

AMERICAN RAMBOUILLET SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



BOUILLETIN



www.rambouilletsheep.org

Volume 22 Issue 4

December 2015

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**SUPREME
CHAMPION
EWE**

**2015 NAILE
LOUISVILLE,
KY**

**EXHIBITED BY
ISAIAH BAUCK
& DEW DROP
FARMS**

**NEW YORK
MILLS, MN**



**HIGH SELLING
RAM**

**87TH WYOMING
STATE RAM
SALE**

DOUGLAS, WY

**CONSIGNED BY
FORBES &
RABEL
RAMBOUILLETS**

**KAYCEE &
BUFFALO, WY**

**PURCHASED BY
HAGEMAN
SISTERS**

DOUGLAS, WY

\$2600

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A GREAT FALL AND A HAPPY THANKSGIVING. A THANK YOU TO ALL THAT SHOWED AT LOUISVILLE. IT LOOKED LIKE A VERY GOOD SHOW. I HAVE ESTABLISHED A BLOCK OF ROOMS AT THE CROSSING BY GRANDSTAY HOTEL IN PIPESTONE FOR THE 2016 NATIONAL SHOW & SALE. YOU MAY CONTACT THEM AT 507-562-1100 TO MAKE A RESERVATION. I WILL ALSO START MAKING CALLS FOR AWARD SPONSORS FOR THE SHOW. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY JUDGES LINED UP SO PLEASE SEND ME YOUR PICKS IF YOU WOULD LIKE. WE ALSO PLAN TO HAVE BOTH A RAM AND EWE FLEECE SHOW THIS YEAR. I HOPE THAT EVERYONE HAS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Scott

NUMBERS FROM THE REGISTRY OFFICE AS OF 11/30/15

REGISTRATIONS: 1769
TRANSFERS: 759
ASSOCIATION DUES: 134
MEMBERSHIPS: 41

PLEASE NOTE!

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2015 DUES
IT IS TIME TO GET THOSE SENT IN TO THE
OFFICE IN KANSAS AS WELL AS YOUR 2016 DUES**

INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AS SOON AS IT IS COMPLETE?

WITH POSTAGE RATES INCREASING AT A RAPID RATE, WE ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SERVE OUR MEMBERS IN THE MOST EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL MANNER POSSIBLE.

**ONE WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL IS TO ALLOW US TO EMAIL YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER IN PDF FORMAT TO YOU AS SOON AS IT IS COMPLETE. YOU WILL RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER IN HIGH QUALITY COLOR PDF FORMAT. IF THIS IS AN OPTION THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN, PLEASE EMAIL ROBBIE TO GET ON THE ARSBA EMAIL LIST
eckhoff5@aol.com**

Secretary's Notes

Robbie G. Eckhoff

Greetings from the office of the ARSBA! Wow, hard to believe that another year is almost in the books. For those of you who have fall lambs on the ground, I hope they are gaining well, and are looking good. Spring lambing is just around the corner, and I hope that you have had an adequate amount of moisture for your part of the country.

In rebuilding America's Sheep Industry, the mother sheep is the building block of this project, and the Rambouillet has always been considered a foundation female of the industry. We have to capitalize on what we have and seize the moment. Fertility, structural soundness, and durability are keys, and we are positioned to be the top seed stock producer in this country. We must produce both rams and ewes that are fertile and are able to maintain their body condition. We have to approach this breed as a source of seed stock for both the registered and commercial producer. As we move forward over the next five years, we have to try and produce the best sheep possible to not only improve the breed, but the entire sheep industry. It appears that change will continue to occur in the industry, and as it occurs, it is imperative that we are at the forefront. We have to work each and every year to make this breed better and better. It has to be a commitment to not only the Rambouillet breed, but the industry in general, as we strive to produce Rambouillet sheep that will perform on the range, in the feedlot, and on the rail.

In saying this, I have sat in on and been a part of several meetings the last few months concerning the finewool sheep industry. Many topics of importance were covered, and I thought I would take this issue to share with you many of the ideas, thoughts, and comments that I have heard, especially from the commercial end of the spectrum. Everything from production strategies to mar-

keting and replacement ram and ewe selection were discussed.

