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Relevant Articles from Last SheepSense

To review articles in our March issue of SheepSense, [click here](#). Articles include:

- Creep Feeding Lambs
- Body Condition Scoring
- Traceability Regulations
- Antibiotics in Animals

Manitoba Sheep Association

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Narol, MB, R1C 0B8
(204) 421-9434
mb@mbsheep.ca

Executive Director's Report

Submitted by: Kate Basford

THE MANITOBA'S SHEEP INDUSTRY has been growing a rapid pace for the last several years. The 2016 Canadian statistics showed Manitoba was the only province, other than the Maritime Provinces that was showed any growth, the balance of the province showed a decline in ewe numbers.

Last year, the Manitoba ewe numbers increased 14 % from Jan 2017 to Jan 2018. Go Manitoba go... Now some may say that all these statistics can be contributed to the Canada Sheep & Lamb – Canada's largest sheep operation, but they are wrong.

The Manitoba sheep industry is growing not just in ewe numbers but actual sheep producers. Through the purchase of CSIP tags, producers become or continue their membership with MSA; there have always been new producers each month. But during 2018 that number has been increasing at a rapid pace with June 2018 having 47 new sheep producers that never purchased tags before. WELCOME to all the new sheep producers in Manitoba, let us know if MSA can assist you in any way.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY... Most of you should be aware of the CAP AG ACTION MANITOBA 50/50 FUNDING TO SHEEP PRODUCERS. The funding is only available this fiscal year, **with September 14, 2018 the last date to submit applications**. So get your applications in and take advantage of the 50% of the costs covered by CAP Ag Action Manitoba funding, if you haven't already.

The whole process is fairly easy and simple; producers must have a premise identification number, watch webinars – online and fill out an application and submit it.

The webinars you watch are dependent on what producers are wanting to apply for; although the webinar on flock health is mandatory for all applications and I found it to be a very good and an informative video.

Continued on Page 3



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Continued from Page One: Executive Director's Report

Webinar 1: Sheep handling equipment

Webinar 2: Milk replacer feeding and management

Webinar 3: Pregnancy management (nutrition and disease)

Webinar 4: Flock health, production records and biosecurity

Remember to record the date you watched the webinar, as it is required information on the application. The application couldn't be simpler, basically your name and contact information, answer a few basic questions, identify what you want to apply for i.e. Equipment for sheep handling, etc. , the dates you watched the webinars (Training) and a very basic budget. You don't have to identify where you are purchasing these items or provide a quote to verify the price at this point. *Note: watching the webinars are only part of the process, you still need to apply for the funding.* If you have any questions contact Manitoba Agriculture or MSA. See the link ([click here](#)) for the complete information on the program.

THE LAMB MARKETS: This year continued to see good lamb prices and a steady demand for lambs. The best prices were seen at Easter for new crop lambs and other religious holidays, although the prices have dropped a bit, they are still doing well.

Producers need to plan their production cycle to have lambs available to market during the periods of higher demands and higher prices. For instances, If producers want to have lambs available for the Easter market they need to be breeding their ewes now, if they haven't already done so. If you have a breed that will work within this program, you should be taking advantage of this market and higher prices.

Producers need to be more aware of the market demands and be aware of all religious holidays and plan your production cycle accordingly rather than just having lambs and selling them when they are at a marketable weight.

MSA Executive Director, Kate Basford can be contacted at ed@mbsheep.ca or by calling 204-421-9434.

**MB Sheep Association
Mission:**

To initiate, support, and conduct programs and activities designed to stimulate and improve the economic wellbeing of all segments of the Manitoba sheep industry



The MSA is pleased to once again offer the **Dr. John Hamerton Scholarship!**

The \$500 award is designed to promote the future success of the MB Sheep Industry's youth through higher learning. This is open to any student who is a current member of the MSA or is the student relation of a current MSA member. For more information and how to apply, visit our website or email mb@mbsheep.ca

Ag Action Manitoba – 50/50 Sheep Producer Funding

Last intake – September 14th for program funding

The Ag Action Manitoba program was brought into place on April 1, 2018. The program is a partnership between the federal government and the provincial government. Ag Action Manitoba provides funding for equipment, services and other resources that increase the adoption of production, food safety, biosecurity, traceability plant and animal health, animal welfare, farm safety and risk management practices that lead to growth and sustainability in agriculture.

