

# The Suffolk Newsletter

## United Suffolk Sheep Association

### *From the USSA Board...*

Happy March Suffolk Enthusiasts!

I wanted to take a few moments of your time to discuss the newsletter. As you can see, each month we continue to add more items to the newsletter. We are very dedicated to providing you with as much pertinent information as possible.

I encourage you to utilize this newsletter and contribute any items that are relevant to the Suffolk breed and it's members. We want to continue to provide more information to you each month.

The office is open to any suggestions, comments, additions, etc. to The Suffolk Newsletter.

If you know of a USSA member that doesn't have email and would like to receive the newsletter by mail, please let the office know. A *mailed* newsletter will be \$3/issue.

Remember, the USSA is here to serve you!

Sincerely,

Amanda Everts

March 2012

Volume 2, Issue 3

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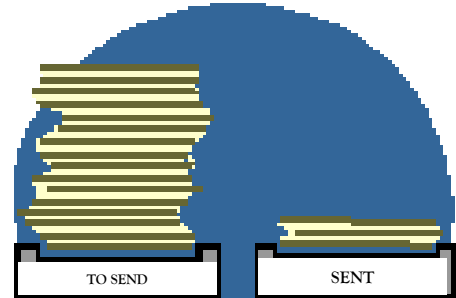
We would like to welcome the following new members and returning past members (whom have not been active in recent years) who have joined the USSA during February 2012.

- \* Ryan Fedeler & David Fedeler, Madison, SD
- \* Markel Suffolks, Lodgepole, NE
- \* Ed Nelson/Tamarack Meadows, Hibbing, MN
- \* Nichole Hirt, Henderson, NY

# The Amnesty Program has been Extended!

For those of you who missed the December 31st deadline for the Amnesty Program, you are in luck! The Amnesty Program has been extended until June 1, 2012. Don't wait for the last minute to get your Amnesty registrations in and take the chance of missing the deadline again. If you need any assistance in figuring out any "messes", feel free to call the office and we will help in anyway possible to help you get caught up. The Amnesty Program includes *late transfers* as well as *late registrations*. Transfers over 60 days and registrations for sheep over 1 year of

age are \$6.00/head. If you know of an individual that would like to join the association or has not been active within in the last few years, now is a great time to get flocks current!



## Current USSA Board of Directors

### Officers

#### **President:**

Rob Zelinsky (District 2)  
605-695-7791  
robzelinsky@yahoo.com  
(Exp. 2014)

#### **Vice President:**

Bill MacCauley (District 4)  
Home: 610-593-2907  
Cell: 610-256-1608  
billmac@johnrock.com  
(Exp. 2013)

#### **Treasurer:**

Richard Schambow  
Home: 608-743-1473  
Cell: 608-774-6068  
highpt@hughes.net

### District 1

Jake Falleson (Exp. 2012)  
541-979-0868  
jake101@netscape.com

Donna Mays (Exp. 2014)  
208-767-3405  
lostriverdm@yahoo.com

Larry Pauly (Exp. 2013)  
435-864-2777  
l\_pauly@msn.com

### District 2

William (Bill) Gergen (Exp. 2012)  
402-540-7884  
wegergen@yahoo.com

Amanda Bergsieker (Exp. 2013)  
660-232-1433  
ab\_vettech@yahoo.com

### District 3

Gary Hoskins (Exp. 2012)  
Home: 515-386-8055  
Cell: 515-370-1353  
hoskinsagsolutions@yahoo.com

Kim Ketcham (Exp. 2013)  
Home: 618-656-5388  
Cell: 618-581-3554,  
kimketcham@hotmail.com

Rex Quam (Exp. 2014)  
Home: 507-824-2248  
Cell: 507-251-2650  
rjqum@frontiernet.net

### District 4

Dr. Gerald F. Clair (Exp. 2012)  
Home: 814-238-1233  
Cell: 814-280-2621  
clair4076@aol.com

Lisa Webster (Exp. 2014)  
Home: 207-892-2161  
northstarfarms@me.com

# Get to Know Your USSA Board of Directors.

## LISA WEBSTER

Windham, Maine

In 2004 Phil and I discussed moving into a breed of sheep with a large gene pool which would allow us much great access to different genetics and many different blood lines. This was a critical factor, as we wanted to build a great flock of purebred sheep from the beginning of the project as opposed to building our own genetic flock over several generations. We felt this would be the best way to assemble a large flock over a relative short period of time. Our original plan was for 100-125 Hampshire ewes and 25-30 Suffolk ewes. We currently have 150 Hampshire ewes along with 50 Suffolk ewes. The Suffolk flock continues to grow with plans of reaching 150 Suffolk ewes by 2015.

I would have to say the purchase of "Sophia" in 2005 at the national sale at a cost of \$25,000 and then showing her for the only time at the North American National Suffolk show where she was named national champion was very exciting. But my greater pleasure came when she lambed twin ewe lambs 30 days after winning the show. Another exciting event was our winning of the national champion ram honors at Ohio in May 2011. On the same day we launched our lamb program with Whole Farms Northeast.

I love everything about our Suffolk sheep flock. We have met and become friends with many wonderful people across the nation. We love the regal beauty of a Suffolk ewe. The Suffolk sires in our breeding program have great ram traits. I cannot put words to paper that clearly define my pleasure of raising Suffolk sheep. The mothers are great, the lambs are wonderful and the rams get the job done. This past fall we put the rams in to start lambing on or about Feb 15. From Feb 15-28, 2012 we lambed 80% of our ewe flock with a 200% lambing percentage. Another 10% of the flock is due the second week of March and less than 5% for the flock are open (with most of these ewes open due to being used in our AI and ET programs and therefore they are on a different calendar than the rest of the flock).

My reason for becoming a director for the USSA was not for personal reasons but for the benefit of the membership as a whole. Being from a distant part of the country (Maine is about as far northeast as a breeder can get from the major events) I realize and experience the many challenges facing sheep producers today. Everyone is juggling time and money to cover as many of the farm and family responsibilities as possible and quite often it is the sheep project that suffers or is lost due to limited resources. Cost of good replacement stock, feed and transport have risen to record heights. We are experiencing record high lamb prices currently but the spread between input and output costs continue to be out of balance in the purebred sheep industry. I feel the directors have the responsibility to come up with a solid plan of action proving to our members the value and worth of being part of this association. There are politics being played across this nation and I do not see the need for this board to be another political arena but instead a forward thinking group of leaders for the industry. This is what our members need and want. We must continue to work together for the betterment of all.

