

LAMB & WOOL

A Newsletter For The Iowa Sheep Industry / March - 2009

Biosecurity: Safeguard your flock

Spring, newborn lambs and year-long biosecurity

Spring is the time of year for newborn lambs and farm visitors. Schools and other organizations are anxious to see young livestock and we as producers are eager to share our way of life with those who need to be educated on the importance of agriculture. Most of these young visitors will not be a biosecurity risk, since very few even live on farms, but throughout the year we need to consider our biosecurity risk each time someone drives on the yard. The following article appeared in a special issue of the Sheep & Goat Health Report. The chart listed a few more risks, not included here, such as foreign travel and foreign visitors that should also be considered by producers.

Biosecurity Risk Assessment Chart for Visitors

While visitors to a farm or operation are often welcomed or even necessary, every person stepping onto a farm or operation can be a biosecurity risk. The degree of biosecurity risk depends on the person—family friend, neighbor, fellow producer, veterinarian, employee, feed delivery person, extension agent, foreign guest, etc.— and his or her habits, travels and business.

Upon arriving at the farm or business enterprise, each visitor should check in at the house or office and be classified as a low risk (low farm, low animal contact), medium risk (high farm, low animal contact) or high risk (high farm, high animal contact). The accompanying chart can help you ascertain each visitor's biosecurity risk.

No visitor should be allowed to bring along a dog or other pet and all visitors should be required to wear clean clothing and boots or have disposables or guest clothing and boots available for them onsite.

Activity	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Farm visits per day.	One farm, little to no animal contact.	Occasionally visits more than one farm/day, minimal animal contact.	Visits many farms or livestock facilities. Much animal contact.
Ownership of similar animals.	Does not own similar species at home.	Similar species at home but different production type.	Owens and/or cares for similar species and production type at home.
Contact with potentially ill or infectious animals.	Minimal or no contact with potentially ill or infectious animals.	Contact with healthy animals but avoids contact with potentially infectious animals.	May own or be exposed to many animals of unknown or poor health status.
Use of protective clothing.	Wears sanitized shoes or boots. One pair of coveralls per site.	Wears sanitized boots and clean coveralls. If clean, may not change coveralls.	Does not wear boots or protective clothing or wears same clothing between farms.
Leaves or borrows supplies, equipment.	Supplies and equipment kept away from animals or feed areas.	Supplies and equipment in areas of minimal animal or feed contact.	Supplies and equipment may be left in animal or feed areas.
Work in animal contact areas.	Does not work in areas with highly susceptible animals.	Minimal exposure to high-risk animals and only with protective clothing.	Works with highly susceptible animals. Few precautions taken.

Increasing lamb consumption

During the January sheep education meeting in Sanborn one of the attendees asked, "What can be done to increase lamb consumption in the Midwest?" No specific solutions were uncovered and the discussion led to the fact that we probably won't see much increase other than from the new ethnic populations in the Midwest. It was felt that because of the heavy German/Dutch heritage we are just too programmed to eat pork and beef. Later that morning these questions were asked of the same group, "How many had eaten lamb in the last week?...month?...several months?" Surprisingly, not many answered in the affirmative.

Iowa has 3,522 farms with sheep operations and a sure-fire way to increase consumption in Iowa is if every operation with sheep would increase their consumption of lamb by 1-1/2 pounds per week. That would mean each operation (family) would eat an additional 78 pounds of lamb per year which would result in an increase of 274,716 pounds of lamb in Iowa alone. Just playing with the numbers a little more, there are 83,134 sheep operations in the U.S. If the same scenario were applied nationwide, lamb consumption in the U.S. would increase by 6,235,050 pounds per year.

Come on folks! Let's get serious about increasing lamb consumption by starting in our own homes. Why should we expect others to increase their consumption of our product if we don't eat our own product? We should be treating our guests to lamb every time we entertain and every potluck dinner or picnic we attend should include lamb. It is not surprising to find lamb featured on the cooking shows on television and fantastic recipes can be found many places on the internet, especially at www.AmericanLamb.com.

Win a Lifetime Membership...

in the Iowa Sheep Industry Association

From now until June 13, 2009 sign up new members in the Iowa Sheep Industry Association and you will be entered in a drawing which will take place at the Lamb Lovers' Feast during the Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival on June 13, 2009. Your name will be entered each time you sign up a new member. Entries will be listed as individuals, not families or businesses. For more information contact the Iowa Sheep Industry Association at 712-736-2109 or info@iowasheep.com.