Each year, funding will be targeted to specific sectors and focus areas and sheep are a commodity chosen this year. For the first year of Ag Action Manitoba one of the focus areas is Productivity for Sheep. The information for the Productivity for Sheep is located at the following website:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/sheep/ag-action-manitoba-assurance-productivity-for-sheep.html>

Funding assistance is available for sheep handling equipment, automated milk replacer equipment, ewe pregnancy and lamb number diagnosis equipment and training, flock health breeding and production software and breeding stock and flock testing and screening after applicants view required webinars.

One application deadline has already passed and there are two more; Friday, August 3rd, 2018 and Friday September 14, 2018 subject to funding availability. This program will end in March 2019 so timeliness is important in applying.

If you have any questions, call 1-844-769-6224 or email agaction@gov.mb.ca.

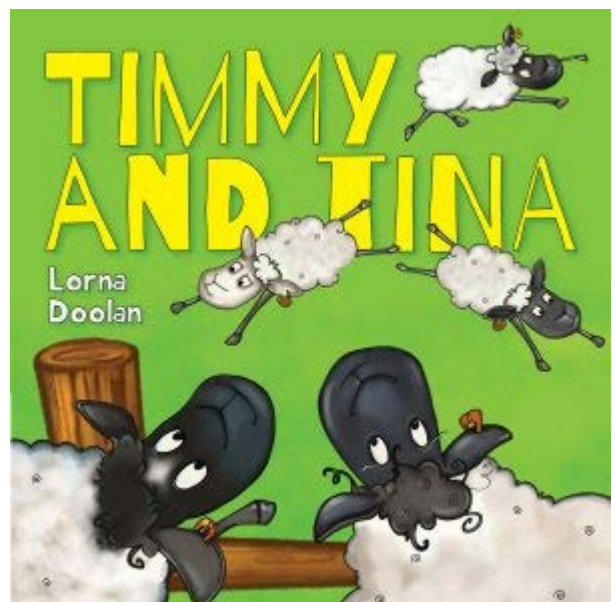
A new picture book by Manitoba author hits the shelves

Book written by Lorna Doolan, Petersfield, MB

A new Picture Book about two bottle fed lambs for ages 4 & up written by a Lorna Doolan from Petersfield, Mb.

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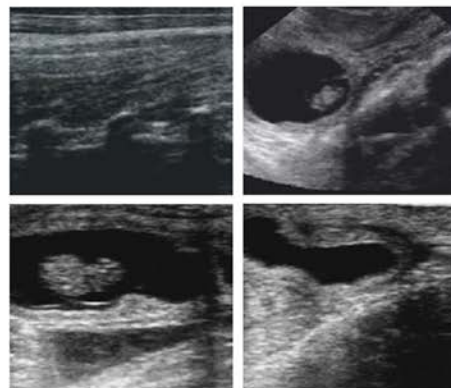
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- Standard depth > 140 mm



For More Information

Please contact Randy Zacharias
rzacharias@horizonhasit.ca
204-388-9333





MSA COMING EVENTS

Watch for details through eblast and website

➤ **SHOW & SALE - AUGUST 24 & 25**

August 24th

- Roast lamb dinner on August 24. Welcome to all, please preregister.
Adults \$25.00 / kids under 12 -\$10.00
- Fitting workshop by Judge James Hewson, geared for youth. All welcome, after Dinner.

August 25th

- Show & Sale with a trade show
 - **CCWG** bringing the Lethbridge store to you, CSIP Tag, supplies and handling equipment, milking machines. They will be running show specials all day. preorder any supplies you are needing
 - **Penner farm supplies**, Ultra sound equipment and supplies.
 - **Huber** with demonstrations on the **Richie combi press** handling equipment.
 - Teresa Walker with **Gallagher**
- **DISTRICT MEETINGS at the end of September - Dates and location TBA**
Directors are needed in the Interlake and Western regions, with re-elections in the Eastern and Central regions. Resolutions to be put forward to the AGM and other MSA business. Good time to meet other producer in you region and discuss sheep business.
- **LAMB VALUE DISCOVERY WORK SHOP - Oct, 2018 Date and location TBA.**
This is a workshop with Dr. Travis Hoffman from U of N Dakota. Do you want to learn more about carcass merit of your lamb crop, through practical applications of visual evaluation, ultrasound and actual carcass measurements, which can be used to shape your ram selection and breeding programs.
- **SHEEP BYTES WORKSHOP, SYMPOSIUM & AGM - NOVEMBER 17 & 18TH Portage.**
November 17 – spend the day in a workshop, understanding and learning how to do rations with Sheep bytes.
November 18 – Symposium & AGM. Join us for another great day of presentations on Nutrition and other sheep production topics.
And be a part of the MSA AGM