There is no greater value than leading by example.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to visiting with everyone in May.

Lisa W

# USSA Member Spotlight

## **JARVIS SHEEP COMPANY**

*Spanish Fork, Utah*

***How long have you raised Suffolks? Since 1948---64 years***

***What/Who inspired you to raise Suffolks?***

*My dad, Lee, started our Suffolk herd as an FFA project in 1948. He has dedicated his life to the sheep business.*

***Discuss the marketing of your Suffolks.***

*We sell Suffolk yearling range rams. Most of them are sold in groups of 25-50 head to commercial range producers. Eighty percent are sold site unseen over the phone to commercial producers who have been our customers for up to 30 years! The rest are sold at ram sales in California, Idaho, Colorado, and Utah. These are usually sold in pens of five to the highest bidder.*

***Currently, how many Suffolks do you own? 550 Ewes and 400 yearling rams***

***What are the benefits of registering your Suffolks?***

*We register our Suffolk sheep in order to keep track of our blood lines. We sell a few registered ewes and stud rams each year and in order to accommodate this market, we keep our entire herd registered.*

***What is one of your fondest memories related to Suffolks?***

*Our ranch is truly a family affair. It gives me great pleasure to work side by side with my parents and my children getting ewes and lambs ready for the summer range. It also gives me pleasure to unload fifty quality, healthy, range rams into a herd of white-faced commercial ewes. It's a thing of beauty!*

***What is something you have gained from raising Suffolks?***

*We have met many wonderful people from all over the United States in the commercial business and in the show ring through the many years that we have raised Suffolk sheep. We have learned many of life's lessons from the sheep business. We have learned to work hard and roll with the punches. A few years ago, we did not know if the sheep business had a future, and here we are having one of our best years ever!*

***Discuss one major challenge facing the USSA or Suffolk breed.***

*I feel like one problem we have in the Suffolk business today is that there are three different 'types' of suffolk sheep; show ring Suffolks, commercial Suffolks, and weather-type Suffolks. This fragments and complicates our breed. We have a difficult time going to many of the Suffolk shows to buy a stud ram because most of the rams there will not work to produce the type of range rams our buyers are looking for. Several years ago, Olsen Brothers from Spanish Fork, Utah could go to Sedalia and win Champion Ram, go to the National Ram Sale and top it, then go win the Utah State Fair in the market lamb class, all with the same 'type' of sheep. This would not happen today! If we were all united and striving for one type of sheep, we would be able to improve the breed though a larger genetic pool.*

*Another challenge that we face in the Suffolk business is the 'liveability' of our sheep. We need to produce hardy sheep that can withstand the rigors of at least three or four breeding seasons instead of one or two. If we cannot increase the liveability of Suffolks, I fear that we will loose our market to composites and other breeds.*

***Any other general comments you would like to share?***

*We hope that we can all enjoy the strong lamb and wool markets for many years to come, because this is the true backbone of our industry. We are honored to be chosen to be your spotlight.*

# Notes from the UJSSA

## Hope you plan to attend the 2012 UJSSA National Junior Suffolk Show!

The 2012 National Junior Suffolk Show will be held in Brookings, South Dakota on the South Dakota State University Campus July 5 -8. Continue to check the UJSSA website for updates about entries and show schedule

**ATTENTION ALL 2012 SPONSORS:** If you are interested in having a banner made to advertise your farm, we are offering all of this year's sponsors a discounted price of \$50! If you have helped sponsor in the past and already have a banner, we will hang it at this year's Junior Show in Brookings, SD for only \$25! If interested, please contact our Jr. Coordinator, Andy Asberry, or any of the junior directors!

## MJPS Searching for Suffolk Youth Breed Director

This year's Midwest Junior Preview Show will be held on June 16, 2012 again in Chillicothe, MO. The Litton Agri-science Learning center provides an indoor, air-conditioned show ring as well as on site camping for exhibitors!

This year's show will be on target to again hand out over \$5,000 in cash awards including a \$300 cash award to both Supreme Champion Ram and Ewe, provided by Larry Mead. All showmanship winners earn \$100 also.


The MJPS is searching for a motivated youth Suffolk breeder to become the Suffolk Breed Director at the MJPS. This individual will be responsible for assisting with fundraising, promotion, and organization of the Suffolk show at the MJPS. Youth Suffolk breeders between the ages of 14 and 21 can visit [www.MidwestJuniorPreviewShow.com](http://www.MidwestJuniorPreviewShow.com) for more information.

Online entry for the show opens April 1. All entries received by June 1 will receive a free t-shirt and goody bag donated by Ketcham's Sheep Equipment and Missouri Sheep Producers. Please visit the website or contact Kate Lambert at [660-541-0468](tel:660-541-0468) if you have questions.

Kate Lambert  
Midwest Junior Preview Show  
[www.midwestjuniorpreviewshow.com](http://www.midwestjuniorpreviewshow.com)

# Happy St. Patrick's Day

## UJSSA Board of Directors

[www.ujssa.org](http://www.ujssa.org)  
The UJSSA is on facebook! 

