

LAMB & WOOL

A Newsletter for the Iowa Sheep Industry / November 2011

ASI Hosts Media Event in Iowa

By Micky Burch, ISIA Executive Director

The American Sheep Industry (ASI) is going great distances to reach out to producers - old and new alike. Starting in early October and going through the rest of the year, they're visiting multiple states reporting on the state of the industry, introducing the "Let's Grow with twoPLUS" initiative to encourage responsible flock expansion, discussing traditional and non-traditional markets, and inviting producers in each respective state to share their views of the industry and how they are working to expand their flock or start in the sheep business.

On Oct. 10, ASI invited media from around the state to west central Iowa. Representatives from WHO Radio, Delta Press, Brownfield Network, Wallaces Farmer, Des Moines Register, KICD, KDSN, Living the Country Life/Successful Farming, Iowa Farmer Today, Farm News, Farm Bureau Spokesman, Agribusiness Report, KWMT, KCIM and KOEL were on hand to cover the afternoon event.

State of the Industry

Peter Orwick, ASI CEO, started the event by briefing the audience on the state of the industry. Currently, Iowa ranks fifth in the nation in terms of number of sheep operations. All 50 states produce sheep; the national flock has 5.53 million head. Interestingly, the club lamb sector of the sheep industry - a prominent one in Iowa - makes up 400,000 head of the national flock. "We



Brothers Kyle (left) and Mark Hoogendoorn of Rock Rapids are both Iowa State Fair Shearing Contest Winners and come from a sheep production background.

LET'S GROW
with twoPLUS

need those lambs, too," Orwick says. He commented that many folks get their start in the sheep business because they took a 4-H or FFA sheep project. Historically, the national leader in sheep numbers is Texas, but with drought conditions, numbers in the south are expected to be less than half by the end of the year. The good news, Orwick says, is that most of the sheep being sold out of Texas are going back to farms and ranches where they'll continue in breeding programs. Lamb consumption is still seen most on the coasts, but is increasing in popularity in large metropolitan areas. The largest consumer of American wool is the U.S. Military. A product sometimes forgotten, U.S. pelts are the largest in the world averaging 8.5 sq. ft. Here at home, pelts are primarily used for footwear. "Thank good-

ness for teenage girl's fashion," Orwick commented. Sheep milk, produced mostly in Wisconsin, is primarily made into cheese.

In regards to the initiative to increase national flock numbers, Orwick explained it was the packers who went to the producers about a plan to increase numbers. While there is a strong holiday-oriented supply of lamb, a year-round supply is needed because there is an upward trend in demand around Muslim holidays.

The biggest growth in the sheep industry, Orwick says, is in Kentucky and Tennessee on small tobacco farms. Sheep can be utilized to graze small pastures or run with cattle. "Adding sheep doesn't affect the cattle and increases animal unit numbers," Orwick explains.

Marketing Options

Orwick emphasized that non-traditional markets currently make up 30% of sheep sales. This includes farmers markets, small processing, direct farm sales and ethnic sales.

See ASI on page 3

“Thank goodness for teenage girl's fashion.”
Peter Orwick ASI CEO

Timely TIPS

By Dr. Dan Morrical

National Symposium Headed to NW Iowa

Mark your 2012 calendars for July 27-28 in Spencer. A national research symposium entitled "Improving the Production Efficiency of Our Flocks" will be held in conjunction with the NCERA 190 Research Committee on Improving the Production Efficiency of Sheep. The symposium will highlight research results that you can implement today to increase the production of your flock. Additionally, this program is tied in with the American Sheep Industry's "Let's Grow with twoPLUS" initiative. Lastly, the National Sheep Improvement Program-Center of the Nation Sale will be held the same weekend at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Watch for more details in future issues.

