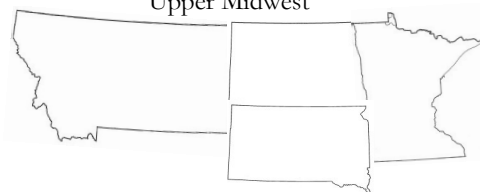




Dakota Lamb Growers Co-op News

Proudly serving producers in the
Upper Midwest



Volume 10, Issue 2

Fall 2021

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: **Rob Dallmann**
Hecla, SD 57446
605-994-7398

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,

It's amazing how some things can change dramatically and some changes move much slower. Parts of our region have gone from very dry to actually being almost too wet this fall. The moisture has been quite a surprise in many areas and some subsoil moisture has been restored. With snow on the way for some of us in the next few days, hopefully you have finished up the outside work for now.

The lamb market has slowly changed. We still have very strong prices on slaughter ewes, which is great for those moving ewes that don't produce well enough to offset these high feed prices. Fat lambs have remained strong for the 4th quarter. Superior Farms had once said perhaps we could maybe see \$2.00 fat lambs as a new normal. Anyone's guess is as good as the next, and hopefully it's true as we continue to see higher input costs in agriculture.

DLGC annual meeting is coming up the 2nd week in December. It's a time for our producers, those who help at delivery points, and Superior Farms representatives to get together and share some thoughts and ideas, as well as enjoy some reminiscing and laughter. Our producers are like family and I look forward to enjoying the long overdue gathering. We hope to see you December 9th and 10th in Fargo, ND.

May each of our producers take this time to thank each other for being part of the lamb industry and encourage each other to continue to support and promote our products. We give thanks to God for another strong season in the lamb market and for the rain that has fallen on the land.

May you find all the tagged ears in your flock alive and well.

Riley Braaten, President



Dakota Lamb Growers Cooperative 2021 Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Ramada Hotel, 3333 13th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103 (701-235-3333)

Please plan to attend the in-person Annual Meeting being held Thursday evening, December 9th in Fargo, ND. It will be in conjunction with the North Dakota and Minnesota Lamb & Wool Convention on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10 & 11. Lamb & Wool has a block of rooms at \$86.40 per night. Make reservations soon.

Schedule of Events:

Thursday: 5:00 pm Social with dinner to follow at 6:00
 7:15 pm DLGC Business Meeting: Financial Report; Election of Officers
 ** Door Prizes**

Friday: 9:00 am Superior Farms Update Meeting

Friday & Saturday: ND/MN Lamb & Wool Producers Association Joint Convention

Please RSVP 'yes' or 'no' by Dec. 1st to Phyllis so we have an estimate on attendance for meal planning.
dakotalabgrowers@gmail.com or 605-695-5157

Directors Terms Expiring December 31, 2021

Terms Expiring:

Riley Braaten (2 yr)
 Travis Fowler (3 yr)
 Rob Dallmann (3 yr)
 Kelley O'Neill (3 yr)

Please consider becoming a Board Member. It involves a monthly evening conference call to review finances and discuss any co-op business.

For Sale

FOR SALE: 4 female Anatolia shepherd, Akbash, Great Pyrenees cross puppies for sale. 16 weeks old, raised with sheep and cat friendly. Asking \$250 but willing to negotiate. Call or text 605-530-4444

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

FOR SALE: Livestock Guard Dog Pups ready to go by the DLGC annual meeting (12/9). They will make your life easier and your predator's lives miserable. From generations of on-the-ball LGDs who earn their keep. Contact Cindy Wolf at 507-450-5453.

FOR SALE: Ram Extra - Siremax composite terminal sires. Best of the best. That's why we retained these to use on this end as single sires and backups. 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.

Members Involvement at State Level

Travis Fowler: MN Lamb and Wool Board

Travis and Jeanine Fowler of Truman, MN have been members of the DLGC since 2013. Travis has been on the Board for 6 years. He currently serves as President of the Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers, has held various positions there, and Travis and Jeanine were in charge of the Trade Show and Auction at the yearly conferences for 10 years. They raise sheep, dairy goats to show, poultry, hogs, corn, soybeans and some hay. This family farm has been around since 1856. Travis and Jeanine farm with his parents and their children. He is the 6th generation to farm. He got his first sheep at age 5 but really started farming at age 15.

Travis says farming runs deep in his blood. He doesn't think of it as a job or a career but as a way of life. He loves the spring when everything comes to life, new baby animals, new plants etc. And he loves the harvest. It's when all our hard work pays off.

FUN FACT: In the spring of 2015 they had a ewe that had 8 baby lambs which all survived. "It's pretty exciting. I never dreamt that we or you could have that many lambs," farmer Travis Fowler said. "So to say that she's a prolific ewe would probably be an understatement."

