

Sheep

August 2011 Volume 8 Number 4

Sense

Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Sheep Association

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MSA

Sheep Show and Sale

Purebred and
Commercial

4-H Invitational Show

Wild and Woolly

Fibre Festival

Stock Dog Clinic

with World Champion
Dale Montgomery

Wool Show and Sale

*(\$50 added prize for Grand
Champion fleece)*

Lamb Barbecue

Speakers

Vendors

August 12- 14 ,Neepawa, MB

New

Website:

**MSA has a
new website:
mbsheep.ca**

Check it out!!

MSA Show and Sale / Fibre Festival Schedule

Friday

Time	Main Arena	Barn	Workshops	Outdoor Arena
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.		Animal entries		
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.			Stock dog clinic	

Saturday

8 a.m. - 10 a.m.		Animal entries		
9 a.m.	4-H Invitational Show Shearing Demo			Stock dog clinic
10 a.m.	4-H Invitational Show	Vendors and displays open Selection committee	Beginner Spinning - Pat Lovatt 10:00 - noon	
11 a.m.	Linda Fox- <i>"How to evaluate your flock"</i>	Spinning Circle begins Wool Judging begins		
12 p.m.	Lunch			
1 p.m. 1:05 1:20	Welcome - MSA Chair Dave Hunt - <i>"Premise ID"</i> Scrapie Canada		Needle felting Linda Glowacki 1 - 3:30 p.m.	Stock dog Clinic 1 - 4:30
1:30 p.m.	MSA Sheep Show 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.			
3 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 3:45 p.m.	MSA Sheep Show SunGold Shearing Demo	Presentations -Wool Competition Wool Silent Auction begins		
4 p.m.		Wool grading demo		
4:30 p.m.	Stock dog Demo			
5 p.m.		Wool Silent Auction ends		
6 p.m.	Lamb Barbeque			

Sunday				
9 a.m. - 12	Shearing Demo "Sheep to Scarf" competition	Vendors and displays open		9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Stock dog clinic
12 noon	Lunch			
12:15 p.m. 1 p.m. 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.	SunGold David Hunt "Premise ID" Scrapie Canada MSA Sale			
2 p.m.				
3:30 p.m.			Animal Release Barn closes	Dog clinic ends
This schedule may be revised without notice. Please check frequently.				

Sheep Vets in Manitoba

Dr. Neil Versavel
 Dr. Luc Versavel
 Equi-Tech Veterinary Inc.
 467-2083
 Stonewall. MB
 Has a ram probe for semen evaluations.

Tanya Anderson, DVM
 Gladstone Veterinary Clinic
 Box 538 208 Morris Ave. S
 Gladstone, MB ROJ 0T0
 Ph:(204)385-2892
 Cell:(204)857-1704
 Fax:(204)385-2021
gladvet@mts.net

Grand Valley Animal Clinic
 Allister Gray, DVM
 304 Pacific Ave
 Brandon, MB R7A 0H5
 204-728-0033

Wheat City Veterinary Clinic
 Dr. Sherry Wurtz, DVM
 1528 1st St North
 Brandon, MB R7C 1A4
 204-728-9262

Russell and District Veterinary Clinic
 Dr. Cathy Clements, DVM
 Box 1302, Russell, MB ROJ 1W0
 204-773-3777 204-773-2207 (emergency)

Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP)

Key milestones for mandatory RFID tags

Canada continues to move towards government mandated traceability, it has become clear that traceability regulations will not be in place by December 31, 2011. However, traceability regulations will be phased in starting in 2011, and CSF is working on behalf of producers to help the industry make the transition to RFID tags in a cost-effective manner. As such, please note the timelines as the sheep industry moves forward:

July 1, 2011

- Ketchum Kurl lock # 3 and Allflex dangle tags will no longer be available for sale from the manufacturers, Ketchum and Allflex, as Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) tags; • Retailers will have until October 1, 2011 to sell any remaining stocks.