First and foremost, the sheep industry is changing as we move forward and consumers are going to be more influential than ever before. We are seeing an increased demand for lamb, however, quality of the cuts of meat are also becoming more paramount for the industry. We see this increased demand in the younger demographic of individuals as those folks are the group that tend to be more selective in the quality of the product they consume from a health standpoint. Fortunately lamb has gotten more attention over the last 1-2 years due to the significant increase in beef prices, and the attention has been very positive. From magazine articles to farmers markets, lamb is being praised across the country. The other factor that is affecting the increase in lamb consumption is the ethnic market. As we continue to become a more diverse country, the trends and tastes of the consumer become more diverse as well.

So, we have a growing consumer base for lamb, but what must be done to meet that demand from a production standpoint? If we are to stay competitive with our foreign competitors that are exporting lamb from their country into the US, then we have to stay on top of the game when it comes to the selection process of not only our genetic registered base of seed stock, but in the production of seed stock that can go into the reproduction chain of the commercial producer. These are the folks that make their income off of a sheep operation and the various components that go with it. The question then becomes, what does the commercial producer look at and face in not only production practices or obstacles, but in the selection process itself?

The Wool Sheep Segment of the Texas Agrilife Sheep & Goat Expo in San Angelo, Texas in August was an informal roundtable discussion with large scale commercial operators in West Texas, and some of the challenges they face on a daily basis. Predation remains high on the list, with not only coyotes and bobcats to deal with, but the ever growing feral hog population becoming more and more of an issue. But, that was just one small segment of the discussion. Some of the main topics that were discussed throughout the day were hardiness to survive, the ability to travel over great distances to forage, and the percentage of lambs weaned. These three components were a significant focus of their ability to show a profit at the end of the year on a large scale sheep operation. Most of these producers run about 1 animal unit per 40 acres, thus structural soundness is key in their ram selection. The rams they use must have superior bone and a great set of feet and legs under him, because he has a lot of distance to cover on a daily basis to not only cover the ewes, but to forage and maintain an adequate body condition for

survival. These producers utilize 3-6 rams for every 100 ewes, dependent upon the pasture size. All of these producers lamb January through March, and market their lambs at 3.5-4 months of age.

One producer in the group is unique in the fact that he never provides any supplementation to his ewes or cows, even when they have offspring at their side. Throughout the drought that Texas saw from 2011-2014, those sheep were rotated between pastures, and were productive without any outside feed provided to them. He sold his lambs the first of June of this year at 100-120 days of age, and they averaged 93 pounds per lamb at weaning, and he had a 109% lamb crop that was weaned. Quite impressive considering those sheep had not had any thing other to consume besides native forage and vegetation under pasture conditions. Another producer that does supplement his ewes with outside feed sources sold his lambs around the first of June as well, with lambs the same age, and his lambs averaged 87 pounds per head. These two producers ranch in a 4 county area, under similar range conditions.

So, the question arose, are the sheep of today, no matter the breed, too dependent upon outside feed sources for survival and durability as compared to those that can survive and thrive under range conditions only? As with any business endeavor, economics should be the key to sustainability and profitability. As long as lambing rates, weaning weights, and fleece production can stay at a baseline level or above, then, the less feed or hay that an animal needs to stay productive, the more profitable that animal is to the producer. You have to put it into it's most simple form.

They next step looked at in a meeting a few weeks back was which is more important: number of lambs born/weaned, weaning weights of individual lambs, milk production, higher fleece weights, and/or mature body size of the rams and ewes in production. This is where producers weighed in that it is dependent upon your own situation, and your land and livestock will dictate what you can and can't do. In saying that, one producer in attendance that ranches in a different part of the state raises sheep, cattle, and goats under some fairly harsh conditions. Once again, none of his livestock receive any supplementation. He and his son own the operation, and livestock production is their sole source of income. They have no oil, gas or wind revenue as many other ranchers often do in Texas, specifically West Texas. They measure gain of their lambs, micron and

