MISSION:
"SUPPORTING,
PROTECTING AND
PROMOTING
NEBRASKA'S SHEEP
AND GOAT
PRODUCERS"



# Newsletter

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

JUNE/JULY 2018

# SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Summer Grazing
- Farm Bill
   Update
- SFCP Program
- WeaningOptions

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# Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and Nebraska Extension 2018 Summer Grazing Tour Well Received

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) and Nebraska Extension teamed up to host the 2018 Summer Grazing Tour in the northern Panhandle of Nebraska on Friday, June 15. Approximately 130 tour participants were exposed to an area deep in the history of Crazy Horse and Mari Sandoz. The morning stops featured Flying Heart Ranch located in the rugged Pine Ridge ponderosa forest north of Hays Springs. The ranch has been operated by the Dave Kadlecek Family since being homesteaded in 1890. The tour traveled through gentle hills and deep canyons. Ranch operations have focused on grazing and forestry after significant wildfire in 2012. This fully operational ranch is managed in a manner to improve its aesthetic beauty and wildlife carrying capacity. Tour participants were exposed to Lakota Indian history including the Beaver Creek which was important to various Lakota people, particularly Chief Crazy Horse and his followers. Dave Kadlecek provided historical insight into significant landmarks reminiscent of the Lakota culture. More may be learned about this area by reading the book, To Kill an Eagle: Indian Views on the Last Days of Crazy Horse, by Edward and Mabell Kadlecek. The tour visited the burial site of Crazy Horse. Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service was on hand to explain Ponderosa Pine Forest management as an economic endeavor and for wildfire suppression.

The afternoon tour stops featured Terrell Farms owned and managed by Vern and Marjean Terrell and their family. Located south of Hay Springs on the Mirage Flats irrigation District and the western part of the Sandhills, the operation consists of farming, cow/calf, stockers, feeders, and sheep. Tour participants were exposed to excellent stewardship of the land with farming and grazing techniques increasing the health of the ecosystem as well as decreasing the cost of production. Through monitoring and creative ideas the Terrell's have been able to connect each enterprise into a profitable and rewarding occupation. The Sandhills grazing system currently includes 94 different pastures, 118 improved water sites and live water access within 26 of the pastures. The Terrell's have increased the grazing carrying capacity by 50% in five years. Terrell Farms cropping system uses minimal and no-till planting techniques to decrease soil disturbance and erosion. They have also incorporated a cover crop rotation with a diversity of species to increase the activity within the soil. The cover crops also are used for winter supplement to livestock. These techniques improve water and nutrient cycling, soil structure and organic matter. They work with the National Resource Conservation Service, United States Fish and Wildlife, World Wildlife Fund-US, Nebraska Extension and other conservation entities to hold field days and workshops to share both successes and failures with other producers.

For more information contact Ron Bolze, NGLC Coordinator, at 402-321-0067.

# House Passes Sheep-Friendly Farm Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives approved the Farm Bill on Thursday by vote of 213 to 211. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (Texas) shepherded the legislation through committee and onto the House floor this week.

The legislation is the strongest in decades for the American sheep industry with wool and cotton textile provisions and mandatory funding provided for minor species animal drug development. These were two key requests of the American Sheep Industry Association. Additional risk management is reauthorized with crop insurance and a wool marketing loan. ASI also actively supported the vaccine development program for

disease preparedness, which is newly funded in the Farm Bill, as well.

"Chairman Conaway is commended for his leadership and support for the American sheep industry," said ASI President Mike Corn of New Mexico.

Also of interest are programs reauthorized for livestock emergencies, as included in testimony of ASI before the committee leadership. ASI recognizes Rep. Liz Cheney (Wyo.), who secured an amendment with beneficial language to address the threat to the sheep business posed by wild sheep activists. The language was co-sponsored by Rep Dan Newhouse (Wash.) and supported by Conaway.

Amy Hendrickson, executive direc-

tor of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association and a critical sponsor of the congresswoman's amendment, shared enthusiasm for this language. The amendment directs the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior to make vacant allotments available to grazing permit or lease holders in the event of conflict with wildlife or natural disaster. There is also language that prevents a court injunction in the event that the agency is unable to make a vacant allotment available.

For more background on the sheep provisions requested by ASI in the Farm Bill, visit <a href="https://dtcqq366w3ike.cloudfront.net/http/DOCUMENT/SheepUSA/State%">http/DOCUMENT/SheepUSA/State%</a> 20Brochure%20May%202018.pdf.

# Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program

SFCP Standards Have Been Updated

The June 2013 Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP) standards have been updated and are now available. A brief summary of the major updates to the program are also available.

The May 2016 SFCP standards are now in effect.

The basic structure of the program has not changed. There are still two categories in the SFCP: the Export Category (with Export Monitored flocks and Export Certified flocks) and the Select Category (Select Monitored flocks). The updates address/clarify:

Sampling requirements, advancement, and genotyping lambs/kids in genetically resistant flocks:

Veterinary inspection of cull animals;

Imported embryos/oocytes;

Animals originating from Inconsistent States:

Special circumstances involving "Lost to Inventory" and "Found Dead" animals; and

Reporting requirements for the use of milk/colostrum from a lower status flock.

The SFCP provides sheep and goat producers the opportunity to increase the marketability of their animals through demonstrating scrapie freedom in their flock or herd. Additionally, the SFCP contributes to APHIS' scrapie surveillance strategy, testing sheep and goats from flocks and herds that otherwise might not be sampled through traditional slaughter surveillance.

Additional Information For more information about scrapie, contact your local APHIS, Veterinary Services, area office or contact: USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services National Animal Health Programs

4700 River Road, Unit 43

Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone (301) 851-3509

Fax (301) 734-7964

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-diseaseinformation/sheep-and-goat-health/ national-scrapie-eradication-program/ ct free-certi



# Try to avoid 'separation anxiety in Kids

By Steve Hart

Caution! The following article may contain heretical ideas that fly in the face of traditional goat management practices and could possibly cause you to re-think why you do what you do.

So, instead of doing what you have always done or what someone else has always done, not that it is wrong, there may be a better way to do things.

The first questions we need to answer are when to wean and maybe if to wean. Weaning has been done at 12 weeks, 90 days, or 100 days, take your pick. So when do kids need to he weaned?

Generally, beyond 10 or 12 weeks of age, the kid is likely only getting a cup of milk a day if he is lucky, although a few does produce more milk. The doe should be starting to regain her body condition after 3 months because milk production has dropped and energy can go into body stores.

The kid is getting most of his feed from eating with mother, whether pasture or at a feed trough. He may be lucky and have a creep feeder. Most record programs standardize on a 100-day weaning weight for kids. But, please realize there is no scientific data on when we should wean kids or if we should wean them.

Weaning is a tradition that we may need to critically examine. Why wean? It causes weight loss, stress, sickness, especially coccidiosis and worms. If we are going to sell those kids at 4-6 months of age, they may be bigger and our management simpler if we don't wean them until they board the sale bus.

Of course female kids being retained for replacement would need to be weaned at that time? Many may have already been weaned by their mothers and may not need to be weaned.

A Montana goat producer only physically weans the few intact buck kids that are stud-prospects, leaving doelings and wethers with the doe herd, claiming that at approximately 90 days of age, as kids come running toward their mother, the doe will calmly keep her knees closed across her udder rather than making it easy for the kids to nurse.

You could get around all that noise at weaning time, stress and the health problems that it causes. Kids stop gaining weight or lose weight for the first week or two after weaning.

Another alternative would be low-stress weaning or fence-line weaning. This method started in the cattle industry with weaning calves across the fence from their mothers. The major stress of weaning is not missing the cup of milk daily, but is psychological-separation anxiety from mom, similar to when your child first goes off to camp and calls home crying the first night away from home.

Cattle pairs can meet their psychological needs for closeness across the fence. Of course a few calves may get through the fences, but they can be separated off again. The calves are kept in the same pasture they were grazing in, so they know where water and shade and food are and a nurse cow becomes mother to them all and leads them out to graze and back to the water trough.

After two days, the cows in the pasture are allowed to graze in a new pasture farther away. By then the calves have bonded to the brood cow and the momma cows like their freedom from calf-raising responsibilities and voluntarily move to the new pasture away from their calves

Although not all research has shown this to be beneficial, a number of cow producers who

use it swear by it. Yes, and one goat producer in Arkansas has been doing this for more than five years. She said her kids have experienced no coccidiosis, no weight loss, no stress — the kids don't miss a beat and keep grazing and gaining weight.

There are other types of weaning such as creep feeding and creep grazing. The most important thing is to keep your weanlings healthy and free of parasites.

In conclusion, how are you planning to wean your kids? Same as ever is OK if it works for you and the animals. Maybe you can try something different or new to help your animals and you. May there be less separation anxiety for you and your kids this time of weaning.

