

Suffolk Newsletter

The United Suffolk Sheep Association

USSA Office Contact Information

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Winter 2015

Volume 5, Issue 4

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Happy Holidays!

Now that NAILE has come and gone, I'd like to say thank you to all who helped during 2015 NAILE Suffolk Events. There were many wonderful activities during NAILE such as the Suffolk Junior Show, Open Suffolk Show and the Hall of Fame inductions during the Annual Meeting – it was great to see you all and meet many new faces! Also, congratulations to all the exhibitors, "Welcome" to the new USSA Directors, Ron Alves, Matt Beals, Joe Emenheiser and Randy Hodges and "Thank You" to the retiring USSA Directors, Keith Pumphrey, Virginia Gergen, Diane Russell and Bill MacCauley. During the USSA board meetings in Louisville, Paul Skartvedt was elected President, Larry Pauly elected Vice-President and Bill Royer will again serve as the Treasurer.

Before you know it lambing will be well underway... Before that joyous time of year begins, don't forget to register your replacement ewe lambs before they turn 1 year of age -- ensuring you receive the reduced registration price! Additionally, if you have sold a bred ewe in the last few months and need to transfer ownership, don't forget to include the breeding certificate information on the back of the ewe's registration certificate. Lastly, if you've sold a ram this summer or fall, don't forget to transfer ownership!

A few brief reminders as 2016 approaches:

- Please note the new USSA Office address posted above.
- Just a reminder that USSA is again partnering with Banner Publications to create the 2016 Breeders Directory. Members who pay their dues prior to March 1st will be listed in the 2016 Breeders Directory. Membership dues paid before March 1st are \$35.00. Membership dues submitted after March 1st are \$50.00, so I encourage everyone to send their payments early. If you would like to have an ad included in the directory, contact Greg Deakin.
- Yearly dues letters will be sent next month. Please review your contact information and let me know if there's any updates that need to be made as that is what will be printed in the directory. If you are not currently listed as a breeder on the USSA website, please let me know and I'll get you added! Also, your account balance will be noted on the second page of your letter; it is appreciated if you could pay any past due balance.
- New in 2016 –the USSA will be hosting two Suffolk online sales through Willoughby Sales. The sales will be held April 24-25 and June 8-9. Please contact the USSA office for details.

If you have something you would like to share in the next issue please contact the office.

Wishing you happy holidays and the best this lambing season!

Amanda Everts

USSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President:

Paul Skartvedt (Exp. 2018)
Radcliffe, IA
515-450-1302
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Vice President:

Larry Pauly (Exp. 2016)
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District 2

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District 3

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Randy Hodges, (Exp. 2016)
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The American Lamb Industry Roadmap Project

[Click Here](#) to access the American Lamb Board's Final Lamb Industry Roadmap Report!



...new members, returning past members (who have not been active in recent years)
and past UJSSA members who have joined the USSA.

Bruce & Roxanne Francis, IL

Fred Shotwell, PA

Twin Peaks Suffolks, MO

Gary & Marie Huber, MT

George Demas, PA

Rob & Tami Quesnell, ID

Thomas Wince, WV

Randy Wilt, MO

A Message from your USSA President

Suffolk sheep breeders;

I want to say hello and introduce myself- I am the new president of the United Suffolk Sheep Association. I am the son of Wayne and Mary Skartvedt, long time Suffolk breeders. I live near Radcliffe, Iowa , in district 3. I share this passion with my wife Shannon and four children Lily, Ty, Landen and Tessa.

I am very excited for this year to get started, with lambing season and the holidays upon us there is excitement and anticipation for the new year. We will be having our national sale in Reno, Nevada this year. New to the Suffolk Association in 2016— we will have two online sales for our members to be part of; contact the USSA Office for more details.



I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I wish everyone a safe and happy lambing season.

Paul Skartvedt

USSA President

USSA Committee Updates

Performance Committee

In November the USSA submitted a proposal to ASI Let's Grow Grant Committee. The grant has been awarded to the USSA—see the NSIP update for more details.

Hall of Fame Committee

If there is someone you would like to consider for a future Hall of Fame inductee, please share that information with the USSA Office by May 1st.

Futurity Committee

Thank you to all who nominated and purchased futurity ewes in 2015. Suffolk breeders—please consider nominating your ewe lambs in 2016 if you are consigning to a sale (online sales as well!) or having a production sale! You can nominate your whole ewe lamb flock for \$250 or each ewe lamb for \$25. Animals sold privately are not eligible.

Junior members planning to show a purchased yearling ewe in 2016—consider nominating your yearling ewe in the yearling ewe futurity! It only costs \$25 per ewe; 100% payback!

Participation in the futurity program is easy—

- ⇒ Purchase a nominated ewe lamb or nominate your purchased yearling ewe
- ⇒ Show your ewe in any show that has Suffolk specific classes—don't forget to bring a points form with you for signature by a show representative!
- ⇒ Submit your points form to the office

A Message from your UJSSA President

Season's greetings from the United Junior Suffolk Association!

We hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season! We would like congratulate everyone's successes at the 2015 North American International Livestock Exposition. Also, thank you to all of our continued supporters of the 2016 National Junior Show that will be located in Spencer, Iowa. The Junior Board of Directors is actively planning the show and are looking forward to the opportunity of bringing Suffolk breeders from around the nation together.

Along with our silent auction items, the Junior Board of Directors is also selling T-shirts and sweatshirts that are still for sale. Please contact the Suffolk's Executive Office to purchase these items. Also contact that officer, if you are interested in supporting the 2016 show. If you have already made a donation, thank you again. As always, your generosity and continued support is greatly appreciated.



Finally, good luck this winter as everyone begins lambing. Stay safe and have a fantastic holiday season with friends and family!

Sincerely,

Jaclynn Knutson – UJSSA President
UJSSA Board of Directors

UJSSA FUNDRAISER

The UJSSA board is selling t-shirts and sweatshirts as a fundraiser for the 2016 National Junior Suffolk Show. T-shirts are \$20 and sweatshirts are \$30; prices include shipping. Contact the USSA Office to order!

T-shirt design!



SUFFOLK NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

1 page—\$200/issue

1/2 page—\$100/issue

1/4 page- \$50/issue

Ads should be emailed to: news@u-s-s-a.org. Please include the ad size and which quarter the ad should be run. Ads must be "publish-ready".

Notes from the UJSSA

Attention Suffolk Breeders! Would you be willing to help the UJSSA plan and coordinate the 2016 National Junior Suffolk Show to be held in Spencer, Iowa? The UJSSA is looking for volunteers to help with this year's events. If interested, contact UJSSA President, Jaclynn Knutson.

2016 National Junior Suffolk Sheep Show Sponsorship Would you like to help sponsor the 2016 National Junior Suffolk Show? If you are interested in sponsoring a specific class or would like to just be a general sponsor please contact a UJSSA Director.

2015 NATIONAL JUNIOR SUFFOLK SHOW



Now posted on the [UJSSA Website](#):

Photos • Complete Results • 2015 UJSSA Directors

CHECK OUT THE
DETAILS FOR THE
2016 SHOW ON
THE [UJSSA SITE!](#)

UJSSA Board of Directors



www.ujssa.org

The UJSSA is on Facebook!

Officers

President

Jaclynn Knutson, Centerville, SD
605-670-2147, JK3368@k12.sd.us

Vice President

Andrew Slack, Lake Geneva, WI
262-903-1326, aslack@slhs.us

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Ambassador

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USSA FUTURITY RESULTS

2015 USSA Ewe Lamb Futurity Results

District	Placing	Overall Futurity	Exhibitor Name		Futurity Ewe Lamb	Points
District 2						
	1	1	Taylor Wolff	Oakes	ND Kjeldgaard 582	72
	2		Taylor Wolff	Oakes	ND SDF 5042	59
	3		Kelly Ann Rice	Covington	TN MacCauley 3224	54
	4		Kelly Ann Rice	Covington	TN EB Suffolks 328	42
District 3						
	1		Jacklyn Oelke	Barrett	MN JMG 1501	67
	2		Victoria Arnevik	Rice Lake	WI MacCauley 3236	47
	3		Victoria Arnevik	Rice Lake	WI Double L 14316	11
District 4						
	1		Clayton Henderson	Atlanta	IN Quam 11441	47
	2		Madelynn Pimm	Bergen	NY MacCauley 3223	39
	3		Madelynn Pimm	Bergen	NY Russell Sheep Co. 5058	30

2015 USSA Yearling Ewe Futurity Results

Overall Placing	Exhibitor Name		Futurity Yearling Ewe	Points
1	Clayton Henderson	Atlanta	IN Quam 4-17	23



Kjeldgaard582
Taylor Wolff



Quam 4-17
Clayton Henderson

USSA Ambassador Application

Due: June 1, 2016

Visit the USSA or UJSSA website to view application.

