Sheep Sense

Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Sheep Association

mbsheep.ca

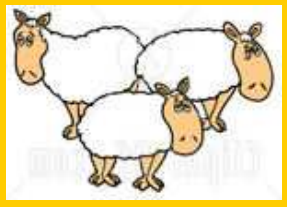
Volume 7 number 2

What's Inside

Consumption of Lamb Increases in Canada

Consumption of lamb in Canada rose 0.8% in 2009 to 1.17 kilograms per person. This comes after a drop in consumption in 2008 of 5%; due primarily to consumers watching their spending and not eating out as frequently. This small increase in consumption comes at a time when total red meat and total poultry consumption have both dropped by 1%. At first blush, the news appears to get even better. According to the statistics, Canada supplied 47% of the domestic demand for lamb in 2009 which is a whopping 12.7% increase in market share over 2008 when Canada only supplied 41% of domestic demand. Additional support for Canada's increase in the market share is provided when looking at the number of lambs processed in Canada which also increased in 2009. However, the number of imported slaughter and feeder lambs from the United States increased by 22% in 2009 to 33,461, up from 26,069 in 2008. Without the import of these feeder and slaughter animals Canadian production of lamb would have dropped again in 2009, with Canadian shepherd's losing even more market share.

In total 18.6 million kg of lamb was produced in Canada, while over 21 million kg was imported, worth over $131 million. The Canadian sheep industry is currently only estimated to be worth approximately $124 million. Sixty-eight percent of the lamb imported came from New Zealand (down from 73% in 2008); 31% came from Australia (up from 26% in 2008); 0.7% came from the United States (down from 2% in 2008) and 0.3% came from Iceland and Uruguay combined.



Don't miss the "Gathering of the Flock" MSA Show and Sale

August 13 - 15, Neepawa Fair Grounds

All Canadian Classic Sale Results

Gross receipts of $94,100.
172 sheep entered, 161 sold,
Average on 98 ewes $558,
Average on 74 rams $619;

Top price paid for a ewe $2,350 for yearling Dorset *Driscoll Dorsets 16W* (also Supreme Ewe); in addition to this ewe, there were 10 other ewes that sold for over $1,000

Top price paid for a male $1,225 each for two Suffolk yearlings - Blackie Lad 827W (bought by David Mastine) and Stonehill 60W (bought by Ferme Denis Destrempes)

Supreme ram was Warrior 4W (Kyle Seguin consignor) bought by Ferme Syljack for $1200; in addition to these 3 rams, there were 6 other rams that sold for over $1,000

Photoperiodic synchronization of a circannual reproductive rhythm in sheep

We are pleased to announce the funding approval by the Agri-food & research development initiative program for our photo-period project.
The objective of this research is to establish the feasibility and productivity of out-of-season lambing, using extended daylight. We will be breeding 8 groups of 30 ewes over a 2-year period, getting 24 lambings during this period. Using a 200 lux lighting system, ewes will be exposed to a 4-hour longer day for 80 days and then be on natural daylight for 20 days before being exposed to the rams.

The first group will be exposed on Aug 1st and the first of every month afterward, on Nov 1st the 7th group of ewes will be on extended daylight for Feb breeding and so on. A daily feed consumption, flock health, conception rate, lambing rate and cost of production will be kept. We will be having farm tours and seminars on the use of photoperiod in the future.

I am quite excited of the possible results of such a program and will keep the membership current on all the results.

Lucien Lesage
Program coordinator

PROBLEM PREDATOR REMOVAL SERVICES

Manitoba Trappers Association

Background:

Manitoba livestock producers lose a number of animals annually to predators like coyotes and wolves. To assist producers in dealing with their losses, Manitoba Conservation has enlisted the co-operation of the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA) to provide services to remove problem predators. MTA members have the experience to deliver an efficient and effective service that will benefit livestock producers.

Program Operation:

Livestock producers who have experienced loss of livestock to predators may register a claim with the nearest Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) insurance office. Producers can request the service, at no cost, and MASC will provide the claimant with a claim number. The claimant may then contact the Manitoba Trappers Association in Lac du Bonnet (1-204-345-9107) for assistance in dealing with the problem. Following a report of a predator occurrence, MTA will assign a trapper to deal with the problem. Since funding is limited, trappers are limited to 24 hours to deal with a specific claim. The trapper will investigate the problem and utilize humane methods to remove the problem animal(s). In some cases the period of time may be extended to effectively deal with a particular situation. Producers will also be provided with information that will minimize the potential for future predator problems.

Producer Responsibility:

Producers participating in the project will be required to sign a "*Waiver of Liability*" releasing the trapper and the Manitoba Trappers Association from damage to property or livestock that may occur during the time the problem is being addressed, and be required to keep livestock and pets controlled at all times when sets are placed on their property. Producers will be expected to implement suggested prevention measures and follow good livestock husbandry practices to minimize predation. Failure to accept these responsibilities may result in the producer being denied additional control services.

Where to Apply:

Producers experiencing losses to predators can contact their nearest Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation insurance office to register a compensation claim and to acquire a claim number to deal with the problem predator(s). The insurance office will advise the producer about the program and have the producer contact the Trappers Association if problem predator removal assistance is required.

