when he was 11 years old. At one point he had 400 sheep in his flock. He loved showing his animals at state and county fairs and bringing home the trophies.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; daughter, Tawna (Tim) Sikora; son, Brock (Laura Carolevschi) Christenson; daughter, Darsel (Justin) Shavlik; son, Nathan (Rachel) Christenson; his grandchildren, Blake, Jeffrey, Abigail, Gabrielle, Lilah, and Alex Beth; his parents; brother, Mitch (Roxanne) Christenson; and father-in-law, Herbert Heath; as well as many uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends. Mark is preceded in death by sister, Beth Christenson; grandparents, Tillman and Ruth Christenson and Art and Gladys Sattergren; and mother-in-law, Ramona Heath. A memorial service was held on Friday, February 2, 2018, at Spirit Lutheran Church, Eau Claire. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family.

Calendar of Events – Spring 2018

May 11-13 • 21st Shepherd's Harvest Sheep & Wool Festival, Lake Elmo, MN. Contact: Julie MacKenzie, 612 961-9625 www.ShepherdsHarvestFestival.org

May 12 • Dodgepoint Lamb Extravaganza, Iowa County Fairgrounds, Mineral Point, WI Contact: Mike Robinson, 608 987-0730 Ext. 308, Denny McGraw, 608 935-3307, Ext. 4053

May 19 • Midwest Roundup Jackpot, Juneau County Fairgrounds, Mauston, WI. Contact: Alicia Bjerke, 608 479-0404

May 20 • UW-Platteville Pioneer Showdown, Grant County Fairgrounds, Lancaster, WI. Lamb/Goat Chairs: Hanna Kearns 608 290-5304 or Andrew Slack 262 745-8762. www.pioneershowdown.com

May 26-27 • Memorial Weekend Show, Northern Show Circuit, Pierce County Fairgrounds, Ellsworth, WI Contact John Bazille, northernshowcircuit@gmail.com northernshowcircuit.wordpress.com/

June 1-2 • Hoosier Hills Fiber Festival, Johnson County Fairgrounds, Franklin, IN. www.HoosierHillsFiberFestival.com, 317 403-5667.

June 2 • 38th Annual Spring Preview Show, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com, Jill Alf, 608 868-2505 or alfhamp@centurytel.net

June 6 • Junior Livestock Exhibitors Entry Deadline, Wisconsin State Fair. All entry information and fees either online or via mail. Questions: Email entryoffice@wistatefair.com or call 414.266.7000.

June 9 • School's Out Sheep Show, Trempealeau County Fairgrounds, Galesville, WI. Check-in/Weigh-in 7:30-9:00 a.m., Show 11:30 a.m. Dwight Quarne, 608 484-1446, email ddq1177@live.com

June 9-10 • 20th Annual WLBA Show Camp, Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis, WI. www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com, Jill Alf, 608 868-2505 or alfhamp@centurytel.net

June 11-12 • NSIP Carcass Ultrasound Certification School, Arlington, WI Contact: Todd Taylor, toddtaylor@wisc.edu or Christopher Schauer, Christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu, 701 567-4323 or visit http://www.nsip.org

June 11-14 • Wisconsin FFA Convention, Alliant Energy Center, Madison. www.wisconsinffa.org

June 13 • Open Show Livestock Exhibitors Mailed Entry Deadline, Wisconsin State Fair, Postmarked June 13 (second Wednesday in June)

June 14 • Area Animal Science Days – Kewaunee County. Kewaunee County Fairgrounds, Luxemburg, WI. Contact: Jill Jorgenson jill.jorgensen@ces.uwex.edu Info: fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/area-animal-sciences-days/

June 15 • Application Deadline (Postmarked) - 2018 Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op Scholarships. Late applications will not be considered. Return to: Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, 7811 N Consolidated School Rd, Edgerton, WI 53534. Questions: wisbc@centurytel.net or (608) 868-2505. Application forms: www.wisbc.com