ShortCLIPS by Dan Morrival

Thinking outside the flock



Synopsis of Dr. Morrival's presentation at the NW Iowa Sheep meeting January 31, 2009

Why do we need to think about changing? First, I would say it is the changing economy and how much demand there will be for retail lamb. Second is to realize that most of us are not getting younger and we may need to figure out ways of doing things easier. Lastly most of us do not have sheep as our primary income source and therefore they may not get all the management attention they deserve.

The bright spot for lamb demand in the United States is that many immigrants are from lamb consuming countries. They do prefer a small carcass which allows for a different set of genetics which may be more efficient to run. There is no doubt that output per ewe is the key to long term financial success in the commercial sheep industry for farm flock operations. I think western operations will need to increase output of lamb per ewe as well combat higher energy costs in their production schemes. Romanov crossbred ewes are the fastest way to increase output. How much production one wants dictates the level of Romanov genetics to include. For most shepherds a half Romanov with a 250% drop rate is too productive. One could run fewer ewes with more space and hope the majority of females could raise triplets unassisted. Since we are targeting a small final weight on our lambs, terminal sires with higher livability such as Texel or Dorper could be used. There is no data on South Down or Ile de France rams for lamb livability but those would also sire moderate sized lambs. This genetic base does dictate that one has developed a niche market for the immigrant/ethnic consumer group. If one does not have people skills to sell product then this

option is not viable. One must also realize that direct marketing is hard work and takes a lot of time that will no longer be spent with the sheep.

Most of us lamb our flocks in the winter and my question is why? Besides tradition and labor balance for our lives the market prices really no longer justify winter lambing. Lambing later in sheds or on grass both reduce labor and allow one to run more ewes. Additionally, this allows ewes to harvest more of their diet as standing forage which is cheaper than carrying feed to the ewes. Lamb production per acre could easily be 500 pounds and might well push 1000 pounds with high output females and well managed grass. Five hundred dollar gross income per acre is very competitive with corn production especially since costs per acre for grass are probably half the input costs for corn. The negatives of this system are parasites, predators and weather. The positives are more production and less cost.

The size of the sheep industry is probably the biggest reason to think outside the flock. Iowa sheep numbers are below 150,000 and national numbers are hovering around three million ewes. It appears to me that almost half the lamb supply is in some form of production contract. This places those of us without a contract at a significant risk. For example, if they do not need my lambs for weekly quota for three weeks or three months where can I sell? You of course can always sell but at what price. Production contracts need to be developed with one of the major packers. Giving up one's independence to insure a competitive price for your lambs is a good trade that many sheep operations will need to face in the next five to 10 years.

Other areas that we need to face in our future are that we need better sheep. By better I mean less work, healthier sheep that produce more

pounds of lamb and more desirable carcasses. Last month, in my ShortClips article in the Lamb & Wool newsletter, I discussed research highlights with the results of Notter et al on NSIP versus non NSIP terminal sires. The NSIP genetic evaluation technology works and it does identify superior sheep. Other data demonstrated that carcasses with larger ribeyes had higher dressing percentages. The increase was .5% for every .1 square inch larger at a constant carcass weight. This is very important for those operations selling on the grid. Ultrasound and epd's for carcass traits are very important for improved lean output in the sheep industry.

Feed costs have been way up and now are just up. Increasing pasture management to increase ewe grazing days per acre is a critical step to improved profitability. Ways of growing more forage include rotational grazing, fertilization and improved forage species. My suggestion is to plant temporary fence first to allow rotating paddocks, then follow up with soil tests and adding needed fertility. Frost seeding legumes would be the next step to increasing the pasture production. Grazing crop residues is another step to controlling feed costs and extending the grazing season. Hay feeding costs around \$15 for two months of early mid gestation. One could easily pay \$25 to \$50 per acre to rent stalks for grazing and be money ahead compared to feeding \$100 per ton hay. For very early lambing flocks the grazing may occur in March instead of December. Tub grinding one's roughage source to minimize waste and control quantity offered is another step that serious large scale operations must face. Recently at the Pipestone Lambing School, a producer host indicated that

SHORTCLIPS Continued on page 4

COMMERCIAL BREEDING STOCK FOR SALE

Ram Lambs - Ile de France X Romanov. \$500 each, \$450 each for a pair. A few Ile de France X White Dorper ram lambs also. Digital photos available. Certified scrapie free flock. S Mitcham, Crane Creek, 3061 160th Street, Sumner, IA 50674; 563-578-5665, sam@netins.net; www.showcase/sam/ccidf.com (1/09)

