

LAMB & WOOL

A Newsletter For The Iowa Sheep Industry / October- 2011

Wolf Approaching Third Decade Raising Sheep

By Micky Burch, ISIA Executive Director

RRaising sheep is more than a job or “just something to do” for Dave Wolf of Scranton. For almost three decades, raising livestock and farming has been a way of life and a significant part of raising his family and teaching his kids the ways of the world.

Dave and his wife, Becky, have three married children: daughters Julie and Christie, and son David. Each of their children has a child of their own, giving Dave and Becky three grandkids and future sheep showmen. Becky, Julie and Christie are all three nurses; Davis is a mason. While all three kids are still involved with sheep operation to some extent, Dave has regular help provided by Pat Murphy.

The Wolf's have lived on their place since 1972. Currently, the operation consists of 200 club lamb ewes; 7,000 hogs; a cow-calf sector; corn; soybeans; and alfalfa. But Dave's experience with sheep extends beyond the showing. In the 80s, he fed out about 1,500 commercial sheep. It was in the 90s, when his kids were showing, that he switched extensively to club lambs.

One unique management practice Dave carries out is his feeding situation: he feeds 100% ground hay. “It cuts down on waste,” he explains. “We're feeding 40% less hay than we were before we started grinding three years ago.”

This fall, Dave has six different breeding groups targeted to lamb January-March. While studying one of his bucks, he commented “It isn't how they look, it's what they throw the next spring.”



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And in the spring, he'll have Dorset, speckle-face, Hamp, Suffolk and crossbred babies on the ground. Also, for the first time ever, he's trying

See **WOLF** on page 6



“ My favorite part of raising sheep is being with my family, working as a unit and learning to get along when things may not go the way we thought they should.”

Dave Wolf ON RAISING LIVESTOCK

September Meeting Minutes

ISIA Board Meeting at Dolliver State Park, Sept. 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Leland Shipley with Board members Shipley, Ben Johnson, Ted Greiner, Erlene Leonard, Dr. Dan Morrical, Gary Erickson and Executive Director Micky Burch present.

Dr. Morrical motioned to approve the agenda; Greiner seconded; all ayes. Erickson motioned to approved the minutes from the last meeting as they appeared in the September 2011 newsletter; Dr. Morrical seconded; all ayes.

In the Treasurers Report, Leonard said Iowa State Fair food stand income was up, but expenses were also up due to emergency repairs to the grill and the food stand. Meat prices were up considerably resulting in lower profit; she said next year would be a tighter year for the Association financially. Erickson motioned to acknowledge the Treasurers Report. Leonard motioned to pre-pay American Sheep Industry (ASI) dues to get an early-pay discount; Greiner seconded; all ayes.

The meeting adjourned for a very delicious pot luck dinner. Huge thanks goes out to Sharon Erickson for making and bar-be-queuing the kabobs and burgers.

In the Iowa State University Report, Dr. Morrical said they have 924 students enrolled in Animal Science. He took two legs and cooked them for the banquet at the Heartland Youth Show Lamb Circuit on Sept. 10. He is working on events for 2012, including a National Symposium to be held the last weekend in July in conjunction with the Center of the Nation-National Sheep Improvement Program Sale and a grazing school to be held Sept. 14-15 at Premier; experts from Missouri and Minnesota are scheduled to participate in the grazing school.

Executive Director Burch said she attended events at State Fair, including the Big Ram Contest, FFA Ultrasound Evaluation, Wool Show, Shearing Contest, Spin & Knit, took lamb to different WHO radio shows

and several other events. Burch has several ideas for next year's State Fair, including new displays and other ways to make the sheep industry more visible. There will be a "Let's Grow with Two Plus" media event at Burch's home on Oct. 10, 2011.

Shipley motioned to pay Jim Timmons camper fee for working at the Iowa State Fair; Dr. Morrical seconded; all ayes.

Burch said she is almost out of Activity Books and asked if she should order more. She will research the best price and quantities and submit a proposal to the Iowa Sheep & Wool Promotion Board (ISWPB).

Dr. Morrical motioned to cancel the 2011 Iowa Wool Gatherers' Retreat because of lack of registrations. He also motioned to request the deposit back from the Barn on the Bluff Bed & Breakfast. Erickson seconded; all ayes.

The Board discussed the 2012 Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival and suggested changes to think about.

Discussion for food stand management for 2012 was held. Dr. Morrical motioned to make an offer to Chuck & Carolyn Johnson to run the stand and do all ordering and staffing. Burch will work in the stand according to her schedule. Johnson seconded; all ayes.

