

Volume 8 Number 1

# Sheep Sense

**Official Newsletter of the  
Manitoba Sheep Association**

*mbsheep.ca*

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## Meet your new MSA board of directors

On January 4, 2011, the new executive was elected by the board of directors for MSA.

Chair - Mark Humphries - Kola, MB  
204-845-2002

Vice Chair - Angela Viola - Russell, MB  
204-859-2427

Treasurer - Lucien Lesage -Notre Dame de  
Lourdes, MB 204-744-2858

Secretary - Gerry Oliver - Carberry, MB 204-  
834-2261

Cdn Sheep Federation - Stuart Greaves - Vita,  
MB 204-425-8034

MSBA - Neil Versaval -Balmoral, MB  
204-467-5057

MB Forage Council - Henry Nelson - Winnipeg,  
MB 204-896-3759

Eastern District Rep - Stuart Greaves

Interlake District Rep - Neil Versavel

Central District Rep - Lucien Lesage

West District Rep - Shelley Zahaiko - Newdale,  
MB 204-849-2273

Southwest District Rep - Mark Humphries

*Mark Your  
Calendars*

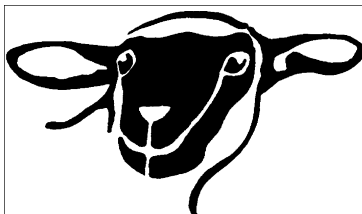
**MSA Annual  
General  
Meeting  
March 5, 2011**

**Brandon, MB  
Location TBA**

# 2011 Holiday Calendar for Marketing Sheep and Goats

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Years	January 1	January 1	January 1	January 1	January 1
Epiphany	January 6	January 6	January 6	January 6	January 6
Eid ul Adha Festival of Sacrifice	Nov. 6	Oct. 26	Oct. 15	Oct. 4	Sept. 23
Islamic New Year	-----	Nov. 15	Nov. 4	Oct. 25	Oct. 14
Christian Easter	April 24	April 8	March 31	April 20	April 5
Orthodox Easter	April 24	April 15	May 5	April 20	April 12
Passover/Pesach	April 19-26	April 7-14	March 26-April 2	April 15-22	April 4-11
Mawlid al Nabi Birth of the Prophet	March 20	Feb. 4	Jan. 24	Jan. 13	Jan. 3 and Dec. 23
Ramadan Begins Month of Fasting	August 1	July 20	July 9	June 28	June 18
Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year	Sept. 29	Sept. 17-18	Sept. 5-6	Sept. 24-25	Sept. 4-5
Thanksgiving	Nov. 24	Nov. 22	Nov. 28	Nov. 28	Nov. 26
Eid al Fitr Ramadan Ends	August 31	August 19	August 8	July 29	July 18
Chanukkah	Dec. 21-28	Dec. 9-16	Nov. 28- Dec 5	Dec. 17-24	Dec. 7-14
Christmas	Dec. 25	Dec. 25	Dec. 25	Dec. 25	Dec. 25

## Manitoba Sheep Association



## Annual General Meeting

**To be held March 5, 2011  
Brandon**

# **CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE WOOL GROWERS**

## **CCWG Wool Marketing Trip to China**

**September 14<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

*Submitted by Eric Bjergso, General Manager*

This past September I travelled to China for an eight day wool marketing trip. From September 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> inclusive I participated in the Nanjing Wool Market International Wool Trade Fair and Information Conference which was held in Beijing.

Our Canadian wool display at the trade show attracted a lot of attention and this was an excellent forum for us to promote graded and objectively measured Canadian wool to a large international delegation (600 attended) from the wool trade. Three of our agents in China were available to assist with translation as well as negotiations for the wool contracts that we made.

We have been developing the market for Canadian wool in China for the past 12 years and the reputation of graded Canadian wool in China is very good. Our delivery of consistent quality wool types over the years has enabled our agents to offer, and mills to buy from CCWG with confidence and without risk. Establishing this trust is essential in order to be a credible and successful supplier in the Chinese market and we have strived to achieve this recognition.

Some wool suppliers from other origins such as Eastern Europe have not been so fortunate, as they have not been able to establish this type of relationship. Wool clips that are not properly sorted and that may contain contamination or a wide variation in micron, length, colour and style are heavily discounted to allow for the unknown and to hedge the buyers risk exposure. Often, these wools will only be utilized in lower quality textiles which in turn limits higher value market opportunities. We are fortunate that our wool grading standards has CCWG well positioned as a reliable supplier of a wide range of Canadian wool types to our global partners.