PROCEDURES for PPRS - PROBLEM PREDATOR REMOVAL SERVICES

1. Manitoba livestock producers experiencing depredations by predators shall contact the nearest office of Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) and advice of the depredations(s).

2. MASC agency office will then assign a **"Claim No.____"** to the livestock producer.

3. The livestock producer may then contact the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA) at 1-204-345-9107 and

   a)Request that a qualified trapper be assigned to provide "**Problem Predator Removal Services (PPRS)"** to deal with the problem predators; and

   b)Provide a"**Claim No.___"** to the MTA as issued by MASC.

4. A Manitoba Conservation Natural Resource Officer (NRO) with the prior approval of his/her Assistant Regional Director may also request via a DOR the MTA assign a trapper to deal with a specific situation involving predators;

   a)NRO shall then provide the MTA with a written authorization (DOR) to assign PPRS to deal with a specific landowner predator problem.

5. MTA will, within 24 hours notify the nearest Manitoba Conservation office that a qualified MTA trapper has been assigned under the terms of a "Special Kill Permit" as issued by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch to meet with livestock producer or property owner to initiate PPRS under MASC "**Claim No. __ "or** a NRO request for PPRS.

6. The MTA trapper will ensure a "Waiver of Liability" is signed by the livestock producer or property owner prior to the MTA trapper initiating actual on-site PPRS.

7. The MTA trapper shall use "humane trapping and other techniques" to remove problem predators.

The MTA trapper shall provide a handout of information entitled "Preventing Livestock Predation" or advise the livestock producer or property owner of methods that he or she may employ to minimize or prevent additional losses to livestock or property damage by predators.

ACTIVITY FORM & SIGNED WAIVER to be returned to MTA – cheque will be issued for hours and travel. ANY QUESTIONS please call. (as a paid MTA member, you are covered on the Program for Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance) If you are not interested in being registered for PPRS, please let us know.

Thanks,

Cherry White

Manitoba Trappers Association
PO Box 518, Lac du Bonnet, MB R0E 1A0

Phone (204) 345-9107

PREVENTING LIVESTOCK PREDATION

Manitoba livestock producers lose a number of animals annually to predators and the number of losses varies from year to year. In order to assist producers in dealing with predator damage, Manitoba Conservation has enlisted the services of the Manitoba Trappers Association to provide services aimed at removing problem predators. This approach is not intended to be a general predator population reduction program, but is directed at removing problem predators. Minimizing the potential for livestock losses to predators requires more than just removal of problem predators. It also requires an awareness of predators and co-operation from producers to implement and maintain effective herd and flock management techniques.

The objective of this brochure is to provide livestock producers with an increased awareness of predators and offer suggestions of what can be done to minimize the potential for predator damage.

Predator Status: Predators such as wolves, coyotes, foxes and black bears are protected species under *The Wildlife Act* and may only be taken under authority of a hunting or trapping licence during specified seasons. However, subsection 46(1) of *The Wildlife Act* states that a person may kill or take any wildlife, other than a moose, caribou, cougar, deer, antelope, elk or game bird, on their own land for the purpose of defending or preserving their property. This entitles a property owner or a designate to shoot or trap any problem wildlife except those mentioned without the need to first obtain a permit or report the problem to a Natural Resource Officer and regardless of whether there is a hunting or trapping season or other restriction that would normally apply. The property owner may not exercise this privilege (a) in a manner that may be dangerous to another person or without due regard for the safety of other persons, (b) by shooting at night with the aid of lights, or (c) while impaired by an alcoholic or narcotic substance.

A person who kills or takes any species of wild animal in defense or preservation of his property as provided in subsection 46(1) must report the killing or taking to an officer within ten (10) days.

Major predators associated with livestock predation are wolves and coyotes. However, domestic or feral dogs can inflict considerable damage to livestock that may be attributed to predators. It is important for producers to ensure dogs are not causing damage. Dog inflicted damage can be distinguished from predator damage because dogs will usually not feed on the carcass, mutilate numerous parts of the carcass, and more than one animal may be killed or injured.

Controlling predation can be done in two ways: Non-lethal control or Lethal Control. Sometimes more than one method, or a combination of methods, is required to alleviate or minimize the potential for predation.

Non-Lethal Control

Animal Husbandry: Good herd or flock management is one of the first and most effective methods of reducing the potential for predation. Maintaining daily surveillance of livestock is critical for determining when problems occur and facilitating the implementation of control methods to deal with the situation. Other suggested management practices that will discourage predation are:

a) Maintaining calving and lambing facilities near buildings where there is human activity;
b) Using night penning facilities;
c) Altering calving and lambing seasons to reduce exposure of young animals to predators;

d) Avoiding problem areas where livestock may be more vulnerable to predation; and
e) Disposing of carcasses to reduce attractants for predators.

Electric Fences: Of all the methods to prevent predation, electric fences have the highest success. Many producers are hesitant to install electric fences because of the costs. However, improvements in electric fence technology and design have reduced costs to a level that may be lower than conventional fencing. Many designs of electric fences are available on the market and more information on fence designs can be obtained from the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives website or a local fence supplier. In California, a recent study concluded that fences were more effective in reducing coyote losses to sheep than did the actual removal of the coyote or population reduction.