### Officers

**President:** Taylor Peck, 908-328-4053, [peck676@yahoo.com](mailto:peck676@yahoo.com)  
**Vice President:** Katie Powers, 302-632-3079, [sheepgr122@yahoo.com](mailto:sheepgr122@yahoo.com)  
**Secretary:** Elizabeth Niedziela, 413-585-9158, [niedziela@gmail.com](mailto:niedziela@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Rachel Schambow, 608-774-6765, [highpt@hughes.net](mailto:highpt@hughes.net)

### Directors

**Kyle Baubonis**, 207-785-2978, [guiairidge@gmail.com](mailto:guiairidge@gmail.com)  
**Connor Vincent**, 302-858-2841, [whatamelon@bwave.com](mailto:whatamelon@bwave.com), [loveskat2@aol.com](mailto:loveskat2@aol.com)  
**Taylor Wolff**, 701-783-4514, [wolff\\_taylor@hotmail.com](mailto:wolff_taylor@hotmail.com)  
**Chris MacCauley**, 610-593-2907, 484-319-8376, [cmac.sheep@yahoo.com](mailto:cmac.sheep@yahoo.com)  
**Codee Gilbertson**, 701-833-6754, [22and5@gmail.com](mailto:22and5@gmail.com)

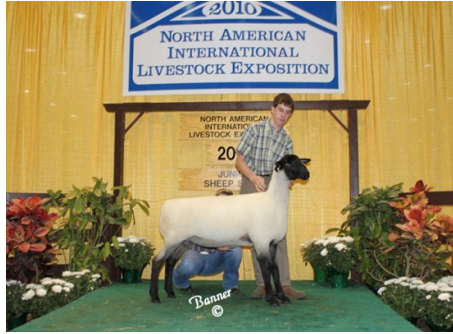
### Intern

**Makayla Johnson**, 920-878-0157, [makayla\\_johnson@hotmail.com](mailto:makayla_johnson@hotmail.com)  
**Faith Galford**, 304-992-1256, [faithgalford@yahoo.com](mailto:faithgalford@yahoo.com)

### Junior Coordinators

**Andy Asberry**, Home: 817-558-3932, Cell: 817-366-6366, [AAsberry@aol.com](mailto:AAsberry@aol.com)  
**Donna Mays**, 208-767-3405, [lostriverdm@yahoo.com](mailto:lostriverdm@yahoo.com)

# Get to Know Your Junior Board of Directors.



## KYLE BAUBONIS

**UJSSA Position:** Director

**Age:** 18

**Hometown:** Union, Maine

**Been on the Jr. Board for:** 3 years

**School:** I have been accepted to Michigan State, South Dakota State, SUNY Cobleskill, and Rockford College- still trying to figure out where I want to go.

**In 10 years I think I will be:** I do not know where I will be, still trying to figure out what I am going to do tomorrow.

**Favorite Color:** Orange

**If you could have another breed of sheep besides Suffolks, what would it be?** Shropshires

**What, if any, other types of livestock do you raise?** Hereford cattle and pigs

**Dream Car:** Army tank

**Favorite Sheep Show/ Sale or Event:** North East Youth Sheep Show

**Favorite Musician:** Blake Shelton

**The best vacation I ever had was:** To Alaska

**Ever meet anyone famous?** I've met the band Little Big Town.

**Favorite meal:** Lasagna

**Favorite Sport:** Cross Country

**Interesting fact:** I am running a marathon this May.

## Need to make hotel reservations for the 2012 Junior Suffolk Show?

**Hotel Information:** Fairfield Inn & Suites

(605) 692-3500

3000 LeFevre Drive

Brookings, SD 57006



Room Block Available from July 4-8, 2012 for \$89.00/night\*

*\*To receive this rate, please call the hotel and say you are with the United Suffolk Sheep Association.*

# If ewe have a little free time . . .

(for the kid in everyone!)

## Can ewe find the hidden words?

U N C T Q S S S N X X Z K N E  
 S E T Y L O R T C E L E C S N  
 W I C R C G I M M F M K I H I  
 Y G E X I J U Q A U P N R A D  
 S T R A W P I J R K G U T M O  
 R E V O L C L T G L M U A R I  
 V H R A S G S E E N D C P O M  
 S F M N S O R E T G I J T C A  
 F B I X L B Z E W S A B S K R  
 T W Y O N R A B E E Q T M G C  
 T A C V G D C L C N T Z R A H  
 H W Z A P Z W Q D I F S P A L  
 Q B Z Y M E Z F Z X J P M V E  
 S J X R G A P Y P O H A C D K  
 E H E A T L A M P C V O G O T

BARN  
 CLOVER  
 COLOSTRUM  
 EAR TAG  
 ELECTROLYTES  
 EWE  
 GREEN  
 HAY  
 HEAT LAMP  
 IODINE

LAMB  
 LAMBING JUG  
 MARCH  
 RAM  
 SHAMROCK  
 SINGLE  
 ST PATRICK  
 STRAW  
 TRIPLETS  
 TWINS

## Suffolk Scrambler

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

SUFKOFL

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## USSA Member News

*If you have any news to share, please let our office know so we can include it in our newsletter.*

Chris Jamison  
Van Meter, Iowa  
December 6, 1960 - February 15, 2012

Funeral services will be held 10:30 a.m., Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Trinity Lutheran Church, near Van Meter.

A visitation will be held 1 to 6 p.m., Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at Ochiltree Funeral Service in Winterset, where family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m.

Burial will be in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family and/or the church.

Chris Jamison was born December 6, 1960, in Winterset, Iowa; the son of Darrell and Joyce (Christensen) Jamison. He graduated from Van Meter High School in 1979 and later attended and graduated from Iowa State University in 1983 with a degree in Animal Science. He married Julie Schroeder on March 10, 1990 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Manning.

Chris was a farmer all of his life following in the footsteps of his father. He loved everything about farming but especially loved raising sheep. He was active in 4-H and enjoyed showing sheep.

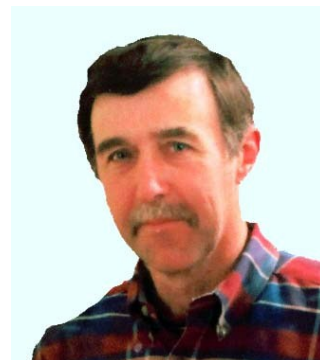
He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, serving as a trustee and an usher. He was also a member of the Madison County Sheep Producers, Pork Producers, and Farm Bureau of which he served as president. He was a Block and Bridle Alumni of ISU and during his college days served on their judging team.

Chris was a devoted son, husband and father and loved time spent with family, but the joy of his life were his girls who he always made time for.

Chris died Wednesday, February 15, 2012 Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. He was 51.

