

American Sheep Industry Update

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213 ASI Calendar

Received by Mail
Available for \$5 by contacting ASI

Let's Grow Efforts

- Focus on management efficiency.
 - Need to maximize efficiency of lambs born and lambs/wool shipped every year for profitability and for growth.
- August webinar focused on pregnant ewe nutrition.
- Two new webinar topics being scheduled.
- www.growourflock.org

Let's Grow Efforts

Next Phase
Mentor Program
New Producer Toolkit

eXtension - Sheep

Sheep Community of Practice
Vetted Science-based Information
Producer Support Available
Electronically

International Factors Impacting Wool Prices – Downward Pressure

Euro-zone Economy Uncertainty
Decline in Global Finance Market
Large Chinese Interests Waiting for
Cheaper
In USA the Military Remains Biggest
Buyer and User of Wool

Wool Superwash

- Huge success story for the sheep industry.
- Results in a shrink-resistant treatment that makes wool products machine washable and dryable without shrinking = Total Easy Care
- Used in commercial and military products.
- Production projections exceeded by 40% in 1st full year.

Lamb Prices Under Pressure in Traditional Production/Processing System

- Result of complex interaction of factors resulting from:
 - Happenings in feed grain market.
 - Happenings in Australia and New Zealand
 - Happenings in slaughter capacity
 - Happenings in consumer disposable income
 - Happenings in market price dynamics

Lamb Prices and Product Characteristics

- Record high purchase of product by USDA for use in military and school lunch programs.
- Lamb summit in September in response to complex issues.
- ALB and American Sheep and Goat Center supporting an assessment of lamb business.
- Results to be reported at ASI Convention.

Export Markets

- Interest shown by Japan, China, Taiwan, Russia and European Union.
- Free trade barriers have been reduced, e.g. BSE case in 2003.
- Must product to foreign specifications for sustainable opportunity.

Wildlife Services

- Animal rights groups still seeking to reduce or eliminate functions of livestock protection via USDA/Wildlife Services by reducing or eliminating funding.
- The issues remain and will be back on the table for legislative action in 2013.

LRP-Lamb Revisions

- Revised subsidy levels.
- Tuesday sales when Monday is federal holiday.
- Informational materials available
– www.rma.usda.gov/livestock