Guardian Animals: In recent years, more producers have turned to guardian animals such as dogs, donkeys and llamas to protect livestock from predation. Use of guardian animals is reported to be successful but extreme dedication is required for these animals to work effectively. Some breeds of dogs may be better than other breeds but the most important factor in using guard dogs is to ensure that the dog bonds with the livestock and not turned into a pet. Use of guard animals in conjunction with other control methods has proven to be most effective in preventing predation. Information on guardian animals and their effectiveness is available from your agriculture representative.

Repellents and Scaring Devices: These methods of controlling predator damage are largely ineffective because predators quickly adapt to them. Noise producing devices such as scare cannons and radios have limited success when used in combination with lights or other devices but must be relocated frequently so predators do not become use to them. Chemical repellents also have limited success at preventing predation but are usually expensive to apply and must be applied frequently to be effective. The effectiveness of these products in Manitoba's climate is another reason they may not be practical.

Removing Attractants: Predators may be attracted to a site for many reasons. One of these reasons may be the carcass of dead livestock in the vicinity of the area. Producers are advised to remove these types of attractants as soon as possible so as not to create a reason for the predator to investigate the source of the attractant and thereby become accustomed to frequenting the area.

Lethal Control

Lethal methods of predator removal involve the use of firearms or trapping devices. In Manitoba, predators may be taken under the authority of a licence during an open trapping or hunting season, or as mentioned above, may be taken by a landowner, or a person authorized by the landowner, in defence of property any time of the year.

Hunting or Shooting: Predators can be taken by using calls to lure predators. Electronic calls may also be used but success requires considerable effort on the part of the shooter. Hunting predators using a call requires patience, camouflage, a good position to observe predators, and a suitable firearm, one that has a high velocity and flat trajectory. Use of firearms must comply with Federal legislation.

Trapping: Some landowners have knowledge of trapping and can become more proficient at trapping by participating in courses offered by the department. The most common devices used to take predators are leg-hold traps, power snares and common snares. In Manitoba, first-time trappers are also required to pass a mandatory trapper education course to be eligible for a licence.

Trapping techniques have changed in recent years with the implementation of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. Compliance with the Agreement has resulted in all Canadian jurisdictions developing regulations that prohibit the use of the steel-jawed leg-hold trap for land-based sets, but permit the use of modified leg-hold devices. Modified leg-hold traps are those that have padded jaws, laminated jaws or offset jaws that minimize the risk of injury to the captured

animal. Several models and sizes are available on the market. The recommended trap sizes for coyotes are #3 and #4 coil spring traps with padded or offset jaws. Trapping wolves requires padded or offset traps of #4½ or larger.

The use of snares is also regulated in the province. In southern Manitoba, only power snares may be used to take fur-bearing animals. Power snares are mechanically assisted snares that ensure a humane capture. Use of common snares or free-hanging snares is only permitted in Registered Trap-line Districts.

The most common sites for placing snares and traps is along pasture fence lines or trails predators frequently use to access the pasture. Sets can also be placed at locations where baits are used to draw the predator to the site. Landowners will be notified of set locations by the trappers and informed to keep livestock and pets confined and away from the areas where sets are placed.

Manitoba Conservation no longer uses pesticides or poison for removing problem predators. It is also illegal under Section 24 Subsections (1) and (2) of *The Wildlife Act* for any person to use poison or to be in the possession of poison or a poison device for taking problem animals. However, Section 24(3) provides for "Exception" for the use of poison or to be in possession of a poison device but **only under authority of a permit issued by the Minister.**

Compensation for livestock injured or killed by wolves, bears, coyotes, foxes and cougars are available from the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC). Producers are advised to contact the nearest MASC insurance office for details.

Producers who experience predator problems may undertake action to destroy the predators in defence of property or authorize in writing a person, to remove the problem animal(s). The producer may also initiate their own action by either trapping or hunting predators. If assistance is required, producers may contact MASC agency who will assign a "Claim Number" and then the producer can contact the Manitoba Trappers Association and ask that a trapper be assigned to attend to the problem.

MSA District Meetings 2010

Eastman District Meeting will be the second Tuesday in October at 7pm at Canadian Superstore in Steinbach
Interlake District Meeting - November XXX Location - TBA
Central
Northwest
West
Southwest

News from the membership

I was invited as one of four guest consigners to the Warren Moore Ram Sale in Fort Macleod, Alberta. The sale started at 11:30 Thursday May 20th. 88 yearling rams went through the ring in 69 minutes with 85 selling for an average of $714.71. Suffolks averaged almost $785. Dorsets averaged almost $719. Rambouillets averaged $705. Hampshires averaged $562.50. North Country Cheviots averaged $470. A Southdown went for $450 and two coloured rams went for $625 each. After the sale buyers and consigners gathered for refreshments and a lunch of BBQ legs of lamb, salads and cake.