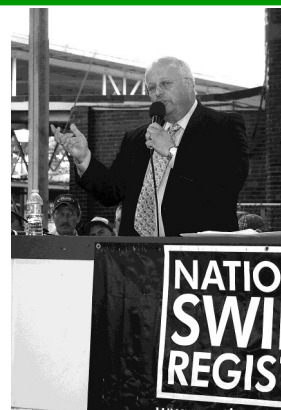
Chris is survived by his wife, Julie Jamison of Van Meter; his two daughters, Allison Jamison of Ames, and Casey Jo Jamison at home; his parents, Darrell and Joyce Jamison of Van Meter; sister, JoLee Mapes (Greg) of Winterset, and brother, Corey Jamison (Amber) of Van Meter. He is also survived by his in-laws, Lowell and Betty Schroeder of Manilla and many other extended family and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, John Chris Jamison, and his grandparents.



Our apologies go to Dan and Brittany Pierson/BnD Suffolks of Priest River, ID, who were overlooked as new members in 2011. We welcome you to the USSA!

Please check out a great article on pages 58-61 in The Banner Sheep Magazine on Darrell Anderson (pictured right), a past president of the National Suffolk Sheep Association.

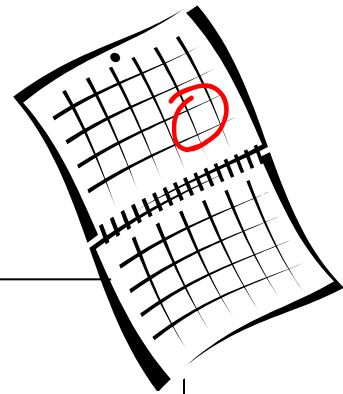




**The time to register 2012 lambs is just around the corner...**

**Need Lamb Registration Applications?**

**Print applications off the USSA Website *or* Call the USSA Office**



*Be sure to mark your calendars for:*

**2012 National Suffolk Show and Sale**

June 27 - 30

Held during the Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Sedalia, MO

**2012 UJSSA National Junior Suffolk Show**

July 5-8

On the South Dakota State University Campus in Brookings, SD

## Question & Answer



# Let's Talk Residues

By Melissa VanLaningham, DVM, Director of Food Science at Superior Farms

*The following article is provided courtesy of The Banner Sheep Magazine.*

It's time we talk about residues. A lot of you may be thinking, "Maybe I'll just skip this article. I don't use antibiotics that often anyway." And that's fine. But did you know the National Residue Program doesn't just test for antibiotics? It also tests for chemicals such as dewormers and pesticides. And did you know there are tolerance levels set for approved uses of products within muscle and kidney or liver tissue? And did you know if you use a product off-label, that any minute part per billion that may be detected will be considered a violation because there are no-tolerance levels established? Do you use Dectomax (doramectin)? So, let's talk about residues.

First we need to review some vocabulary.

**Off-Label** – slang term referring to Extra Label Drug Use – Using a drug in any manner other than what is specified on the manufacturer's label. This includes using the drug on a species not listed, giving a higher dosage or giving product through a different route than what is on the label (sub-Q vs. intramuscular). Extra Label Drug Use can only be done under the direction of a veterinarian. Why? Once you change any portion of the drug use instructions, you've changed the parameters used to calculate how much time it takes for the chemical to be eliminated from the body. A veterinarian can look at the situation and recalculate the withdrawal time accordingly.

**Withdrawal Period** – The time between when an animal is exposed to a product (injected, fed, poured on, etc.) and when they are allowed to be harvested for food. Withdrawal times are based on how long it takes the chemical used to be eliminated from the body. Just changing the route of administration can affect how long the withdrawal time should be.

**Tolerance** – Established maximum allowable levels of a chemical within animal muscle tissue and either liver or kidney depending on the product. The tolerance level is to allow for differences in metabolism between individuals that would cause a variation in how quickly a chemical is eliminated from different animals. Tolerances are set for specific chemicals within muscle tissue and/or kidney and liver for each species the drug is approved for.

**Violation** – When a chemical is detected in the animal tissue above the established tolerance for that chemical for that species.

There are three arms to the testing procedures that the Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) undertakes at the harvest facilities. The first is Scheduled Testing, which is random testing of animals presented for harvest regardless of their source or condition. The FSIS computer system generates a sampling plan and inspection collects the samples and sends them out to the USDA lab for testing. These samples are tested for a varying list of residues – for example, antibiotics, Ivermectin, flunixin (banamine) and bute.

The second arm is Inspector Generated Sampling of Carcasses that the inspector has reason to believe contain a residue (for example, a grower has had previous residue violations) or carcasses that display signs of complicated inflammatory condition such as neoplasia, pneumonia or peritonitis.

The third arm is testing of show animals. Any carcass from a show animal that displays signs of disease is selected for sampling as well as about every one in 25 normal show carcasses. If a fair or show has reason to believe an animal may have received drugs other than antibiotics, such as anti-inflammatories like Banamine or bute, the fair can request increased sampling of the individual carcass. Those samples skip in-house testing and are sent to an outside lab. It's important to note that, once selected for testing, the packing houses have to put the entire carcass on hold until the outside lab results are received; results can take up to two weeks. The directed samples (Arms 2 and 3) are first screened at the plant with a simplified test kit looking for antibiotics and sulfonamides only. If the screening test is positive, the sample is sent out to the USDA lab for con-

# Continuation of Let's Talk Residues

*(Continued from page 10)*

firmation. The screening test can give false positives, so a positive on a screening test does not necessarily mean there is a residue.

Any sample sent to the USDA lab will be tested for multiple chemicals. The test protocols at the national labs will confirm the presence or absence of a drug and give a quantitative value to the residue if there is one. If the lab confirms the presence of a drug, the next step is to see if the amount detected falls within the tolerance levels. When a drug is detected, but the level detected is within tolerance, the sample is considered positive, but not in violation. The packer will be notified and can release the carcass into commerce. It's the packer's responsibility to contact the grower and let them know what happened.

If the sample contains a level of chemical above the tolerance level, it is considered in violation. FSIS will notify the packer and the packer will have to condemn the entire carcass. That cost is passed on to the grower. If the carcass was not placed on hold at the time of testing, then a recall would be initiated. Additionally, FSIS will use the grower information collected from the processor to contact the grower and tell them they were in violation. If the same grower has a second violation, FSIS will contact them and post their name and information on the repeat violator list.