2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2015 USSA Scholarships. Juniors are encouraged to apply for the USSA Scholarship and Let's Grow Suffolk Scholarship (deadline is Oct. 1, 2016).

USSA Scholarship (two \$1000 USSA Scholarships)

Katie Frost of Bloomingburg, Ohio is currently attending The Ohio State University, majoring in Animal Science/ Pre-Vet and hopes to attend The Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine after graduating, specializing in sheep. Katie has been involved with her family's Suffolk flock and has exhibited Suffolk sheep at the county and state level. She has also worked for the Ohio State Fair and Midwest Stud Ram Sale.

Jaclynn Knutson of Centerville, South Dakota is currently a senior at Viborg High School. She plans to attend South Dakota State University and double-majoring in Animal Science and Agricultural Systems Technology and minoring in Agricultural Business. Jaclynn has been involved with her family's Suffolk flock since birth and intends on managing her own flock upon graduation from college. Jaclynn is currently the UJSSA President and active in 4-H and FFA.

Let's Grow Suffolks Scholarship (\$1000 Scholarship)

Grant Friesen of Carthage, Indiana is currently a senior at Eastern Hancock County. He plans to attend Kansas State University and major in Biosystems Engineering and minoring in Feed Milling Science; with this degree he would like to improve machinery and equipment used by farmers and producers. Grant, along with his family raise Suffolks and plans to continue raising Suffolks upon graduation from college. He exhibits Suffolks locally and nationally. He is currently a UJSSA Director and is involved with 4-H and FFA.

2015 WIN A SUFFOLK EWE LAMB ANNOUNCED!

There were several great entries for this year's Win A Suffolk Ewe Lamb contest. The recipient of the 2016 born Suffolk ewe lamb is Kyle Gross of Kennard, Nebraska. Kyle's video has been posted on the USSA website!



NEW IN 2016!



SUPER SUFFOLK ONLINE SALE!

Hosted by the United Suffolk Sheep Association

Consignment open to USSA and UJSSA members

Sale Dates: April 24-25 and June 8-9

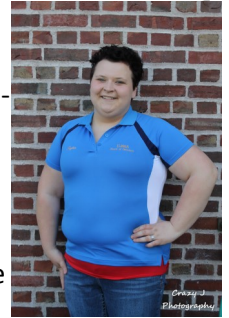
Contact the USSA Office for more details!

Message from the Suffolk Ambassador

Dear Suffolk Enthusiasts,

Here in the Midwest we have only seen a touch of snow which has already melted. It will definitely be interesting to see if we have a white Christmas. I don't know about you but I am hoping that winter flies by. I am ready to see some great lambs on the ground!

By the time you read this, I am hoping that your ewes are getting ready to drop some lambs, and you are as anxious as everybody else. I don't know about you but this is my favorite time of the year.



It's been a month since the NAILE Sheep Show which was a very successful show for many breeders. The Suffolk breed should very proud of the sheep that were exhibited, and sold down in Louisville. Nothing is better then a beautiful Suffolk sheep but I might be a little bias.

As we move on to lambing, and the next show season... Don't forget to mark your calendar for the upcoming Suffolk events. The 2016 National Junior Suffolk will be June 30th-July 3rd in Spencer, Iowa as well the The Big Ohio Sale in May and Midwest Stud Ram Sale and the Nugget All-American Show and Sale in June.

As always, if you have any questions at all, please contact any Junior Director---we would be happy to help you find transportation, or answer any show, ownership or entry questions you may have

Wishing you all the best as your begin your lambing season and you look forward to finding the next show string. Merry Christmas!

Respectfully Submitted,
Tayler Wolff
Ambassador

Let's Grow Suffolks & USSA Scholarship Applications

Due: October 1, 2016

Visit the USSA or UJSSA website to view scholarship applications or contact the USSA Office.

USSA OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 121 • Holland, Iowa 50642

Office: 641.684.5291 • Fax: 734.335.7646

info@u-s-s-a.org • www.u-s-s-a.org

Attention National Jr. Show Exhibitors

Mark your calendars for the 2016 National Junior Suffolk Show!

June 30—July 3rd

Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IA

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY!

Due to the busy holiday weekend and the show being held in Spencer, exhibitors are encouraged to make their hotel reservations early!

Days Inn

10 SE 11th St., Spencer, IA 51301

Phone: 712.580.4077

Rate: 109.99

Block Released: 5/29/16

AmericInn Spencer*

1005 13th Street SW., Spencer, IA 51301

Phone: 712-262-7525

spencer.ia@americinn.com

Rate \$119

Block Released: 4/30/16

ATTENTION SUFFOLK BREEDERS

Plan to be part of the 2016 Breeders Membership Directory

The Directory will be published by THE BANNER in glossy magazine format. All members of the United Suffolk Sheep Association will be mailed a directory. Directories will be distributed at every major show and sale in 2016!

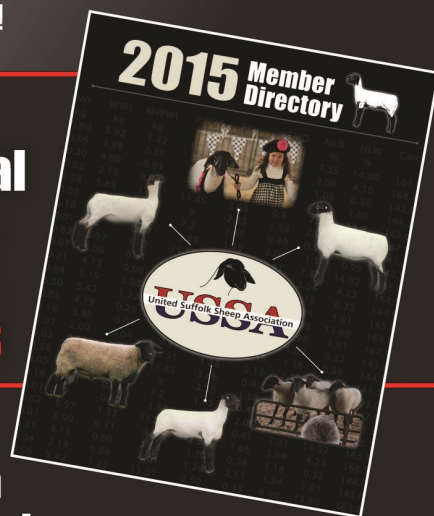


**BE PART
OF IT!**

**Breeders
& Commercial
Advertisers
Deadline is
February 28**

**Leap on the Bandwagon
& Contact THE BANNER Now!**

Phone: 309/785-5058 • Fax: 309/785-5050 • Email: ads.banner@sybertech.net





2015 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

Junior Breeding Show—Ram Results



Harder Suffolks 5005
Champion Ram
Champion Fitted Ram
Rasea Zelinsky, South Dakota



Begg 171
Res. Champion Fitted Ram
Allie Begg, Ohio



MacCauley 3193 RR
Res. Champion Ram
Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Kyle MacCauley, Pennsylvania

No Photo Available

Krinsky Club Lambs 141501
Res. Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Corrie McClees, Oklahoma

To see complete NAILE results visit: www.livestockexpo.org



2015 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

Junior Breeding Show Ewe Results



Knutson Suffolks 145
Res. Champion Ewe
Champion Fitted Ewe
Lily, Ty, Landon & Tessa Skartvedt, Iowa



Knutson Suffolks 15-106
Res. Champion Fitted Ewe
Jaclynn & Alison Knutson, South Dakota

Fitted Senior Champion Ewe— Knutson Suffolks 145, Lily, Ty, Landon & Tess Skartvedt, IA

Res Champion Senior Fitted Ewe— Annuschat W267, Kelsey Rogers, IL

Fitted Junior Champion Ewe— Knutson Suffolks 15-106, Jaclynn & Alison Knutson, SD

Res. Champion Junior Fitted Ewe— Kauffman Suffolks 15-01, Elliot Kauffman, IL



Slack 5109
Champion Suffolk Ewe
Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Jordyn Leininger, Indiana



Slack 5403
Res. Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Jordyn Leininger, Indiana