# **Meet Your Board Member**

# **Educational Committee Ivan Rush**

## irush1@unl.edu

Ivan is a sheep producer from
Scottsbluff with approximately 150
commercial ewes and all lambs are finished on self-feeders on the farm and marketed directly to Mountain States at Greeley on a carcass basis. Alfalfa hay and corn is produced on the farm that supply feed for the sheep and a cow calf herd where calves are backgrounded.
Rush is retired from the University of NE where he served as a beef specialist with emphasis in nutrition and management.

## **ASI Young Entrepreneurs Committee Announces Summer Tour**

The American Sheep Industry Association Young Entrepreneurs Committee - in conjunction with the American Lamb Board - will be holding a Summer Tour on Aug. 5-7 in northern Colorado.

Following up on the first tour in 2017, this year's event promises to be a success aiming to provide young sheep and wool producers an open forum to network and gain a better understanding of the industry. According to Burdell Johnson, YE chairman and ASI past president, the overall goal of the tour is to give young and beginning sheep producers an opportunity to see other successful operations and find ways to innovate and add profitability.

"This tour has been tremendously successful in helping connect young producers with experienced industry leaders," said Johnson. "The end result of the two-day tour is new ideas, new friends and increased profitability. This year, we have a tremendous opportunity in northern Colorado to see a cross section of the industry from the feeding sector to technology and genetics and much more."

The tour will be based in Loveland, Colo., and stop at some of the most innovative feeding operations in the country, discuss artificial insemination technology and embryo transfer, view the processing sector in Greeley, Colo., and learn about wildlife research and lamb flavor in Fort Collins, Colo.

The full agenda and application are available at <a href="http://sheepusa.org/Events\_FutureMeetingDates">http://sheepusa.org/Events\_FutureMeetingDates</a>. Space is limited to the first 20 participants to sign up and applicants must be active sheep producers between 25 and 35 years of age.

# Opportunity to Participate in Sheep Research in Western Nebraska

A 2015 USDA study found that approximately 88% of domestic sheep herds in 22 states, not including Nebraska, tested positive for a bacteria called Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (we call it Movi because it's easier to pronounce!).

The Movi bacteria live in the nasal cavity and respiratory tract of infected sheep and is often associated with pneumonia in sheep. Other studies have linked the Movi bacteria with reduced gain and reduced survival in lambs. South Dakota State University (SDSU) has begun a research project investigating how prevalent the Movi bacteria is in domestic sheep in western Nebraska and will try to determine if its presence is associated with lower birth rates, lower lamb survival, decreased lamb gain and increased incidence of respiratory disease.

The main goal of the study is to identify strategies that may reduce the Movi bacteria in western Nebraska sheep.

We are looking for individuals with domestic sheep in/near the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills to participate in the study. Because Movi lives in the nose of infected animals, the test is as simple as swabbing the nasal cavity of a sheep. If selected to participate in the study, your participation and test results will be kept confidential. You will get copies of all your sheep's test results as well as a final report stating the findings of the research.

Laura McHale is the area biologist who will be conducting the research on behalf of SDSU. If interested in finding out more about the research project, please contact Laura via her cell at (308) 430-4097, her home at (308)665-1159 or via e-mail at

laura.mchale.721@gmail.com.

Bio:

Laura McHale is the biologist conducting the Movi research for SDSU. She received her B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and her M.S. in Biology from the University of Nebraska Kearney. She has lived in western Nebraska for nearly 20 years raising her 4 stepchildren on their ranch in northern Sioux County and now lives just outside of Crawford. Laura worked for many years with Nebraska Game & Parks where she was involved in Movi testing of wild bighorn sheep and documenting the effects of Movi infection on area bighorn sheep herds.

# **CLASSIFIEDS**

# **Producers**

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# http://www.nemahahill.com M/N Boer Goats and

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Connie Moore Bronc & Melissa Nicholson Chadron, NE 907-629-2689 308-386-8377 crmoor4@gmail.com

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# <u>creppertfarm@wildblue.net</u>

# Jacob & Suffolk Sheep, Club Lambs

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kckreutzer@gmail.com
www.blackandwhitesheep.com

#### **Sheep Available**

Richard Amm Oconto, NE 308-858-4889

## **Katadin/Dorper Sheep**

Producer and feeder
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308-760-1193
openskiesfarms@gmail.com
Facebook: Open Skies Farms