Rams - White Dorper and Dorper, shedding coats, easy care. Also more woolly rams with very good muscling. \$400 and up. Certified scrapie free flock. S Mitcham, Crane Creek, 3061 160th Street, Sumner, IA 50674; 563-

578-5665, sam@netins.net; www.showcase/sam/ccidf.com (1/09)

Free listing for ISIA members. Ads must be limited to 50 words and will run in four issues (date in parenthesis indicates first issue). Ads may be re-submitted for an additional four months at a time. Send ad information along with name, address, phone and email to the ISIA office at 5771 230th St., Sibley, IA 51249, or info@iowasheep.com by the 25th of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Newsletter is published 11 times/year with a July/August issue.

ISIA Board Meeting

The Iowa Sheep Industry Association Board met via conference call on February 9, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Ben Johnson. Board members present: Leland Shipley, Larry Daniels, Chris Osborn, Dan Morrical, Gary Erickson, Ben Johnson, Erlene Leonard, Jim Timmins, Steve Bernhard and executive director Marsha Spykerman.



Motion Made, Seconded and Approved (MMSA) to approve the minutes of the December meeting.

Erlene gave the treasurer's report and a 2008 Income and Expenses report was reviewed by the Board. MMSA to acknowledge the treasurer's reports.

Director's Report by Marsha - Marsha attended the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council at ISU Vet College; gave a slide presentation on New Zealand trip at the Northwest Iowa Sheep Producers Annual meeting; participated in the ISWPB conference call; attended the ISU Extension Sheep Education meeting in Sanborn; attended the ASI Annual meeting and while there attended numerous seminars and presented at the American Lamb Board meeting.

Dan's ISU Report - Dan reported taking his Advanced Sheep Production class to tour Iowa Lamb Processing and then toured Rule's new hoop barn lambing operation near Chatsworth, south of Hawarden. That evening and the next day the class attended the Pipestone Lambing Time Workshop. Seventeen students are enrolled in the class with four or five planning to stay in sheep after graduation. The Lambing Barn Workshops in NE Iowa had an attendance of 10 for the first meeting and 25 at the second one. Dan presented at the educational meeting in Sanborn and stressed that is isn't business as usual and we need to be ready to change with the times. Dan also attended the ASI Annual meeting and said it was a good meeting. He had people tell him that Iowa's executive director was a real sparkplug, knew what she was talking about and was well respected by her peers.

MMSA to nominate Erlene Leonard for the 2008 Industry Service Award. MMSA to purchase Iowa State Fair bricks for Dan Morrical (2007 Industry Service Award), Ben Johnson (outgoing ISIA President) and Erlene Leonard (2008 Industry Service Award).

MMSA to award up to two registration scholarships to ISIA members accepted for the 2009 Howard Wyman Leadership School in Greeley, Colorado.

MMSA to nominate Dr. Dan Morrical to ASI's Production Education and Research Council and to nominate Marsha Spykerman to ASI's Lamb Council.

Update on festival plans was given.

The next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting at Dublin Bay, Ames, Iowa at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary M. Erickson, Secretary

Leadership School

The Iowa Sheep Industry Association will award up to two registration scholarships for ISIA members who are accepted to the Howard Wyman Leadership School. If more than two members are accepted a drawing will be held.

Apply Now for 2009 Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School in Colorado. The annual Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, sponsored by the National Lamb Feeders Association will be held in Greeley, CO, June 28 to July 1, 2009. Applications for the 2009 school must be submitted by May 1, 2009.

The 2009 Leadership School program will be under the direction of Ron Cole, formerly with USDA's Livestock and Grain Market News and now an industry consultant. "The 2009 program will focus on the sheep feeding industry in Colorado, which is the most concentrated lamb feeding area in the United States," said Cole. "Tour sites will include several lamb feedlot management systems, slaughter and processing facilities, an ethanol production plant with corn by-products utilized in the sheep industry, plus the Colorado State University livestock facilities."

The Leadership School program would benefit anyone involved with a sheep-related business, whether as a producer, feeder, or a processor of sheep products. The primary objective is to give participants an in-depth look at how the industry functions and a better understanding of what kind of opportunities exist for improving their own operation and moving it forward into the future.

Interested sheep men and women with any level of experience may apply by completing a brief application and submitting a short essay explaining their background in the sheep industry and what they would like to learn. The selection committee will review the essays and select a class of 25 participants, ages 20 or older to attend. Special attention is given to those individuals with long-range plans for remaining in the sheep industry.