Slick Shorn Senior Champion Ewe— MacCauley 2974 QR, Kyle MacCauley, PA

Res. Champion Senior Slick Shorn Ewe – Yazell Suffolks 433, TJ Yazell, KY

Slick Shorn Junior Champion Ewe—Slack 5109, Jordyn Leininger, IN

Reserve Champion Junior Slick Shorn Ewe— Slack 5403, Jordyn Leininger, IN
State Flock—Pennsylvania



2015 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

Open Show Results - Slick Shorn Show



McLaughlin/Griffin 1544
Res. Champion Ram
Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Kyle MacCauley, Pennsylvania



MacCauley 3068
Res. Champion Slick Shorn Ram
Kyle MacCauley, Pennsylvania

Slick Shorn Ram Senior Champion - MacCauley 3068, Kyle MacCauley, PA
Slick Shorn Ram Res. Sr Champ - PHFT 1500, Phantom Hills Fitting & Training, Ethan, Annie & Ty Smith, IL
Slick Shorn Ram Junior Champion - McLaughlin/Griffin 1544, Kyle MacCauley, PA
Slick Shorn Ram Res. Jr Champ - MacCauley 3222, Kyle MacCauley, PA



Slack 5109
Res. Champion Suffolk Ewe
Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Jordyn Leininger, Indiana



Slack 5403
Res. Champion Slick Shorn Ewe
Jordyn Leininger, Indiana

Senior Champion Slick Shorn Ewe - PHFT 1412, Phantom Hills Fitting & Training, Ethan, Annie & Ty Smith, IL
Res. Sr. Champion Slick Shorn Ewe - PHFT 1409, Phantom Hills Fitting & Training, Ethan, Annie & Ty Smith, IL
Junior Champion Slick Shorn Ewe - Slack 5109, Jordyn Leininger, IN
Reserve Junior Champion Slick Shorn Ewe— Slack 5403, Jordyn Leininger, IN
Slick Shorn Flock - MacCauley Suffolks
Slick Shorn Premier Exhibitor—MacCauley Suffolks



2015 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

Open Show Results - Fitted Show



"Buckaroo Banzai" Ruby Mtn 1405
Champion Suffolk Ram
Champion Fitted Ram
Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., Nevada



Silver Dollar PIA 5056
Res. Champion Fitted Ram
Tad Thompson, IN

Senior Champion Ram—"Buckaroo Banzai" Ruby Mtn 1405, Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV
Reserve Senior Champion Ram - Mil-Sid 1406, Josh Miller, NY
Junior Champion Ram— Silver Dollar PIA 5056, Tad Thompson, IN
Reserve Junior Champion Ram— Schambow 3509, Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV



Knutson Suffolks 145
Champion Ewe
Champion Fitted Ewe
Lily, Ty, Landon & Tessa Skartvedt, Iowa



"Bobbi" KJ Lansing 4209
Res. Champion Fitted Ewe
Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., Nevada

Senior Champion Ewe—Knutson Suffolks 145, Lily, Ty, Landon & Tess Skartvedt, IA
Reserve Senior Champion Ewe - "Bobbi" KJ Lansing 4209, Ruby Mountain Sheep Co, NV
Junior Champion Ewe - Knutson Suffolks 15-12, Jaclynn & Alison Knutson, SD
Reserve Junior Champion Ewe - Ruby Mountain Sheep 1513, Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV
Fitted Flock - Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV
Best Headed Ewe— Ruby Mountain Sheep 1412, Ruby Mountain Sheep Co., NV
Best Headed Ram—Silver Dollar PIA 5056 , Tad Thompson, IN
Fitted Premier Exhibitor— Ruby Mountain Sheep Co.



2015 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

NAILE Lead Line



Raesa Zelinsky
1st place ages 11-13

Suffolk Market Lamb Results



Champion Suffolk Market Lamb
Ben Porter, Georgia

Of Interest...

Interstate Animal Movement Requirements

Reprinted from ASI Weekly Newsletter

A new website can give you quick, accurate access to state import requirements for livestock. It is available at www.interstatelivestock.com.

To get started, you will be asked to answer a few questions about your livestock movement circumstances. After that, you'll receive an easy to follow report about what is currently required for your livestock movement.

The site is sponsored by the U.S. Animal Health Association and the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.

AgriLife Extension Offers New Livestock Guardian Dog Publication

Reprinted from ASI Weekly Newsletter

Personnel from Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in San Angelo have completed the publication *Livestock Guardian Dogs*.

"This publication is a guide for sheep and goat farmers and ranchers who are looking at using livestock guardian dogs to protect their sheep and goats from predation," said Reid Redden, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension state sheep and goat specialist at the center.

Redden was joined in authoring the work by John Walker, Ph.D., AgriLife Research Center director and John Tomecek, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist.

"This publication is for producers interested in using guardian dogs for the first time," Redden said. "It's also for those who may have had some previous troubles with guardian dogs protecting their flocks and herds against predators. The information presented will help both audiences get started on the right foot and maybe resolve some issues that they've seen in the past."

The eight-page reference guide is available at <http://sanangelo.tamu.edu> under publications.

2015 Hall of Fame Recognition

On Sunday, November 15th, during the 2015 Annual Meeting the 2015 class of the USSA Hall of Fame was honored. It was a great evening of reminiscing and honoring those who have contributed to the Suffolk Breed, National Suffolk Sheep Association, American Suffolk Sheep Society and the United Suffolk Sheep Association. Here's photos of the inductees (and/or their families) who were able to attend the dinner. Special thanks to Greg Deakin for taking these photos.

Inductees not pictured include B.B. Burroughs and Dr. Ben Huff.



Bob & Mark Chapman Family



John Eagle & Family



George Hunter Family



Sherwood Jackson



Donna Mays & Family



Pearce McKinney

Opportunities to Share

American Sheep Industry Association Convention—January 27-30

Registrations are still flowing in for the American Sheep Industry Association Convention being held in Scottsdale Jan. 27-30. All registration documents can be found at www.sheepusa.org/About_Events_Convention. Hope to see you in January.

American Lamb Promotional Funding Program

The ALB has allocated \$35,000 in FY 2016 to support new lamb promotion ideas targeting non-industry audiences (consumers, chefs, media, retailers, etc.). These funds are intended to help support local or regional lamb promotions designed to build demand for American Lamb. Lamb industry functions and events are not eligible for funding.

This is a competitive funding process, and the American Lamb Board will give priority to projects that demonstrate innovative promotion ideas and a commitment to share the cost of executing the promotion. These funds are intended to offset the total cost of the promotion rather than to subsidize the entire cost.

The types of programs that would be eligible are:

- Lamb sampling at consumer food events
- Cooking and/or butchery demonstrations
- Retail promotions such as in-store sampling
- Farm or ranch tours for consumers, media, chefs, etc.
- Local restaurant promotions
- Farmers' market demonstrations or sampling
- Education seminars at local culinary schools or consumer cooking schools
- Local Lamb Jam—style cook-off competitions

All promotional funding proposals are due no later than January 15, 2016. Click here for program requirements. For more information or questions regarding the program, contact Rae Maestas at rae@americanlamb.com or 866-327-5262.

Also, remember that the ALB has a number of promotional tools available for industry organizations and partners, including: recipe brochures, stickers, kids' activity sheets, infographics, artwork, promotional toolkits and more. These items are available at no cost to help support local lamb promotions.



Transfer Price Increase—Effective January 1, 2015

All non-family transfers are now \$10 per head.
There will no longer be a price difference based on sale date.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Have a Suffolk related event you would like to add to the calendar of events? Email your event to: info@u-s-s-a.org. The newsletter may not contain all upcoming events. To find a full listing, please visit : www.u-s-s-a.org.