Medicating animals within the confines of Extra Label Drug Use (ELDU) and veterinarian client patient relationship

Submitted by: Reuben Neumier, DVM

Producing safe healthy food products for the consumer is paramount to all farmers. “Healthy” as in both good for the consumer’s health and freedom from illness for the animals we raise. This means that there are going to be times when we have to give our sheep medications to treat or prevent disease. The question then arises: “What is the withdrawal after I treat this animal?” Since there are so few veterinary products cleared for use in sheep in Canada this becomes a real concern for both the producer and the veterinarian. The ideal is to use a product that is approved for the species, production type (e.g. lactating) and dosage that fits your situation. This is often not possible, leading to *Extra Label Drug Use* (ELDU).

ELDU is when the product is used at different:

- dosage
- duration
- frequency
- route of administration
- species
- age
- disease than what is approved on the label.

When a product is approved by Health Canada the manufacturer must submit research data that shows that the product is safe for the animal, humans and environment at the dose, administration route and withdrawal on the label. Effectiveness against conditions on the label also is required. This is a costly process and so manufacturers tend to get a product approved for a minimum of conditions despite the product being effective against more conditions. It’s left up to the veterinarian to recommend the product for these other conditions and assume responsibility for recommendations made.

During the approval process Health Canada establishes a *Maximum Residue Limit* (MRL). The MRL is the maximum amount of residual active ingredient that can be in the animal product (meat or milk) and still be safe for humans. It is normally measured in ppm (parts per million). After reviewing data from the manufacturer, a drug withdrawal is established for the species concerned at the label dose, route of administration, duration, etc.

Now, what happens when we use that drug in an ELDU fashion; for example, at a higher dose or for a longer period of time? As a big safety factor, the MRL is automatically dropped to **the lowest detectable level**. This can be in the ppb (parts per billion) and goes down as laboratory detection technology improves. Therefore, the withdrawal has to be extended accordingly by the veterinarian. Since veterinarians are vets and not pharmacology PhDs, this can be difficult for the vet. Fortunately, there is an organization called CgFARAD run by volunteer veterinary pharmacologists from the University of Saskatchewan and University of Guelph veterinary colleges that vets can turn to for help.

Continued on next page

Continued from Page 6 – Medicating Animals

The vet sends them all the relevant information on drug, species, dose, etc. by email and after looking through the worldwide research literature, they provide an educated estimate of what withdrawal should be used. Each case is considered unique since small changes (e.g. age of animal) can make a significant difference to the resulting recommendation. This often means the vet will receive the recommendation after the fact. Also, sometimes there just isn't enough information available for CgFARAD to make any recommendation.

In order to allow for proper and humane care of sick animals, countries in North America, the European Union, Australia and New Zealand allow ELDU but require a prescription from a licensed veterinarian. This requires a *Veterinarian - Client - Patient Relationship (VCPR)*. The exact wording of the definition of a VCPR varies slightly from province to province. In Manitoba, the definition reads as follows:

A VCPR exists when your veterinarian has:

- *assumed responsibility for diagnosing and treating your animal(s) and you agree to follow the veterinarian's instructions;*
- *seen your animal(s) at least once in the past 12 months and is aware of the keeping and care of your animal(s) by examination or through visits to where you keep your animal(s); and*
- *offered you emergency coverage for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.*

This is problematic when the vet doesn't have the time, interest or confidence to deal with a "minor" species OR when the owner just wants to buy medications he or she feels are appropriate and use them without veterinary input.

In Dec. 2018 new rules will be brought into force basically making all antibiotics for animals available by prescription only or, for antibiotics of human concern, banned from animal use. This really isn't much of a change for sheep producers since so few antibiotics are approved for use in sheep that most antibiotic use is already ELDU and so requires a prescription. What will be different is likely the enforcement of the rules. The new rules only affect antibiotics but most hormones, pain killers, anti-inflammatories and antiparasitics are either ELDU or prescription already. The ban on ELDU of vaccines and pesticides remains.