Ration Balancing Software to be Released

The Iowa State University (ISU) Brands Sheep Ration Software will be introduced to producers at a workshop on Dec. 1 at the Sioux County Extension Office in Orange City. Software developers Dr. Garland Dalhke and Dr. Dan Morrical will provide hands-on experience for producers who want to fine-tune their sheep rations. With today's high feed costs, tweaking rations to insure they meet animal requirements at the lowest cost is critical to profitable sheep production. Contact Beth Doran, NW Iowa Livestock Specialist, for more details or to register. Doran's number at the Sioux County Extension office is (712) 737-4230. This program is partially sponsored by the Iowa Sheep & Wool Promotion Board.

Dealing with Volatility

I spent some time last week attending a portion of Swine Specialist Professional Development. It's part of the many hats I wear at ISU. One of the presentations was by Dr. Chad Hart on the corn and soybean market. Dr. Hart does a great job with his presentations and includes lots of charts and what not. Part of my other hat is overseeing the Animal Science Department Livestock units;

feed cost control is very critical to our success. The question for us is, "Should we be buying corn?" When corn was \$5.50 cash three weeks ago, we definitely should have. Unfortunately, the University system is not built to pull the trigger very fast. Dr. Hart's comments were that the corn market is currently under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) forecast average price for the marketing year. I have encouraged all of the farm managers to buy corn ahead to prevent higher feed costs.

Soybean hulls have been discussed in this column many times over the last few years. They are great feed and very safe from a digestive disturbance issue. However, currently they are very high priced (\$230 to \$300/ton) due to the soy processors being slow to begin the new crop rush. Additionally, lots of soy hulls are going to southern drought states. Hopefully, the price will level off soon.

The real question from a sheep operation perspective is, "What do I do now if soy hulls are not cost competitive?" You can change rations, but one needs to remember rumen microbes aren't ready for high starch diets. Planning is the best way to prevent this problem. If one is going to switch to a high starch ration, it'll take two weeks. Gradually switching over to a corn-based ration, rather than byproduct feed, means one needs to make feed change decisions early - not the day before the soy hull diet is gone. This also works when and if the pellet mill is broke down and the feed mill can't make your soy hull complete feed. The other option is to feed a lot of hay and only a little grain for the first day or two, then gradually switch over to corn-based. Lambs on 80% soy hull diets are just like western feeders in terms of handling starch. The big difference is they are bunk-broke. If lambs have been fed on self feeders, it's even harder to make the switch.

Producers need to assess how much risk they can take. Locking in feed costs is one means of reducing volatility. Another method is to use revenue insurance to protect against a falling lamb market. USDA lamb market cutout values have been very stable for the last four to five months. Just recently has the cutout value dropped. With the uncertainty of the economy, it's very hard to predict markets. Covering some of those risks with the afore mentioned actions maybe something all sheep producers should consider.

Burch Banter

By Micky Burch, ISIA Executive Director

Saying I'm learning something new every day is an enormous understatement. October has brought the most challenges, along with some tremendous rewards.

The month started with an Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC) meeting. ILHAC funds research projects that address the health and well being of livestock in Iowa. In 2010-2011, an infection model for *Campylobacter jejuni* clone associated with sheep abortions was funded. Future research priorities for sheep and goats include abortions (pregnancy wastage, neonatal death, failure to dilate), barn cough (pneumonia, *Mycoplasma*) and Caseous lymphadenitis.

Shortly after that, ISIA members hosted the American Sheep Industry (ASI) at a media event promoting the "Let's Grow with twoPLUS" sheep expansion initiative. The event was held at my home and, in my humble opinion, was a great success due to the quality of producers who participated. We've seen multiple stories come from the event, including print, online, radio and television. See the cover story of this issue for more details.