January 1, 2012

- Producers are encouraged to tag all animals born or tagged after this date with CSIP approved RFID tags (Shearwell Data Ltd SET tag or Allflex RFID Button Tag). • Producers need to carefully monitor their stocks and use up inventory of the Ketchum Kurl lock #3 and Allflex dangle tags before [December 31, 2012](#).
- If you tag an animal which will still be in the population as of January 1, 2013 (i.e. breeding stock) with a non-RFID tag, that animal will be non-compliant after January 1, 2013. As a result, you will be required to retag the animal with a CSIP approved RFID tag and cross-reference with the old identification number if the animal is to leave the farm after January 1, 2013.

January 1, 2013

- Ketchum Kurl lock #3 and the Allflex dangle tags will be officially removed from the list of approved tags for the CSIP and will no longer be accepted from this date forward at sales, abattoirs or by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for shipping, transfer or sale of sheep in Canada.

The government of Canada is committed to mandatory traceability, and CSF continues to work to ensure producer concerns are addressed.

For more information, contact the Canadian Sheep Federation at: info@cansheep.ca

www.cansheep.ca

1.888.684.7739

Haemonchus - the conditions are right !

(Barberpole Worm)

With comments from Dr. Paula Menzies DVM

Last year many producers experienced animal losses from the barberpole worm (*Haemonchus*). This year, the warm, moist weather conditions are again right for production of large numbers of these worms. Producers should be vigilant in regularly checking their flocks.

Haemonchus affects sheep in two ways - the developing larvae damage the gland cells of the stomach, disturbing the digestive process, and it is a ravenous blood-sucker and removes considerable amounts of blood from the host sheep. It can quickly result in anemia in the sheep followed by death.

Life Cycle: The life cycle of *Haemonchus* is described as direct. This means that there is no intermediate host to complete the life cycle. The adults worms live in the abomasum of the sheep. This is the fourth or “true” stomach of the sheep, where they lay their eggs, which are then passed out in the manure. The eggs develop into larvae, which are then capable of infecting the sheep. The amount of time this takes can range from 5 days to several months. The moist, warm conditions we are having, are perfect for rapid development of the larvae.

After they have developed, the larvae must be ingested by the sheep to complete the life cycle. They can in a limited way, transport themselves from the manure to pasture plants. When sheep are forced to graze pastures closely, the number of larvae ingested increases because the concentration of larvae is higher in the lower parts of the plants. The fact that sheep naturally graze selected areas of pasture closely, even when other pasture is available, is one of the characteristics that makes them so susceptible to worms.

Once the larvae are ingested, it takes about 14 days for them to develop into adults with the ability to lay eggs.

Haemonchus can overwinter on pasture, but it is doubtful that this is the major source of infection to sheep - most surviving *Haemonchus* don't appear to effectively infect sheep the following spring. However, the parasite can overwinter in ewes very well and the peri-parturient rise (after lambing) will contaminate pastures. Combine that with warm, wet conditions on pasture and lambs can be clinically affected by late July, early August.

Additionally, we are seeing quite a bit of resistance to anthelmintics.

Moving sheep to clean pastures and appropriate timing of worming is the most effective way to control *Haemonchus* and other parasites in sheep. G

Breed Profile: Romney

The Romney is truly a versatile breed, as demonstrated by its ability to produce quality meat and wool under diverse climate conditions and management systems. It is so-named for the Romney Marsh region in Kent, England where it was developed as a dual purpose sheep. Due to the extreme geographic and climatic conditions of the region, Romney sheep developed some specific breed characteristics which include hooves which are resistant to foot rot and fleeces which remain heavy in harsh weather.



Due to similar land topography, Romneys made an easy transition to the Southern Island of New Zealand and the Falkland Islands where they quickly established themselves as the most predominant breed. The first Romneys came to the United States in 1904. Their long, lustrous fleeces are sought by hand spinners.

Breed category: long wool, dual-purpose

Distribution: Worldwide

Start preparing for next year now

As lamb prices climb, more people are taking the plunge into sheep production. There are so many questions that new producers have about all aspects of production, and now is the time that they should be focusing on their breeding stock. Breeding time is quickly coming around.