January

- 8-10** Michigan Sheep Breeders Association Shepherds Weekend Symposium - Lansing - kaercher@msu.edu or www.misheep.org
- 9-11** San Angelo Shearing School & Certified Wool Classing School - reid.redden@ag.tamu.edu
- 27- 30** ASI Convention, Scottsdale, AZ

March

- 1** **Last day to pay USSA membership dues at reduced rate and be included in 2016 breeders directory**
- 19-21** Montana State Wool Harvesting School - MSU Red Bluff Research Station - sharon.henderson@montana.edu or 406-994-3415

April

- 24-25** USSA Online Suffolk Sale, www.wlivestock.com

May

- 12-14** Big Ohio Sale Weekend, Eaton, OH www.bannersheepmagazine.com
- 28-29** Great Lakes All Breed Sale, Wooster, OH www.bannermagazine.com

June

- 1** **Entry deadline for National Junior Suffolk Show**
- 1** **USSA Ambassador Applications Due**
- 1-3** National Suffolk Sale held in conjunction with Nugget All-American, Sparks, NV www.wlivestock.com
- 8-9** USSA Online Suffolk Sale, www.wlivestock.com
- 20-25** Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO www.midwestsale.com
- 30- July 3** **National Junior Suffolk Show, Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IA www.ujssa.org**

July

- June 30-July 3** **National Junior Suffolk Show, Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IA www.ujssa.org**
- 15-16** Crossroads of the West Sale, Heber City, UT www.bannersheepmagazine.com



Have something to share?

We're looking for photos, news, show and sale information, classified ads, recipes, helpful hints & tips, educational opportunities and questions for the question and answer section to include in the Suffolk Newsletter! Or anything else that may be of interest to fellow Suffolk Breeders you would like to share! If you have any suggestions on other items that should be included in the Suffolk Newsletter, please send those ideas as well! Information can be emailed to news@u-s-s-a.org or contact the USSA Office.

In the News...

Let's Grow Continues Funding to Improve Productivity Efficiencies

Reprinted from ASI Weekly Newsletter

Just in time for the holidays, the Let's Grow Committee is announcing the recipients of its second round of funding.

"Again, the quality of the grant requests was superior," said Mike Corn, chair of the Let's Grow Committee and American Sheep Industry Association vice-president. "I applaud the applicants for the content depth and thoroughness that they incorporated into the documents submitted to the committee for consideration, giving the committee great insight into the proposed projects."

On Dec. 7-8, following the committee's mission statement, they comprehensively discussed and funded 15 of the 27 submitted grants, infusing more than \$200,000 back into the American sheep industry to improve productivity efficiencies.

"A trend that we are seeing with the applications is that many are considering projects that carry a broader, national reach versus a more local approach," continued Corn.

Alan Culham, Let's Grow program coordinator, added, "A common theme to the funded proposals is that concepts and ideas are gaining approval over items and assets."

A list of awarded projects follows -- Requesting Party, Grant Title and Reach of the Grants.

- California Wool Growers Association - Improving Sheep Carcass Quality through the Development of a Range Ram Index Utilizing Ultrasound Genetic Measures - California
- Dakota Lamb Growers Cooperative - GM1 Sheep Production for Huntington's Disease - National Reach
- Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office - Tri-state Small Ruminant Summit - Let's Grow Together - Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana
- Michigan State University - Improving the Adoption of Accelerated Lamb Production in the USA - National Reach
- National Lamb Crop Task Force - Roadmap To Boost National Lamb Crop - National Reach
- NSIP Fine-Wool Sheep Breeders - Building a Fine-Wool Sheep Breeders Group - National Reach
- Optimal Ag Consulting, Inc. - 2016 Sheep Producer Webinar Education Program - National Reach
- Oregon Sheep Growers Association - Let's Grow the West! - Oregon, Washington, California & Wyoming
- Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association - Penn State Sheep Home Study Course Enhancements - Pennsylvania
- South Dakota State University Extension - South Dakota Post Weaning Lamb Performance Program - Phase 2 - South Dakota
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Shepherds for Profit -- Texas
- United Suffolk Sheep Association - Building Value for Suffolk Sheep Using a Performance Registry - National Reach
- University of Arkansas - Let's Grow Arkansas Small Ruminant Regional Conference Series - Arkansas
- University of Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Engaging the New Biology: Establishing the Foundation for Genome Enhanced Breeding Values in the U.S. Sheep Industry - National Reach

(Continued on page 19)

- Utah Wool Growers Association - Leading Edge Sheep Production - Part II - Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada

The committee also approved up to \$25,000 to be set-aside for the fifth round of State Mentor Program funding. State associations will be contacted in the next few weeks to apply. The state-mentor funds focus on the continued partnerships of state-level mentors with beginning producers, educational workshops, reference materials and industry outreach.

It is the intent of the committee to offer another round of funding in this fiscal year. Information about the program, progress of the first round of funded grants and other educational materials are available on the Let's Grow pages of the ASI website at www.sheepusa.org/Growourflock_Home. Let's Grow also maintains a Facebook page that is accessible at www.facebook.com/LetsGrowASI.

The Let's Grow Committee is made-up of industry leaders from across the country including Corn (N.M.); Lesa Eidman (Calif.), John Fine (Ore.), Ben Lehfeltdt (Mont.), Wes Limesand (N.D.), Wes Moser (Iowa), Dr. Stanley Poe, Sr. (Ind.), Rick Powers (S.C.), Rob Rule (Iowa), Susan Shultz (Ohio), Bill Sparrow, Jr. (N.C.) and Dr. Dennis Stiffler (N.Y.).

Mountain States Acquiring JBS Greeley Lamb Plant

Reprinted from ASI Weekly Newsletter

Mountain States Lamb Cooperative has entered into an agreement with JBS USA to acquire the JBS Greeley Lamb Plant and all related assets in their entirety.

MSLC, based in Douglas, Wyo., is a multi-state, producer-owned marketing cooperative, including Mountain States Rosen meat marketing company, with fabrication, distribution and marketing assets in Greeley, Colo., and Bronx, N.Y.

"By acquiring JBS Greeley Lamb our company will truly be 'Range to Table,' strengthening the sustainability of the American sheep industry in the Mountain West and United States," stated Frank Moore, chairman of MSLC.

"JBS has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with Mountain States and believes today's announcement will benefit both parties, notably the more than 120 JBS team members who will have the opportunity to continue their careers in the U.S. lamb industry," said Andre Nogueira, CEO, JBS USA. "As a world leader in fresh lamb production with significant assets in Australia, lamb will remain a strategic part of the JBS global business model."

MSLC began as a grass roots effort in late 1990's by a handful of producers who wanted to create more margin for their sheep operations and stop the precipitous decline of the American sheep industry. The co-op began marketing lambs in 2003 and recently surpassed three million lambs marketed. With producers in 15 states, Mountain States maximizes the potential for profit for its members by paying for quality on a premium grid and also offers premiums for all-natural, source-verified lambs.

Brad Boner, vice chairman of MSLC commented, "This pending acquisition represents a major opportunity for Mountain States to add harvest capabilities, an integral piece of the value chain, to our already vertically integrated business model. Our members will now control all stages of the production of their lamb: raising, harvesting, processing, packaging, marketing and distribution."

Completion of the acquisition is pending a successful equity drive and bank financing.

American Lamb Board Calls for Educational Resources

As you know, a major focus for the U.S. sheep industry is to increase flock productivity and improve our ability to deliver upon consumer demands. A universal tool being asked for by all segments of our industry is a database that is easily accessible to search for existing resources that address these topics.

With the invaluable guidance of a team of industry advisors, the American Lamb Board has developed the framework for the Best Practices Resource Database and is now ready to start collecting resources to include. We are hoping you will contribute to this database by providing us with information on existing resources you have available.

The database will include a wide range of educational resources. These may include, but are not limited to:

Videos ♦ Publications such as fact sheets, articles and textbooks ♦ Peer-reviewed journal articles
Webinars ♦ Online courses ♦ Websites

This is a free database which will be accessible to anyone with an internet connection. We will post it on the Lamb Board website and promoted to the sheep industry through a variety of ways. This Best Practices Resource Database is an ongoing project, so we encourage you to share new resources as they become available.

When you evaluate which of your resource materials to include, please adhere to these guidelines:

- No restrictions as to the age of the resource – the more important factor is if the information is still relevant and accurate
- Sound science foundation
- Open to both U.S. and non-U.S. sources but required to be in the English language
- Accessible on the internet (if an item is currently not available on a website, we can help.)
- Free and for-a-fee resources
- Educational (not for the sole purpose of selling a product or service)
- No implied endorsement(s)

You can easily submit your resources by completing an online form at <http://bitly.com/LambDatabaseForm>. An editorial board will make final decisions on any questionable resource. The database will be formatted using Microsoft Excel so it has widespread usability.

