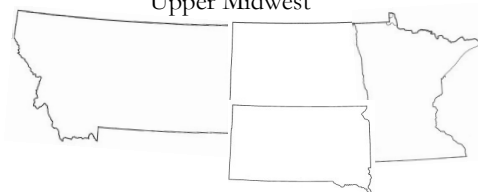




Dakota Lamb Growers Co-op News

Proudly serving producers in the
Upper Midwest



Volume 6, Issue 3

Fall 2017

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From DLGC President Susan Holler

DLGC members:

Marketing lambs through DLGC has been lucrative this year. Contract lambs are returning \$25-\$30/head above the cash market. We are pleased that the co-op can bring added value to member's lambs. As always it is good to have some parameters to evaluate lambs and receive feedback on management. Oftentimes members and potential members ask what are the benefits to joining DLGC? In addition to the contract and the ability to sell your lambs on a carcass basis, educational opportunities are available as we experienced at our summer meeting during the Dakota Lakes Research Farm Tour. Dr. Dwayne Beck gave those in attendance a practical and thought provoking tour of the research farm and sustainable Ag practices. From seeding earth worms, to no-till crop rotations, to livestock grazing, he challenged us to evaluate our management practices from a sustainable perspective to better utilize the valuable commodity of soil for the future of our operation and for future generations. As an added bonus it was a beautiful morning along the Missouri river.

In an effort to continue updating the DLGC documents, the board has spent several months working on the uniform marketing agreement (UMA) to align it with the amended Bylaws. The 1 lamb 1 share policy has been in the UMA, that we all signed when we joined DLGC, but it has been controversial and challenging to enforce. In an effort to retain share value, a compromise proposal is being presented and voted on at the annual meeting. Members participating in the packer contract must own a minimum of 50 equity shares in order to deliver lambs. Members can then contract and deliver whatever number of lambs the packer allows. The board has voted and approved an increase in the DLGC administrative fee from \$2.50 to \$3.50/head (\$1 increase), effective January 1, 2018, on all DLGC contract lambs. In order to retain share value for those members who own more than 50 shares, a rebate, to be made via check at the end of the calendar year, in the amount equal to \$1/lamb delivered/equity share owned over a member's first 50 shares (share# 51+) will take effect. A modification to this proposal will be for those new members participating only in the Value Added contract who are not able to utilize the packer contract due to location, small numbers of market lambs, or other limitations. These value added participants will be required to own 1 share for each lamb delivered per

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dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com

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President's Letter (continued)

year until they reach 50 shares. Please review the UMA on the Member's Only page on the DLGC website. We appreciate your feedback ahead of the annual meeting on the updated UMA to make any beneficial modifications.

In closing, in order to function effectively as a cooperative we need constructive member input and participation. We look forward to seeing you in Fargo the first weekend in December as DLGC combines its annual meeting with the ND and MN annual meetings to better serve our members in those associations. We are also very much looking forward to this final approval of DLGC documents to bring them in line with how the co-op is functioning as compared to its inception almost 2 decades ago.

Susan W Holler

Superior Contracts for 2018

If you are a DLGC Member currently delivering to Superior Farms, your contract will be continued into 2018 (year 3 of 5 years) unless you contact the Board of Directors and inform them that you will NOT be delivering in 2018. In order to help Superior Farms project the number of ABF lambs delivered by DLGC producers, the Board of Directors asks that you email dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com (use subject line: Superior 2018 Estimate) NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2017, and let them know roughly how many lambs you will have for the calendar year. Please remember that you may go 10% above or below your estimate.

Superior Farms has said that it will continue to offer a premium from May 15 through October 13 to provide an incentive to deliver lambs during low supply months. DLGC producers stepped up to the plate in 2017 and provided Superior Farms with a strong supply of lambs from May through October 2017!

Beginning January 1, 2018, the DLGC administrative fee per head will increase by \$1.00, from \$2.50 to \$3.50. The Board of Directors voted in August to implement a "rebate" on lambs delivered (see below for Motion). Superior Farms monthly delivery data will be used to calculate the total rebate, if any, due to each participating producer. You will receive an email in January asking you to confirm the number of DLGC equity shares you own. The equity share information was obtained by searching DLGC records. We appreciate your assistance in making this process as accurate as possible.