In conclusion, if you don't already have one, now is a good time to establish a good working relationship with your local veterinarian. It will make it much easier for both you and the vet to work within the social license we have to produce safe, healthy food products for the consumer.

<p>Clifford Flynn</p> <p>204-733-2410</p> <p>Makinak, MB.</p>	<p>Breeder of</p> <p>Registered & Commercial Rams & Ewes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Cheviot • Dorset (Horned & Polled) • Shropshire • Oxford Down
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(see photo on page 10)

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Dorset	F	SHEREFF 111E	JEFF & SHERI BIEGANSKI	

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Breed	Sex	Animal	Breeder	
Dorset	M	SHEREFF 47F	JEFF & SHERI BIEGANSKI	
Dorset	F	SHEREFF 111E	JEFF & SHERI BIEGANSKI	

To see the other recipients of the 2018 GenOVIS AWARDS or

Interested in learning more about the rules of this contest or the
GenOvis program? www.genovis.ca



Water Quality & Quantity for Sheep

Submitted by: Kate Basford

A continual supply of clean fresh water at the right temperature to optimize intake is what is required for successful sheep production. This summer's lack of moisture in parts of Manitoba, coupled with periods of incredibly high temperatures, the water quality and quantity can be in question.

Water is often overlooked, as a nutrient requirement of sheep and lambs. But it is the most critical nutrient required by livestock and humans for that matter. Lack of water will have a greater impact and lead to the death of an animal quicker than the lack of any other nutrient. Water is critical to most body functions, its primary role is regulating body temperature, transportation of nutrients and waste, digestion and necessary in the molecular and chemical functions within the body.

Water salinity is generally the most important water quality limitation for livestock as they can refuse to drink excessively saline water leading to loss of production. Excessively saline water may cause salt poisoning in livestock as was seen in Saskatchewan last summer.

Other Important water quality issues include the presence of contaminants such as blue-green algae, organic material, heavy metals and chemicals. Recently I heard of cattle losses in Manitoba to high levels of arsenic in the water. Water evaporation can cause high TDS or sulphide levels, which can have a negative effect on animal health, reproduction and can even cause death. Higher sulphate levels can affect things such as foot health by making difficult for sheep to absorb minerals, like zinc, which is important to foot health, leading to higher incidents of foot rot. Other minerals necessary for bone and muscle development may not be absorbed, retarding growth and producers' bottom lines

Environmental temperature affects water intake as the temperature rises above 22 °C, sheep need to consume more water to help maintain body temperature and respiration losses associated with heat stress.

Another important factor affecting water intake is the actual temperature of the water. For the maximum water intake, the ideal water temperature for sheep is 7-13 °C. Water supplies should be located in the shade or from a deep source. Sheep don't not like warm water, excessively hot water will reduce intake, as well excessive cold water can actually reduce the microbial function of the rumen.

With large groups of sheep on pasture, the back end may not drink enough water before the sheep move away. The flow rate in troughs needs to be sufficient to keep water in the trough while all sheep drink. Allow at least one metre of trough per 130 sheep. Sheep not used to water troughs may take time to learn to drink from them. Young sheep are less adept at finding water so always push them onto water in a new paddock.

Feed effects water intake, if water is good quality than as feed intake increases so does water intake. On average, daily water intake can estimated as 2-4 times the DM matter intake. But the water in high moisture feeds, such as silage and young forages may reduce water intake, especially in lambs, which may reduce gains and even maintaining body weights.

Excessive intake of protein or non – protein nitrogen will significantly increase water intake because of the extra water required to eliminate the excess nitrogen in the urine. As well as excess mineral consumption, especially salt will increase water intake.