Dr. Morrical motioned to make a proposal to the ISWPB for educational and promotional activities at the State Fair. Greiner seconded; all ayes.

Erickson motioned to send Dr. Morrical and Burch to the ASI Annual Meeting. Johnson seconded; all ayes. Erickson motioned to nominate Dr. Morrical for ASI's Camptender Award; Johnson seconded; all ayes.

There was discussion on Checkoff funding for promotion of the sheep industry. Burch will draft a letter, with assistance from Dr. Morrical, and contact the Agriculture Committee Chair, State Representatives and Senators with the proposal to increase the Checkoff from 10¢ to 25¢ per head.

Discussion was held on the possibility of having a lamb shank dinner at the Iowa State Fair with the wine people on Friday and Saturday nights of the Fair.

The next meeting of the ISIA is a conference call scheduled for Dec. 6, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Erickson motioned to adjourn; Shipley seconded and the meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary M. Erickson
ISIA Secretary

Burch Banter

By Micky Burch, ISIA Executive Director

After a little more than 60 days in my new position, the learning curve continues. Once the September newsletter was done, things slowed down just a bit...a welcome pace after a successful and busy couple of weeks at the Iowa State Fair.

I had the opportunity to sit in on a Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine External Advisory Board Meeting at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine as a small ruminant representative. In addition to making contact with a few folks ISIA will be working with in the future, I got a good overview of the research going on in the College, including an abortion vaccine for sheep. We hope to have a speaker about this topic at the Festival in June.

Amy Trinidad from the American Sheep Industry (ASI) contacted Dr. Dan Morrical about hosting a media event in Iowa promoting the "Let's Grow with Two Plus" program. We are excited about the outreach opportunity for both ASI and ISIA in the state of Iowa. The event will be hosted at my home Oct. 10. In preparation, we are lining up food, reserving outdoor facilities, and my husband and I are spiffing up our place.

Sept. 18 brought the ISIA Board Meeting at Dolliver State Park. Huge thanks go out to Gary and Sharon Erickson for making especially delicious kabobs for us to enjoy. It was a very productive and positive meeting. In the upcoming weeks, I'll start working on Festival items, work with Dr. Morrical drafting a letter to the Ag Committee in pursuit of increasing the sheep Checkoff Assessment, attend Commodity meetings, and continue with the daily office work, including regular website updates, Newsletter publication and fielding questions from the Membership. The one downside to the meeting was having to cancel the Iowa Wool Gatherers' Retreat scheduled for the first weekend in November due to low registrations. This event will be reviewed again in 2012.

I look forward to upcoming events this fall where I get to interact with the ISIA Membership and others in the commodity world. As always, I would love to hear from you; please contact me at info@iowasheep.com or (712) 790-6303 with questions and comments.

Iowa Premises Identification Program

According to the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS), Animal Industry Bureau, the following are Frequently Asked Questions about the Iowa Premises Identification Program.

Q. What is a premises and how many Premises Identification Numbers (PIN) do I need?

A. A premises is defined as any geographically unique location in which agricultural animals are raised, held or boarded. A catch-all definition is not always possible for a premises because of different production systems and methods. In some cases, one smaller operation may need multiple PINs while a larger operation may only need one PIN. Operations requiring multiple PINs will be handled on a case by case basis.

Q. What are the benefits for producers to register their premises?

A. The National Animal Identification System is a multi-step process, the first

of which is premises registration. After the producer has received a PIN, they can then move on to the next step of animal identification. Registration also provides IDALS with essential contact information that can be accessed in case of an animal health emergency to speed notification. Faster notification means faster eradication and recovery from a disease outbreak.

Q. How much does premises registration cost?

A. There is no cost to register a premises through IDALS.

Q. How do I get a Premises Identification Number?

A. You may download the form from at <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry/pdf/premisesIDapp.pdf> or contact IDALS and one will be mailed to you. Once a form is received and the information is entered into the database, the producer will receive a card with a unique PIN which is assigned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) premises number allocator. The premises registration system will include information such as

address, contact name, type of premises and phone number of the contact person. Key pieces of information will be sent to the USDA so it will be available in the case of a disease traceback.

Q. What data will be required?

A. USDA requires the following pieces of information about a registered premises: PIN, name of entity, appropriate contact person, street address/city/state/zip code, contact phone number, operation type, date the premises number was activated, date the premises number was deactivated and reason for deactivation.

Q. Will I need multiple PINs for different species on my farm?

A. No. A single PIN will be used for each location, regardless of the number of species associated with it.

Q. Is this a mandatory program?

A. Currently, the Premises Registration System is completely voluntary. Mandatory registration is being contemplated in the near future. Registering now will ensure timely processing and receipt of your PIN.