Chemical residues are considered a potential hazard in meat. Each processor has to address that potential hazard in the hazard analysis portion of their Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan. FSIS put out a notice this year stating that if a processor chose to purchase from a grower already listed on the repeat violator list (at least two violations) and another violation is detected (the third violation), FSIS will deem the establishment's HACCP plan ineffectual. Very few processors want to take that risk. Finding yourself on the repeat violator list means you may not have anyone willing to buy your animals.

So, how do you avoid chemical residues in the animals you sell? Start by paying close attention to the labeled instructions on any medications, dewormers, anti-inflammatories and pesticides. The only injectable antibiotics approved for use in sheep are Micotil, Naxcel and Procaine Penicillin G. If you are using Nuflor, LA 200 or Penicillin at 1 cc per 10 lbs. (rather than the labeled dose of 1 cc per 100 lbs., which is not an effective dose), you need to do so under the guidance of a veterinarian because you're using it off-label. The withdrawal listed on the product for cattle may not be accurate for sheep. Your veterinarian can work with the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database to establish a safe withdrawal period for your situation.

I mentioned Dectomax (doramectin) at the beginning of this article. There are only four deworming chemicals approved for use in sheep; doramectin isn't one of them. Because it's not approved in sheep, there's a no-tolerance level set, which means there cannot be any residue in the tissues sampled or the carcass is condemned – even when the amount detected is far lower than the tolerance set for another species.

The simplest way to avoid residues is to never administer chemicals to your animals, but we all know that's not always the best thing for animal health or your bottom line. When you do need to use something in your medicine chest, be sure to pay attention. Remember, every chemical has a withdrawal period – not just antibiotics. Your veterinarian should determine if Extra Label Drug Use is necessary. When at all possible, use a product that is approved for use in sheep, and follow the label instructions for administration and withdrawal periods.

# Footrot in Sheep and Goats

By Lynn Pezzanite, Animal Sciences Student;

Dr. Mike Neary, Small Ruminant Extension Specialist, Purdue University; Terry Hutchens, Extension Goat Specialist, University of Kentucky

*The following article is provided courtesy of The Banner Sheep Magazine.*

Footrot is a costly disease in the sheep and goat industry. Countless producers lose time and money each year in an attempt to control it in their flock or herd. If footrot becomes a problem, it takes much effort and labor to control symptoms and eliminate it. However, footrot is a preventable disease with attentive management.

## Causes of Footrot

Footrot is caused by the coexistence of two gram-negative, anaerobic bacteria, *Fusobacterium necrophorum* and *Dichelobacter nodosus* (also referred to as *Bacteroides nodosus*). Several different strains of *D. nodosus* affect both sheep and goats, and can also be carried by cattle, deer, and horses. In general, sheep are affected more severely than goats.

The bacteria *Fusobacterium necrophorum* causes a common disease known as foot scald. *F. necrophorum* is a natural inhabitant of the large intestine of small ruminants and is found normally in the soil and manure of pastures or feedlots. Infection is exacerbated by cold, wet conditions where mud and manure have been allowed to accumulate. The mud and manure causes interdigital irritation, and *F. necrophorum* readily infects the soft irritated area. Alone this bacterium is not capable of causing footrot. *Dichelobacter nodosus*, the second bacteria, is only capable of living in the soil for 10 to 14 days, yet can survive in the hoof for extended time periods given the right anaerobic environment.

These bacteria require irritation of the interdigital area, possibly due to moisture or trauma, in order to gain entry for infection. Hard frozen ground such as that in dry lots can cause irritation to the soft tissue, and create ideal conditions for footrot when the grounds warms to mud. Footrot is most prevalent and highly contagious in wet, moist areas. When pastures have been consistently wet with not dry spells there is a higher incidence of outbreaks. The ideal soil reservoir is high in moisture at temperatures between 50°F to 70°F.

## Symptoms

Foot scald and footrot result in lameness, reduced weight gain, decreased milk and wool production, and decreased reproductive capabilities as severely infected animals are reluctant to move in order to feed. Affected animals often carry the affected leg or lie down for extended periods, rubbing off the wool/hair on their flanks, brisket, and knees. These conditions result in production losses, treatment and prevention costs, premature culling, and reduced sale value of infected animals. Other diseases that are sometimes confused are foot abscesses, laminitis (founder), corns, foreign bodies of traumatic injuries.

There can be a wide range of severity in foot rot infections, depending on the specific strain or strains of *D. nodosus* present. Sheep or goats can have up to 8 strains of *D. nodosus* at one time. Strains of *D. nodosus* exhibit their level of virility based upon the amount of protease enzymes they release, which determines their ability to digest the connective tissue between the horn and flesh of the hoof.

Footrot can be extremely painful, and affects sheep and goats of all ages. Benign footrot, or foot scald, is characterized by reddened, inflamed tissue between the toes (interdigital space). It does not include underrunning of the hoof horn. Scald can occur on any farm, especially during the wet season and in locations where sheep and goats commonly congregate such as hay and mineral feeding sites, and watering areas. Foot scald will often resolve quickly with treatment or improving environmental conditions. The economic impact to the producer caused by benign foot-



*An example of a hoof with scald. Notice in this recently trimmed hoof that the scald is confined to the interdigital space, and has not underrun the hoof tissue.*

# Continuation of Footrot in Sheep and Goats

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*An example of a fairly severe case of footrot. Notice the decayed tissue at the heel and separation of the hoof wall.*

rot is much less than virulent footrot; however, it is often a precursor to virulent footrot.

Virulent footrot is a much larger problem as the bacteria will enter the hoof and digest the hard, horny tissue of the sole that protects the fleshy tissue of the hoof. In more advanced cases, the hoof horn becomes under-run and can actually separate from the hoof wall.

In the more virulent strains of footrot, the hard horn of the foot will begin to separate from the underlying tissue about 10 to 14 days post-infection, producing a foul and very distinct smell. By 28 days the horn may be completely detached or attached only at the coronet. Chronic virulent footrot appears black and tarry, and flystrike is likely to occur.