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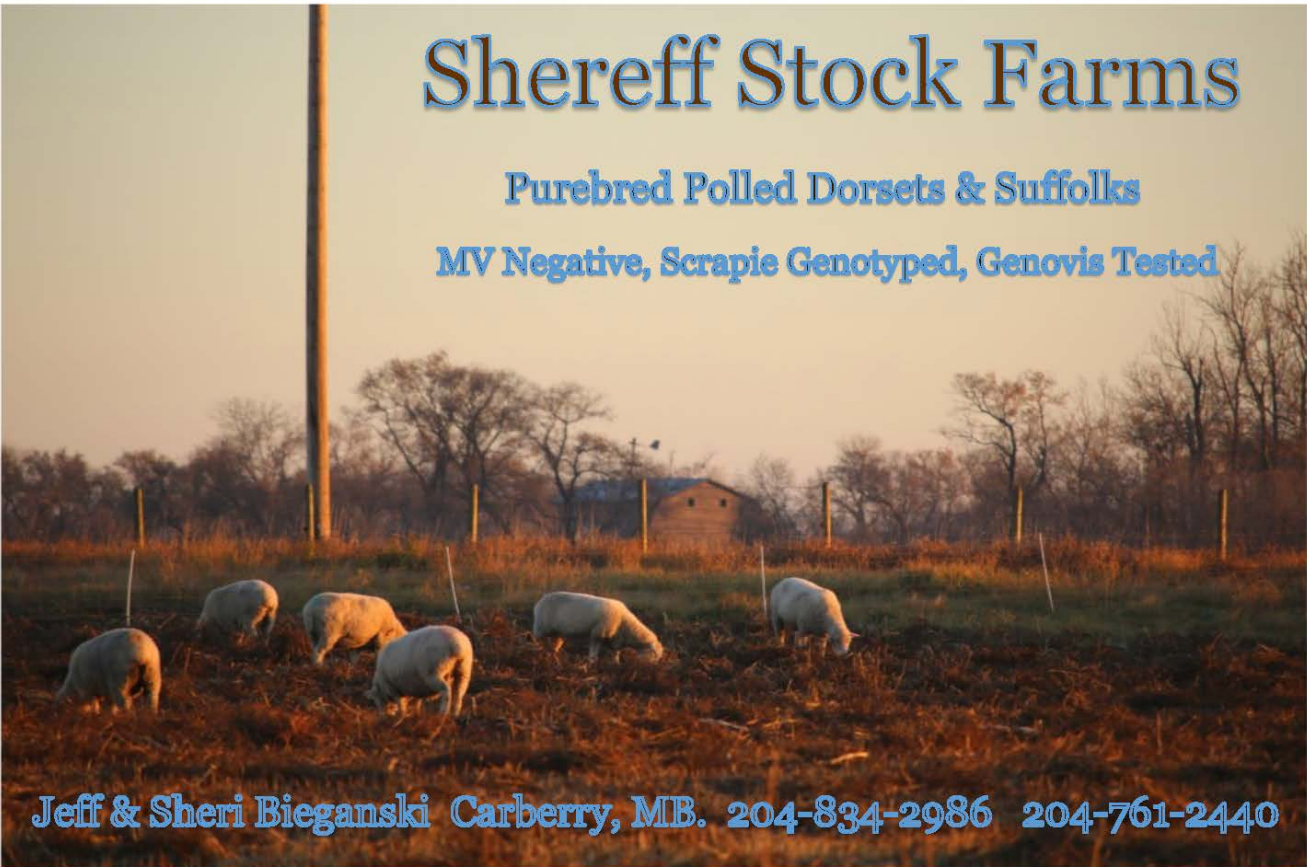
Providing cool clean water to lambs, especially to rams and wethers goes a long way to prevent urinary calculi as the increased urine flow helps to flush out the presence of small calculi formations.

If water quality is poor, livestock may drink less than they need or may stop drinking altogether if water is stagnant. When animals drink less, they will eat less and lose condition and if they are lactating, their milk production will reduce or cease.

You can't manage what you can't measure, so it is important for producers to be aware of what is happening in the water and test their water sources.

Testing is easily and relatively cheap. There are three accredited laboratories in Manitoba. Test costs will vary from year to year, and well owners should contact the laboratory directly for an estimate and the type of test required.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/waterstewardship/odw/public-info/water-testing/index.html>



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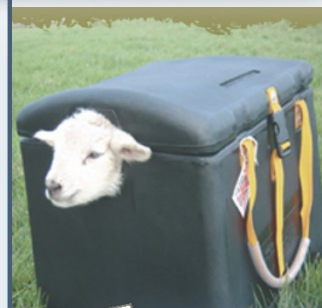
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Sheep can be limited to 0.5lb/day, and trials have shown that supplement feed can reduce by 30% when fed less and more often.