“Like” ISIA on Facebook

For some time now, ISIA has hosted a Facebook page as a means to increase exposure and communicate with our Membership. Look to our page for announcements, news, upcoming events, event photos and more.



Calendar of EVENTS

Oct. 20 Iowa Sheep & Wool Promotion Board Conference Call

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 can be found 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 or ktbear@hickory-tech.net.

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.

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Any Questions?

Feel free to contact

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Wool Gatherers' Retreat CANCELED

The 2011 Iowa Wool Gatherers' Retreat has been canceled due to low registrations. The ISIA Board of Directors will review this activity in the future to determine the feasibility of its continuation. For more information, please contact Margie Meehan at (563) 926-2573, (563) 920-7704 or e-mail her at tipperaryfiberstudio@gmail.com.

Stock for Sale

For Sale (7/11) Suffolk ewe lambs. Increase your prolificacy and capacity for lambs. From a 200% lamb crop. Well-muscled, good growth rates. Scrapie resistant. Contact Dave Hofland, Hartley, at (712) 728-3103 or (712) 348-3518 (cell).

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. Contact Doug Wirth, Ames, at (515) 979-3938 or e-mail wirthdoug@yahoo.com.

For Sale (8/11) Taking orders for ewe lambs. We have SAMM and Ild de France cross ewes raised on grass. Delivery Sept./Oct. Contact Doug Wirth, Ames, at (515) 979-3938 or e-mail 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. Contact Tom Metzger, Larchwood, at (712) 477-2613 or (712) 470-3829 (cell). Please leave a message or e-mail tdmetzger@mewlan.com.

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

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

For Sale (8/11) Registered 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. Contact Randy & Barb Stewart, Newton, at (641)

792-2323 (home), (641) 521-7981 (cell) or e-mail rstewart@pcpartner.net.

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 of "Sheep for Sale" for ISIA members. Ads must be limited to 50 words and will run in four issues of the Newsletter (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.

Smokey Lamb Chops with Templeton Rye Black Cherry Sauce

By Shelana Chamberlain Laing

Ingredients:	1 clove
1 t. olive oil	¼ t. ground cardamom
1 T. minced shallot	½ jalapeno, seeded and diced
5 cloves minced garlic	½ cup Templeton Rye Whiskey
¼ cup black cherry jelly	6 lamb chops
1 T. honey	Sea salt and black pepper

Directions: Season lamb chops rubbing each side with olive oil and then with salt and pepper on both sides and let set at room temperature for 30 minutes. Soak a handful of cherry wood chips in water for 30 minutes. Heat oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Add shallot and garlic. Cook until softened, stirring every 2 minutes. Add jelly, honey, clove, cardamom and jalapeno; whisk well to mix. Add Templeton Rye. Bring to a boil over high heat; reduce to a simmer and cook until reduced by half (approximately 45 minutes). Keep warm on low heat.

Grilling the lamb chops on charcoal – start charcoal and allow burning for about 10-20 minutes or until gray in color. Divide charcoal in half on each side of the grill. Drain wood chips and add to charcoal. Quickly place grate over charcoal and place lamb chops in the middle of the grill. (You are using indirect heat to cook the lamb chops and the cherry chips to enhance the smoky cherry flavor.) Cook 5-7 minutes per side, turning once. Serve grilled chops with warm sauce.



Editor's Note: Shelana Chamberlain Laing of Des Moines placed Second in the Lamb/Goat category of the Iowa State Fair Farm Bureau Cook-Out with her recipe "Smokey Lamb Chops with Templeton Rye Black Cherry Sauce."

Short CLIPS

By Dr. Dan Morrical

Timely Tips

Fall grazing is getting pretty short – at least in central Iowa where we are just not getting much rain. Over grazing pastures in the fall is a foolish way to save on feed costs because, long term, it reduces pasture productivity. This increases the amount of acres one needs in the future. Ideally, ewes should be moved to corn stalks for fall grazing or moved to a dry lot if the grass is gone. Providing pastures with a month of rest in the fall will greatly increase the speed and earliness of the spring growth for earlier grazing. Grazing the pasture after fall growth stops will not harm the stand. The need for fall rest is critical to build root carbohydrate reserves that can be used to begin growth in the spring.