# **Columbia Breeding Stock**

Murray or Barb Haugen 402-365-7517

# **Purebred Hampshire Breeder**

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meyer-sheep@aol.com

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#### Southdown Rams & Ewes

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dpwilson@nctc.net
www.wilsonfamilysouthdowns.com

#### **Registered Jacob Sheep**

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mirrorsaussies@gmail.com

www.MirrorSRanch.com

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<u>fulldecksuffolks@aol.com</u> <u>www.fulldeckstuffolks.wordpress.com</u>

# **Wool Buyers**

#### **Midstates Wool Growers**

South Hutchinson, KS 800-835-9665 www.midstateswoolgrowers.com

#### **Groenenwald Wool & Fur**

815-938-2381 <u>Www.grwco.com</u>

## Jacobson of Nebraska 308-999-0132

jacobsonofnebraska@gmail.com

## **Center of the Nation Wool**

Larry Prager Belle Fourche, SD 605-210-0872

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# Michael Littlefield

402-526-2240

michaelrlittlefield@yahoo.com

# Miscellaneous

# Barn Camera Installation/ Trim Hooves

I design and install barn camera systems. I also trim hooves on sheep and goats. Neal Amsberry Lexington, NE 308-651-0327

nealamsberry@hotmail.com

# Livestock Markets

#### **Columbus Sales Pavilion**

http://columbussalespavilion.com/ 402-564-3231

## **Vedigre Livestock Market**

Curt and Sherri Zimmerer 402-668-2246

http://www.verdigrelivestock.com/

#### **Colby Livestock Commission**

Office: 785-460-3231 http://colbylivestock.com/

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The Nebraska State Fair Birthing Pavilion has Swine, Sheep, and Beef/Dairy displays that have live births during the 10 day fair. While we can't guarantee the animals birth during open hours, the visitors are amazed and eager to see the babies (born or newborn) and how fast they grow. The Birthing Pavilion would like to add goat births, and are looking for any goat breeders that may breed their goats for fall kids, and perhaps would plan a few for the last week of August. If you fall kid and might be interested please contact Eric Stehlik (estehlik2@unl.edu) (402-946-2099) for more details.

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# **Upcoming Events for 2018**

July 14, 2018—Meat & Dairy Goats Workshop

Sat 9 AM CDT · Brookings, South Dakota · Go to our Facebook page for link. To register visit: http:// www.sdspecialtyproducers.org/.

August 26—September 5, 2018— Nebraska State Fair Grand Island, NE Various Sheep and Goat Shows, Commercial Market Pen of 3 class Sponsored by the Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers and Lamb and Goat Tastings.

September 6th, 7th & 8th, 2018 — We are planning two meetings in conjunction with the University of Wyoming and the University of NE on Sept 6 in the Hays Springs area and a second on the afternoon of Sept 7 and morning of Sept 8 at Clay Center at the UNL Great Plains Education Center. As a side note the USDA Meat Animal Research Center is planning to have their sale of breeding sheep at Sutton, close by to Clay Center, on the afternoon of Sept 8. Program topics will include meeting the nutrition needs of sheep through grazing, economics of a sheep enterprise - how to get started, latest research for parasite control, health programs for the flock plus other management topics. At Clay Center there will be a tour of the MARC plus some other hands on demonstrations and wet labs. Details of the Hays Springs meeting will be worked out soon. Although many topics presented will be applicable to goats and goat producers are welcome the majority of topics will deal with sheep.

October 13th & 14th, 2018—\*\*DATE CHANGE\*\*4S Goat Expo in North Platte, NE www.4sgoatexpo.com Volunteers needed for the 2018 Expo Please contact Melissa Nicholson—s4goatexpo@yahoo.com or Randy Saner randy.saner@unl.edu

> Remember to get your membership dues in. You can go to the website https://nebraskasheepandgoat.org/

# WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!!

**DEAR WOOL PRODUCERS:** 

SINCE PUBLISHING OUR **NEWSLETTER AND GIVING THE** USDA JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY REPORT FOR NEBRAS-KA. WE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY MIKE CORN, PRESIDENT OF ASI/ AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY ASSO-CIATION AND OWNER OF ROSEWELL WOOL LLC. REQUESTING BE PUTTING THIS OUT ON OUR INFORMATION CONCERNING WOOL FACEBOOK PAGE SO YOU CAN PRODUDCTION IN NEBRASKA.