Following the conference, I travelled by train and car with one of our agents to visit mills in Tianjin and Hebei and to present our wool samples. As an added surprise, the second largest combing mill owner in China invited us to his son's wedding on September 20<sup>th</sup> in Zhangjiagang. We were honored to accept the invitation, the wedding was attended by over 1,200 guests and was very colourful, animated and the culture was interesting to observe. Following this, for the next leg of our journey we travelled from Beijing to Shanghai where we again called on several more woolen mills in the surrounding area.

During the trip we successfully negotiated a total of thirteen wool contracts representing the sale of approximately 650,000 pounds (thirteen containers) of graded Canadian wool for delivery to China from October 2010 through to March 2011.

CCWG participated in the Nanjing Wool Market Conference and Trade Show in Beijing, China with a Canadian wool display, September 2010. This conference is attended by over 600 wool industry leaders and provided us with an excellent opportunity to again present Canadian wool to an international audience. Eric Bjergso, General Manager then travelled with CCWG agents to promote and market, graded and objectively measured Canadian wool to Chinese wool buyers.

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WEB: [www.wool.ca](http://www.wool.ca)

## Mountainview Sheep Association's Fall Breeding Stock Sale 2010

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Mountainview Fall Breeding Stock Sale was a very successful event., with 89 head of sheep being placed on the auction block. The junior show was also well represented with 9 enthusiastic young people taking part in the Betty Wallace Junior Shepherd's show. Thanks to Betty's vision and generosity, these young shepherds are becoming quite adept and we know that we will be able to count on them in the future to lend a helping hand to other young folk wanting to get started with sheep. Ken and Agnes McLaren of Sifton donated the top handler award in the junior show (showmanship) which went to Jo Walker from Maryfield, Saskatchewan.

Top market lamb award went to John Lewis of Kirkella, Manitoba, with Reserve going to Sierra Viola one of our consistent Junior Shepherd Contestants from Russell, Manitoba.. Honorable Mention went to Lois Trowell of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan..

High Selling ram lamb went to Linda Westman of Gimli, Manitoba, with her good February born, Suffolk lamb sired by Pullen Lad 100T and out of Westman 218U. He sold for \$500.00 to Tony Prynne, of McAuley, Manitoba.

High Selling yearling ram went to a Suffolk from the Duane and Nadine Caumartin Flock at McCreary, Manitoba. He is Caumartin 420W sired by Strand WL 61T and out of Westman 792L. This good young ram sold for \$475.00 to Linda Westman of Gimli, Manitoba

High Selling purebred ewe lamb went to Neil Versavel of Balmoral, Manitoba for his Suffolk ewe lamb sired by Benlock 162U out of Versavel 17W. She brought \$280.00 from Jessica Humphries of Elkhorn, Manitoba. She was born at the end of February.

James Baxter sold the high selling purebred yearling ewe, Prairie Dog 3675W , sired by Shaw D 9N and out of Prairie Dog 24P. She sold to Jo Walker of Maryfield, Saskatchewan, for \$350.00. James has his Prairie Dog flock at Deleau, Manitoba

Jo Walker of Maryfield, Saskatchewan sold her top pen of Suffolk Cross Commercial Ewe Lambs for \$185.00 per head to Rupert Durose of Plumas, Manitoba.

Ken and Agnes McLaren of Sifton, Manitoba sold their Charolais Cross pen of three yearling commercial ewes to Rupert Durose of Plumas, Manitoba for \$175.00 per head.

Top price for a single ewe lamb entry went to John and Sarah Lewis of Kirkella, Manitoba. These folks had two single entries that sold for \$190.00 each Lot # 33 went to Tony Atkinson of Riding Mountain Road and Lot #35 went to Ben and Linda Fox of Dauphin, Manitoba.

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Meredith Salama sold the top selling yearling commercial ewe for \$170.00 to Ken Hodge of McGregor, Manitoba. Meredith is a consistent contributor at the Mountainview Sales and hales from Swan River, Manitoba. Her ewe was a Rambouillet Cross female. born in March 2009.

Averages were as follows:

- Ewe lambs – P/B - \$280.00
- Yearling ewes – P/B - \$350.00
- Commercial Ewe Lambs - \$152.00
- Yearling Commercial ewes - \$155.00
- Ram Lambs – P/B - \$381.00
- Yearling Rams – P/B - \$260.00

The Mountainview Sale Committee is busy planning for the next event and reminds everyone in sheep business in our area that we will hold our annual Mountainview Sheep Association meeting in January, 2011.