Grazing corn stalks is a very reliable means of extending the grazing season and saving on the feed bill. Ideally, ewes should be given a small area of stalks at any one time to reduce the risk of grain overload. Additionally, ewes should be fed some grain a week before turnout to adapt the rumen microbes over to starch digesters. A flock of 100 ewes needs one acre per week to meet their forage needs. Because ewes are selectively consuming only the best parts of the residue, the need for protein supplementation is not necessary until mid-November or later. My calculations are based off of 180 bu. yield or 10,800 lb. of grain. The grain portion is roughly 60% of the total dry matter in the field. Non-grain plant material equals roughly 6,500 lb. per acre if one assumes ewes eat 4 lb. per day with a total utilization rate of 50%. That equals 800+ grazing days per acre; so, an acre a week is



IOWA STATE FAIR CHAMPIONS DATA:

	Live Wt.	Carc Wt.	Back Fat	Ribeye Area
4-H Ch. Market Lamb Hunter Gerths, Albia	141.5	85.2	.12	3.10
4-H Res. Ch. Market Lamb Riley Wattonville, Huxley	146.5	97.4	.25	3.55
FFA Ch. Market Lamb Chelsea Schminke, Van Horn	140.5	87.6	.25	3.90
FFA Res. Ch. Market Lamb Brenden Kuesel, Victor	138.0	78.4	.15	3.6

	Beg Wt.	End Wt.	Carc Gain	Back Wt.	Body Fat	Ribeye Wall	% Area	BCTRC	Index
Ch. Performance Brittney Miller, Cedar County	79	162	0.84	93.8	0.17	0.90	4.40	48.9	113.48
Res. Ch. Performance Mackenzie DeJong, Plymouth County	66	154	0.83	87.6	0.10	0.70	3.70	48.7	111.21
Ch. Boxed Division Cole Bennett, Dallas County	64	128.5	0.70	78.2	0.15	0.75	3.80	49.3	110.74
Res. Ch. Boxed Division Abigail Claussen, Scott County	75	131.0	0.61	72.4	0.17	0.80	4.00	50.1	109.05
Average 278 head	78.1	135.9	0.57	78.6	0.17	0.83	3.36	47.8	

adequate. It costs 20¢ to 40¢ per day to feed a ewe in a dry lot depending on how much you pay for hay. If one figures the value of cornstalk grazing at 10¢ per day, one could pay up to \$80 per acre to rent stalk ground. That figure is passed on using the whole acre. With 100 ewes, one only needs

6-8 acres for 6-8 weeks of grazing. Of course, you can't pay \$80 per acre for acres that are not needed. For the safety of ewes and high utilization, rate weekly allocation of new corn stalk acres is the best approach for ewes.



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Wolf Approaching Third Decade Raising Sheep

WOLF

Continued from page 1

embryo transfer with two donor ewes. To market his lamb crop, Dave mostly sells private treaty, which seems to be working well as he sells show sheep into Iowa, Colorado, Nebraska, Indiana, Texas, Minnesota and Oklahoma. Annually, he also consigns sheep to the Iowa Club Lamb Association Wether Sire and Dam Sale at the Iowa State Fair. A quick look at his website, www.clublambpage.com/wolf, will show the success of the family's showing career. Christie was Champion Showman at the Iowa State Fair (ISF), the Wolf kids won multiple divisions at the ISF Market Lamb Show and on several occasions won the ISF Commercial Breeding Ewe Show. But the trophies aren't what makes raising sheep fun for Dave. "My favorite part of raising sheep

is being with my family, working as a unit and learning to get along when things may not go the way we thought they should," he explains. Often times, he says, "That's just life."

Industry Involvement

Without hesitation, Dave says he's a member of ISIA because he believes in promoting lamb. He's also a very active member of the Greene County Sheep Producers, participating in events like grilling at RAGBRAI, farmers markets and at the senior manor in Scranton. Through events like these, Dave can see the market for lamb getting stronger, especially in ethnic markets. "I also think young people are more willing to try it," he says of lamb. In Jefferson, he sees a lot of sales of both grilled items at the events managed by the Greene County Sheep Producers and folks asking for raw product after trying it cooked.

Dave also believes in recognizing youth for their efforts raising sheep. Every year at the annual Greene County Sheep Producers Banquet, he says, they recognize the sheep winners from the County Fair the summer before with a plaque and take pictures of the kids. Beyond ISIA and Greene County Sheep Producers membership, Dave has also welcomed other producers to his place. He did a winter workshop with Dr. Dan Morrical about four years ago through Iowa State University-Greene County Extension. For newbies, Dave says there's no better time than now to get into the sheep business. "There's opportunity in the commercial sector to make some money, especially since sheep numbers across the country are down," he concludes. And after almost 30 successful years in the business, advice from this Iowa sheep producer can be taken to heart.

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