Applications must be received by May 1, 2009 and no fee is required until after the applicant is selected. Applicants will be notified by mid-May and asked to submit a \$200 registration fee to secure their placement. NLFA covers the other program costs, including food, lodging and tour-related expenses. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from Greeley, Colorado.

To request an application, contact the NLFA office (503) 364-5462 or info@nlfa-sheep.org or visit the web site: www.nlfa-sheep.org.

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Dip navels to prevent infections

DAVID BARZ, D.V.M., North-west Vet Supply, Parkston, SD

One important procedure that needs to be performed shortly after birth is treatment of the navel (umbilicus).

The umbilical stalk is formed by the umbilical arteries, veins and the urachus. These pipelines allow for the circulation of blood into the fetus and the removal of waste products.

Normally these structures tear at birth and begin to regress leaving a hole in the abdominal wall where they emerged. Normally after several days the skin grows over the area and the portal in the abdominal wall becomes smaller until it closes. After several weeks of normal regression, the area will disappear.

We have seen a real increase in navel infections in our area as a result of increased concentration and confinement at calving and the elimination of adequate bedding in the calving area.

Mother Nature presumed calves would be born on green grass pasture without the navel touching contaminated bedding or soil. When the fresh wet navel contacts soil or manure, the contaminants stick to it and are allowed to enter the internal abdomen, much as a wick functions. The pathogen in the navel stump has access to the liver, kidneys and other internal organs, which can cause very acute, severe illness.

The best ways to limit problems with navels is to dip them. We suggest producers use seven percent tincture of iodine. This chemical solution is very harsh and it causes my hands to dry

out and crack. That is exactly what we want on the navel stump. Not only does the iodine disinfect the area, it causes the moist tissues to dry and shrink rapidly.

Tamed iodine, teat dips and other disinfectants aren't as successful because they don't stimulate the drying effects. It is best to dip the entire exposed navel into a cup of the solution, but, if you use a spray bottle, make sure you entirely soak the stump.

In problem herds, we have clamped the stump to avoid ascending pathogens. A plastic navel clip is placed as soon after birth as possible. The longer producers wait, the less effective this technique will be. Other producers may place a small elastator band in the hair above the navel stump. We usually recommend tetanus be given when using this procedure.

When the calf is several days old, producers may see an unthrifty fevered baby. Many times you will see a wet navel stump and even bedding sticking to the calf's belly. Catching the calf will reveal a moist even smelly navel stump. The cord will be swollen and hard to the touch. These calves require antibiotic treatment.

Older veterinarians (like me) were trained to inject antibiotics directly into the navel stump. Thorough massage spreads this antibiotic through the infected area. New long-lasting injectable antibiotics are being used and can be given to achieve a 7-10 day treatment. In rare instances, the urachus remains open allowing urine to continually drip from the navel (patent urachus). This can usually be eliminat-



Prevent navel infections is by dipping with seven percent tincture of iodine.

ed by cauterizing the tract with silver nitrate stick (styptic pencil).

The above article was written for calves but the same information applies to newborn lambs, especially those born in barns on a manure pack. Producers looking for ways to cut corners should realize that the cost of strong iodine is actually low-cost protection for the life of these lambs. Reprinted with permission from the February 27, 2009 issue of the Tri-State Neighbor.

Sheep Industry — not just business as usual

SHORTCLIPS Continued from page 2

hay processing this winter had cut his feed costs by 40% since the ewes were no longer over eating or sorting. The ewes did not appear to be shorted from their body condition scores. For those of us without a TMR wagon to deliver feed to the sheep maybe we should set up feeding stations so the sheep can walk to the feed. This system has the issue of snow removal but so do fence line bunks. Self feeding ewes with processed roughages is another way to attack the labor issue and make use of

lower quality feed stuffs.

Agritourism is another untapped resource that may be available to some producers. Generally this business is charging people to come to the farm. This works best close to large population centers. Once again if you are not a people person this enterprise is probably not for you. It does offer the opportunity to direct market lamb and wool. Another twist would be to capitalize on the sheep manure and sell compost. It was mentioned at the meeting that some producers have

compost days every spring for the local gardeners to get their "natural" fertilizer. If on a large scale, one could market to local contractors composted manure as a soil amendment for construction site re-vegetation.

We raise sheep for many different reasons. The higher profit is on your list, the more important it will be to think outside the flock for your operation. My power point slides for this presentation are in a pdf format on my web page. <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/faculty/index.php?id=morrical>

Watch for more New Zealand Tour information in the next issue of Lamb & Wool



ABOVE: On the floor of The Wool Company. This picture shows half of the wool samples that are on display in preparation for the upcoming auction.