J. Graham Rannie

Binscarth, MB 532-2008 grannie@netlink.ca

MB Stockdog Association Event Dates:

(for further information, see the MSDA website or contact Rick Willett - 204-739-2642)

Lundar	June 11 & 12	Trial
Selkirk Highland Games	June 19	Trial
Pawns in Motion	June 27	Demo
Treherne Fair (10:30 - 2:30)	June 27	Trial
Portage Fair	July 11	Trial
Carman Fair (2:30)	July 11	Trial
Fisherton Rodeo	July 31	Trial
Swan River Rodeo	July 30,31, Aug 1,2	Demo
Neepawa (MSA show)	Aug 13-15	Trial

Baby llama playing with a yearling ewe
Photo by G. Oliver

Classifieds

For Sale: Two Polypay ram lambs born late January. $300.00 each. Ernie Hildebrand 204-873-2194 Crystal City, MB email erniejudy@poplarlane.ca

For Sale: 6 week old Great Pyrenees puppies. The mother is a pure bred Great Pyrenees, the father is a Great Pyrenees crossed with ?. There are 6 males left - $150 each. Contact : Daniel Penner 204-966-3513 Eden, MB.

Position Available: Smith Sheep Farm is looking for someone with livestock handling and machinery experience to work fulltime on our sheep operation near Steinbach Mb . This person or couple will be expected to work with farm management in operating a 2000+ ewe operation , year round lambing . House on farm including utilities available to right applicant without cost . This might be an ideal arrangement for a young couple looking to learn intensive sheep management . Email farm@pnsmith.com or ph 204-434-6456 .

For Sale:Replacement ewe lambs, Suffolk / NC Cheviot. April born, well grown and very healthy. $165 each, firm. Virden, MB. Call Beth or Brian at 204-845-2445 or email bpeers@mts.net

For Sale: North Country Cheviot, Horned Dorset and Oxford Down yearling rams $350 each. Wooden truck box to fit GMC. Contact C. Flynn 204-733-2410

Notice to Industry

ANIMAL HEALTH STARTS ON THE FARM

May 17, 2010:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is reminding livestock producers of the pivotal role they play in protecting animals from serious diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which has been kept out of the country for over half a century.

The recent outbreaks of FMD in Japan and South Korea are strong reminders of the importance of practising sound on-farm biosecurity. Both countries had been considered free of FMD—Japan since 2000 and South Korea since 2002.

Producers can take simple steps such as limiting access to animals, closely monitoring the health of the herd or flock, and immediately reporting any suspicion of illness to a veterinarian.

Producers should also ensure that student and seasonal workers are fully aware of farm biosecurity protocols, and report if they have visited, or are planning to visit, another farm. Farm workers or visitors who have recently been in countries where FMD has been detected should not be allowed access to livestock for at least five days after entering Canada.

The CFIA takes decisive action to limit the potential risks to Canadian livestock of FMD outbreaks in other countries. The Agency does not allow imports of susceptible animals and animal products from countries that are not recognized as being "free of FMD," **unless the products have been processed in a manner that destroys the virus.**

A list of countries that are recognized by Canada as being free of FMD is available on the following web page: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/pol/ie-2001-18e.shtml.

Travellers entering Canada from any country are required to declare all animals and animal products. They must also report if they have been on a farm or exposed to animals while in another country, or if they will be visiting a farm while in Canada.

FMD is a contagious viral disease that affects a range of animals including cattle, swine, sheep and goats. The virus can survive on footwear, clothing and equipment for up to five days. There is no human health or food safety risk associated with FMD; however, it can have devastating impacts on animal health and the livestock sector.

For more information on the measures you can take to protect the health of your animals, visit www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity. More information on FMD and the CFIA's disease control activities is available at www.inspection.gc.ca.

For any of the above information, you can also call the CFIA toll-free at 1-800-442-2342.

Market Report - Ontario Stockyards -Week of June 18

	From	To	High
Lambs, New Crop / cwt.	162.00	200.00	265.00
Lambs, 65 to 80 lbs. /cwt.	159.00	175.00	190.00
Lambs, 80 to 95 lbs. /cwt.	154.00	166.00	175.00
Lambs, over 95 lbs. /cwt.	148.00	165.00	176.00
Lambs, over 110 lbs./cwt.	130.00	153.00	169.00
Feeder lambs /cwt.	140.00	170.00	210.00
Sheep /cwt.	74.00	80.00	92.00
Thinner Types (all weights)	55.00	75.00	80.00
Rams / cwt.	80.00	90.00	95.00

Guard Dogs for Predator Control

by **Helen A. Swartz, *Ph.D.***
State Sheep, Goat & Small Livestock Specialist

INTRODUCTION

Sheep producers losing lambs to predators or dogs find themselves seeking help to control or eliminate these losses. Several options are available to producers. Various kinds of electric and non-electric fences, traps to catch the predators, scare devices, cultural methods of penning sheep such as housing at night, using vapor lights, and guardian dogs are options quite successful in decreasing losses for many sheep producers.

Guardian dogs are receiving a lot of attention for controlling predators. Five years of research with 60 livestock guardian dogs at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho, concluded that the success rate of using guard dogs was over 60% when trained properly and only 10% of the dogs were rated as poor. Hampshire College New England Farm in Amherst, Mass., also reported excellent results of sheep protection with guardian dogs.