Whether you have a breed preference or wish to start with a commercial flock, one should always try to find good quality ewes and rams. A good place to start looking is with the purebred breeders. Using purebred rams on commercial ewes will add uniformity to the lambs, regardless of the breeding of the ewes. Using rams of unknown origin will throw genetic diversity to the wind and your flock will lack the consistency that lamb buyers look for. Check the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association website for listings of purebred breeders.

Another place to look for quality breeding stock is at the provincial show and sale. The animals are checked for health issues before entering the show area and you have the chance to see how a professional judge places the animals, prior to the sale. It is also a place to meet other producers and a place to ask questions. Even if producers are not showing animals, it facilitates networking, and getting to know people who can help you with other aspects of lamb production. The MSA website is www.mbsheep.ca. for all show info. Looking forward to meeting new producers and seeing other sheep producers on Aug 13-14. G

Wild and Woolly Fibre Festival

No material, natural or man-made, can match the qualities of wool. It has provided protection for very early man, right up to the space station astronauts of today. It was the prized “Golden fleece” of ancient tales and is still prized today for its unique qualities.

What makes wool such an amazing fibre? It retains its qualities, wet or dry, and can absorb up to 30 percent of its weight in moisture and still feel dry to the touch. It always returns to its original thickness when compressed. As it returns to its natural shape, small pockets of air are created, filling with dry, warm air. That’s why we always feel warm when it’s cold or wet.

Wool is naturally flame resistant, and is self extinguishing. As a natural fibre, it is bio-degradable and ecological, because it continues to grow throughout the life of the sheep, and is harvested annually.

The Manitoba Sheep Association is celebrating “wool” at its annual show and sale this year by sponsoring the “Wild and Woolly Fibre Festival”, August 13 and 14, at the Neepawa Ag Grounds, Neepawa, MB.

The two-day festival features many aspects of wool, from displays of wool breed sheep, a wool competition, workshops, vendors, a wool auction and a “sheep to scarf” competition.

Two workshops are being presented – needle felting and beginner spinning. Well-known artisans Linda Glowacki and Pat Lovatt will lead the workshops, which are open to anyone interested. Pre-registration is appreciated.

The Wolesley Wool fleece competition will be held on Saturday, August 13 and features several types of wool – range, longwool, down and specialty. Head grader for the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Jim McNeely will be our judge. Following the judging, a silent auction for the fleeces will begin.

On August 14, a “Sheep to Scarf” competition will be held. This is an international competition in which teams take raw wool and fashion it into a garment in the shortest time. Teams will have to pick, card, spin and knit the scarf in three and a half hours or less.

Vendors will be on hand throughout the show, featuring unique handmade wool products and supplies.

For more information, please contact Gerry Oliver – 204-834-2261 or email: gerry@spiritsands.ca or Website: mbsheep.ca or Facebook – Wild and Woolly Fibre Festival

Producers are invited to enter fleeces in the wool competition:

Classes include - Range - Rambouillet, Polypay, Finn, Targee, Merino

- Longwool - Romney, Cotswold, Leicester, Lincoln

- Down - Suffolk, Cheviot, Clun Forest, Hampshire, Texel, Dorset

- Specialty - Jacob, Shetland, Icelandic

For information on how to prepare fleeces for competition, go to Page 9. Entry fee - \$2/fleece

See this issue for entry forms for wool.

Following the MSA show and sale, producers may advertise raw fleeces for sale on the web site.

Contact: Gerry Oliver Email: gerry@spiritsands.ca or mbsheep.ca

**See page 15 for wool entry forms or go to
www.mbsheep.ca**



Fleece Preparation at Shearing Time

Reprinted from CCWG

To enable Canadian wool growers to achieve better wool preparation and higher financial returns the following are the recommended guidelines.

To enable Canadian wool growers to achieve better wool preparation and higher financial returns the following are the recommended guidelines.