I sat in on an Iowa Sheep & Wool Promotion Board (ISWPB) conference call on Oct. 20 and updated them on the work that's been done to increase the live sheep assessment in Iowa. I've become very familiar with Iowa Code 182: ISWPB, Chapter 4: Assessment on Sheep and Wool Sales. With aid from some folks more experienced than me on legislative issues, we drafted a letter and sent it to all Senate and House members of the Ag Committee. We welcome any ISIA member interested in making a visit to their state Senator or Representative in support of the Checkoff increase. Please contact me in advance of your visit; I've made a list of talking points on the issue so we deliver a unified message. Any member with questions is welcome to contact me at info@iowasheep.com or (712) 790-6303 or ISIA President Leland Shipley at shipley2@netins.net or (712) 370-2748. More information about this topic is included in this issue on page 6.

On a week-to-week basis, details for the 8th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival are being worked on by ISIA Board Members Marige Meehan (fiber events), Gary Erickson (Cook Off) and myself. Mark your calendars for June 9-10, 2012 for another fabulous Festival. Funding has been secured through the ASI Wool Outreach Program for the Festival and wool activities at the Iowa State Fair. A membership drive is in the works, preparations for the ASI Annual Convention are being made, newsletter items are always on the to-do list and updated Sheep Activity Books have been ordered. Hopefully everyone saw the September 2011 Farm Bureau Spokesman Livestock Supplement and the wonderful story about former ISIA President Steve Bernhard and his wife, Dawn.

In the coming weeks, I hope everyone enjoys bred ewe sales and the Iowa Make It With Wool event on Nov. 12 in Ames. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and encourage you to make leg of lamb as your main dish this holiday. Having had it myself, I can attest that the recipe provided in this month's newsletter by Sharon Erickson is beyond expectation. As always, I would love to hear from you; please contact me at info@iowasheep.com or (712) 790-6303 with questions, comments or story ideas for the newsletter.



Dr. Dan Morrival (right) gives an interview to a member of the media at the ASI Media Event held Oct. 10 in Coon Rapids.

ASI

Continued from page 1
On the retail side, Kroger's is currently the largest American lamb retailer in the country selling 60% home-grown product. They have even started an in-store American lamb branded campaign. Another large lamb retailer, Super Wal-Mart made the commitment this year to sell exclusively American lamb for the next two years.

Different from the lamb market, Orwick says the wool market is driven by world supply. Here in the U.S., we're lucky to have a new process that allows wool to be washed and dried with-

out shrinking. We've also been able to keep a large share of the sock market in the U.S.

twoPLUS

Taking a two-prong approach targeted at existing and new producers, "Let's Grow with twoPLUS" encourages sheep producers to 1) increase the size of their operation by two ewes per flock or by two ewes per 100 head by 2014, 2) increase the average birthrate per ewe to two lambs per year and 3) increase the harvested lamb crop by 2% - taking it from 108% to 110%.

According to Orwick, reaching Goal 1 would add 175,000 ewes to the national flock;

produce 254,000 additional lambs; and create 2 million more pounds of wool. Goal 2 would improve the percent of lambs marketed and Goal 3 would add at least 67,500 head of sheep to be harvested.

Management also plays a role in accomplishing these goals. Pre-breeding practices like flushing, teasing, cross-breeding and vaccinating can increase conception rates. Pre-lambing, Orwick encourages producers to reevaluate their vaccination programs, visit their ever-faithful Sheep Production Handbook and have a plan in mind for

See ASI2 on page 5

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Any Questions?

Feel free to contact

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Calendar of EVENTS

Nov. 11-13 16th Annual Great Lakes Dairy Sheep Symposium, Eau Claire, Wis. Program includes presentations, a bus tour of a sheep dairy farm, a cheese operation and the Spooner Ag Research Station – the only dairy sheep research farm in North America. Final program and registration forms are at www.dsana.org. For more information, contact Claire Mikolayunas at (608) 332-2889 or mikolayunas@wisc.edu.

Nov. 12 Iowa Make It With Wool Contest, Holiday Inn Express, Ames. For more information, contact Katie Olson at (712) 461-0007.