Guard dogs are not a cure-all for predator problems. Guard dogs are viewed as a first line of defense against predation in many types pf operations but they need to be supplemented by other control methods. Properly integrating a puppy or dog into a sheep operation takes time, persistence, and patience. Some dogs are failures, but another dog can replace one that has failed and the second dog can be quite successful. Some guard dogs have killed sheep in the flock they are supposedly guarding. In early training, signs of rough handling and over-aggression should be handled with stern discipline.

How do guard dogs protect sheep?

Guard dogs protect sheep by patrolling, barking, scent-marking, and pursuing a predator when the sheep are threatened. A sheep producer should investigate the concept of using a guardian dog before investing in a puppy. A guard dog must form a bond with the sheep and protect them from predators. It is very important to incorporate a guard dog into the total management plan. A producer must consider other dogs on the premise and determine how the guardian dog will relate to these dogs. Some producers are forced to take the guard dog away from the sheep in order to work the sheep with working dogs.

Selecting a guard dog

The dog may be one of several breeds or a mixture of breeds. The most common breeds of guard dogs in the U.S. are the Great Pyrenees, Komondor, Anatolian Shepherd, Akbash Dog, Maremma, Kuvasz, and Sharplaninac. These dogs generally command good prices, however, the loss of a few lambs will soon pay for one. Mixed dogs were used in experimental work and were quite effective depending on how they are reared and the kind of temperament they exhibit. A pup, born of a proven sire and dam and raised among sheep will probably develop into a good guard dog if properly bonded with the flock.

A puppy raised in a kennel may have difficulty bonding to sheep, especially if over six to eight weeks of age. Choose a puppy from a line that exhibits traits complimentary to your needs. Avoid pups from overly shy or aggressive parents. Investigate the health status of the parents and look for hip dysplasia, a joint problem common to many large breeds of dogs. Consider neutering the pup to prevent problems due to heat cycles in females and males seeking females in heat. Neutering of males or females does not diminish their guarding capability.

Raising and integrating the puppy in a sheep operation

The puppy should be placed with the sheep and treated as a working dog, not a pet. Place the puppy with some

lambs to avoid injury that may result from older aggressive ewes. The puppy must develop a bond with the lambs. The older sheep must be introduced gradually to the puppy. Ewes not accustomed to a guard dog may view the pup as an enemy. Over time, the sheep flock will become accustomed to the presence of the guard dog and they will tend to ignore the dog's presence.
Feed the pup in the sheep barn when the sheep are fed. Correct the pup for inappropriate behavior such as chasing or biting the sheep and praise the pup for good behavior.

Age at bonding pup to sheep

Some breeds of dogs mature and bond to sheep sooner than others. Some pups within breeds also bond at an earlier age than others. Guarding behavior was reported at the U.S. Experiment Station in pups as young as four months of age, while other dogs were nine months of age. The larger breeds of guard dogs mature more slowly and puppy behavior was noted up to twenty-four months of age in some dogs. Patience and discipline is required with all pups.

Problems observed in guard dogs

Failure to stay with the sheep requires correction. Correct the pup for coming to the house by immediately taking it back to the sheep. A sensitive pup will respond to a verbal reprimand while a stubborn "hardheaded". pup may need a physical correction. Chaining the dog with the sheep at night and releasing it during the day may achieve positive results. Introduce the new pup to its new boundaries on a leash and do it several times the first week. Patrolling and attentiveness to sheep will increase and develop over time. Regardless of training of some pups, a small percentage never strongly bond to sheep.

Playing with the sheep

A certain amount of licking, pawing, chasing and nipping can be expected with some puppies. Boredom contributes to playful activities between puppies and the sheep. The problem can be minimized by moving the pup to a larger area, or in some way changing the pup's environment. Closely supervise a new pup and this will eliminate the formation of bad habits. Play behavior decreases with age.

Sheep accepting new pup

The time required for the sheep to accept the pup will vary with the time of year it is placed. Lambing time is one time when the ewes will be protective of their young lambs. It generally takes several days to a few weeks for the sheep to accept the pup. Sheep accustomed to a guard dog are easily moved by herding dogs but the guard dog may have to be chained or placed away from the sheep.

Notify neighbors when purchasing a guard dog

A guardian pup is a valuable animal. They must be protected from accidents by moving vehicles, being mistaken for a predator by neighbors, shootings and trappings. A patrolling guard dog may easily be mistaken for an intruder. Notify your neighbors that you have purchased a guard dog.
Guard dogs become ill the same as any livestock. Be aware of a loss of appetite, diarrhea or a change in behavior. Consult your veterinarian and get proper immunization and deworming for your pup.

Conclusion

Guard dogs have become very effective in controlling predators and dogs on many Missouri sheep farms. Guard dogs are not 100% effective; there is variation across and within breeds of dogs. Handling may be one cause of failure. Guard dogs must be properly trained to be successful. Patience, perseverance and discipline are required to teach a guard dog to bond and accept the responsibility of guarding a flock of sheep.