## Body Condition Scoring

Body condition is an expression of the amount of body fat that an animal is carrying. It is a management tool that can be used to predict herd fertility and to determine feeding programs throughout the year. This year, due to the inconsistencies of nutrient values in feed, body condition scoring is more important than ever, to ensure that animals are getting the nutrients they need to see them through winter.

Body condition scoring is a "hands-on" method of determining the amount of fat an animal is carrying.

Condition scores are measured by feeling for fat cover with your hands. The scores cannot be measured visually because a full hair coat can hide poor condition. You measure the fat cover over four major locations on the animal's body: back bone (spine or topline), short ribs, hip bones (hooks and pins) and tail head.

Body condition scoring does not require specialized equipment, is sufficiently accurate, and has many management implications. Knowing the condition of a herd is essential in livestock management. Females that are too thin or too fat can be an expensive investment. Thin cows can have difficulty rebreeding, while fat cows are prone to calving problems and excessive feed costs.

Body condition scoring allows everyone to speak the same language when describing body condition. It uses a numerical rating system based on the feel of a cow, rather than ambiguous descriptions based simply on a visual appraisal.

For more detailed information on how to condition score, Alberta Agriculture offers a CD-ROM "What's the Score?" that can be purchased for \$25.

The CD-ROM can be ordered online from Alberta Agriculture's website at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/publications](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/publications) or by calling the Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276).

Contact:

Ag-Info Centre 310-FARM (3276) **From the Nov 22, 2010 Issue of Agri-News**

### Heartland Auctions

#### Virden

*Upcoming Sales*

January 25

March 8

April 5

May 31

All sales start at 12 noon

### Submissions to SheepSense

Sheep Sense will be published in :

January 2011

April 2011

July 2011

October 2011

Anyone sending articles or classified adverts, should send them by the end

of the previous month to:

[gerry@spiritsands.ca](mailto:gerry@spiritsands.ca) or

Call 204-834-2261

## **Dec 17, 2010 Update on Manitoba Lamb Value Chain**

The Manitoba Sheep Association (MSA) was successful in obtaining funding from the Value Chain Manitoba Initiative (VCMI) to begin a Phase 1 application that had the following timeline: July 16-Nov. 30/2010. The goals of this project were:

- To help identify the potential partners of a lamb value chain that would address the increasing demand for local Manitoba lamb made available to Manitoba consumers.
- To complete a Phase 2 application for a Manitoba Lamb Value Chain that would be the start-up of the value chain.

Prior to receiving the funding from the VCMI, the MSA had met with interested retailers. 21 independent retailers and one hotel had been contacted to gauge their interest and a meeting held on July 3 in Winnipeg had 8 of these businesses attend to learn more about a potential value chain project.

During the time frame of the Phase 1 application there were several meetings that set out to help identify the potential partners. Producer meetings were held on the mornings of Aug 25 in Brandon, Aug. 26 in Carman and Aug 27 in Stonewall. In total there were 26 producers that attended these meetings. These meetings provided an opportunity for producers to learn more about the value chain model as well as openly discuss some of the issues related to starting up a lamb value chain. Questionnaires were distributed to producers to gauge their interest in the model. 21 Producers completed their questionnaires. 18 producers indicated they supported the idea and were willing to market some of their lambs through this model.

Similar meetings were also held on Aug. 25 & 26 for abattoirs to attend. All that attended indicated they were interested in increasing their capacity of lamb slaughter.

A meeting was then held on Sept 28 to bring all three links together for the first time at the Red River Ex offices in Winnipeg. This meeting had 17 producers, 2 abattoirs, and 5 retailers/hotel food service businesses attend. It was a very informative meeting and a positive meeting to build on with regards to a potential lamb value chain. A steering committee was formed having representation from each link and a project champion was determined. Randy Eros from St. Anne represented the producers, Derek Shamray from Oak River Quick Freeze represented the Abattoirs and Dennis Dueck from Denny's Meat Market in Wpg. represented the Retail/Food Service businesses. Howard Alexander stepped forward to champion this project and to work with these steering committee members. An initial meeting with these four was held that afternoon to decide next steps.

Initial steps were made to put in place a potential pricing framework for the three links in the Phase 2 application. With many producers getting ready for winter months, time was a factor in getting an application together for the Phase 2 start up project completed by the Nov 30 deadline. VCMI funding for the Phase 2 start-up project would only be in place until March 31, 2011 and with only a few months of funding available at a time when the majority of lambs had already been marketed, it appeared that this project would need to take a different turn in order to continue.