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Feed Efficiency and Lamb Performance

Submitted by: Kate Basford

Feed efficiency is one of the major keys to profitability in a sheep operation and can be influenced by many factors. Feed efficiency can range anywhere from 2:1 to 14:1 (pounds of feed vs pounds of gain). Nutrition and genetics will have the largest impact on lamb feed efficiency.

There are several aspects to be considered, when looking at a ration for lambs. Lambs need to have a specific level of protein for growth and the development muscle. These levels are determined by age and declines as lambs get older. Lambs from birth to 45 days should be fed 20% protein; 45- 85 days of age - 16 % protein and 85 days to market - 13 % protein.

Energy requirements increase as the lambs grow and grain is fed to meet this increasing energy requirement. Grains are high in phosphorus and low in calcium creating a calcium/ phosphorus (CA/P) imbalance. This imbalance can cause reduced gains and urinary calculi issues. The total CA/P ratio in the diet should to be 2:1, providing a 2:1 mineral will not correct this imbalance. This can be achieved by adding calcium in the form of feed grade limestone.

Grains don't have adequate levels of essential vitamins A, D & E for the growth of young animals and should be added to the diet. Vitamin E requirements are higher when lamb are first born and decrease as they get older.

For good digestion, salt should be part of the diet process and account for 1 % of the total ration. Trace mineral salt should be provided as free choice at all times. Always provide loose salt to sheep, as they cannot mechanically acquire the required salt and nutrient levels from salt blocks as they don't have the same type of tongue as cattle do.

It is important to understand trace minerals and how they affect body functions and development. Our environment creates deficiencies or excesses that are reflected in our feeds. Manitoba is deficiency in selenium, it is added to most feed. Sheep metabolize copper very slowing, therefore have a low copper requirement. But there are some areas in Manitoba that have high levels of molybdenum especially during wet periods that bind to the available copper.

To get lambs to market as efficiently and as quickly as possible, high quality feed is essential. There is no room for poor quality feeds in producing lambs. It is important to understand lambs are just like children, if you want them to eat you have to feed them what they like. This is especially important with starting lambs on creep feed. Lambs like sweet feeds, soya bean meal, rolled corn, and leafy alfalfa hay. To get the best feed consumption, you must provide them with what they like, but still keeping economics in check. Particle size also plays an important role in feed consumption, as mentioned young lambs prefer a meal type feed. By 3 weeks they are consuming coarser feeds and by 6 weeks of age prefer a coarser feed like pellets or whole corn. Research has shown lambs fed a pelleted diet or whole corn will consume more, have fast gains and better feed efficiency.

Continued page 12

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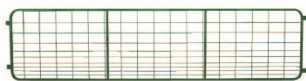
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Continued from Page 12 – Feed Efficiency & Lamb Performance

It is also important to think about the nutrient density of the feed and relate it gut capacity. A pound of hay will fill the gut twice as much as a pound of pellets or whole grains and only provide half the energy. A 45-day old lamb can consume approx. .8 lbs. of hay or approx.1.6 lbs. of pellets or grain. If our goal of getting lambs to market as quickly as possible, we need to think about filling those small stomach with nutrient rich feeds every day and roughage levels at about 10% and have feed available at all times, as lambs eat many times in a day. It is important to have all feed tested and the help of a nutritionist or use ration balancing programs such as sheep bytes to ensure the animal's nutritional requirements are being met. Don't forget to have your water tested, regularly as the mineral profile in your water can also bind to the minerals in feed and affect availability.

The age of lambs also affects feed efficiency, young lambs are more feed efficient than older lambs and lean lambs are more efficient than fat lambs.

	Feed Efficiency	
Age of Lambs	High grain/pellet diets	High roughage diet
Birth to weaning	1:1	3-4:1
Weaning to .25 in. fat	3:1	5-6:1
.26 to .35 in fat	4:1	6-7:1
.36 to .45 in. fat	7:1	9-10:1
.46 in. fat or more	10:1	12-13:1

Feeding weaned lambs over 6 months of age add 2-3 pounds more feed to put on a pound of gain to each if the stage on the grain diet.

Genetics have a tremendous impact on lamb feed efficiency. Rate of gain is closely related to feed efficiency; the fastest growing ram are the rams that consumed the most feed and converted into pounds efficiently. Yes, there will be a variation of feed efficiency within a breed but there is a significant difference between breeds. Wool type breed and maternally oriented breeds have an average feed efficiency of 5:1 while meat breeds will have a feed efficiency of 3:1, when raised exactly the same way. Regardless if you are wanting a terminal sire or replacement sire to improve maternal traits, you need to purchase the fastest growing ram.