ABOVE RIGHT: Ewes and lambs graze one of the blocks at Ashley Dene. Fencing is not as "stout" as needed in Iowa because there is never a snow load.

RIGHT: This intricate machine handles bales of wool and allows the technician to remove representative samples for display and in the next step core the bale for wool to be tested.



New Zealand Sheep Tour (3)

WRITTEN BY: MARSHA SPYKERMAN

The Pack 'n Pay grocery store was an interesting stop during our NZ trip in November. In the states, if you're lucky, you might find a six inch shelf space for lamb so we were impressed with what seemed to be six feet of lamb taking up space in the meat counter. Shoppers were eagerly picking up lamb and we were almost in the way just trying to check it out. I did note that lamb chops cost NZ \$15.95 per kilo or NZ \$7.25 per pound. Another highlight was the beautiful array of fresh (the carrots had tops on them) vegetables and fruit of every kind. We did find pears and peanuts that were products of the USA. New Zealand and Australia are also known for their wine and many varieties could be purchased at the Pack 'n Pay.

On the fifth day we stopped at the South Island Wool Company, Christchurch, which is the largest auction platform in New Zealand. They are associated with PGG Wrightson, Ice Breaker and sell wool for the Smart Wool brand.

Wool comes in to the auction facility via rail from the farms. If the farmer is large enough he has his own lines and smaller lots are pooled so they receive the auction price. Shearers do not get involved in wool buying but a very few may take wool in return for payment. The wool is packed in large square, plastic wrapped, bales that weigh about 300 pounds. We saw these balers at nearly every location we toured.

Testing is done for color, vegetable matter, grease, air flow, micron size and yield by a variety of sophisticated machines. Test results are compiled on sheets of paper and

correspond to boxes with wool samples on the floor. Once the auction starts, things move quickly with over 250 lots selling per hour. A 14 cent per kilogram marketing fee and a testing fee are taken off before paying the farmer. In the past, sheep farmers received 50 to 60 percent of their income from wool but with the depressed wool market only 10 percent income now comes from wool. Seventy percent of the wool handled by The Wool Company is from crossbred sheep and only 15 percent from purebred Merinos. Suffolk sheep are becoming more popular and some farmers who are tired of shearing are running Dorpers.

Rob Cochrane, manager of the South Island Wool Company, feels that advertising and connecting the consumer to the farmer is one way out of the depressed wool market. He shared some of the ways Ice Breaker is doing this and encouraged us to visit their website at www.icebreaker.com where a consumer can input the "Bacode" from their new Ice Breaker garment and then "visit" the farm where the wool was produced that made the garment.

Our next visit was to Lincoln University, near Christchurch, where we met with Dr. Chris Logan who told us about the sheep program at the university and gave us a tour of Ashley Dene. Ashley Dene is comprised of 877 acres of land that was purchased in 1909 by Lincoln College for use in student teaching, research and as a source of income for Lincoln. Currently, the primary focus is for internally, externally and commercially funded research. We found it remarkable to have such a large piece of land devoted exclusively to sheep research

with a directive of remaining profitable.

Their sheep population is composed of Coopworth, Dorset Down, Romney, Merino and Hampshire crosses totaling over 3,000 head. The land is about one-third Lucerne (alfalfa), 40 percent permanent pasture, 20 percent winter feed and the remainder in summer crop. They have an average rainfall of 25 inches and use irrigation on some blocks. Logan described an unusual flooding that takes place on a small block of Ashley Dene where an underground river runs from the mountains to the ocean. At times of heavy snow melt in the mountains, when high ocean tide blocks the river from flowing into the ocean, the water table rises and floods this block of land with about one foot of water. It seeps away when the tide goes out but the sheep need to be removed from the block during the flooding and they don't have any warning.

A list of 18 current and recent research projects was shared that included: using molecular markers to improve sheep carcass weights; sustainable control of foot rot; cataract research; effect of climate and nutrition on the breakdown of natural immunity in the ewe; alfalfa and clover systems for sheep under dry land conditions; identification of better performing sires which are able to produce higher value carcasses; Battens disease research; development of vaccine for protection against the internal parasite *Haemonchus contortus* in sheep; and development of a vaccine for protection against toxoplasmosis. It is quite an impressive list of important issues for sheep farming.