## Susceptibility and Resistance

Environmental conditions, nutrition, and genetics all affect a sheep or goat's susceptibility to footrot. Other factors that can influence susceptibility

include foot shape, structure, and age, as younger animals are generally more susceptible. Sheep are usually more severely affected than goats, whereas goats are more commonly affected by foot scald and goats are likely to show different symptoms of footrot when infected with the same strain of bacteria. It is estimated that 5% to 10% of infected sheep become chronic carriers of footrot. Sheep and goats that have been infected with or exposed to footrot do not develop classic resistance or immunity.

The severity of footrot infection is scored on a scale of 1 to 5. Benign footrot, or an inflammation between the claws, receives a score of 1 or 2. Under warm, moist conditions this can progress to virulent footrot, with a score of 3, 4, or 5. When there is a significant under-running of the hoof, the foot has a score of 3. If there is separation of the soft and hard horn from the underlying tissue across the entire sole, the foot has a score of 4. If this separation extends up the wall, the foot receives a score of 5.

Some individuals are genetically more susceptible than others to footrot. Genetic markers (DNA patterns) for natural resistance to footrot have been identified. Footrot can be controlled naturally by breeding for sheep with this natural resistance. When challenged with footrot causing agents, whether the individual actually develops the condition is related to the presence of a specific group of genes that control immune response. According to R&D brief, a DNA test is available in New Zealand to classify the susceptibility of an individual, without having to actually expose the sheep or goat to footrot. The degree of resistance may vary within and between breeds of sheep and goats.

In a Kentucky study, goats were observed to have highly variable rates of hoof growth in observations made from 142 goats on 4 farms. Goats with rapid foot growth and in an overgrown condition were more susceptible to foot disease than goats with slower growing feet. Goats with an open structured narrow foot, commonly seen in dairy breeds, had less foot disease than the larger, more closed-structure meat-type goats. Goats selected for slower horn growth and open structure may be less susceptible to foot disease.



*A hoof that is overgrown, full of caked mud and manure, with evidence of necrotic tissue at the heel. Hooves in this condition are more susceptible to footrot infection.*

(Continued on page 14)

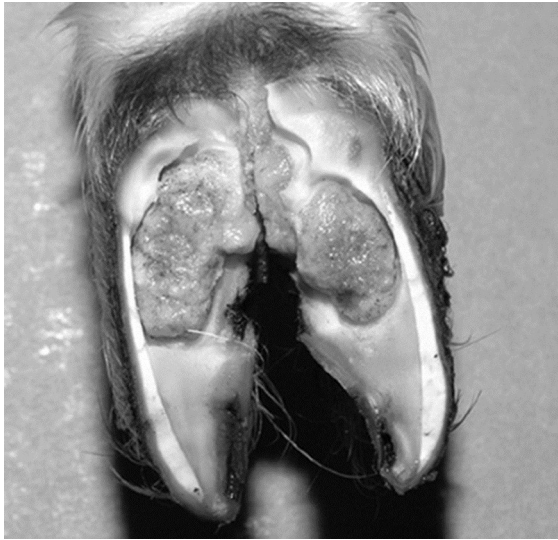
# Continuation of Footrot in Sheep and Goats

Producers with genetically resistant herds or flocks still need to implement best management practices such as providing proper nutrition in order to maintain high immune response to minimize the risk of footrot infection. Offering good nutrition also saves time in treating infected animals, and is more profitable for the producer.

## Prevention and Eradication

Footrot is most commonly spread by the introduction of an infected animal to a herd or flock. In order to prevent footrot, it is imperative that it not be brought into an uninfected herd or flock. Any new animal additions to the herd or flock should be quarantined for 30 days and have their feet trimmed before commingling with other animals.

While not as like, footrot can also be spread on boots, vehicle tires, feeders, hoof trimmers, or handlers' hands. Care



*A hoof that has been pared fairly severely to remove necrotic and infected tissue.*

must be taken by producers if footrot is known to be present in the herd. Extra care should be taken by producers during the wet season in maintaining sanitary conditions to reduce footrot outbreaks. Since bacteria are spread more easily in most areas contaminated with feces, it is a good management practice to move feed and water troughs and avoid trampled, muddy, or overgrazed pastures.

To eliminate footrot from a herd requires dedication to treatment, separation of infected animals from non-infected, and culling of animals that cannot be cured. An eradication program has the best chance of succeeding if producers consult with a veterinarian early in the process. Maintenance of facilities and fencing is important, in order to be able to handle, inspect, and treat sheep properly. Eradication methods focus on keeping unaffected sheep clean. Be aware that apparently healthy sheep or goats can be carrying the bacteria in a pocket of infection in the foot during dry conditions, and show clinical signs of infection.

A program to eliminate footrot from a herd or flock involves three steps: 1) prevention, 2) eradication, and 3) surveillance. When footrot is first detected in a herd or flock, producers must manage its spread before further action can be taken. The prevention phase involves controlling further spread of footrot by footbathing, trimming feet, use of antibiotics, and vaccination.

Hoof trimming is necessary in order to allow air to reach the hoof, eliminating the bacteria that cause footrot. Under normal circumstances, sheep feet should be trimmed 1 to 2 times per year. Trimming creates a flat sole surface, removing trapped mud and feces and reducing the possibility of foot scald and footrot infection.

When trimming the feet of an animal known to have footrot, all necrotic tissue should be removed, which may cause some bleeding. After trimming is a good time to run sheep and goats through a foot bath as well.

Footbathing will reduce the risk of infection of footrot on sheep and goats, minimizing the number of individuals that need to be culled. Sheep and goats can be treated every 5 to 7 days by standing them in a 10% zinc sulfate solution for up to 15 minutes to reduce the risk of infection.

Copper sulfate is another preparation that may be used for footbaths. While effective, it is more toxic to sheep and goats if infested. Copper sulfate will stain wool as well. Paring of the feet before bathing may expose the infection and increase penetration of footbath chemicals.

Zinc sulfate and copper sulfate are drying agents that dry the tissue and hoof area, making it less hospitable for bacteria to grow there. Producers can also add a small amount of laundry detergent to the foot bath to improve access to the hoof.