Environment can also play an important role. Air quality is important, the best place for lambs is outside with sun shade in a dry environment. Watch pen density, competition and bullying will reduce feed consumption. Night Lighting can have a dramatic effect on improving feed efficiency, a feed area lit up 24 hours a day will increase consumption by 10 % and as much as 20% in warm weather. Temperatures above 25 C, lambs will consume less feed, especially if they are carrying 4 months of wool and the humidity is high. If lambs are housed in a building it may take hours to cool down and further more reduces the consumption of feed. Ultimately, if lamb are comfortable; they will consume more feed.

2018 MSA Show & Sale August 25th, 2018 Carberry Fair Grounds

This year's event will include:

- Sheep show - adult & junior
- Auction of
 - P/B Rams and Ewes
 - Commercial ewes lambs
- Demonstrations
 - shearing
 - carcass evaluations
- Trade show & Industry information
- Lamb banquet – Friday night
- Silent Auction & raffle
- Educational Presentations
- Wool Display & Demonstrations

Watch for entry forms- on line
Deadline for entries August 3, 2018

For further information:

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ed@mbsheep.ca

or call

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Continued from Page 8...

Pictured below, the Genvois Award winners –
Sheri, Jeff & Lucas Bieganski



Ethnic Holiday Calendar 2018-19

THE DEMAND FOR LAMB grows higher during specific Ethnic Holidays. It is useful for producers to know these dates and the type of lamb they are wanting, so they can plan their production cycle to meet the demands.

Please check with your specific buyers about the type of lamb they want and how soon before the holiday, the lamb is required, to plan your production cycle

The listings here are broad generalizations. It is important to know your particular buyer's demands and what weights they are wanting.

Ethnic Holiday Calendar 2018 - 2020					
Holiday		2018	2019	2020	Type of lamb
Islamic (Muslim) Holiday	Start of Ramadan Month of fasting	May 15	May 6	Apr 24	Mrkt lambs 60-80 lb.
	Eid ul-Fitr, Festival of fast breaking (End of Ramadan)	June 15-16	June 5-7	May 24	Mrkt lambs 60-80 lb.
	Eid ul-Adha Festival of Sacrifice	Aug 22-25	Aug 12-15	July 31-Aug 3	Mrkt lambs 60-80 lb.
	Muharramn Islamic New Year	Sept 12	Sept 1	Aug 20	Mrkt lambs 60-80 lb.
	Mawlid al-Habi Prophet's Birthday	Nov 21	Nov 10		Mrkt lambs 60-80 lb.
Jewish Holidays	Passover/Pesch	Mar 31- Apr 7	Apr 20-27	Apr 8-16	Mrkt lambs 60-80 lb.
	Rosh Hashanah	Sept 10-11	Sept 30-Oct 1	Sept 19-21	Young 50 lbs.
	Chanukah	Dec 3-10	Dec 23-30	Dec 10-18	Young 50 lbs.
Hindu Holidays	Diwali	Nov 7	Oct 27	Oct 16	
Mexican Holidays	Cinco de Mayo	May 5	May 5	May 5	Young 50 lbs.
	Christmas	Dec 25	Dec 25	Dec 25	Mrkt lambs 60-80 lb.
Orthodox Christians	Good Friday Easter	Apr 8	Apr 28	Apr 19	Young 50 lbs.
	Christmas	Jan 7	Jan 7	Jan 7	Mrkt lambs 60-80 lb.

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Long Awaited – Wool Press coming to Manitoba

Long Way Homestead is a family run, full service fibre processing mill located in Eastern Manitoba, Treaty One Territory. The mill will be opening in August 2018, providing custom milling for farmers and fibre artists in Canada and the USA. Long Way Homestead will also have a unique line of locally sourced, produced and naturally dyed yarn, including yarn made from the fleece of their Shetland Sheep flock. Long Way Homestead specializes in single-source or small batch processing. Meaning, even small-scale producers can process their wool with only a 3lb minimum weight requirement. Long Way Homestead will offer a full range of services including, cleaning, carding, and spinning wool. Long Way Homestead is passionate about local wool and textile production they are working towards a local, sustainable, regenerative model of agriculture and textile production. For a full list of services and prices please visit <http://www.longwayhomestead.com/new-page-1/>. Anna Hunter and Luke Palka moved to Manitoba from Vancouver in 2015 and established their sheep farm in the summer of 2016. Recognizing the need within the province they began the process of establishing a mill. They will be using equipment from Belfast Mini Mills manufactured on Prince Edward Island.