Here are the steps to submit educational resources.

1. Go to <http://bitly.com/LambDatabaseForm>
2. Assign your resource to an appropriate category or categories. The categories are:
 - Animal handling
 - Animal health
 - Environmental stewardship
 - Genetics and selection
 - Survivability
 - Nutrition
 - Meat quality
 - Reproduction management
 - Birth management
 - Forages and grazing
 - Business management
3. Fill in additional information fields, which include:
 - Formal title
 - Format (fact sheet, webinar, website, textbook, video, etc.)
 - Author

- Affiliation (university, company, association, etc.)
 - Brief narrative description
 - Keywords for search functionality
 - Year developed/published
 - Date of most recent update
 - Free or fee-based
4. Provide information for whom to contact if we have questions

The management of the Best Practices Resource Database is being handled by Demeter Communications, under the supervision of the American Lamb Board. As you submit resources, you will be working directly with Demeter.

Thank you for considering this invitation and we are hopeful that it is possible for you to assist us. If you have any questions, please contact Cassie Cole at Demeter Communications (CassieCole@DemeterCommunications.com or 954- 529-3946).

American Lamb Board Contact:: Rae Maestas -

Phone: 303-759-3001 Ext.3 or email: rae@americanlamb.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

USSA Members only. Ads are free. Must be sheep related: animals, vehicles, trailers, equipment, transportation, working dogs, etc. Include your contact information. The newsletter may not contain all of the classified ads or include photos that are posted with the classified ad. Full listing can be found on our website: www.u-s-s-a.org.

FOR SALE: Mil-Sid 1406

Undeclared Yearling Ram: 2015 New Jersey & New York State Fairs, Big E and K.I.L.E. Sire PHFT 13-37, dam Mil-Sid1201. Complete pedigree is posted with classified ad on website.

Mil-Sid Farm (Josh Miller) 518-231-8113

FOR SALE: Small flock of registered Suffolks

Most ewes and all 2015 lambs are sired by Quam 810 RR/NN. Two ewes are sired by Quam 867 RR/NN, Northern Connection and remainder sired by other rams. 12 April 2015 lambs, 8 - 2014 ewes, 7 - 2013 ewes and 1 - 2007 ewe. All ewes other than the 2015 lambs have been exposed to a ram bought from Dobberpuhl's, Mint Gold Ranch of Depere, WI. Ram was placed in service mid August of this year. Current service sire also being sold with group.

Call (608) 234-8690.

30 Registered Suffolk Ewes For Sale

These large frame ewes are from champion blood lines - strong MacCauley and Cahill influence. All ewes are bred to sons of national champions (Ruby Mountain "Tuf", and Mil-Sid Farms "Trip-Bute"). This package offers substance, style, and the health benefits of a *nearly* closed flock with no premature lambing, foot rot, or foot scald.

Information: contact Carl Martens 507-380-1828, or check out our flock www.martenssuffolks.webs.com.

For Sale: 32 Suffolk Ewes

I am reducing my herd due to job constraints so will sell 32 Suffolk ewes age 2-5. 10 of these are crossbred all others purebred. All have been with rams for 6 weeks and have marked pulled rams 10/25. Bloodlines deep VanArkle influence. Also have 97 regular cab hd 2500 Chevy pickup for sale in great shape.

5F Suffolks, Brad Feters, Email bbbc4f@grm.net, Phone 641-344-5011

Newborn Lamb Management

By: Scott P. Greiner, assistant professor, and Mark L. Wahlberg, associate professor, Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

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For direct access to the article: <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/410/410-026/410-026.html>

At no other time during the year are the investment of time and sound management practices more important for a sheep producer than during lambing. The financial success of a sheep operation largely depends upon maximizing the pounds of lamb weaned per ewe exposed while minimizing costs of production. In turn, pounds of lamb weaned per ewe depend on saving the lambs that are born. The largest percentage of lamb deaths occurs at or shortly after birth.

The three primary causes of death of lambs around lambing time are:

- Difficulty during the birthing process
- Starvation
- Hypothermia

Therefore, solid management practices at lambing time are essential for the economic viability of the sheep operation.

Lambing Time Procedures

1) Frequent visits to the lambing barn

Dystocia (lambing problems) can be a significant cause of lamb mortality. Losses due to stillbirths and dystocia can be reduced by frequent visits to the lambing barn and timely assistance to ewes. Pregnant ewes should be checked every three to four hours. If ewes are checked at 11:00 p.m. or midnight it is not necessary to check again before 5:00 or 6:00 a.m. Ewes that will lamb between these times usually show signs at the late-night observation.

Ewes close to lambing will be restless and may try to claim other newborn lambs. Ewes in labor will normally separate themselves and frequently choose a corner or area along a wall or feedbunk to nest and deliver. The lambing area should be dry, well-bedded, and free of cold drafts that will chill newborn lambs. A heated lambing barn is not necessary; a dry, draft-free area is more important.

The lambing process can vary considerably between ewes. Ewes in labor should be left undisturbed. However, once the ewe begins forceful straining and the water bags are passed, delivery should normally take place within 45 to 60 minutes. Once the front legs are visible, lambs should be born within 30 to 45 minutes. After the first lamb is born, subsequent lambs are normally delivered within 30 minutes.

Prolonged delivery beyond these times may indicate lambing difficulty, and the ewe should be examined and assisted if necessary. Prior to assisting the ewe, the examiner should wash the ewe's vulva with mild soap and water. Likewise, the shepherd should thoroughly wash his or her hands and arms and wear an OB sleeve when assisting or examining a ewe. When assistance is required to deliver one lamb, the uterus should be examined for additional lambs. For lambs that are pulled, a piece of straw may be gently inserted into the nostril as an irritant to help stimulate breathing. Lambs that are delivered rear legs first should be gently shaken upside-down by holding the rear legs to allow fluid to drain from the lungs.

2) Move ewes to a jug after lambing

When possible, allow ewes to give birth where they initially bed down. Moving ewes to individual pens when they start lambing may prolong the birthing process and cause other complications. Additionally, allowing ewes to complete the lambing process before moving them to jugs helps keep the jugs drier and prevent injury to lambs in multiple-birth situations.

Lambing jugs should measure at least 5 feet x 5 feet, with a maximum slat spacing of 3 inches. Large breeds and multiple births may require larger jugs. The environment of the jug is critical to newborn lamb health and survival. The jugs should be kept well-bedded, dry, and free of drafts. Facilities with concrete floors should have a base of lime or sawdust/shavings under the straw. Concrete floors can be cold and damp, causing chilling and pneumonia in newborn lambs. When feasible, clean the lambing jugs between ewes. Feed troughs and water buckets

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should be suspended out of the reach of newborn lambs.

The first 24 to 48 hours after birth are a critical time for the ewe and her lambs. During this time, bonding occurs and the ewe as well as her lambs learn to identify each other. The jugs also assist the shepherd in keeping a close eye on the ewe and lambs.

When moving the ewe into the jug, clip the lambs' navels and immerse in a 7% iodine solution. Many navels (less than 2 inches) will not need to be clipped. Iodine helps prevent infection and promotes drying of the navel.

3) Ensure lambs receive adequate colostrum intake

Colostrum is the milk produced by the ewe for up to 18 hours after birth. It has important nutritional value for the newborn lamb. Colostrum contains essential antibodies that provide protection against certain diseases for the newborn lamb and provides energy to keep the lamb warm. Newborn lambs are susceptible to hypothermia due to their relatively low energy reserves and their large body surface area relative to body weight.