Dec. 1 Sioux County Extension Sheep Workshop & Meeting, Orange City. An afternoon workshop from 2-5 p.m. will offer hands-on experience through a mobile computer lab about a new ration software program that enables sheep producers to formulate rations for various kinds of sheep and different stages of production. An evening session from 7-9:30 p.m. will focus on formulating economical rations and new developments in protein nutrition.

Dec. 6 ISIA Board Meeting Conference Call

Jan. 19 Iowa Sheep & Wool Promotion Board Conference Call

Jan. 25-28 American Sheep Industry Annual Convention, Scottsdale, Ariz.

June 9-10 8th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival, Dallas County Fairgrounds, Adel

July 6-8 All American Jr. Show, Des Moines

July 27-28 National Sheep Improvement Program-Center of the Nation Symposium & Sale, Spencer

Aug. 9-19 Iowa State Fair, Des Moines

Do you have an event you would like to place in the Lamb & Wool Newsletter? Please send your information by the 20th of the month preceding the publication date of the Newsletter. You may submit your events at info@iowasheep.com or call (712) 790-6303.

Festival Book DEADLINE Approaching

Make plans now to attend the 8th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival, June 9-10, 2012 at the Dallas County Fairgrounds in Adel. Though it may seem early, preparations are underway and hopes are high this will be the best Festival yet.

Currently, plans for the Festival Book are being made. Because it needs to be printed early in the year for distribution, the advertising deadline is Jan. 31, 2012. Please contact Micky Burch at (712) 790-6303 or info@iowasheep.com if you are interested in buying ad space in the Book or becoming a Festival Sponsor.

ISIA Board Member Margie Meehan has been diligently working on the fiber end of the Festival. While all vendor spaces inside are currently spoken for, please contact Meehan at (563) 920-7704 or tipperaryfiberstudio@gmail.com to be put on a waiting list or to visit about setting up as a vendor outdoors.

Multiple blocks of rooms have been booked at nearby hotels for Festival goers. For more information about making hotel reservations, go to www.iowasheep.com > Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival > Lodging at Festival.

Finally, anyone interested in volunteering during the Festival would be welcomed with open arms. We are looking for folks to work in the food stand, organize the Hall of Breeds, help Gary Erickson with the Cook Off and work the gate. Thank you in advance for your participation in the 2012 Festival...we couldn't do it without you!



Stock for Sale

For Sale (8/11): Yearling and ram lambs, mostly Ile de France and Dorset breeding. All rams are high-indexing animals with scan figures available; start at \$500. Doug Wirth, Ames, (515) 979-3938; wirthdoug@yahoo.com.

For Sale (8/11): Taking orders for ewe lambs. We have SAMM and Ile de France cross ewes raised on grass. Delivery available. Doug Wirth, Ames, (515) 979-3938; wirthdoug@yahoo.com.

For Sale (8/11): Dorset/Romanov ewe lambs, mostly born in March, mostly 1/8 to 3/8 Romanov, high production flock. Tom Metzger, Larchwood, (712) 477-2613 or (712) 470-3829 (cell). Leave message or e-mail tdmetzger@mewlan.com.

For Sale (8/11): Suffolk ram lambs and one yearling ram. Detailed records and pictures available. Kim Meerdink, Hawarden. Call (712) 552-1802 or e-mail kdmeerdink@netllcwb.net.

For Sale (8/11): Suffolk RR ram lambs. Doug Nielsen, Rock Valley. Call (712) 476-5238 (home) or (712) 470-2841 (cell).

For Sale (8/11): Reg. Suffolk ewe and ram lambs. Sired by Ruby Mountain. All rams RR, most ewes RR with possible QR. Big, well structured lambs with good mothering ability. Randy & Barb Stewart, Newton. (641) 792-2323 (home), (641) 521-7981 or e-mail rstewart@pcpartner.net.

For Sale (8/11): A good selection of 1/2 Finn, 1/2 Ile de France ram lambs. All triplets or greater. All carrying 60 and 120 weights. All footrot and OPP negative. All grown on roughage. Contact Mormon Trail Farms, Greenfield, at (641) 745-2323 (home), (641) 221-0551 (cell) or e-mail bredahl.mtfarms@gmail.com.