Roast Leg of Lamb

For 8 people

- 4 to 5-pound bone-in leg of lamb
- 3 cloves garlic, sliced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- kosher salt & freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 3/4 cup water

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place a wire rack in a shallow roasting pan. Make short, deep slits all over lamb with a sharp knife and fill with garlic slices. Rub the lamb with oil and sprinkle with oregano, thyme, salt and pepper. Transfer to the prepared pan. Roast the lamb for 1 hour. Add water to pan and roast until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center registers 135°F for medium-rare, 15 to 20 minutes more. Transfer the lamb to a serving platter, tent with foil and let rest for 15 minutes before carving. Meanwhile, skim off any fat from pan juices and pour juices into a small saucepan. Reheat gently over low heat. Carve the lamb into thin slices and serve with pan juices.

NOTE: Easter is only a few weeks away and many families will find a wonderful Leg of Lamb showcasing their dining room tables. This recipe, from the American Lamb Board, is for a basic Roast Leg of Lamb. Many variations may be found at www.AmericanLamb.com. As lamb producers, we should all be enjoying lamb not only at Easter but throughout the year on a weekly basis, if not more often!



Northwest Iowa Sheep Producers Annual Meeting

Approximately 70 people attended the Northwest Iowa Sheep Producers' Annual meeting in Sanborn, Iowa on January 5, 2009. The meeting was postponed due to ice and attendance was down somewhat from previous years.

During the business meeting Julie Hofland, chair of the wool products booth, reported increased sales at the Clay County Fair. The NWISP group moved the booth out of the Ag Building and into one of the Varied Industries Building and found a whole new crowd. For many fairgoers this was the first time they had seen the wool products at the fair-proof that it works to "shake things up" every now and then.

After an excellent leg of lamb meal and a short business meeting, Marsha Spykerman shared pictures and stories on the fall sheep tour taken to New Zealand.

New members in the NWISP are always welcomed. Dues remain at \$10 per year and members receive discounts at educational meetings sponsored by NWISP throughout the year. For more information contact President, Tim Lohafer at 712-947-4655 or MLohafer@aol.com.

Calendar of Events

- **March 15** - Deadline for submitting funding requests to the Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board to be reviewed at their April 16, 2009 meeting. For more information contact: Jean Van Houweling, Executive Secretary, PO Box 35633, Des Moines, IA 50315. Email j.vanhouweling@mchsi.com
- **March 14** - 6:30 p.m. - Greene County Annual meeting and Banquet will be held at Clover Hall, Greene County Fairgrounds, Jefferson, IA. For more information contact Steve Karber, 515-386-8216 or Randy Hedges, 515-386-4740.
- **March 31** - 6:30 p.m. - Madison County Annual Meeting and Lamb Banquet, Madison County

Fairgrounds, Winterset, Iowa. \$5.00 at the door pays membership and meal.

- **April 16** - 7 p.m. - Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board conference call meeting.

- **May 2** - Kimm Suffolks Annual Production Sale at home farm. See Kimm Suffolks ad on back page of newsletter. Bob Kimm, 1636 W Ave, Dysart, IA 52224, 319-476-3875, bbkimm@fctc.coop.

- **June 13** - Iowa Sheep Industry Association Annual meeting, Adel, Iowa in conjunction with the 4th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival.

- **June 13-14** - 5th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival, Dallas County Fairgrounds, Adel, Iowa. Check

at www.iowasheep.com for details and schedules as they become available.

- **June 28-July 1** - Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, Greeley, Colorado. Applications are due May 1, 2009. To request an application or for more information contact the National Lamb Feeders Association office (503) 364-5462 or info@nifa-sheep.org or visit the NLFA website at www.nlfa-sheep.org.

Do you have an event that you would like to place in the Lamb & Wool newsletter? Please send information by the 15th of the month preceding publication date of newsletter. Submit via email at info@iowasheep.com or phone 712-736-2109.

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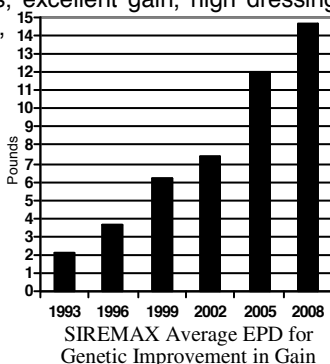
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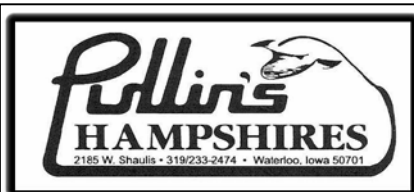
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