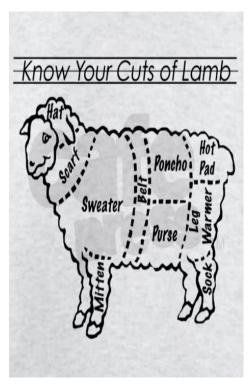
HE WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON WHERE AND HOW NEBRASKA WOOL IS BEING MARKETED. IF YOU COULD HELP US BY LETTING US KNOW HOW AND WHERE YOU MARKET YOUR WOOL WE WOULD

LIKE TO COMPILE THE INFOR-MATION AND REPORT IT TO OUR MEMBERS AND TO MIKE. HE IS INTERESTED IN HELPING NEBRAS-KA PRODUCERS BETTER MARKET THEIR PRODUCT. YOU CAN EMAIL ME AT:

manicholson15@yahoo.com or text at 308-386-8378. I WILL ALSO COMMENT THERE ALSO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

**MELISSA NICHOLSON** 



Fie sh

# American Lamb New 2018-2022 Checkoff Plan

## 5 CORE STRATEGIES IMPERATIVE FOR DEMAND GROWTH

The American Lamb Board is aligning your checkoff programs of promotion research and information to the 5 Core Strategies. Helping every member of the industry participate in achieving these strategies will be integrated into projects. The American Lamb Board's new Long Range Plan calls for increasing lamb demands by 2% annually during 2018-2022.

**Grow** AWARENESS AND EXPAND USAGE OF AMERICAN LAMB

**AMONG CHEFS AND CONSUMERS** 

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Collaborate with industry partners and stakeholders to

EXPAND EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE FIRST FOUR STRATEGIES

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2018-2022 LONG RANGE PLAN

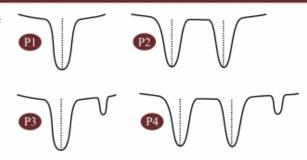
LambResourceCenter.com/lamb-checkoff/resources/



# PREFERRED TEAT STRUCTURES

Preferred teat structures offer the newborn kid the best opportunity to nurse unassisted.

Preferred teat structures consist of either one or two, well-separated, functional teats on each half of the udder (P1, P2). One additional, non-functional teat further toward the doe's stomach is not discriminated against (P3, P4).

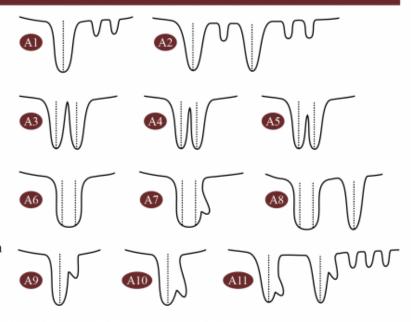


# ACCEPTABLE TEAT STRUCTURES

Acceptable teat structures should allow the newborn kid the ability to nurse unassisted and must have no more than two functional teats on each half of the udder. Some acceptable teat structures may become diqualifying over the productive life of the doe if the teat becomes difficult or impossible to nurse unassisted.

Acceptable teat structures include:

- One or more non-functional teats in addition to functional teat(s) (A1, A2, A11)
- Split teats, when at least 50% of the body of the teat is separated (A3, A4, A5)
- Teats containing two milk channels with no sign of separation between teat channels (A6, A7, A8)
- Teats with one additional, non-functional teat attached to the main teat (A7, A9, A10, A11)

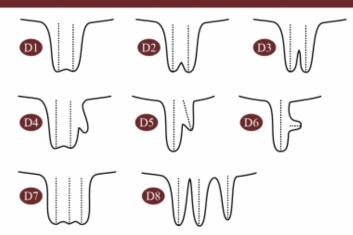


# DISQUALIFYING TEAT STRUCTURES

Any teat structure that prevents a newborn kid from nursing unassisted is a disqualification.

Disqualifying structures include:

- Split teats, when less than 50% of the body of the teat is separated (D1, D2, D3, D4)
- Teats with additional, functional teat(s) attached to the main teat (D5, D6)
- Teats with more than two milk channels (D7)
- More than two functional teats on one half of the udder (D7, D8)
- Bulbous teats, or the complete lack of a milk channel on one half of the udder





PO Box 1066 Chadron, NE 69337



Tel: Al Weeder - (402)276-1816 Email: ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

#### Newsletter:

Melissa Nicholson — manicholson I 5@yhoo.com

#### Website:

www.nebraskasheepandgoat.org

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- Alan Rumbaugh , Eastern (Beatrice) arumbaugh@southeast.edu

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- Alan Rumbaugh, Beatrice