Vaccines against *D. nodosus* are available, although this method of prevention can be expensive. They provide protection against footrot for 4 to 6 months, and some evidence suggests that they also allow infected feet to heal more

# Continuation of Footrot in Sheep and Goats

(Continued from page 14)

quickly. Most producers report a 60% to 80% success rate with this vaccine. When using any vaccines, be aware of withdrawal periods prior to slaughter. Vaccinations can be ineffective in some situations, depending on which strains of *D. nodosus* are present on a specific hoof.

Once the initial footrot infection has been controlled, producers can begin the second phase, eradication. Upon initial inspection, the herd or flock should be divided into those that are infected and those that are not. If the proportion of infected animals is low, producers can cull all of those animals. When culling is not an option, such as in the case of high-value animals, animals should then be treated. Footbathing and paring of the feet should be continued. Antibiotics can be effective in eradication and are available through a veterinarian.

When *D. nodosus* is no longer present in a herd or flock, producers move on to the surveillance phase. It is important to detect any re-infection early, so flocks and herds should be inspected regularly for lameness and other symptoms of footrot. Minimize the risk of re-infection by buying sheep and goats only from reputable breeders with footrot-free flocks. Commingling animals at fairs, shows, and sales also puts sheep and goats at risk of picking up footrot.

## Conclusion

The objective of treating footrot is to enhance animal well-being by reducing painful symptoms of the disease by using the most cost-effective means for the producer. A preventive plan that combines treatments of regular feet trimming, foot baths, vaccination, and antibiotic treatment is effective in controlling the physical symptoms of footrot. To entirely eliminate footrot from the herd requires a dedicated and labor intensive plan of action that often includes treatment, separating infected animals from non-infected, and culling of animals that cannot be cured. While footrot is a costly disease to the sheep and goat industry, it is preventable in individual herds by utilizing a strict biosecurity protocol which includes not introducing livestock with the disease.

## Key Points for Prevention of Footrot

1. Do not buy sheep or goats with footrot or from a flock where footrot is present. Quarantine all new additions for 30 days before introducing them to the rest of the herd or flock. Observe sheep and goats for any signs of lameness. Isolate and treat diseased animals before co-mingling.
2. Trim and treat all animals by foot bath before releasing them onto the farm.
3. Avoid using facilities and pens where infected sheep have been during the past 14 days.
4. Do not transport sheep or goats in a vehicle that has not been cleaned and disinfected.
5. Routinely trim and implement foot baths using zinc sulfate every 5 to 7 day as prevention. In animals know to be infected, foot soaks given 3 to 4 times per week can be used as treatment for footrot as well.
6. Consult with a veterinarian before vaccinating the herd or flock for footrot, or treating with antibiotics.

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# Learning Opportunities

## Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School

July 8-11, 2012, Philadelphia, PA

For the first time, the annual Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School will be held on the East Coast, in proximity to the major metropolitan areas of New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. and the large eastern ethnic markets. Applications to attend must be submitted by April 16, 2012.

Laurie Hubbard, Shepherd for Penn State University, and Joanne Evans, President of the Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers, are the 2012 coordinators. Said Hubbard, "The focus will be on educating the participants about the non-traditional marketing of lamb. Tour sites will include New Holland Sales Stables, which is a hub for the non-traditional ethnic trade." Attendees will also visit an ethnic custom harvesting facility, two traditional lamb packers, and a sheep dairy that utilizes their lambs for the meat industry, plus meet with other private, non-traditional marketers.

The school will discuss customs of various countries to help explain certain aspects of raising lambs for the non-traditional lamb market. This information would be of assistance to any sheep ranch or lamb feedlot operation, regardless of location, in planning alternative marketing options to increase profitability.

Interested individuals may apply by completing a brief application and short essay. A group of 26 participants, age 20 or older, will be selected to attend. The registration fee is \$200 per person and participants are responsible for their own travel expenses. NLFA covers the cost of food, lodging and tour-related expenses during the school. No fee is required until after the applicant is selected. Applicants will be notified in early May.

[2012 Tentative Agenda \(pdf\)](#)

### How to Apply

There is no fee to apply. Complete your [application form \(pdf\)](#) and submit it electronically no later than April 16, 2012. For question or more information, call the NLFA office at [503.364.5462](tel:503.364.5462) or email us at [info@nlfa-sheep.org](mailto:info@nlfa-sheep.org).

## National Institute for Animal Agriculture Annual Conference

March 26-29, 2012

**National Institute for Animal Agriculture Annual Conference: Living in a World of Decreasing Resources & Increasing Regulation: How to Advance Animal Agriculture** at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver, CO. Plus optional tour on March 29th to Greeley, CO for a full tour of the JBS packing plant, Five Rivers Kuner Feedlot and Gutttersen Ranches. For info: [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org).



# Learning Opportunities

## Grazing Workshop



### **Grazing Workshop for Small Ruminant Producers** Keynote Speaker: Mr. Greg Judy of Green Pastures Farm Thursday - Saturday, June 14 - 16, 2012

Cost: \$175 per person or \$250 per couple (couples will receive only one copy of proceedings)  
Vendors will be charged registration fee plus a vendor fee.

- Presentations by grazing specialists, veterinarians and researchers
- Topics include forages, forage management, stockpiling, soils, fencing and more
- Field exercises, demonstrations and vendors
- Sessions on grazing system design and layout and grazing plans are scheduled
- Registration includes conference proceedings and meals

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For more information, please contact  
Amy Bax at (573) 681-6190 or BaxA2@LincolnU.edu



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# Lamb Checkoff Releases New Long-range Plan and FY 2011 Annual Report at Annual Meeting

## *Press Release*

DENVER, CO, February 14, 2012 ~ The American Lamb Board (ALB) presented a new five-year strategic plan and their FY 2011 Annual Report at their annual meeting last month in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Board's new long-range plan has five areas of focus: enhancing demand for American Lamb, meeting demand for American Lamb, maintaining and enhancing strong communication and collaboration with all segments of the industry, increasing revenue, and evaluating the effectiveness of the lamb checkoff programs.