- 1) All sheep need to be emptied out before shearing. i.e. No feed or water to be administered to the sheep for a minimum of 12 hours prior to shearing. By carrying out this practice the sheep's stomach and bladder will be empty and therefore the wool does not become contaminated with dung and urine. The sheep will also sit better for shearing as they do not struggle the same which enables the shearing process to be easier for both the shearer and the sheep. Never shear wet wool or pack wet wool.
- 2) The belly wool needs to be kept completely separate from the fleece wool. The shearer should remove and throw the belly aside as the sheep is being shorn, belly wool to be packed separately.
- 3) All short, stained wool and tags need to be removed from the crutch area as the sheep is being shorn. This wool is kept completely separate from all other types of wool and packed separately.
- 4) All fleeces should be thrown onto a wool table to enable the skirting of the fleeces to be performed in a proficient manner. Chaffy or bury wool should be skirted from the fleece and packed separately.
- 5) The board should be swept and kept clean between sheep as well as during the shearing of the sheep.
- 6) All fleeces should be shaken to remove any second cuts before rolling and pressing the fleeces.
- 7) When pressing the wool all the different categories of wool are to be pressed separately. There should be no mixing of the different wool types during shearing but when pressing at the end of shearing the different types of wool can be put into one bag but they need to be separated by sheets of newspaper.
- 8) All bags are to be sewn with butchers twine. Please do not use baling twine, wire, electric fence wire, or polyprop twine to sew the wool bags.
- 9) All bags need to be identified as to their contents.
- 10) Where possible during shearing the level of straw needs to be kept to a minimum and away from the shearing area to keep the contamination level to a minimum.
- 11) Coloured & Blackface sheep are to be separated and shorn last so as not to contaminate the white wool with coloured fibres.
- 12) Fleece preparation incentives of up to 8¢/lb is applicable for bright high yielding fleeces that have been properly skirted and packaged.
- 13) Maintaining a clean shearing board and floor is an important and continuous process. It must be done before, during and after shearing to insure a quality clip.

Rolling the fleece (all wools)

Spread skirted fleece on skirting table or clean wool handling area, flesh side down

- * Fold fleece into thirds
- * Roll fleece from rear of animal to front.
- * Roll fleece flesh side out.

How to prepare a sheep's fleece for show

By Julie Helms

Preparing a fleece for show takes a good deal more than just shearing a sheep. In order to put a fleece before a judge, it needs to be shorn properly, free of debris, unwashed and true to the breed or type.

Generally, unless you really know what you are doing, you should hire a professional shearer to shear the fleeces headed for the show table. From the sheep's point of view, it doesn't matter how you remove the fleece as long as it comes off once a year. But, a show fleece must come off the animal in one piece with no second cuts.

A second cut is when the blades ride up too high on the wool and the shearer had to go back and re-shear that section. This cuts the staple length down and puts small pieces of wool loose in the fleece. My first year showing my only fleece entered was disqualified for the presence of second cuts. It is nearly impossible not to have any second cuts, but the trick is to minimize the amount created during shearing and then remove any small chunks before bagging the fleece.

After the shearer has removed the fleece from the sheep, you take it and fluff it out onto a large table like it's a bearskin rug. At this time, second cut nubs are removed. You also go around the edge of the fleece removing any leg, dock or head wool, or any other soiled parts. This is called "skirting". Only the best should be shown. Dirty wool can often still be cleaned and used by producers, but it has no place in front of a judge. Flip the fleece over and check the other side for flaws. Any vegetable matter should be removed at this point too.

Vegetable matter refers to the hay that gets stuck in the wool. It is difficult to remove by hand. The smaller pieces of your hay, the worse the problem. Hand spinners will often reject wool with heavy vegetable matter as it is difficult to work with. Perspiration, urine and manure stains will all wash out, hay does not. It must be picked. So, your show fleece should have no vegetable matter and absolutely no manure.