Jason Weatherford: SD Sheep Growers Board

Justin and Jill Weatherford, of Florence, SD joined the Dakota Lamb Growers in 2020. Justin was elected as a Director of the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association at their annual meeting in September. Justin and Jill run around 500 breeding ewes, and between 1,000-2,000 feeder lambs a year. Their passion for the sheep industry became in 2014 when they started in the business, and has steadily grown since. Justin believes the industry as a whole has been a great industry to be involved with. This year they are trying a fall lambing group of ewes and the rest to be lambed in the spring to accommodate for other marketing opportunities.

Justin comments "As a director for South Dakota Sheep Growers, I'd like to get more people involved in the industry and help connect non-producers to products we produce. We are optimistic the markets are here to stay and remain steady. It's been a great year so far and hope for great success ahead."

American Lamb Quality Video Series

The American Lamb Board (ALB) and Premier 1 Supplies are co-sponsoring a new American Lamb Quality Video Series. North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service is producing the 5-part series. Using the theme of "Beginning with the End in Mind," the series' purpose is to help the US lamb industry provide a consistently high-quality product to consumers, taking into account the wide variety of production systems.

Travis Hoffman, PhD, NDSU and University of Minnesota Extension Sheep Specialist, is spearheading the project. The first video, Lamb Carcass Characteristics is now available at the lambresourcecenter.com and www.lambsummit.com. The next videos, USDA Yield Grades and USDA Quality Grades, Live Animal Evaluation and Retail Meat Yield & Value will be announced in the coming months via ALB's newsletter as well as hosting Q & A webinars.

"Using lamb carcasses to demonstrate quality attributes and techniques used for standardized analysis make the videos very relevant and useful for today's US sheep producers," says Gwen Kitzen, ALB chair from Nisland, SD.

Superior Farms

Jaylene Scott, jaylene.scott@superiorfarms.com; 303.749.5281

Hello Dakota Lamb Producers,

I hope that summer and fall have been treating you and your operations well. Here at Superior Farms, we are gearing up for the Holiday Rush and some exciting projects on the horizon as we head into the New Year.

One of the exciting projects we are working on as we head into 2022 is the Sheep Discovery Center. I had the pleasure of talking to General Manager Jordan Atkinson about the progress that is being made as you are reading this article. For those of you that haven't heard, we purchased 123 acres and 285,000sqft of turkey barns in Nephi, UT to create a state-of-the-art sheep research facility. The focus of this facility will be to increase ewe productivity by utilizing cutting edge technology and working with our producer partners. Jordan advised that they are off to a great start with hiring key staff members, getting drawings for the renovation of the turkey barns, and started pouring the foundation for the Grov building. The Grov building will be a huge step towards increasing sustainability and efficiency. The fodder grown in this 100x130sqft building will use 5% of the water used in conventional farming and produces the same amount of feed as 500 acres. This facility will provide a multitude of opportunities focusing on the advancement of the sheep industry; continuously improving our Flock54 Genomics panels, lighting to synchronize ewes, automated lambing pens, and a large focus on sustainability and animal welfare technology for the health and wellbeing of the ewe. We hope that this facility will become a valuable tool to help our producer partners with key genetic information and access to innovative technology.

As you guys know, 2020 was a rollercoaster ride for the Sheep Industry and we have continued to feel those effects moving into 2021. From MSR filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy to COVID-19 shutting down the foodservice industry and drastically affecting the market, along with the opening of two new processing plants it has been a wild ride. We saw a significant increase in lambs being processed through the ethnic trade and smaller packing plants in 2020 and this has carried into 2021. Furthermore, we saw Canada step in and take 34,000hd out of the traditional trade avenues in the fall of 2020. These changes in the structure of the industry led to the shortage of lambs in the traditional market and the record high prices we have seen in 2021. Colorado feedlot inventory as of October 1st is up 60,000hd from a year ago and is up from the five-year average. This increase in inventory is largely due to the droughts in Montana and the Dakotas and lambs shipping 30-60 days earlier than normal..

At a packing plant level, the labor shortage has been one of our biggest obstacles throughout 2021. Our workforce has been 20% short throughout the year which has created some problems getting lambs processed through the system. We feel there is an opportunity for growth if we can solve some of these labor issues. The retail market has stayed strong throughout 2021 with the shortage of other proteins and more people staying home to cook. Freezer Inventory is down across the industry and cuts have been selling more in balance than we have traditionally seen. Lamb imports are up from last year but have seen problems recently with the backlog at the ports. Lastly, as we move into winter one thing that is vastly important to our ability to get lambs harvested is the condition they arrive in. Dirty lambs create sanitation issues on the kill floor that cause us to run at a much slower speed. Any steps that can be taken to ensure lambs arrive clean such as shearing, clean bedding or putting a harvest strip on assists with the ability to run properly and get your lambs processed.