Mountainview Sale Results 2008 - 2009

2009 top selling ram----Mountainview sale **Consignor** - Lois Trowell **Buyer** - Mark Humphreys

Top selling ram ---2008 Mountainveiw sale **Consignor** - Linda Westman **Buyer** - Duane and Nadine Caumartin

Leafy Spurge

Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula L.) is a deep-rooted perennial weed which can spread by both seed and underground creeping rootstocks. The plant stands approximately 2 - 2.5 inches (50-60 cm) in height, has yellowish-green flowers, contains milky white latex, and is usually found growing in patches.

Infestations generally occur in pastures and rangelands. The noxious weed often renders them useless for grazing as the milky latex causes detrimental effects to most grazing animals. Sheep and goats, however, appear to be unaffected and will feed on the plant. Nevertheless, losses in beef production in Manitoba, due to lost grazing capacity, have been estimated at over half a million dollars per year.

Sheep and goats have performed well when using the weed as a forage and using them to graze the weed is an effective alternative or complement to herbicide use. This method of control is especially practical when the spurge is located in areas where other control means are impractical.

Sheep and goats apparently suffer no harmful effects from grazing leafy spurge and the latex does not cause any irritation. In fact, leafy spurge has been found to be very nutritious.

Studies now in progress near Brandon conducted by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and the Brandon Soil Management Association, have shown that after two years, the use of sheep resulted in a significant reduction in leafy spurge dry matter. Grazing by sheep provided a greater decrease in leafy spurge dry matter compared to an application of 2,4-D alone. However, the combination of both sheep and an application of 2,4-D provided the largest reduction.

Continued on Page 14

Mountainview Sheep Association Holds Meeting

Thought this picture from our May meeting might be of interest for Sheep Sense.
Some of the members of Mountain View Sheep association pictured in front of the Spinning Wheel cairn in Sifton where our May meeting was held.
Sifton had a woollen mill industry and spinning wheel manufacturer and was the birthplace of the famous Mary Maxim sweaters.
The cairn is built with stones bearing the names of pioneer families in the area.
Agnes McLaren.

Royal Winter Fair Report

by Sarah Lewis

The winter fair went really well with good attendance throughout the week . MSA was even part of the opening ceremonies when the volunteers involved in "Through the Farm Gate" were introduced.
This year, we had a larger area for display and this allowed us to spread out our display and to include extras. The pencils, as always, were well received.

"RUN FOR THE GATE"
FIRST ANNUAL STOCK DOG CHALLENGE

Presented by the Prairie Shepherds 4-H Club, the Manitoba Sheep Association & the Manitoba Stock Dog Association

August 13- 15, Neepawa Fair Grounds

For more information, contact

Lorna Wall (204)-664-2027
Email Address: wall2wallsheep.ca

CCWG DIRECTOR ELECTIONS 2010

The following Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited directors term of office will expire in 2010. Any shareholder interested in a director position is required to file a nomination ballot supported by three shareholders from the provincial sub district in which they reside, at least 60 days prior to the provincial shareholders meeting. Copies of our corporate bylaws and nomination ballots are available upon request from any branch of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited. All nomination ballots must be received at Head Office by August 31, 2010.

British Columbia	-	**Ken H. Mallinson**
Alberta South	-	**John D. Balderson**
Saskatchewan South	-	**Ward Harden**
Ontario East	-	**Dwayne C. Acres**
Québec	-	**David Mastine**

The Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited Board of Directors is comprised of 10 directors from across Canada who each serve alternating two year terms. An executive committee is then elected annually from within the Board of Directors, by the Board of Directors.

The Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited is a producer owned Co-operative involved in the collection, grading and marketing of the Canadian wool clip to domestic and global markets. The Co-op also operates a large network of outlets and dealers for farm supplies and wool clothing.

For further information contact:

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Leafy Spurge Continued from Page 13

Although grazing in itself does not kill the plants, it will prevent seed production, and if grazed at a sufficient intensity, will lead to a depletion of root reserves and an associated decrease in plant vigor. This will result in a reduced ability of the weed to compete against grass species, as well as withstand effects of herbicides or other control means.

Sheep should be released to pasture relatively early in the spring so as to provide an immediate attack on the spurge seedlings. If possible, animals should first be corralled in heavily infested areas to allow them to acquire a taste for the plant. There may be a two to three week adjustment period before they begin to consume the weed preferentially.

Breed Profile: Horned and Polled Dorset

History of Dorset Sheep: The British Dorset's origin is uncertain but it's believed to be descended from a long-tailed, primitive breed, the Portland, whose tan-faced, horned ancestors ranged throughout southwest England prior to the Roman Conquest. Says M.L. Ryder, writing in The History of Sheep Breeds in Britain (1964), "The unimproved Portland breed, now almost extinct, is probably a good example of what the South-West Horned type was like before it evolved into such breeds as the Wiltshire Horn and Dorset Horn. It is of interest that the long breeding season for which the Dorset Horn is now famed was noted by Edward Lisle as early as 1757, in the Wiltshire breed. The only other breed that is so fertile is the Merino, and this has led some to suggest Merino blood in the modern Dorset." The British Dorset Horn Sheep Breeders Association was founded in 1891 but Horned Dorsets came to America long before that. The Hudson's Bay Trading Company brought them to Oregon prior to 1860 and the first to reach our East Coast arrived in 1885. Using Horned Dorset breeding stock, North Carolina State College in Raleigh, North Carolina, pioneered polled (hornless) Dorsets in the early 1950's, creating a second and now more popular Dorset breed.