Manitoba Premises Identification Program for Livestock and Poultry

The Province of Manitoba has implemented a Premises Identification Program to be used as a tool for the planning and management of animal health and food safety emergencies. A premises is a parcel of land on which livestock or poultry are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of, and includes farms, exhibitions, fair grounds, racetracks, veterinary clinics, stables, auction marts, abattoirs, and hobby farms. This information will:

- allow for the rapid notification of stakeholders in the event of an animal health emergency or food safety recall
- assist in the planning and management of animal health emergencies including natural disasters such as flooding
- help reduce the social, environmental and economic impacts associated with an animal health emergency
- serve as a foundation for livestock and poultry traceability systems as they are developed in partnership with industry

Manitoba is in the process of validating collected premises information that has been submitted by individuals and provincial livestock and poultry associations. However since the effectiveness of premises identification as a traceability and animal health tool is dependent on the level of participation, Manitoba has introduced a premises identification regulation under *The Animal Diseases Act*. *This regulation came into force in September 2010 and requires the owner or operator of a premises to provide specific land and contact information.* Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) is only requesting the minimum amount of information necessary to serve Manitoba's animal emergency needs and to meet the national traceability system standards. All information collected in this program will remain confidential and can only be used for emergency management purposes to prevent, prepare, respond or recover from a disaster, foreign animal disease outbreak or emergency threatening animal or human health.

Owners and operators of premises can acquire a Manitoba Premises Identification Program application from MAFRI Growing Opportunities (GO) Offices or online at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/premisesid/pid01s02.html>. All applicants will receive a letter confirming a provincial premises identification number for each legal land location submitted.

By working with industry partners such as the Manitoba Sheep Association, the development of a provincial premises identification database will be a major step in developing a national traceability system and will serve as a tool to provide effective and efficient responses to provincial and national animal health or food safety emergencies.

For more information please contact your local MAFRI GO Office or David Hunt at 945-8380 (david.hunt@gov.mb.ca).

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

David Hunt
Agri-Food Traceability Coordinator
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Classifieds

Looking to purchase used sheep handling equipment - e.g. sheep sorter, panels, stop gate, tilt table, basket feeder, etc. Please call or email either Graeme at 388-4309 (tgbuys@yahoo.ca) or Jim at 388-4832 (engelage07@gmail.com)

For sale: 200 ewe lambs Dorper X Rideau @ \$245. each. Richard Davis 1-204-427-3633

For sale: 150 Clun Forest cross open yearling ewes, 14 months old. Special selection from an 800 ewe commercial flock. Ideal for pasture lambing. From ewes with excellent mothering ability and 150+% lamb crop on pasture. \$275 each. Contact Wayne and Maria McDonald, (204) 529-2633 or mcdonald_farm@yahoo.ca (see mbsheep.ca for pics)

Looking into buying a commercial flock
Harry Van Kammen, Haywood, MB
Tel: 379-2427 or e-mail vankammen@xplornet.com

For Sale: 4 Katahdin ram lambs (purebred but not registered). Phone Milo Bauman 204-829-3756

Southwest District has new rep

Sarah Lewis has accepted the interim position of Southwest Rep for MSA. She has served as MSA president and now is filling in the district rep position.

Anyone from that district who needs help, has comments and suggestions, etc. can contact her at : 204-845-2153

3 Ile de France rams for sale , born Jan 06 are purebred but have no papers . Asking \$450 each or \$1000 for the lot .
contact Raymond Funk 204-434-6456



JM Beef Consulting of Virden, MB Announces they are now a representative for Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers

Location: 1 1/4 mi north of Heartland Auctionmart at Virden or 1/4 mi. north of #1 Hwy, on Hwy 83 (S).

Contact:

Kevin Wadham

204-748-7583

Toll free:1-866-474-3228

Email: kwadham@rfnw.com



New Zealand mourns death of Shrek

the famously shaggy sheep

- *(AP Photo/FOTOPRESS, Ross Land, File)*

New Zealanders were mourning the loss of the country's most famous sheep Tuesday, a shaggy national icon named Shrek who was renowned for avoiding being shorn for years.

Shrek captured the public's imagination in 2004 after he evaded the annual shearing roundups for the previous seven years by hiding in caves on his farm on the South Island. When finally found, he was clad in an astonishing 60 pounds (27 kilograms) of wool.

