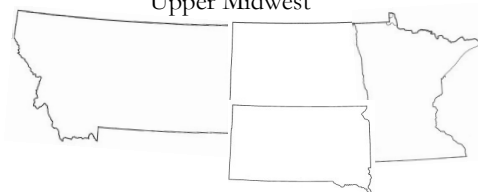




Dakota Lamb Growers Co-op News

Proudly serving producers in the
Upper Midwest



Volume 9, Issue 2

Fall 2020

Directors

President: **Riley Braaten**
Rosholt, SD
701-640-8335

VPresident: **Travis Fowler**
Truman, MN
507-236-5055

Secretary: **Chad Hasbargen**
Wheaton, MN
320-815-5185

Treasurer: **Adam Ost**
Ashley, ND
701-301-3876

Directors: **Terry Ness**
Pierre, SD
605-280-0130

Kelley O'Neill
Rushford, MN
507-458-6244

Susan Holler
White, SD
605-695-9478

Manager: **Phyllis Pates**
21867 466th Ave.
Volga, SD 57071
605-695-5157

Submit calendar events, ads
and article ideas to:
dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com

Website:
dakotalambgrowers.com

From DLGC President Riley Braaten

Greetings fellow shepherds and ranchers. Well 2020 continues to be an interesting and trying time for many producers. From weak lamb markets to dry hot weather in some regions to devastating storms and wet weather in other area. Yet one thing is for certain in these troublesome times that God will prevail and win the battle even though we may not quite see the light that is shining bright at the end of the tunnel.

Well I hope all of you were able to utilize the first round of CFAP payments that were paid out. CFAP 2 was released on 9/18/20 and sign up begins on 9/21/20. It's well deserved to our fellow shepherds and ranchers.

In the last one to two weeks we have seen an increase in lamb prices. Ewes and ewe lamb prices remain very strong despite weak lamb prices. We continue to see more young producers entering into the business as well as some rejoining again. Relatively cheap feed, and ample amounts, in most regions has been a great blessing for producers. Simple things like utilizing scales this year have been very effective and useful in not overfeeding lambs.

We have endured the bankruptcy of Mountain States Rosen yet we have one new plant coming online soon (9/21/20), Colorado Lamb Processers. We also have had the Hasbrouck family and Double J Meat Packing purchase the old Ranchers Lamb plant in San Angelo, TX. So maybe we will see these plants start running soon in an efficient and profitable matter.

Dakota Lamb Growers is currently working on a new contract with Superior Farms. We the board members are working hard to ensure the producers receive a delivery contract that fits their individual operations. We have had tons of interest in joining DLGC this year from new and previous member who have been inactive. The more lambs we can produce the better chance of an increase in the contract. We still must think about the consumer and what they desire. Without them we have nothing

As we enter into fall, things tend to get busy and rushed. We have breeding season going on and harvest continuing. I ask and stress that we try hard not to get rushed and forget things that are very important such as 'stopping at blind corners' or 'running stop signs'. Or, even....(cont.)

From DLGC President cont.

'forgetting to close the gate' behind you. Nobody wants to get home and later receive a call that your livestock is out. We all want to make it home for dinner with family every night. Put safety first producers.

As I close this article I want each producer to know that you are not alone if you are experiencing some form of hardship or heartache. Reach out to a fellow DLGC producer and ask for help or a shoulder to lean on. We are here for you guys. We are only a phone call away if you have any questions. If we don't have the answer, we will search and dig to find the answer. May God bless each and every one of you. May God's love be bright and radiant and shine down on you. I pray each of you find your ear tags in your flock alive and well and that this harvest be plentiful and bountiful for each and every one of you

With love and hugs. Sincerely,

Riley Braaten, President

Dakota Lamb Growers Cooperative - 2020 Annual Meeting

December 3, 2020 in Fargo, ND

Please mark your calendars to join us in Fargo Thursday evening. More details will be coming. Our meeting will be in conjunction with the North Dakota and Minnesota Lamb and Wool Convention on Dec. 4 & 5.

Bulk Order Milk Replacer: Would you be interested in participating in a bulk order of milk replacer if the bags would be available for pickup at the Annual Meeting in Fargo? Please let Phyllis know ASAP.

New Member Highlight

Please join the Board of Directors in welcoming the following members:

Syverson Family Farms owned by Paul and Josie Syverson of Clontarf, Minnesota. They are currently expanding their herd of Polypay sheep.

For Sale

FOR SALE: Ile de France Rams and ewe lambs. Visit our website hasbargenlandcattle.com to view current sale offerings.

FOR SALE: Guard Dog and Border Collie Puppies. Contact oneillfamilyfarm54@gmail.com or 507-458-6244.

Please send any **Wanted** or **For Sale** ads to Phyllis. They could be added to the weekly carcass market report, posted on the DLGC webpage, and put in the next newsletter.

Manage Internal Sheep Parasites

Article By Dave Ollila and Larry Holler, SDSU

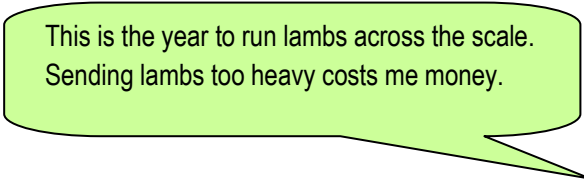
One of the most costly problems for sheep producers is internal parasites. It is important to develop a consistent and deliberate program to manage internal parasites in your flock. Your parasite management program includes your type of production system, use of available land resources and the effectiveness of anti-parasitic drugs.