Lambs should receive adequate colostrum within 30 to 60 minutes after birth. To help ensure this, strip the ewe's teats to remove the wax plugs that frequently obstruct the teats. In some cases, lambs that appear to be nursing may not be getting milk due to these plugs. Stripping the teats will also confirm the ewe has milk. Lambs should be monitored closely to make sure they nurse. Lambs that have nursed will have a full stomach upon palpation. Crotching ewes prior to lambing will enhance the lambs' ability to access the udders, particularly with long-fleeced ewes. Lambs that have not nursed should be assisted. Most lambs have a strong suckling reflex shortly after birth, and will nurse when presented a teat. It may be necessary to close the lamb's mouth on the teat and/or squirt milk in the lamb's mouth to initiate suckling. An effort should be made to help the lamb nurse the ewe before other methods are used to get colostrum into the lamb.

In some cases, the lamb is unable to nurse the ewe even with assistance. These lambs may be small, weak, chilled, rejected by the ewe, or injured. In these cases, stomach tube feeding is necessary to get colostrum into the lamb. Lamb stomach tubes that attach to syringes are available commercially and should be on hand for all shepherds. With the lamb's head in a natural position, insert the tube in the side of the lamb's mouth, following the roof of the mouth down into the throat. Don't force the tube down; rather allow the lamb to swallow as the tube goes down the esophagus. The tube can be felt on the outside of the neck as it is inserted down into the stomach, and will go in about 12 inches. Although it is difficult to get the tube down the trachea (windpipe), the tube can be checked to see if air is being expelled (listen or moisten end of tube to see if bubble forms). After inserting of the tube, give the colostrum slowly. Lambs should receive 20 cc colostrum per pound of body weight. As a reference, 30 cc equals approximately 1 ounce. Therefore, a 10-pound lamb should receive 200 cc or about 7 ounces of colostrum in the first 30 minutes after birth. After the initial tube feeding, many lambs will respond and begin to nurse on their own. If not, the lamb may need to be tube fed every two to three hours after the initial feeding.

The source of colostrum for these cases is another important consideration. The first choice would be from the lamb's mother. If colostrum is not available from the ewe, another ewe that has just lambed may be a source. It is a good idea to freeze colostrum for future use from ewes that lose their lambs or ewes with singles that are heavy milkers. Colostrum should be pre-measured and frozen using ice cube trays or freezer bags. Frozen colostrum should be thawed with indirect heat (water bath), and not a microwave or direct heat as these can produce enough heat to destroy the antibodies. In an emergency, goat or cow colostrum may be used. There are also commercially available artificial colostrum substitutes.

Post-Lambing Management

The ewe and her lambs need to be monitored closely for the first few days after birth. Healthy lambs are content, and will stretch when getting up and wag their tails when nursing. A gaunt and weak appearance may be indicative of starvation. Check the ewe to be sure she has milk. In the case of multiple births, the smallest lamb may not be able to compete for the milk supply. Constipation can be a problem in newborn lambs if feces dry and mat down on the tail. Cleaning the area with a damp rag will alleviate this problem.

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Time spent in the jug will depend largely on the number of jugs available and rate at which ewes are lambing. Strong, healthy singles may be removed from the jugs in 24 to 36 hours after birth and twins after 48 hours. Triplets and ewes with weak lambs may need to stay in the jug for three or more days. Remove ewes and lambs from the jug as quickly as possible, as the longer they are confined, the greater the chances of them contracting pneumonia and diarrhea. Labor requirements are also much greater when ewes are confined to the jugs.

Before turning ewes and lambs out of the jugs, record pertinent information on the ewes and lambs. Appropriately identify the lambs (ear tags, paint brands, ear notches, etc.) at this time as well. The ability to match a ewe with her lambs can be a very helpful management tool. Thin, poor-doing lambs may indicate a health problem in the ewe (mastitis) or inferior milking ability.

Most of Virginia is deficient in selenium. Selenium and/or vitamin E deficiency causes white muscle disease in lambs. To prevent this disease and for all-around flock health and performance, provide the ewe flock with a high-selenium complete mineral mix specifically formulated for sheep during gestation (fed free-choice). Additionally, lambs should receive 0.5 cc Bo-Se a day or two after birth. Bo-Se is a combination of vitamin E and selenium.

For systems in which ewes and lambs will be going to pasture immediately after lambing, ewes should be dewormed either two to three weeks prior to lambing or upon leaving the jug. Ewes shed an increased number of worm eggs during the last weeks of gestation and continue through just after lambing.

Upon removal from the jugs, ewes and lambs should be put into a mixing pen with three or four other ewes and their lambs. This will help acclimate them, and they should be closely observed to identify abandoned and rejected lambs. After a day or two, the ewes can then be put into larger groups.

Lambing jugs should be cleaned and rebedded after each ewe and her lambs are removed. Even though the area may look clean, urine and manure in the pen will release ammonia, which is harmful to the newborn lamb's lungs and can lead to pneumonia.

Complications with Newborn Lambs

Hypothermia and Starvation

Hypothermia is defined as low body temperature. This condition may result from a variety of factors including exposure, weakness, trauma, and starvation. Lambs with hypothermia appear weak, gaunt, and hunched up. In severe cases, the lamb may be unable to hold its head up and may even be unconscious. The ears and mouth may feel cold, and the lamb may lack a suckling response. The normal body temperature for lambs is 102° to 103°F. Lambs with temperatures below 100° are considered hypothermic. Use a rectal thermometer to measure body temperature.

In newborn lambs, true hypothermia may result from exposure. In these cases, it is necessary to get warm colostrum into the lamb immediately to bring its body temperature up. Tube feeding is an effective means to administer this colostrum. It may also be necessary to move the lamb into a warmer environment to elevate its body temperature. If wet, the lamb should be dried off and wrapped in a towel. A cardboard box can be used to confine the lamb, with jugs of warm water used as a heat source. This method is similar to the heating boxes that are sold commercially. Heat lamps may also be effective. However, heat lamps should not be used routinely in the lambing barn. They are expensive to operate, and do not supply enough heat to prevent hypothermia. They also are a fire risk. Healthy lambs are adaptable to very cold temperatures, provided the environment is dry and free of cold drafts. As the lamb warms up, monitor its body temperature. Water baths have also been used to warm lambs, although care should be exercised not to use very hot water (>105°F), which will warm the lamb too quickly and cause shock.

For lambs that are older than 24 hours, hypothermia usually is a result of starvation. Without energy from milk, lambs become hypoglycemic, then hypothermic and may die. Treatment for these situations is similar to that used for the newborn, with the exception that older lambs need not receive colostrum. Milk replacer can be fed with a bottle or feeding tube. The milk should be warm, but not hot when a drop is placed on the inside of your wrist. As a guideline, these older lambs should receive 6 to 8 ounces of milk per feeding.

Orphan Lambs

Orphan lambs may result from abandonment, rejection, or the death of the ewe. Options to consider are graft-

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ing the lambs on another ewe, artificial rearing with milk replacer, or selling the lambs if an outlet is available. Many methods are used to graft orphan lambs to other ewes. The largest, most aggressive lamb is usually the best candidate to graft. Grafting works best when the lambs to be grafted are similar in age to the ewes' own lambs. Grafting a triplet lamb to a ewe with a single is the usual case. The grafting process should be initiated as soon after birth as possible. The longer the ewe and her lambs are together, the stronger the bond to each other becomes. Older lambs are difficult to graft not only due to rejection by the adopting ewe, but also rejection of the ewe by the orphan lamb. In all cases, as described previously, colostrum intake by the orphan lamb in the first 24 hours is important.

To get a ewe to accept an orphan lamb, the ewe must think the lamb is her own. Some ewes are easier to fool than others. If grafting to a ewe that has just given birth to her own lamb, rub the orphan lamb in the birthing fluids and afterbirth to give the orphan lamb the smell of her own lamb. Another method involves a stocking that is worn by the adoptive ewe's own lamb for a day or two, and then placed on the orphan lamb. In all cases, place the ewe's head in a stanchion so she can eat and drink but not turn to smell and fight the lambs. This forces the ewe to allow the orphan lamb to nurse. The length of time required for successful grafting varies. Over a period of three to seven days, most ewes will accept the new lamb. Ewes with grafted lambs should be monitored closely once they are turned out.