That's about five times a typically annual shearing from Shrek's breed, the Merino sheep prized for some of the softest wool.

In a country where sheep outnumber people by nearly 10 to one, Shrek's story of stubbornness and guile appealed to many. After his capture, Shrek was shorn on live TV in a broadcast that was picked up around the world. His story inspired three books.



"He was quite an elderly statesman," said owner John Perriam. "He taught us a lot."

Until becoming sick three weeks ago, Shrek toured the country, commanding \$16,000 for appearances and getting the star treatment wherever he went. In one appearance, Shrek was shorn atop a large iceberg that was floating near the South Island coast.

Shrek was one of about 17,000 sheep on the the 27,000-acre (11,000-hectare) Bendigo farm in the small town of Tarras. Perriam believes Shrek was able to survive the winters and avoid detection by moving about a series of sheltered caves and by munching on small native shrubs.

"It's bizarre that we missed him seven years in a row," Perriam said. "But from his point of view, it was the perfect environment."

After Shrek became a star, Perriam gave him his own barn and showroom. Shrek even had a personal caregiver look after him when he became sick, before the sheep was euthanized Monday at age 17.

Perriam said that as well as laying claim to being New Zealand's woolliest sheep, Shrek may also have been its oldest. Most sheep live for no more than six years before being slaughtered.

Neepawa Accommodations - 2011

Camping - Neepawa Ag Grounds

20 lots available, serviced (plug-ins) \$12.50 a night

50 lots available un serviced \$10.00 a night

☑ showers at ball diamond

☑ men's and women's washrooms at the arena

Call Angela Viola (204)-859-2427 to reserve your space

Bed & Breakfasts

Garden Path: 536 2nd Ave 476-3477

1-Queensize with en suite \$80 single, \$90 dble no tax 1-Queensize, shared bathroom \$70 single, \$80 dble no tax

1-Twin, shared bathroom \$70 single, \$80 dble no tax

On internet, B&B Canada

☑ full breakfast

☑ no tax

☑ cash/cheques accepted (cat on premises)

Ann's Heritage House: 516 Brown Ave 476-2952

1 - Queen Size with 1/2 bath \$80

1 - Queen size, shared bathroom, \$80

1- Single, shared bathroom, \$70

Internet; TV in each room; B and B Canada

- Full breakfast
- no tax
- Website: www.bedandbreakfast.mb.ca
- Cash/cheques accepted (cat on premises)

Highland Glen: 353 Vivian Street (by the grounds) 476-3179

1-Queen private suite/bathroom \$75.00 dble no tax

1-Queen shared bathroom \$65.00 dble no tax

1-twin shared bathroom \$65.00 dble no tax

On internet, B&B Canada

Hotel/Motels/Inns

Vivian Hotel

George + Susan Phillips

Neepawa Motel: 71 main street west 476-2331 12

non smoking \$62.00 + tax

2 smoking \$62.00 + tax

cash/cheques accepted

Fridge, coffeemaker and microwave per room

Bayhill Inn: (204)-476-8888

21 non smoking \$93.80 + tax

9 smoking \$93.80 + tax

On internet, www.bayhillinns.netfirms.com

Newest motel/hotel in Neepawa

Westway Inn: Main Street west (Hwy 16)(204)-476-2355

30 non smoking \$64.00 single \$75.00 dble + tax

3 smoking \$64.00 single \$75.00 dble + tax

On the internet, www.WestwayInnNeepawa.com

Wolesley Wool of Winnipeg is our
 sponsor for the Champion Fleece competition

Wool Fleece Identification Form

Name:	Phone:	
Mailing Address:		
City/Town:		
Province:	Postal Code:	
Signature		
Breed:	Age:	Estimated Micron:
Est. Fleece Wt:	Staple Length:	
Entries must be exhibited in a clear plastic bag and include an identification form with each entry		

Fleece Show Registration Form

Name:			
Farm Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City/Town:			Prov:
Email:		Phone:	
Fleece #	Class #	Type and Description	For Sale
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			