A meeting was held on Nov. 30 with Randy and Howard to now consider an application with MRAC for funding from the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) to help establish a Manitoba Lamb

Marketing strategy and Value chain. The goal is to complete an application by Feb. 1, 2011. Howard and Randy are working on the framework for this model and will be taking the information about this model to two (2) sheep producer meetings in January 2011.

- **Wednesday, January 12 at the Stonewall and Rockwood Ag Society Red barn on Highway 236 at 7:00 pm**
- **Saturday, January 15 at the Portage-la-Prairie Fair Board building at 1:00 pm.**

Sheep producers are invited to attend these meetings to learn more about the marketing model they are developing and the application they will be putting forward for approval. If you are interested in the following initiatives, this is a meeting you need to attend.

- Establishing a marketing plan that will add greater value for Manitoba lamb producers
  - Sustaining a direct market for Manitoba consumers to enjoy local lamb products through value chain development
- Growing a sustainable and profitable industry

For more information on the upcoming meetings, please contact Randy Eros at 422-8723 or [eros@mts.net](mailto:eros@mts.net) or Howard Alexander at 467-9399 or [kh@highspeedcrow.ca](mailto:kh@highspeedcrow.ca)

## ***Beginners Luck Challenge Participants***



First place in the Beginners Luck Challenge at the MSA Show and Sale in August was awarded to Cameron Prus (12yrs) & Kit. The generous prizes from sponsor Wahl Canada. Clippers included a set of Wahl Clippers, dog dishes, brushes, & dog treats. Congratulations to all the contestants and Thank you to Wahl for sponsoring this event. (l-r, back) Angela Viola, Cameron Prus, Chantel Lambert, Gerry Oliver, Pat Booz, and Sierra Viola. (Front) Kaylene Forsyth and Jim Heddon (judge).

# Lamb Marketing Group and Value Chain Meeting

Plan to attend an upcoming information meeting to learn about a marketing model being developed for Manitoba Sheep Producers that will add greater value for Manitoba lamb, help sustain a direct market for Manitoba consumers through value chain development and move Manitoba sheep producers forward in maximizing returns with food safety programs.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wednesday Jan. 12, 2011	Stonewall Ag Society Building	7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Saturday Jan. 15, 2011	Portage-la-Prairie Fair Board Office	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This meeting will provide an update of the value chain meetings held earlier this fall and describe the direction this project will undertake in the coming months. If you are interested in moving your lambs into higher value markets, working in collaboration with fellow producers, processors, and retail markets, this is a meeting you need to attend.

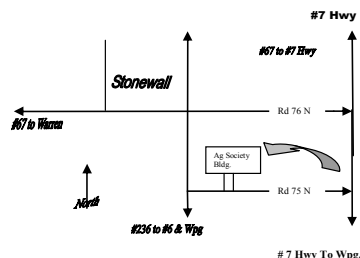
For more information please contact either:

Randy Eros  
[beros@mts.net](mailto:beros@mts.net)  
 422-8723

Howard Alexander  
[kh@highspeedcrow.ca](mailto:kh@highspeedcrow.ca)  
 467-9399

Stonewall Ag Building

Portage-la-Prairie Fair Board Office





## Classified Ads

Thanks to everyone who showed an interest in the Clun Forest breed this year and to everyone who bought breeding stock from me. I have moved to a farm near Manson, on the MB / SK border, 1/2 mile from SK., and about 6 miles north of the #1. My new phone number is 1-204-722-2036. I look forward to seeing you in the new year. Martin Penfold, [mv02@mts.net](mailto:mv02@mts.net)

### Wanted:

Wanted to purchase - second hand sheep weigh crate in good condition. Please contact Mark or Jill

### Border Collie Female Pup available

Pedigree and pictures available on our website: [www.wall2wallsheep.com](http://www.wall2wallsheep.com) Pup was born on November 23, 2010 & will be registered with the buyers name of choice by CBCA, be micro-chipped, have 1st vaccination and worming. All pups come with a puppy pack, birth certificate and instructions. The parents are both working stock dogs who have done some herding competition and are on site. E-mail [wall2wall-sheep@yahoo.ca](mailto:wall2wall-sheep@yahoo.ca) or call 204-664-2027.