For Sale (9/11): Two Coopworth ram lambs born March 2011, one black, one white. \$300 each. Contact Ortrude Dial, Williams, at (515) 708-1911.

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 issues. Send ad information along with name, address, phone, mail and e-mail to the ISIA office at 28425 340th St., Coon Rapids, IA 50058, or e-mail info@iowasheep.com by the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter. The Lamb & Wool newsletter is published 11 times/year with a combined July/August issue.

All Purpose Basting Sauce/Marinade by Sharon Erickson, Humboldt

Ingredients:

½ cup oil
½ cup lemon juice
½ cup red wine vinegar
¼ cup soy sauce
2-3 garlic cloves: sliced, chopped or crushed
Seasonings of your choice

Directions: Combine lemon juice, red wine vinegar and soy sauce. Beat into oil. Add garlic and seasonings. Use now or refrigerate to use later.

As a basting sauce, pour over leg of lamb; roast or grill. Continue basting as it cooks.

As a marinade, soak 2-3 hours or overnight; roast or grill.

Note from Sharon: Sometimes I use less or no oil. I use salt and pepper for seasoning. I have also used Rosemary, onion seasoning mix and garlic seasoning mix – any seasoning your family prefers.



Photo Credit: finecooking.com

ASI2

Continued from page C3

labor to increase the percent of lambs born alive. He also stressed predator control through appropriate fencing and use of guard animals.

Continued education is recommended for all producers. Finding a mentor, taking online courses and utilizing publications were all brought up as ways to increase one's knowledge base.

Beginning Farmers

At a tender 24 years old, Mark Hoogendoorn of Rock Rapids has more experience in the sheep industry than some twice or three times his age. A recent graduate of Iowa State University (ISU), Mark is involved in the sheep industry on multiple levels. Currently, he shears about 20,000 head of sheep a year. With the help of his younger brother, Kyle, a sophomore at ISU and a recent winner of the Iowa State Fair Shearing Contest, Mark plans on lambing out 260 head of Polypay ewes next spring. Mark is one producer who has taken advantage of the drought in the south; he purchased 120 head of ewes from Texas this fall to expand his flock. He believes in using sound, productive bucks and relies heavily on information from the National Sheep Improvement Program. "Before I ever go look at a buck, I see what his numbers are on paper and look for the ones that are strong in the areas I need to improve," he says of buying new genetics. He culls on structure and feed efficiency. Starting at about six weeks of age, his lambs are grown on a ration of corn and protein to about 135 lb. Ideally, he likes to see them reach this weight by four months of age. While he bought and fed out 500 lambs this year, he feels it's more logical for him financially to stay in the ewe business. Either way, with their combined experience, the Brothers Hoogendoorn are likely to succeed in the sheep business.

Rural Lifestyle Producers

A faithful ISIA member and Board Secretary since the early 90s, Gary Erickson, Humboldt, grew up on a sheep farm that fed 10,000 lambs and lambed out 800 ewes. By the time Gary was working age and had his own family, including wife Sharon who grew up on a hog and cattle operation, the farm was expanding to three families and Gary could see it wouldn't be able to support everyone. He took the initiative to get an off-the-farm job and for 47+ years worked 60+ hours a week as an agricultural service technician.

Still, Gary and Sharon raised sheep. In 1955, they started with Hampshire's;



Amy Trinidad (far right), Sheep Industry News Editor, welcomes everyone to the ASI Media Event.

in 1989 they incorporated Columbia's. They've maintained anywhere between 75 and 125 head, lambing January-March. A unique twist on their flock, the sheep are purebred, but targeted for the commercial market. Always a supporter of food and fiber, Gary says he and Sharon each eat a lamb a piece per year and wear wool on a regular basis. This day, while he was sporting a t-shirt with sheep on it, Gary mentioned he wished he'd worn a wool shirt. Erlene and Terry Leonard of Colfax started in the sheep business at the request of their kids. "They wanted hogs, but Dad said 'No,' so we ended up with sheep," Erlene explains. A diversified operation described as "an old German farm," Erlene, ISIA Treasurer since 2004, has been in the purebred Dorset business for some 27 years. As part of their club lamb business, the Leonard's mentor area kids starting in sheep projects. The most rewarding part, she says, is watching the children gain an understanding of what it's like to take care of an animal.

