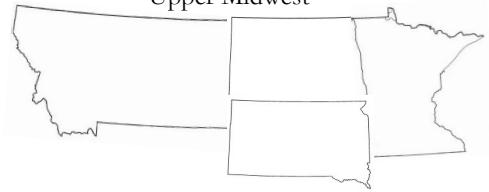




Dakota Lamb Growers Co-op News

Volume 6, Issue 2

Proudly serving producers in the
Upper Midwest



Summer 2017

Directors

President: Susan Holler

White, SD
605-695-9478

VP: Jeff Young

Herman, MN
320-808-4079

Secretary: Chad Hasbargen

Wheaton, MN
320-815-5185

Treasurer: Terry Ness

Pierre, SD
605-280-0130

Travis Fowler

Truman, MN
507-436-5273

Kelley O'Neill

Rushford, MN
507-458-6244

David Peterson

Sisseton, SD
605-880-4376

From DLGC President Susan Holler

DLGC members:

There is a lot of interest in the sheep industry as lamb prices are at an all time high. Some contributing factors include a seasonal short supply of lambs and the start of Ramadan, May 27, which begins a month of fasting during daylight hours. Additional Muslim holidays that impact the demand for lamb are EID of which there are two: Eid al Fitr - The Breaking of the Ramadan Fast, June 25, and Eid ul Adha - The Festival of Sacrifice, Sept. 1. For Ramadan and the 1st EID, a smaller lamb, 60-80 lbs, is desired while the 2nd EID requires a larger lamb since the meat is shared. A good resource for more information is <http://extension.psu.edu/courses/sheep/marketing/marketing-lamb-and-goat-for-holidays/islamic-holidays>. The Arabic calendar differs from the one most widely used so the date of these holidays change each year.

Mark your calendars for Aug 12th for the DLGC summer meeting at Dakota Lakes Research Farm near Pierre, SD. After his presentation at the December annual meeting, Dr. Dwayne Beck invited co-op members to a personalized tour of the research farm. This should be a great opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture including soil health, cover crops, and grazing. We will have a board meeting Friday evening (August 11) following dinner at Red Rossa Italian Grille in Pierre. Please join us for dinner and input on the Uniform Marketing Agreement as we finalize a compromise proposal for the 1 lamb-1 share policy.

The DLGC Annual Meeting format will change this year, as we join the Minnesota and North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Associations in Fargo on Dec. 1st and 2nd. This should make it easier for members in these groups to also participate in the DLGC meeting. Our annual meeting will be Saturday evening.

The DLGC Board continues to pursue opportunities for its members but only with your input and participation can we strengthen and grow the cooperative!

We look forward to seeing you at the summer meeting.

Submit calendar events, ads

and article ideas to:

dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com

Visit dakotalambgrowers.com

Susan W Holler

Welcome New DLGC Members!

Please join the Board of Directors in welcoming the following new members (2016 and 2017):

Riley Braaten and Betty Braaten, Rosholt, South Dakota

Ryan and Pam Berndt, Blue Earth, Minnesota

Chad Bruns, Herman, Minnesota

Tim and Susan Gudal, Bricelyn, Minnesota

Daniel and Linda Jenniges, Glenwood, Minnesota

Jeremy Lieser, Belgrade, Minnesota

Joel Talsma, Edgerton, Minnesota

Lamb Market Update from Jeff Petersen, Summer 2017

The lamb market has really been on a steady rise since before the Easter Holiday. Currently, market lambs have been selling at most auctions for \$ 1.90 to \$2.10 per pound for 125 lbs. to 145 lbs. lambs. Carcass prices have also been improving , but not at the same pace the live lambs have gone up. Carcass prices for 65 lb. to 75 lb. have not been reported on a constant basis due to confidentiality. The last reported sales carcasses were trading in the \$3.50/lb. range.

Feeder lambs have also seen a significant improvement in prices. In Sioux Falls, 70lb. to 80lb. lambs have been trading in the \$2.20 to \$2.40/lb. range. Demand for all classes of sheep remains very strong.

Slaughter weights for finished lambs have stayed in check on a national level. Lambs reported last week had a plant average of 137 lbs. This is partly why the lamb prices are improving, because we are not over-feeding our lambs to slaughter weights that exceed 200 lbs., like we have in the past. Also, the national lamb weekly slaughter numbers are running 7% less than one year ago. So the combination of lighter lambs and fewer lambs on the market have created a strong demand from packers to bid up for lambs.

One other item to mention is LRP insurance up and going again. The coverage level for slaughter lambs has gone up a lot since it was first offered a few weeks ago. Anyone wanting some form of price protection should keep an eye on updated insurance quotes. New prices come out every Friday afternoon and producers only have until Monday morning before 9:00 am to bind coverage.