## Shearing Workshop

March 11, 12

Brandon

Contact Brian Greaves

204-567-3509

Before the end of January

**For Sale:** Registered Border Collie pups, Scottish and Welsh bloodlines. Parents are working dogs. Available end of February. First shots included. Call Paul - 204-425-3346

**For Sale:** 10 ewe lambs, mostly Suffolk/Texel X. Call Gerry Oliver 204-834-2261

Black Dorper Semen \$500.00. 10 straws of semen valued at \$50.00 each  
 Ram: Zorro WDI 32R Registration Number: 590191 (See his pedigree on CLRC) <http://www.clrc.ca/cgi-bin/query.cgi?association=30> Very correct ram, legs and feet are excellent. Exhibits the desired feminine qualities to produce very pretty ewe lambs. Color: 5  
 Covering: 5 (Very excellent shedding Scrapie: "RR" Sired : Silver Meadows 1K (Sire of numerous Champion and Reserve Champion full brothers and sisters top Zorro)  
 E-mail [wall2wallsheep@yahoo.ca](mailto:wall2wallsheep@yahoo.ca) or call 204-664-2027.

**Guard Dog Pups** We sold our sheep so they have to go. They are all really good dogs. Rex, 6 year old male, Rocky, 5 year old male, Teddy, (Rocky's brother) 5 year old fixed male, Asta, 3 year old female, and Sid, 1 1/2 year old male. All are very good sheep guard dogs. They have been doing a very good job keeping the coyotes away. There is also Queeny an 8-year old fixed female, and five puppies. They are all going for FREE!! Just as long as they all go to a good home. We also have an 8-year old fixed female, not related to Call Victoria at 1-204-643-5380

**For Sale:** Canadian Arcott and cross yearling ewes to sell at the end of May. All are twins, and will be vaccinated, shorn, and dewormed. Contact [lorna.devos@hotmail.com](mailto:lorna.devos@hotmail.com) or 204-657-2313.

### Reminder

2011 All Classic Canada

July 22, 23, 24

Drake, Saskatchewan

## Be afraid, be very afraid

A Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspector stopped at a farm and talked with the old farmer: "I'm here to inspect your farm." The old farmer replied, "You better not go in that field." The CFIA inspector replied in a solemn tone, "You don't seem to understand. I have the authority of the federal government with me. See this CFIA card? I am allowed to go wherever I wish anywhere in Canada if I'm conducting an investigation." So, the old farmer shrugged and went about his farm chores. Later, the farmer heard loud screams and saw the CFIA inspector running for the fence, and close behind was the farmer's prize bull. The bull was mad and should have any illusions about gaining at every step. The old farmer called out, "Show him your card!"

Increasingly, and more than it should, the CFIA has been charging people in the criminal courts for what are minor infractions. In all cases the offences are strict liability offences, that is, the Crown need only prove that the prohibited acts were committed; there is no need to prove that the company had any guilty intent or, for that matter, was even aware that an offence had been committed. Sentencing can and does include large fines and could involve imprisonment.

In addition to wide search, seizure and detention powers, the power of mandatory recall and the power to lay criminal charges, the CFIA has the power to stop products at the border, order the destruction of products, and summarily withdraw operating licenses, HACCP approvals and a host of certifications and registrations, which, if taken away, can effectively close down a business.

While the CFIA card may not carry a lot of weight with the prize bull, regulations No one in the food industry should have any illusions about the powers of the CFIA to enforce its 10 statutes and hundreds of pages of regulations.

All along the food chain, the CFIA has extraordinary legal powers. At the input stage, for example, seeds, feeds and fertilizers are heavily regulated with their own federal acts that give sweeping powers to the CFIA. Both the Plant Protection Act and the Health of Animals Act have hundreds of pages of regulations that are strictly enforced. The main food Acts – Canada Agricultural Products Act, Meat Inspection Act, Fish Inspection Act, Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act and the Food and Drugs Act – all grant extensive enforcement powers of search, seizure and detention to the CFIA. The exercise of these powers does not require any prior court approval.

Many of these regulations incorporate guidelines, manuals, and directives that are both made by officials and interpreted by them. So the hundreds of pages of formal food law do not even begin to capture the weight of the hand of government, a hand that is mostly thumbs with few fingers.

There is no administrative appeal of CFIA decisions or other redress mechanisms. Judicial reviews are few, high risk and expensive. To help balance these powers, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act requires the government to appoint a ministerial advisory board as an accountability mechanism but, inexplicably, the Board hasn't existed for a decade. Why the food industry tolerates this is a continuing mystery.

The bull may not be afraid of the CFIA. The food industry has no such luxury.

Ronald L. Doering, BA, LL.B, MA, LL.D, is a past president of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. He practices food law in the Ottawa offices of Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP, and can be reached at: [Ronald.doering@gowlings.com](mailto:Ronald.doering@gowlings.com)