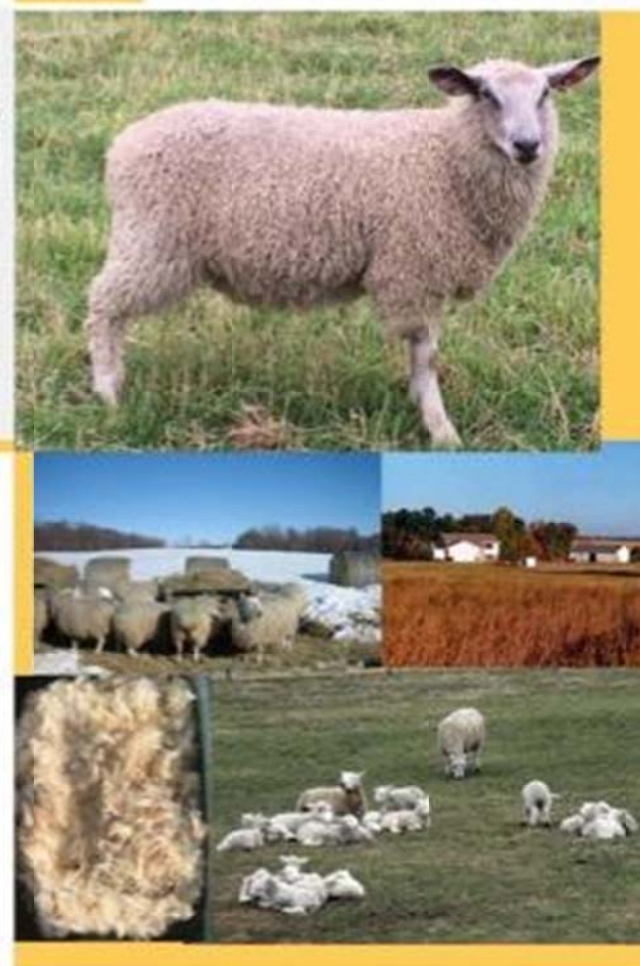
Here at Superior Farms, we greatly appreciate our Producer partners and your continued work to provide a quality, wholesome product to American Consumers. We would like to wish you all a Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!!



North Dakota Lamb & Wool
Producers Association



2021 ND/MN Lamb & Wool Producers Association Joint Convention - Fargo December 10-11



CONTACT US

701-231-Baaa(2222)

Travis.W.Hoffman@ndsu.edu

www.ndsheep.org

www.mlwpa.org

Ramada Hotel & Conference Center

3333 13th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58103
701-235-3333

RAMADA[®]

BY WYNDHAM



Ramada in Fargo will be offering a discounted rate of **\$86.40** for a standard room with your choice of 2 Queen beds or 1 King Bed. Call the Front Desk to book your room under the group block.

The Ramada staff is experienced with holding events during this pandemic. Your safety is a priority. Please contact the Front Desk for the current Covid recommendations and requirements for Fargo.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH - 2:00-4:00

NORTH DAKOTA SHEEP INDUSTRY TALKS: Presentations hosted by NDSU Extension. Presentations will be outside. Travel will be in personal vehicles. Meet at:

NDSU Sheep Unit
3400 19th Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102

The **LAMB SOCIAL** will be held at the Ramada and begin at 5:30 with the **FUNDRAISER AUCTION** starting at 7:00.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH - 7:00 - 3:30

REGISTRATION will begin at 7:00AM.

The **MORNING PROGRAM** kicks off at 8:00 and includes presentations from the ND Livestock Alliance, ASI, ALB and Lamb Direct Marketing. The keynote speaker will be Missy Dassinger from **PROTECT THE HARVEST**.

The **Annual Business Meetings** for ND and MN will start at 10:30 in separate rooms.

Make It With Wool Contest Pre-Registration **REQUIRED**. For more information on the MIWW Contest contact:

MN: Glenette Sperry - gtsperry@frontiernet.net

ND: Joana Friesz - joana@northlandinsuranceagency.com

LAMB LUNCHEON will begin at 11:30. State Awards will be presented and the ND Starter Flock recipients will be recognized.

The **AFTERNOON PROGRAM** will begin at 1:15 and include breakout sessions on NSIP, a panel on sheep nutrition, Protect the Harvest, and Superior Farms. The **MIWW Fashion Show** will be held in an adjoining room.

REGISTRATION RATES	QTY	PRICE
MEMBERS* - \$75 (first person)	_____	_____
Each additional family member* - \$25 each	_____	_____
NONMEMBERS* - \$100 (first person)	_____	_____
Each additional family member* - \$25 each	_____	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

* Includes: Friday presentations, Friday Lamb Social, access to seminars, refreshments and Saturday Lamb Luncheon.

ALL PRICES INCREASE BY \$10 AFTER NOV. 25th.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

WEBSITE _____

REGISTRATION

Return your form and payment to:
NDLWPA c/o Jannell Lagein
7255 94th Street NE
Rock Lake, ND 58365
701-370-1559