Experienced Producers

Leland Shipley from Nodaway, current ISIA President and former two-term Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board member, runs 100 ewes - commercial, purebred Suffolk and a few club lambs. He has a lot of interest in his breeding stock...so much, he says, that "Demand for breeding stock has outpaced my supply." Leland and wife, Amy - a former National Shorthorn Lassie - finish their own lambs, putting emphasis on gain. But sheep have been a large part of Leland's life for almost 40 years. The youngest of four boys, Leland's father believed in diversification and raising kids with livestock. Today, he farms

row crops with one of his older brothers and also has about 70 cows. He uses his sheep to graze the smaller, more fragile pastures common to southwest Iowa and often times keep the sheep and cattle together in what he calls a "Ruminant Ranch." Like many true shepherds, Leland wears wool socks "everyday, year-round."

Veteran sheep producer, ASI Board Member from Region 4 and former ISIA Executive Director Marsha Spykerman, Sibley, concluded the producer talks to the group. She explained that neither she nor her husband, Vern, grew up on a farm. After working for a number of years in conservation, the Spykerman's had the opportunity to work for themselves through an uncle of Vern's. In 1989, they started with 50 ewes and ¼ section of row crops. Marsha specifically started with sheep by bottling a triplet baby lamb to health and has been involved not only on the farm, but industry-wide ever since. She's convinced the maternal touch of a woman is the best thing for baby lamb survival. Over the years, the Spykerman's have slowly expanded their flock to 450 head and converted their prime northwest Iowa farm ground to grass - half is used for hay, half for grazing - because they found it easier to buy corn than hay. They lamb about 100 ewes at the end of February-March and the rest April-May, creating a less labor intensive lambing season. Looking back over the years, Marsha commented she wished they had made the commitment to raising sheep sooner. Her commitment to the industry now, however, is unmatched and something new and experienced producers can learn from.

ISIA Requesting Checkoff Increase

By Micky Burch, ISIA Executive Director

ISIA is requesting an increased assessment on live sheep as part of Iowa Code 182 Iowa Sheep & Wool Promotion Board (ISWPB), Chapter 4 Assessment on Sheep & Wool Sales. Currently, the assessment is set at 10¢ per head. When the ISWPB was initially started, the assessment generated more than \$100,000 in annual proceeds for education, promotion and research. Due to reduced numbers of sheep marketed, the current revenue is less than \$50,000. However, in that same time frame, the price of market sheep has increased from 50¢ per lb. to more than \$1.50 per lb. With market prices increasing and production decreasing, we have contacted Iowa State Ag Committee Senators and Representatives and are requesting an

increase to up to 50¢ per head, starting July 1, 2012. **Initial plans are of a rate increase to just 25¢.** That amount would increase ISWPB yearly income approximately \$30,000 to \$80,000 and closer to the amount when the assessment first began.

The language “up to 50¢” is being evaluated as a long-range plan based on the downward trend of sheep production. To change assessment rates, legislative action must be taken. Having the flexibility to increase or decrease the assessment at the ISWPB’s discretion is the main reasoning for this language. Assessment changes won’t pass the ISWPB without producer input.