Conformation: Dorsets, both horned and polled varieties, have white faces with pink skin. They are solidly build, at least as long as they are tall, with broad backs and medium-length legs. Horned Dorset ewes have small, sturdy horns that curve forward and downward close to the jaw; Horned Dorset rams have magnificent, spiral-curved horns. Dorset ewes weigh 150 to 225 pounds and stand 34 inches tall or less; mature rams tip the scale at 225 to 350 pounds and shouldn't exceed 37 inches tall at the shoulder.

Special Consideration/Notes on Dorset Sheep: The Dorset's most remarkable trait is its ability to breed out of season, a quality not seen in most wool breeds; properly managed Dorset ewes produce three lamb crops in just two years. In addition, Dorsets adapt extremely well to both grass-based and feedlot situations. Polled Dorsets are the most popular white-faced breed in North America, while the much less-common Dorset Horn remains in the Watch category ("Fewer than 2,500 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 10,000") of the American Rare Breeds Conservancy's Conservation Priority Watchlist.

Replacement tags for purebred registrations now available.

Canadian purebred sheep producers, who are using paired Allflex RFID tags to register their animals, are now able to access replacement tags for any lost tags. The provision for issuing replacement tags is **only** being offered to registered purebred animals at this time.

Producers who require a replacement tag need to send a Replacement Tag Request Form to the CSBA office via fax, email, or mail. The CSBA then transfers this request directly to Allflex in an electronic file.

CSBA will also be responsible for submitting payment to Allflex and collecting payment from the producer for the replacement tag. In all cases of retagging, the customer (producer) will be responsible for paying the freight, and replacement tag prices will reflect the cost of producing single numbered tag and will be produced at a premium over initial "farm of origin" tags.

Check off will not be applied to replacement tags.

Replacement tags will be shipped directly from Allflex to the producer. Producers should be aware that replacement tags come from a different source than "farm of origin" tags and as such, Allflex will require a 10 day lead time in order to produce these tags.

To order a replacement tag you need to send a Replacement Tag Request Form (see attached) to the CSBA office either by fax (506.328.8165); by email (office@sheepbreeders.ca) or by mail (1489 Route 560, Deerville NB, E7K 1M7).

Ontario's sheep industry debates need for growth

May 17, 2010

Reduction of Australian and New Zealand flock sizes could mean new opportunities but barriers to expansion are many say those in the industry

by PATRICIA GROTENHUIS

The executive director of the Canadian Sheep Federation is warning producers that growth is essential to maintain the health of the domestic industry.

"A shrinking flock is as dangerous as oversupply," says Jennifer MacTavish.

With its current high prices for products and an opportunity to grow its share of the domestic market, the timing has never been better for Canada's sheep industry to expand. The Canadian industry only fills 41 per cent of domestic lamb demand.

At a time when strong demand for lamb is boosting market prices, the industry's main competitors in the domestic market, Australia and New Zealand producers, are shrinking their sheep flocks.

New Zealand's sheep flock has dropped to 32 million in 2009 from 70 million in 1982; Australia's has dropped to 70 million in 2009 from 180 million in the 1970s. MacTavish says Canada could eventually loose imports because of the decreasing flock sizes since we are such a small importer worldwide.

Producers and industry experts acknowledge there are challenges to expansion.

"Producers here struggle with diseases controlled in other countries by routine vaccination. Even the few pharmaceuticals available are often only available in small size containers," says Delma Kennedy, sheep specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Where the breeding stock for an increased flock would come from is a main concern for Marg Cunningham, a sheep producer from Belgrave. Cunningham stresses the need for disease-free breeding stock.

"I think the biggest crackdown has to be who is selling breeding stock," says Cunningham, whose flock had disease problems when she purchased it, in the end making her start over with a clean flock.

Fraser Hodgson, OSMA director and sheep producer from Forest, says there are also external factors limiting in dustry growth. Problems with predators made some producers leave the industry while others downsized, he says. Costs of dealing with this problem make producers wary of expanding, he adds.

Kennedy says the domestic industry has been growing slowly overall since 1986. In January 2010, the national

continued on page 18

Ontario sheep *-Continued from page 17*

breeding flock numbered 184,500 sheep, up nearly 38 per cent from its 1986 size of 134,000 sheep.
Ruth Gilmour, Communications Co-ordinator at OSMA, says the current infrastructure, such as slaughter capacity, could handle a slightly greater number of sheep. With sheep, sustainable industry growth would be approximately five per cent each year if producers continue culling responsibly to maintain high quality flocks and decrease disease risk.
MacTavish says some producers are concerned that if the industry expands, it will encounter the same chronic low pricing troubles that the country's pork and beef industries have faced in recent years.
Kennedy says the industries do not compare. The country's beef and hog farmers are focused on producing exports, she points out; its sheep farmers respond to domestic demand.
Hodgson notes current prices are not sustainable whether the flock size grows or not. If current spaces at abattoirs are not filled, some may be forced out of business, which would be much worse than the effects of extra lamb on the market, he says.
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The Business Magazine for Ontario Agriculture

One or more of the following clinical signs may be present in affected animals. It is important to note that not all sheep or goats show all the signs of scrapie. Sometimes these signs can be so subtle that they are missed or misdiagnosed until they have progressed.