The plan will help guide the organization's decisions on allocating resources based on prioritized goals and objectives, and ensure that the Board is working toward its mission to increase the value of American Lamb for all segments contributing to the American Lamb checkoff program. All lamb checkoff programs will be required to address the new strategies.

"Record high prices, strong demand for local, high-quality American lamb, and an industry-wide commitment to increase domestic sheep production make this an exciting time for the American Lamb industry," says Nick Forrest, ALB chairman. "The American Lamb Board's Strategic Plan outlines our vision for the future of the industry over the next five years, including profitability, a focus on sustainability, industry-wide communication and collaboration, and growth in nontraditional markets," adds Forrest.

The new Annual Report highlights the Board's FY 2011 budget, programs, activities and results. The report can be downloaded at [lambcheckoff.com](http://lambcheckoff.com).

###

The American Lamb Board is an industry-funded research and promotions commodity board that represents all sectors of the American Lamb industry including producers, feeders, seed stock producers and processors. The Board, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, is focused on increasing demand by promoting the freshness, flavor, nutritional benefits and culinary versatility of American Lamb. The work of the American Lamb Board is overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the board's programs are supported and implemented by the staff in Denver, Colorado.

Contact: Rae Maesta  
American Lamb Board  
6300 E. Hampden Ave, Ste 2106  
Denver, CO 80222  
Phone: [303-759-3001](tel:303-759-3001)  
Fax: [303-759-5832](tel:303-759-5832)



# Calendar of Events

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

## **April**

- 6-7 Illini All-Breeds Spring Sale - Bloomington, Illinois—Breeding Stock, Wether Sires & Dams, Club Lambs
- 7 Slack's 34th Formula for Champions Club Lamb Sale - Whitley County 4-H Fairgrounds, Columbia City, Indiana, 1:30pm until 4:30pm
- 14 California Ram Sale - Tulare County Fairgrounds, Tulare, California
- 21 Quam Suffolks & Hampshires Sale, At the Farm - Wanamingo, Minnesota, Sale - 1PM
- 27-28 National Cornbelt All Breeds Sheep Sale - Des Moines, Iowa—Breeding Stock, Wether Sires & Dams, Club Lambs
- 30 -1 Minnesota Suffolk Spring Spectacular Online Stud Ram, Ewe & Club Lamb Sale (April 30-May 1)

## **May**

- 5 Kimm Suffolks 24th Annual Production Sale - Tippie Beef Center, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 6:30pm, [www.breedingsheepage.com/kimm](http://www.breedingsheepage.com/kimm)
- 10-12 Big Ohio Sale Weekend - Eaton, Ohio—Ohio Suffolk Sale, Classic Wether Sire & Dam Sale
- 26-27 Great Lakes All-Breeds Sheep Show & Sale - Wooster, Ohio
- 31-2 Nugget All-American Invitational All Breeds Sheep & Boer Goat Sale - John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino - Sparks, Nevada—Breeding Stock, Wether Sires & Dams, Club Lambs (May 31-June 2)

## **June**

- 1 Last day to take advantage of the Amnesty Program!
- 25-30 Midwest Stud Ram Sale—Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, Missouri
- 27—National Suffolk Sale, 7am
- 28—Blackface Wether Sire & Dams Show, 7am - Suffolks Show Second
- 29—National Suffolk Sale, Approximately Noon
- 30—Blackface Wether Sire & Dam Sale, 10 am



## **July**

- 5—8 National Junior Suffolk Show - Brookings, South Dakota @ the SDSU Campus
- 20—21 Crossroads of the West All-Breeds Sheep Sale - Tooele, Utah

## **August**

- 18 Iowa Hawkeye Suffolk Sale - Des Moines, Iowa

## **October**

- 6 Keystone International Bred Ewe & Ewe Lamb Sale - Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- 19—20 New York All-Breeds Bred Ewe Sale - Rhinebeck, New York

## **November**

- 10 N.A.I.L.E. Suffolk Sale - Louisville, Kentucky

# Office Notes

## We Want Your Photos!

We would like to feature some photos in each of our newsletters of our members and their Suffolks! Whether you have old or new photos, all are welcome. We would also like to use some member photos for promotional materials. If you would like to submit photos, you can mail them to the office address, P.O. Box 995, Ottumwa, IA 52501, and then we can return them to you after we scan them. You can also email any photos to [news@u-s-s-a.org](mailto:news@u-s-s-a.org). We look forward to seeing all your photos!

## What would you like to see in this publication?

If you have any ideas or items you would like to see in this newsletter, send us your input! Or, if you have any news stories, results, photos you would like to share with the rest of the United Suffolk Sheep Association let us know!

Items you would like to submit to the newsletter can emailed to:



## Website

If you have any information you would like included on our website, please let us know. We also welcome any ideas you may have to improve our website.

USSA Suffolk Window Clings and Limited Edition Suffolk Sculptures are available for purchase!

Window Clings are \$1 a piece and sculptures are \$195 per sculpture.

Both prices include shipping!

Contact the office if you are interested in purchasing any.



**United Suffolk Sheep  
Association**

PO Box 995  
Ottumwa, IA 52501

Phone: 641-684-5291

Fax: 641-682-9449

E-mail: [news@u-s-s-a.org](mailto:news@u-s-s-a.org)



"The Breed in the Lead"

We're on the Web!

[www.u-s-s-a.org](http://www.u-s-s-a.org)



Junior member Reid Richards from Geneva, Nebraska with his first Suffolk lamb that was born last year and weighed 22lbs.

## Classified Ads

*USSA Members only. Ads are free. Must be sheep related: animals, vehicles, trailers, equipment, transportation, working dogs, etc. Include your contact information. Email you ad to: [news@u-s-s-a.org](mailto:news@u-s-s-a.org). The newsletter may not contain all of the classified ads. To find a full listing, please visit our website: [www.u-s-s-a.org](http://www.u-s-s-a.org).*

### **FOR SALE: Registered Suffolk Ewes**

Registered Suffolk ewes: 4 yearling ewes; 2 two year olds; and 2 fall ewe lambs.

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Call or email for more information.

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**Check out the USSA Facebook page!**