The ISWPB has improved its operational efficiency by conducting three of its four quarterly meetings via telephone conference call. Furthermore, they have changed their banking procedures to reduce monthly charges by more than \$100 per month. Even with these changes, there is more need for funds for increased education and promotion of the sheep industry in Iowa. Currently, Iowa sheep operations are experiencing very profitable levels. This has generated interest in additional growth that needs to be supported by increased promotion funds. Iowa producers are happy with the work the ISWPB carries out as indicated by the very small (less than 2%) request for refunds. ISIA utilizes resources from the

ISWPB to improve the competitiveness of Iowa producers. Partial funding of the annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival held in Adel is a prime example.

The sheep industry in Iowa is one of the strongest in the nation. In terms of overall sheep inventory - including breeding sheep and market lambs - and in terms of number of sheep producers, Iowa ranks in the Top 10 in both categories. With drought conditions in the south, those numbers are expected to increase. Currently, the American Sheep Industry Association has a “Lets Grow with twoPLUS” initiative to increase sheep production efficiency in the United States. Iowa is currently one of the top five states in the country in terms of output per ewe.

We feel market prices and the strength of the Iowa sheep industry compels the industry to increase the assessment to further the growth and competitiveness of the Iowa sheep industry. We strongly encourage you to support increasing the Iowa state live sheep assessment from 10¢ per head to up to 50¢ per head starting July 1, 2012 **with plans of a rate increase to just 25¢** in order for the sheep industry in Iowa to continue to grow and remain a leader in the nation.

Your thoughts on this issue are vital to the industry. Please contact ISIA President Leland Shipley or ISIA Executive Director Micky Burch with your comments or for more information.

Minutes of the Iowa Sheep & Wool Promotion Board (ISWPB)

Conference Call, Oct. 20, 2011

Present on the line was Mark Van Roekel, Dist. 1; Daniel Schmitt, Dist. 2; Mary Esther Pullin, Dist. 3; Mike Park, Dist. 4; Bob Kimm, Dist. 5; Rocky Anderson, Dist. 7; Justin Petersen; Dist. 8; David Arieux, Dist. 9. Dist. 6 was absent.

Also present were Dr. Dan Morriscal, Iowa State University; Micky Burch, Iowa Sheep Industry Association Executive Director; and Jeanne Van Houweling, ISWPB Executive Secretary.

Schmitt called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

A motion and second was made to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2011 meeting as mailed. Motion carried unanimously.

In the Treasurer’s Report, monies from the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) Center of the Nation Sale and Superior Farms/Iowa Lamb were discussed as well as terms of a

state audit in Iowa Code 182. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report; motion carried unanimously.

The State Audit was discussed. Schmitt asked Burch to look into Iowa Code 182 to see if there is any language in reference to the cost of a State Audit.

Burch gave an update of progress about increasing the state sheep assessment. Letters have been sent to all Senate and House Ag Committee members. Personal visits are being planned. Burch will send out Talking Points to ISIA and ISWPB Board Members so the issue is presented in a unified voice. She also gave an update of quarterly activities.

Dr. Morriscal informed the group of a National Symposium to be held alongside the NSIP Center of the Nation Sale. Events are planned for July 27-28, 2012 in Spencer.

The next meeting is a confer-



ence call scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

It was motioned and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Micky Burch
ISIA Executive Director

Funding Requests

#626 Midwest Katahdin Hair Sheep Association - \$125

Due to confusion with dates, a motion and second was made to approve the request for \$100. Motion carried unanimously.

#627 Sioux County Extension Sheep Workshop & Meeting - \$603

Motion and second to approve request. Motion carried unanimously.

#628 ISIA Children’s Sheep Activity Books - \$639.62

Motion and second to approve request. Motion carried unanimously.

Follow-Up Reports

#613 2011 State Center BBQ Championship

#615 2011 Iowa State Fair Ag Magic Show

#616 Annual Support IAAC - \$500

These funds were requested by previous ISIA Executive Director Robyn Amthauer. Upon contacting an IAAC representative, it was found the group isn’t currently active. ISIA returned the requested funds for \$500 to the ISWPB with thanks for their continued support.

#619 Jasper Co. Sheep Producers.

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