Livestock Guardian Dog Puppies For Sale

\$400 * 3/4 Akbash x 1/4 Great Pyrenees

Born: 5/14/17. Parents are short-coated working dogs with good temperament. Pups de-wormed & vaccinated.

Contact Susan Holler @ 605-695-9478 (near Brookings, SD).



SAVE THE DATE: 2017 DLGC SUMMER MEETING

Join the Board of Directors for this year's Summer Meeting in **Pierre, South Dakota**

Friday, August 11:

6:30 pm **Members' supper at Red Rossa Italian Grille**
 (reservations under DLGC, 808 West Sioux Ave., Ste 200, Pierre, SD 57501)

8:00 pm **Board of Directors meeting at Governor's Inn, Anderson Room**
 (700 W. Sioux Ave.)
 Agenda Items Include: Uniform Marketing Agreement Discussion

Saturday, August 12:

8:30 am **Dakota Lakes Research Farms Tour**
 (farms located 17 miles east of Pierre on Highway 34)

12:30 pm **Lamb Dinner at the Prairie Regional Extension Center**
 (the old Kenyon Building, 412 West Missouri St.)

The Governor's Inn (605-224-4200) is giving DLGC a rate of \$86.95 + tax for August 11 (checkout 8/12). Please reserve your room directly with them and mention the rate. Please **R.S.V.P. by noon Monday, August 7**, if you plan on joining the Board of Directors for supper, Friday's Board meeting, and Saturday's dinner. Email dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com

Dakota Lakes Research Farm



Dr. Dwayne Beck manages the research facility called Dakota Lakes Research Farm. The Dakota Lakes Research Farm is a cooperative effort between South Dakota State University and the Dakota Lakes Research Farm Corporation, a not-for-profit corporation created by family farmers and local businesses in the 1980's. This group owns the land, buildings, and other fixed assets. They work with the manager in prioritizing research projects and planning capital improvements. Full-time operations at the present site began in the fall of 1989.

The entire facility has always been managed using true conservation agriculture techniques (continuous low-disturbance no-till and diverse rotations) since its inception.

The funds needed to operate the research program at the center come from three main sources. They are provided by SDSU in several direct and indirect forms; some come from grants funded primarily through commodity checkoff programs; and the remaining resources are generated from profits stemming from the production enterprise at the Station. The production enterprise is managed so that the research program is optimized. That is the main purpose of the farm. Within this constraint, the goal is to make as much money as possible on the production enterprise and spend all of this money on research projects, facility improvements, and equipment purchases and upgrades.

The unique cooperative arrangement between South Dakota State University and the agricultural producer members of the corporation has resulted in substantial success. The primary impact was the development of programs that have allowed producers to profitably adopt conservation agriculture techniques in a large portion of central South Dakota and throughout the grassland ecosystems of North America. Identification of the extremely important role played by crop rotation in minimizing weed, disease, and insect problems while increasing potential profitability was the key contribution to this success. Principles developed at the Dakota Lakes Research Center have been successfully applied to many ecosystems around the world. The intellectual and fiscal contributions of the producer/owners of the Dakota Lakes Research Farm Corporation are the key to the successes achieved at this point. What has happened so far is only the beginning, conservation agriculture research and development continues and is expanding into new areas. (From www.dakotalakes.com/)

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

2017 Annual DLGC Meeting, Dec. 1-2, Fargo, ND

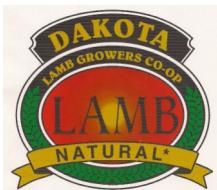
Held in conjunction with the Minnesota and North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Associations' joint annual convention. **The DLGC Annual Meeting will follow MLWPA/NDLWPA Convention on Saturday, Dec. 2, after 5:00 pm.** Details to be announced in October newsletter. For detailed Convention schedule and updates, please follow MLWPA (www.mlwp.org), NDLWPA (www.ndsheep.org), and DLGC websites.

Newsletter Changes

Please check out the **Members Only** portion of the DLGC website: <https://dakotalambgrowers.com/> Monthly Board of Directors conference call meeting minutes and Treasurer's Reports, Shares for Sale information, Bylaws, Articles of Association, and other Co-op documents may be found on this page. If you need the Members Only password, please email dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com and Mina will send it to you.

Member Contact Information Update

At this point, our list of accurate email addresses for Co-op members is quite small. We are unable to reach many of our members with the newsletters and password notifications. If you know of a DLGC member who is not receiving emails, please let Mina know at dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com at your earliest convenience.



Dakota Lamb Growers Co-op
c/o M. Doerner
20387 Northgrove Loop
Brookings, SD 57006