Lambs may also be raised artificially on milk replacer. The milk replacer should be specifically formulated and labeled for lambs. Again, lambs require colostrum within the first 24 hours after birth and then may be placed on milk replacer. The best candidate for artificial rearing in a multiple birth situation is the smallest, weakest lamb. The sooner the lamb is taken off the ewe, the easier it is to train to the bottle. It frequently takes several feedings to train the lamb to the bottle. Starting with a hungry lamb (five to six hours since last feeding) will assist in training. It may be necessary to force-feed the bottle. Lambs will consume around 20 percent of their body weight in milk per day. This would equate to about 38 ounces per day for a 12-pound lamb (12 pounds x 16 ounces per pound x .20 = 38 ounces). This amount should be divided according to how many times the lamb will be fed per day. One- to two-day-old lambs should be fed a minimum of four times a day, while older lambs can be fed only twice. Initially, the milk should be fed warm to stimulate intake. Once lambs are acclimated to the bottle, time and labor are saved if the lambs are fed cold milk in a bucket feeder. It is important to thoroughly clean the nipple bucket at least twice daily and to keep the milk fresh to avoid spoiling. When putting lambs on the self-feeding bucket, group them by age and size to avoid competition. A warm, dry pen is important for the health of artificially reared lambs. Another important aspect of bottle feeding is to get the lambs started on dry feed and water as soon as possible. Have fresh lamb creep feed (20 percent protein) available to these lambs at one week of age. Artificially reared lambs can be weaned as early as three weeks of age (minimum weight of 20 pounds). Research at Virginia Tech has indicated lambs can be artificially reared for around \$25 per head. For more information on this subject, refer to *Profitable Artificial Rearing of Lambs*, Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 410-023.

Docking and Castration

There are several tools available for docking and castration, including:

1. Knife
2. Emasculator
3. Elastrator
4. All-in-one Castrator
5. Burdizzo Emasculatome

Your choice of instrument depends on your management practices and the lamb's age at docking and castration. All of these tools, when used correctly with proper sanitation, are effective.

Lambs that are docked stay cleaner and are less likely to have fly strike. Mature sheep with intact tails may have problems at breeding and lambing time. Intact males are frequently discounted at marketing. Feeding ram lambs and ewe lambs together may result in decreased weight gains and unwanted pregnancies.

Docking and castration are best when performed at the same time, usually two to five days after birth. At a young age, there will be less stress on the lambs. Additionally, these practices are faster and simpler to perform for the producer when the lambs are young. Lambs should be docked before they reach two weeks of age, and castrated by six weeks of age.

Vaccination of ewes with *Clostridium perfringens* type C and D with tetanus approximately three weeks before lambing will provide protection for lambs against tetanus (via colostrum), provided docking and castration are done a few days after birth. If ewes have not been vaccinated with tetanus prior to lambing, lambs should receive 300 IU of tetanus antitoxin as well as tetanus toxoid. Do not mix the antitoxin and toxoid in the same syringe or give in the same location (use opposite sides of neck). The toxoid produces an immune response in the lamb, while the antitoxin provides antibodies. For lambs that are three to four weeks old at docking and/or castration, vaccinate with tetanus toxoid. The antitoxin may be used in high-risk situations.

As a guideline, the tail should be docked at the point in which the caudal skin folds join into the tail. These skin folds are found on the underneath side of the tail, just above the anus, and terminate about 1 inch down the tail. Exercise care to avoid docking tails extremely short. Excessively short tail docks, in combination with other factors, contribute to an increased incidence of rectal prolapses.

An emasculator is frequently used for docking. The emasculator has both a crushing and cutting mechanism. The crushing mechanism seals the blood vessels on the tail remaining on the lamb, while the cutting edge effectively removes the tail. The burdizzo works in a similar fashion to crush the tissue on the end of the tail. A knife is used to cut off the long end of the tail (inside the burdizzo). With the emasculator and burdizzo, each device should be left on the tail for approximately 30 seconds to help prevent bleeding. Application of elastrator bands is also quite common, especially for producers with sheep that will be exhibited at shows. Since tail removal with the elastrator bands is a two- to three-week process, fly strike can be a problem. The tail can be cut off below the band after two or three days to speed the removal process.

Before castration, it is important to confirm both testicles are descended. The most popular choice for castration is the knife. With the lamb held in a sitting position, cut the bottom third of the scrotum off with a knife or the scissors portion of the all-in-one tool. Push the cut end of the scrotum towards the body to expose one testicle. Use your fingers, or all-in-one tool to grab the testicle firmly. With your free hand use your thumb and index finger to grab the neck of the scrotum and hold it firmly against the lamb's body. Between your fingers you should feel the cord of the testicle. Slowly and gently pull the testicle out until the cord breaks, allowing the cord to slip between your thumb and index finger while maintaining pressure on the scrotum against the body wall. This procedure will help prevent hernias. Repeat the procedure for the second testicle. Cutting or severing the testicle cord with a knife will cause bleeding and should be avoided.

An elastrator band may also be used for castration. The band is placed around the neck of the scrotum, just below the teats. Be sure to have both testicles in the scrotum when the band is released. In two to three weeks the scrotum will fall off. As with the tail, the scrotum may be removed below the elastrator band after a few days, which will leave a small cut that will heal quickly.

After docking and castration, wounds should be treated with iodine or wound dressing. Docking and castration should be delayed for lambs that are small, weak, thin, or unhealthy. These lambs should be allowed to regain strength before processing.

Checklist of Supplies and Equipment for Lambing Time

- OB sleeves
- OB lube
- thermometer
- ear tags and tagger
- vaginal retainer
- lamb warming box
- heat lamps
- scissors
- docking and castration tools
- stomach tube with 60 cc syringe
- bottle with lamb nipples
- frozen colostrum
- lamb milk replacer
- 18 and 20 gauge needles (1 inch)
- 3, 6, and 12 cc syringes
- 7% iodine solution
- injectable selenium/vitamin E
- tetanus antitoxin
- fly spray
- propylene glycol
- Antibiotics
- electrolytes



NSIP UPDATE

Submitted By Matt Beals

News from the Performance Committee:

The USSA has been awarded funding for a grant request we submitted in November. Thank you to ASI and the Let's Grow leadership. The following is the project title and summary.

Project Title:

Building Value for Pedigreed Suffolk Sheep with a Performance Registry through the United Suffolk Sheep Association (USSA); (Interfacing the essential functions of a breed association with the performance programs available through NSIP)

Executive Summary of Proposal

This project will link the association functions of breed promotion, youth development, and education with the NSIP functions of creating and meeting commercial demand for documented performance, and utilizing the technology of genetic analysis. The USSA will update its registration process to record performance measures and submit that data set (in large batches) directly to NSIP, creating a user-friendly system to fully integrate registration and performance. In the interim, USSA will subsidize the cost of data input for individual breeders, to immediately increase participation in NSIP. This project will dramatically increase the number of Suffolk breeders participating in NSIP and the number Suffolk sheep in the database, thereby increasing the accuracy and validity of the genetic analysis. With heavy overfinished lambs hindering the efficiency of the U.S. sheep industry, Suffolk terminal sires (with reliable estimates for efficient lean gain) will be a great tool in managing this problem. As the largest single contributor of terminal sire genetics to the US sheep industry, the USSA is dedicated to assuming a leadership role, and within a cooperative effort with NSIP, addressing the opportunities presented in the American Sheep Industry's Roadmap, and plans to contribute matching funds to achieve the goals of this project proposal.

Some useful links;

http://sheepusa.org/Growourflock_Home

<http://nsip.org/>

http://www.sheepusa.org/NewsMedia_WeeklyNewsletter_2015_December_December182015_LetsGrowContinuesFundingToImproveProductivityEfficiencies

<https://www.facebook.com/LetsGrowASI>

<https://www.facebook.com/nationalsheepimprovementprogram/?fref=nf>

Matt Beals, District 2 director and Performance Committee chair

No longer your great grandmother's sheep

Submitted by Oregon Sheep Growers Association

Picture the farmhouse, the barn, and a few sheep in the field. Inside, great grandmother is spinning the last of the wool from this year's flock. She has washed it, dried it and combed the fibers so they lay in one direction to make her wool ready to spin into yarn. When she finishes, she will knit the family sweaters and socks. They will wear them even if it makes them itch and scratch.