In many sheep production systems, grazing tame pastures or native rangelands is a major component of providing feed for the flock. Expect the flock to be exposed to internal parasites through the grazing season. The degree of exposure will depend on the flock stocking rates and the amount of rest-recovery each paddock receives before being grazed again.

Internal parasite larvae are ingested along with blades of grass as sheep graze a paddock. When sheep graze areas where fresh feces is present they are continually being exposed to parasite larvae because the feces still contains the parasite eggs. Understanding the environmental conditions needed for the internal parasite cycle will help you to create a management plan that reduces internal parasites in your flock. Begin your management plan at lambing time to reduce parasite exposure of both ewes and lambs.

During winter, inhibited larvae of the nematode parasite reside inside the gestating ewe in a state of dormancy until climate conditions are favorable for them to emerge. These dormant larvae are much more difficult to kill with any treatment. Often, internal parasite emergence coincides with lambing time and is an opportunity to lessen internal parasites in a dry lot situation before turning the flock out to pastures. Part of your parasite management plan might be to monitor internal parasites during lambing by doing fecal sampling. The longer you can wait post lambing to treat, the more likely it is the inhibited larva have developed into adults, and therefore, be more susceptible to an anthelmintic treatment. In order to reduce re-exposure to internal parasites, especially those that have a direct lifecycle, producers should minimize feeding on the ground and keep feed bunks, troughs and water sources clean. Producers who lamb in pastures should rotate pastures or paddocks frequently to lessen internal exposure to parasite larvae at an early age. The lambs once infected will produce 10 fold more contaminating eggs than a mature ewe.

Resistant parasite populations, especially *Haemonchus contortus* (*H. contortus*) has become a management and treatment challenge. Sheep producers should select an anti-parasitic drug that performs with a minimum of 98% effectiveness. Unfortunately, parasite resistance to all the major classes of anti-parasitic drugs has increased over the years and producers need to determine the level of control the drug they are using provides. This can be accomplished by identifying (with ear tags, ear notches or scorable paint) at least 15 ewes within a flock as a representative sample. A fecal sample is taken from each ewe and labeled. The drug is then given and the flock held for 48 hours on the same ground or moved to temporary lots to allow any unaffected eggs in the gastro-intestinal tract to be shed. The flock is then moved out for grazing on fresh pasture. The sample group needs to be fecal sampled again 10-14 days after treatment to determine the percent effectiveness of the drug. If the drug is not found to be 98% effective the producer should consider a different family of anti-parasitic drugs to use for the next treatment. If a drug is effective it should be(cont.)



This is the year to run lambs across the scale.
Sending lambs too heavy costs me money.

Riley Braaten, DLGC President

Manage Internal Sheep Parasites, cont.

continued to be used until the percent effectiveness falls below the minimum of 98% effective.

Producers must understand that parasite resistance will continue to be a challenge and best management practices will need to be implemented to prevent further parasite associated losses.

These strategies include rotational grazing, strategic testing for parasiticide resistance and management of new purchases to ensure that you are not introducing resistant parasites to your flock. Immediate practices that should be conducted even while you are developing a parasite management program include the following:

Develop a quarantine protocol when introducing new sheep to the flock. Knowing the parasite program used by the previous owner and treating the new sheep accordingly will reduce the introduction of resistant parasites.

A grazing plan designed to make the best use of the available forage while minimizing exposure to parasite larva is essential. Parasite larva can be found on a leaf blade of grass within 6 days of the fecal material being deposited. Producers in areas with more moisture and frequent dew must move flocks regularly to break the infestation cycles. Arid regions of the country require larger pastures to support the same number of sheep as compared to wetter climates so producers can extend the number of days that an area is grazed. The larger grazing area reduces sheep's exposure of defecated material and the drier environment lessens the chances for the larva to place itself on a leaf blade to be grazed.

Alternating species of livestock on pastures yearly provides opportunity to break a host specific parasite's life cycle. Allow cattle to graze a pasture one year followed by sheep utilizing the same pasture the next year. Monitoring internal parasite loads should continue as there are several internal parasites species that can be found in both sheep and cattle. Fortunately, *H. contortus* does not effectively overwinter in the upper plain states.

Locating parasite free land resources. Seek opportunities to place ewes and lambs on tame pastures or cropland that has not had sheep or cattle and should be free of internal parasites. Cooperating with farmers to plant cover crops into crop residue serves "soil health initiative" goals while providing a grazing opportunity. These scenarios can provide an opportunity to break parasite life cycles in the pastures you currently use as well as providing a nutritious forage for fast growing lambs or flushing of ewes.

If parasite resistance is detected in your flock, the concept of "refugia" will need to be considered. Refugia is a technique by which a few animals within the flock are not routinely treated, and allowed to produce and maintain a population of worms that are still sensitive to common dewormers. These more sheep friendly parasites will compete with resistant populations, and hopefully keep the less friendly parasites at bay.

Contact your local veterinarian to assist you in conducting fecal egg counts, determining types of internal parasites present and determining which anti-parasitic drug to use for control.