For more information please check out their website: www.longwayhomestead.com to put your name on the list for wool processing or if you are sheep farmer looking to sell your fleece please contact info@longwayhomestead.com you can also find them on Instagram @longwayhomestead or facebook.



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Featured Recipe – Grilled Lamb Stuffed Pitas with Yogurt Sauce

A flavorful, juicy, street food-style alternative to the everyday burger on a bun. Seasoned with herbs and warm spices, pressed between pita rounds, and grilled, these lamb sandwiches inspired by Middle Eastern *arayas*. The grill made the pita really crisp, providing contrast to the texture of the filling. As the sandwiches cooked, the lamb released fat and juices into the bread to help it crisp up. To balance the sandwiches' richness, serve them with a bright and cooling yogurt-tahini sauce or any other yogurt-based sauce.



Sauce

1 cup plain Greek Yogurt
 ½ cup minced fresh mint
 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 2 tablespoons tahini
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 ½ teaspoon salt

Sandwiches

1 onion, cut into 1-inch pieces
 1 cup fresh cilantro
 ¼ cup olive oil
 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
 3 tablespoons lemon juice
 1 tablespoon ground coriander
 1 tablespoon ground cumin
 1 tablespoon paprika

2 teaspoons salt
 1 ½ teaspoons pepper
 ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
 ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 2 pounds ground lamb
 4 (8-inch) pita breads

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Classifieds & Other Listings

Clifford Flynn – Makinak, MB

204-733-2410 – Breeders of NC Cheviot, Dorset (Horned & Polled), Shropshire, Oxford Down

Double M Livestock – Morgan, Amber & Family – Brandon, MB

204-741-0748 – Registered Ile De France, Charollais Sheep, Commercial Rideau Arcott x Ile De France

Garwen Farms – Garry, Wendy & Gord Church, Clandeboye, MB

204-738-2299 wchurch@hotmail.com – Breeders of Commercial Suffolk and purebred Dorset Sheep

Shereff Stock Farm – Jeff & Sheri Bieganski – Carberry, MB

204-834-2989/204-761-2440 – Purebred Polled Dorsets & Suffolks

Red Willow Shropshires – Kate Basford – Winnipegosis, MB

204-656-4963 katebasford@hotmail.com - Shropshires

1. FOR THE SAUCE: Whisk all ingredients together in bowl. Set aside to enhance the flavour.

2. FOR THE SANDWICHES: Pulse onion and cilantro in food processor until finely chopped, 10 to 12 pulses, scraping down sides of bowl as needed. Transfer mixture to large bowl. Stir in oil, lemon zest and juice, coriander, cumin, paprika, salt, pepper, cayenne, and cinnamon. Add lamb and knead gently with your hands until thoroughly combined.

3. Using kitchen shears, cut around perimeter of each pita and separate into 2 halves. Place 4 thicker halves on counter with interiors facing up. Divide lamb mixture into 4 equal portions and place 1 portion in center of each pita half. Using spatula, gently spread lamb mixture into even layer, leaving 1/2-inch border around edge. Top each with thinner pita half. Press each sandwich firmly until lamb mixture spreads to ¼ inch from edge of pita. Transfer sandwiches to large plate, cover with plastic wrap, and set aside. (Sandwiches may be held for up to 1 hour before grilling.)

4. FOR A GAS GRILL: Turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot. 5- 10 minutes. Turn all burners to medium. Temperature may vary with individual bar-b-ques, adjust heat accordingly. Pitas should not burn, just brown and get crisp.

5. Clean and **oil cooking grate**, so pitas do not stick to grill. Place sandwiches on grill, cover, and cook until bottoms are evenly browned and edges are starting to crisp, 7 to 10 minutes. Flip sandwiches, cover grill, and continue to cook until second sides are evenly browned and edges are crisp, 7 to 10 minutes longer. Transfer sandwiches to cutting board and cut each in half crosswise. Transfer sandwiches to platter and serve, passing sauce separately.

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