June 15 • ASI Wool Handling School, Ames, IA, Regina Frahm, info@iowasheep.com

June 17 • Showdown at Dodge, Dodge County fairgrounds, Beaver Dam, WI. Contact: Shawn O'Donovan or Alan Thorson, 920 344-1234

June 17-18 • Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival, Hanson Agriculture Student Learning Center, Ames, IA Contact: Regina Frahm, gina.frahm@gmail.com or info@iowasheep.com, www.iowasheepandwool.com

June 22 • Area Animal Science Days – Clark County. Clark County Fairgrounds, Neillsville, WI. Contact Chris Hollar at Christine.Hollar@co.clark.wi.us Info: fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/area-animal-sciences-days/

June 22-23 • 2018 Interstate Livestock Show, Polk County Fair Park, St. Croix Falls, WI. (Show camp & dinner - June 22) Breeding sheep/market lamb shows Saturday. Debbie Petzel at dspetzel@gmail.com 612 578-1528.

June 27 • Open Show Exhibitors Entry Deadline, Emailed Entries, Wisconsin State Fair, by 7 pm (Central Time): Online entries close at regular fees (4th Wednesday of June). Please note: printed entry forms cannot be scanned and emailed in place of online entries.

June 29 • Area Animal Science Days – Lafayette County. Lafayette County Fairgrounds, Darlington, WI. Contact: Lori Wick, lori.wick@ces.uwex.edu Info: fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/area-animal-sciences-days/

July 5-8 • 2018 All-American Junior Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN. Email: cdcdorset@cox.net or info@allamericanjuniorshow.com www.countrylovin.com/ AAJSS/ AAJS, PO Box 506 N Scituate, RI 02856-0506, Phone: (401) 647-4676

July 7 • Copy/Ad Deadline – Summer Issue, Wisconsin Shepherd. Ads – Brittany Alf, alf.brittany@gmail.com, Copy – Bob Black rbblack@powercom.net

July 11-15 • Northern Wisconsin State Fair, NW State Fairgrounds, Chippewa Falls, WI. www.nwsfa.com/p/northern-wisco.../entries-and-exhibits

July 12 • Copy/Ad Deadline – Summer Issue, Wisconsin Shepherd. Ads – Brittany Alf, alf.brittany@gmail.com, Copy – Bob Black rbblack@powercom.net

July 21 • Sheep Dairy Association of Wisconsin (SDAW) Member & Supporter Picnic, Maple Hill Farm, Ladysmith, WI Information: Laurel Kieffer, Kcf.laurel@tcc.coop

July 19-21 • 14th Annual Katahdin Hair Sheep International Expo & National Sale, Augusta Expo, Fisherville, VA. www.katahdin.org

July 28 • Center of the Nation NSIP Sale, 1:00 p.m. Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IA. Entry Info/Catalog: www.nsip.org

July 31 • Entry Deadline: Wisconsin Summer Spectacular www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com or 608 868-2505, email alfhamp@centurytel.net

Aug. 2-12 • Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, WI www.wistatefair.com Entry Deadlines – Open & Junior Sheep Exhibitors, Mailed/Emailed entries, See June 6, 13 and 27 calendar listings.

Aug. 2-12 • Wisconsin Wool Works! Wisconsin State Fair Sheep Barn. Consignment Information: Carol Black, carol@ewesfulgifts.com or 920 296-0326

August 11 • Eastern NSIP Sale, 1:00 p.m., Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster, OH. Entry Info/Catalog: www.nsip.org

THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Members pay $110 for 4 issues or $40/issue.
Non-members pay $140 for 4 issues or $50/issue.
Contact Brittany Alf, Ad Sales Executive at
513-850-3603 or alf.brittany@gmail.com

The Country Today
"The Newspaper That Cares About Rural Life"
For Your Advertising Needs, for Subscription Rates or to Receive a 4-week Complimentary Paper Contact:
The Country Today
PO Box 4001
Eau Claire WI 54702-4001
715-833-9276 • 800-236-4004
sue.bauer@ecpc.com
www.thecountrytoday.com