- Weight loss, despite retention of appetite
- Behavioural changes
- Itching and rubbing
- Wool Pulling
- Biting at limbs or side
- Bunny–hop movement of the rear limbs
- Swaying of hips and hind limbs
- Increased sensitivity to noise and movement
- Tremor
- Down, unable to stand

INCREASING PRODUCTION IN THE CANADIAN SHEEP FLOCK (exerpt from CSF newsletter)

Myth: The only way to increase my production is by increasing my number of ewes.
We've shared viewpoints for the past three issues about the idea of increasing production in the Canadian sheep flock to help ensure our industry's future prosperity. Now the question is how can it be done practically on a farm-by-farm basis? The answer will be different from flock to flock. First we must debunk the myth that the only way to accomplish an increase in production is by making a major investment or adding more ewes to the flock.
• What small steps do you plan to take/ have you taken to increase production in your flock?
• How can you increase production without incurring more labour?
• How can improved animal health play a role in increasing your flock production?
• How can better recordkeeping help increase production?
Send your comments to: **pointsofview@cansheep.ca** OR contact Jennifer directly by phone at 1-888-684-7739 or by email at **jennifer@cansheep.ca.**

The sheep industry began in Central Asia over 10,000 years ago. Spinning started in 3500 BC.

Q-fever

By Jennifer Fleming
Executive Director CSF

Q-fever is an infectious disease that spreads from animals to humans. It is caused the microbe Coxiella burnetii, which is shed in the birth fluids, milk and manure of infected animals and can survive for months, perhaps even years, in dust or soil, because it is resistant to heat, drying and disinfectants. All animals – mammals, birds and even insects – can be infected with this bacteria.

While C. burnetii does not usually cause clinical disease in animals, it has been linked to lateterm abortions in goats and sheep. Humans can acquire the infection by inhaling infectious aerosols and contaminated dusts generated by animals or animal products. It causes flu-like symptoms in humans, sometimes leading to pneumonia and occasionally hospitalization.

Q-fever has been reported around the world, including Canada. Most recently, however, the Netherlands have been dealing with an outbreak. In 2009 there were 2,293 cases of Q-fever reported in humans with 6 deaths.

Between January 1 and March 18, 2010, there were 247 confirmed cases with 6 deaths. This is in comparison to 5-20 cases being reported annually between 2000 and 2006. Due to the fact that the disease is difficult to diagnose and detect in animals, it is the human outbreak of Q-fever that usually alerts officials to the presence of the disease.

In an effort to control what officials in the Netherlands called "...an unprecedented outbreak", they made the controversial decision to cull over 50,000 pregnant dairy goats, from 55 of the country's 400 farms. Most of the affected farms were in the southern part of the country and the slaughter accounted for more than half their total livestock. This decision was made after epidemiological studies pinpointed goats as the source of the disease in an area that was densely populated with humans and dairy farms.

While Canada has never seen a human outbreak of this magnitude, there have been clusters of human cases related to abortion and normal kidding /lambing in small ruminants as well as abortion and stillbirth in cats. Serological studies in humans in Quebec have shown a relationship of having Q-fever and working with sheep. It is common to find evidence of Coxiella in aborted materials from sheep and goats in Ontario. So we know that the infection is around – and occurs in our sheep and goat populations. However, a study that examines the infection status of the sheep / goat farm and the health of the humans that care for them, has not yet been done – but is being planned. In the meantime, we do know of measures that can reduce risk of Q-fever in people working with sheep or goats:

In Europe a vaccine (Coxevax, CEVA Santé Animale) is available to prevent infection of sheep, goats and cattle. Vaccinating all breeding females will decrease abortion and – in those animals not already infected – decrease shedding of the microbe. Vaccinating all breeding females on an annual basis will – over time – reduce shedding of the microbe into the environment through birth fluids, milk and manure, thus helping to protect humans as well as animals. At this point, the vaccine is only available by a biological import permit through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. It is hoped that within a few years, the vaccine is licensed in North America making it easier and less expensive to obtain.

A study of Q-fever and its impact on animal and human health is planned for Ontario sheep flocks and goat dairies over the next year. The study is being conducted by researchers at the University of Guelph and is funded by the Ontario Animal Health Strategic Fund. Researchers will randomly select sheep flocks and goat herds across Ontario and visit them once. At that visit they will administer a questionnaire to the farm-workers than take care of the animals and draw a blood sample to determine if that worker has been infected with Q-fever. They will also draw blood from a sample of the breeding females and administer a questionnaire regarding the health of the flock / herd. By examining the health of the animals and the health of the humans that care for them, researchers will identify management practices that either influence the risk of Q-fever.

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One pound of wool can make 10 miles of spun yarn!