2018 Delivery estimates will be submitted to Mark Dumdi on December 10. **New DLGC members have an opportunity to sign up for the Superior Farms contract at this time.** Please contact Mina, before November 15, at dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com for paperwork associated with deliveries to Superior.

TIMELINE:

By November 15: new members wanting to participate in Superior Farms contract contact Mina for paperwork AND purchase minimum of 50 equity shares.

By December 1st: confirm 2018 contract participation with estimate of lamb #s.

Motion made by J. Young to increase DLGC administrative fee from \$2.50 to \$3.50/head (\$1 increase), effective January 1, 2018, on all DLGC contract lambs. Rebate to be made via check at the end of the calendar year in the amount equal to \$1/lamb delivered /equity share owned over a member's first 50 shares (share# 51+). 2nd K. O'Neill.

2017 Annual Meeting, December 2, West Fargo, ND

DLGC's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the North Dakota and Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Associations' joint annual convention at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton in West Fargo, ND. **The DLGC Annual Meeting will follow the NDLWPA/MLWPA Joint Convention sessions on Saturday, Dec. 2, after 5:00 pm** (details will be sent via email when the MN/ND registration brochure becomes available). Tour, LAMB dinner, and Saturday registration costs will be available shortly. We will also post a schedule of educational sessions and the sheep industry tour by November 1 at the DLGC website.

Friday, December 1:

- 10 am ND Sheep Industry Tour
- 7 pm LAMB Dinner followed by auction

Saturday, December 2:

- 8:00-4:30 NDLWPA/MLWPA Educational Sessions & Trade Show
- ~5:30 pm **DLGC Members Meeting**

Board Elections: The board and membership would like to thank Jeff Young and Chad Hasbargen for 3 years of dedicated voluntary service to DLGC. Both agreed to run for re-election. If there are any members who would like to volunteer for a director position please let a board member know or send an email.

The joint ND/MN convention has a block of reservations available for the DoubleTree Hotel. Please reserve your room directly with the DoubleTree (located at 825 E. Beaton Drive, West Fargo, ND 58078, 701-551-0120) and mention the ND/MN Lamb and Wool Convention. Please R.S.V.P. by noon on November 27 if you plan on attending the DLGC membership meeting (email dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com).

Barrier Lamb Probiotic from Superior Farms (Lesa Eidman)

I am excited to announce the launch of a Barrier Lamb Probiotic being offered exclusively to Superior Farms producer partners. We know that the gastrointestinal immune system is developing rapidly in the first few days and weeks of a lamb's life, and the use of Barrier Lamb probiotic has proven to produce a more healthy lamb. The producers that have participated in the trials of Barrier Lamb have found (compared to traditional antibiotics):

- The lambs are in better condition,
- The lambs have a greater averaged daily gain within their first weeks of life,
- They can eliminate mass applications of antibiotics, and
- Barrier Lamb is just as cost effective.

We will continue to gather the data regarding the weight gain after weaning - the preliminary data looks great!

Barrier Lamb Probiotic is available in a paste and a powder form which allows producers to administer the probiotic to day-old lambs as an individual treatment or by mixing it into a liquid milk replacer. If you are interested in learning more or would like to place an order for Barrier Lamb Probiotic, please contact me.

Lesa Eidman Office [\(530\) 297-3523](tel:5302973523) Cell [\(530\) 263-2383](tel:5302632383) Email: lesa.eidman@superiorfarms.com

Uniform Marketing Agreement Update

The final draft of the Amended and Restated Uniform Marketing Agreement is posted for member review at www.dakotalambgrowers.com on the Members Only page. If you have any questions or comments, please email dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com or call any of the DLGC Directors listed on the front page of this newsletter. The Board will consider comments until Saturday, October 21.

Ballots will be sent out with the Notice of Annual Meeting in the first week of November. The vote will be tallied at the annual meeting on December 2.

Members Only page

Please check out the **Members Only** portion of the DLGC website: www.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.

INTERESTED?: Milk Replacer Bulk Order

Several DLGC producers are thinking about placing a bulk order for Nutrastart (acidified with Deccox formerly Advance) milk replacer. If you are interested in this opportunity to reduce costs, please let us know how much you need and what your delivery/pickup point is. We will follow-up with ETA of delivery and costs.



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