Tailwind Farm
Rambouillet Sheep
Working Border Collies
Holstein Feeders & Straw
Tim, Beth, & Jill Miller
12827 W. Hwy. 81
Beloit, WI 53511
608-751-2963
www.Tailwindfarm.com
tailwindfarm@gmail.com

EWESFUL GIFTS
Since 1978
Clothing, jewelry, Christmas cards, stationery, stuffed animals, books, figurines and calendars for the sheep enthusiast.
Ewesful Gifts
7868 State Road 73
Columbus, WI 53925
Order 920 623-3536
www.ewesfulgifts.com
free catalog

Jones Shearing
Experienced and dependable
Shearing sheep, goats, alpacas, and llamas.
Covering Wisconsin, UP, Northern Illinois, and Eastern Iowa
jonesshearing@gmail.com
715-424-1023
www.facebook.com
search: jonesshearing

Wisconsin Wool Works!
Sheep Barn
Wisconsin State Fair
August 3-13
Booths 707-708
in the Country Store
Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival
September 8-10

ROEMBKE HAMPSHIRES
"Bred for Utility" "Tested for Production"
3696 Country Aire Drive
Cedarburg, WI 53012
262-377-1491 • Dick
262-707-0032 • Mark
rsrmke@att.net
4 Miles East of Jackson on SE Corner of Hwy. 60 and Country Aire Drive (Hwy. M)

THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY
Published by *The Wisconsin Shepherd*

The Wisconsin Shepherd
7811 Consolidated School Rd.
Edgerton, WI 53534

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 203
EAU CLAIRE, WI

Calendar of Events – Spring 2018 (continued)

August 15 • Entry/Registration Deadline – Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com Office 608 868-2505 (after 5:00 eve.) wisbc@centurytel.net

August 15 • Photo Contest Entry Deadline – Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op Debbie Petzel, 612 578-1528 or dspetzel@gmail.com. Entry Information: www.wisbc.com or www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Aug. 18 • 10th Annual Wisconsin Summer Spectacular, Marshfield, WI www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com or 608 868-2505, email alfhamp@centurytel.net

Aug. 21-26 • Central Wisconsin State Fair, Marshfield, WI www.centralwisconsinstatefair.com

Sept 7-9 • Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com Contact: Jill Alf, wisbc@centurytel.net 608 868-2505 (eve. after 5:00).

Sept. 7-9 • Wisconsin Wool Works! Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Consignment info: Carol Black, carol@ewesfulgifts.com 920 296-0326.

Sept. 7-8 • ASI Wool Handling Clinic – Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Sept. 8 • 2018 Wisconsin Make It With Wool Competition, Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Contact: Wynn Wittkopf, jwwittkopf@core.com 262 370-1433.

Sept. 8 • Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op Used Equipment Auction, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Contact: Ryan Bingen, ryan.bingen@gmail.com 262 339-9816. Consignment info: www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Oct. 12-13 • 6th Annual Rural Arts Roadtrip www.RuralArtsRoadtrip.com For Info: 920 286-0971 or bhavenfiverarts@yahoo.com

Oct. 18 • Copy/Ad Deadline – Fall Issue, Wisconsin Shepherd. Ads – Brittany Alf, alf.brittany@gmail.com, Copy – Bob Black rbblack@powercom.net

Nov. 3 • Annual Meeting, Sheep Dairy Association of Wisconsin (SDAW) Location TBA. Contact: Laurel Kieffer, Kcf.laurel@tcc.coop

Nov. 8-11 • DSANA Symposium, (Dairy Sheep Association of North America), Kansas City, MO. Information: Laurel Kieffer, Kcf.laurel@tcc.coop

Do you have an event coming up? Let us know!
Debbie Petzel – dspetzel@gmail.com