Take heart, wool lovers! Today's sheep are not your great grandmother's sheep and today's wool is not your great grandmother's wool. You don't have to wear itchy garments any more.

To find out why today's wool can be machine washable, shrink proof and soft against your skin, I called Angus McColl of Yocom-McColl, a 50-year-old independently owned commercial wool testing laboratory in Denver, Colorado.

"The breed of sheep determines the success of the end use of the wool," McColl said. "So, while the coarser wool sheep raised in a damp climate is best for carpets and blankets, dry climates are needed for the finer breeds suitable for garments worn next to the skin. Many people think they are allergic to wool, but if you are having problems, the chances are good that the wool includes coarse fibers (measuring more than 30 microns) among the finer ones. A coarse fiber will not bend, but acts like a needle poking your skin to activate its sensory receptors. This can cause what is usually mistaken for an allergic reaction."

McColl believes producers can develop animals, which will maximize their success in the market if they test the wool from their flock.

"While rug makers are looking for the best rug wool, the military is looking for the soft fine wools that can be worn next to the body and protect the soldiers from heat, cold and fire from explosive blasts," he explains.

No longer reliant on wool from our own farms, today's wool comes from all

over the world. The top 10 countries with the most wool production (in descending order from FAO STAT – United Nations (2014) and USDA NASS (2015) are: China, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Iran, Morocco, Sudan, Russian Federation, Argentina and India, and Iran (2012). The top 10 wool-producing states (2014) are: California, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Texas, South Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Iowa. Though China is the largest producer of wool, Australia dominates the world wool market. The United States is a net importer of wool and accounts for less than one percent of the world's wool production.

In addition to the importance of fiber fineness and length, McColl emphasizes the importance genetics and animal health have on the quality of wool.

"Good nutrition and selective breeding are important," McColl said. "Objective testing and making good decisions based on the results maximizes the quality of wool and allows processors to give the consumer the best products. It allows growers to produce uniform wool in their flocks and to sell it on a tested basis."

He noted, "Very little testing was done when I started in this business in 1961. Testing continues to be what is bringing consumers the fine wool products they enjoy today."

So, whether it's fine lingerie to wear next to your skin or durable carpets to walk on, Angus McColl has it right. It is all found in the wool.

For more information on micro-testing fiber, visit www.ymccoll.com

Jan Jackson is a freelance writer photographer who publishes the Country Traveler Online www.countrytraveleronline.com.

Next Newsletter: March 2016

Submission Deadline: March 10, 2016

Celebrate the holiday season with lamb!

Do you have a lamb recipe that is absolutely delicious you want to share? Do you have a child that loves to cook? We'll feature their recipes, too! Please email recipes to news@u-s-s-a.org to be featured in an upcoming



Roast Lamb Shoulder

Author: Green Healthy Cooking

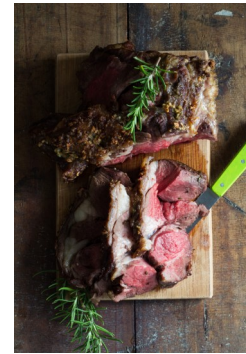
<http://greenhealthycooking.com/roast-lamb-shoulder/>

Serves: 4

Prep time: 20 mins—Cook time: 1 hour 15 mins - Total time: 1 hour 35 mins

Ingredients

2.5 lbs (1200g) lamb shoulder	1 bulb of garlic
2.5 oz (70g) room-temperature butter	Salt
1 string rosemary	Pepper
zest of 1 lemon	Baby potatoes
1 large onion	Carrots
	(other root vegetables if desired)



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F (200°C).
2. Peel and cut onion into 3-4 thick rounds and place in the middle of a large baking dish.
3. Wash and destalk rosemary and chop finely.
4. Wash and zest lemon.
5. Peel and crush 3 cloves of garlic.
6. With your fingers mix butter, rosemary, crushed garlic and lemon together until very well combined.
7. Cover the lamb shoulder with rosemary lemon butter all over. Make sure all sides are covered in butter. I used my hands. Then place it on top of the onions in the baking dish.
8. Very, very generously salt and pepper the shoulder, turn it and salt and pepper the other side.
9. Wash your root vegetables and cut into 2" (5cm) big pieces (no need to peel them unless it's celery root or something like that) and place around lamb shoulder in one layer. Do not overload or they won't be roasted well.
10. Place the remaining cloves of garlic without peeling around the lamb shoulder too.
11. Salt and pepper root vegetables, add a dollop of olive oil and move the baking dish around to cover all vegetables.
12. Place in the oven and reduce heat to 350 F (180°C). Generally speaking you should calculate 30 minutes per pound to get it pinkish. I put my 2.5 pound shoulder in for 1:15 hours and you can see in the pictures how it came out. If you want it more cooked add another 7 minutes per pound. If you want it well done add about 10 minutes per pound and cut into it to check.
13. (remember to peel the roasted garlic before eating. It tastes like butter and absolutely shouldn't be discarded but eaten!!)

Have Ewe Checked Out the New Lamb Industry Resource Center?

The new lamb industry resource center was developed to provide the industry with a clearinghouse of information about lamb, from production resources and marketing tools to events and funding opportunities. The site is meant to help industry members learn where to find information, and to promote programs and resources provided by national lamb industry organizations. Visit

www.lambresourcecenter.com

CALIFORNIA SUFFOLK AND HAMPSHIRE SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION Website

ILLINOIS SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION

IOWA SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION	Website	Facebook Page
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MINNESOTA SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION

MISSOURI SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION

MONTANA SUFFOLK SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION Website

NORTHEAST SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION	Website	Facebook Page
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OHIO SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION Facebook Page

PENNSYLVANIA SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION Facebook Page

SOUTH DAKOTA SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN SUFFOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION	Website	Facebook Page
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Mark your calendars for....

2016 National Junior Suffolk Sheep Show!

June 30—July 3 • Clay County Fairgrounds • Spencer, Iowa

United Suffolk Sheep Association

PO Box 121
Holland, IA 50642

Phone: 641.684.5291

Fax: 734-335-7646

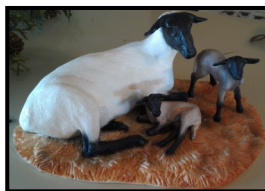
E-mail: info@u-s-s-a.org



We're on the Web!
www.u-s-s-a.org
www.ujssa.org

SUFFOLK ITEMS FOR SALE

Prices include the cost of shipping. Please contact the USSA office to order!



Suffolk Sculpture \$190



Suffolk Print \$80



**T-shirts \$20
Sweatshirts \$30**

Sheep Resources

The USSA Office often gets phone calls asking for resources producers can go to for sheep-related questions. The following are resources the office is aware of for producers to use. Since this may not be a complete list, if there are additional resources that you use and would like to share please email those to news@u-s-s-a.org.

Sheep Producer Resource Website

Sheep Community of Practice is a new web-based tool available to sheep producers through the eXtension Foundation, a non-profit entity. This website offers a Ask the Expert Tool that will connect you with experts and allow you to ask questions. Through the Ask the Expert Tool, the producer can even attach images. The website also offers information about sheep feeding and nutrition, reproduction and breeding, management practices, genetic selection, health and veterinary care, grazing and pasture, and wool. To visit the Sheep Community of Practice website go to: <http://www.extension.org/sheep>

Ask a Sheep Vet

This website is a blog written by sheep veterinarian Dr. Kennedy of Pipestone Veterinary Clinic, Pipestone, MN. The blog contains answers to various sheep related questions, with new information added often. To visit Dr. Kennedy's blog please go to: <http://askavetssheep.wordpress.com/> Also, if you "LIKE" [Pipestone Vet Sheep-Goats](#) on Facebook, are several question and answers posted daily.

A Guide to All Things Sheep©

A Guide to All Things Sheep© is a new resource for sheep breeders and producers by Premier 1 that offers information on several topics from educational guides, how to's, photos, recipes, an events calendar, view points and industry spotlights. To visit A Guide to All Things Sheep© please visit: www.premier1supplies.com/sheep-guide/

Check out the USSA Facebook page!