staple length of their fleeces, fat thickness, and loineye measurements. This gentleman made the statement, which has a great amount of merit, that the single most important economic function of his sheep operation is the pounds of lamb weaned per ewe. He wants lambs that are fast gaining from birth to weaning, and wants as many of them as possible. In trying to increase wool production through the years, his percent lamb crop declined with increased pounds of wool produced. At 7 lbs of wool per ewe, he weaned 150% lamb crop, 8 lbs of wool weaned 100% lamb crop, and 9 lbs of wool weaned 80% lamb crop. In his operation, an increase in the amount of wool produced was actually harmful to his bottom line and profitability. Another key component to this operation is the fact that they do not ever drench for internal parasites - the sheep must survive and be able to survive to be productive and profitable.

In listening to various individuals discuss their operations, one thing that was often stated was the fact that everyone has to use their own eyes to evaluate their operation and make it the most profitable for their situation.

However, in visiting with producers, extension personnel, industry professionals, and reviewing other publications, one item or question keeps popping up: size of the sheep being produced. Many thoughts are the key to sustainability in the sheep industry is reproduction, i.e. the ability to produce the most pounds of lamb per ewe in comparison to the input cost to get those lambs to weaning. Reproduction is the key and size is one of the main components in reproduction because not only the ewes but the rams covering those ewes have to be able to travel and forage in order to maintain their body condition. The less input cost the more dollars that are added to the bottom line from an economic perspective. Many feel that there needs to be a refocus on what the commercial producer needs and requires from the purebred producer in order to stay in business. Many, many interesting discussions concerning the industry over the past several months.

I will call it a column at this point, since I am running out of room at the bottom of this page, but I wanted to share some of the thoughts out there concerning the industry in general.

I hope all of you have a great holiday season and I encourage you to work hard and continue to promote and produce **REGISTERED RAMBOUILLET SHEEP!**

FALL RAM SALES

90TH Montana Ram Sale - September 2015

Miles City, Montana

Registered buyers from Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Idaho, Wisconsin, Oregon, Washington, Utah, and Saskatchewan.

37 RAMBOUILLET RAMS SOLD FOR AN AVERAGE OF \$833.33

Top Selling Rambouillet Ram consigned by Lehfeldt Rambouillets and sold to Montana State University for \$1900

70TH Newell Ram Show & Sale - September 17-18, 2015

Newell, South Dakota

Champion Rambouillet Ram: Roger Regehr, Marion, SD

Reserve Champion Rambouillet Ram: Scott Crawford, Pipestone, MN

Champion Rambouillet Ewe: Annika Bobb, Taylor, ND

Reserve Champion Rambouillet Ewe: WW Sheep Co., Baldwin, ND

Supreme Champion Ram over All Breeds: Roger Regehr, Marion, SD

The Supreme Champion Ram was the High Selling Ram of the Sale and High Selling Rambouillet Ram of 2015 going to Gary Haiwick, Highmore, SD for \$4000

High Selling Range Ram Pen: Chapman Rambouillets sold two pens of Range Rams with two head each selling for \$1300/head

Rambouillets averaged \$814.01

Champion Spinner Fleece: Rambouillet Fleece by Iver Paul, Bison, SD

For more information on the Newell Ram Sale visit:

site.newellramsale.com

RAMBOUILLETS LEAD THE WAY AT FALL RAM SALES

87th Annual Wyoming State Ram Sale

Douglas, Wyoming

TOP 10 HEAD SOLD – Avg. \$2035

Lot 9	Forbes & Rabel	\$2600
Lot 4	Forbes & Rabel	\$2250
Lot 115	Sunrise Sheep	\$2200
Lot 47A	Hageman Sisters	\$2000
Lot 47B	Hageman Sisters	\$2000
Lot 90	Laramie Res Ctr	\$2000
Lot 4	Forbes & Rabel	\$1950
Lot 44	Clyde Peterson	\$1800
Lot 56	Ryan Boner	\$1800
Lot 51	Hageman Sisters	\$1750

130 Head Rambouillets sold for an average of \$1168/head

2015 Top Selling Certified Ram

Consigned by Forbes & Rabel Rambouillets sold for \$2250 to Isenberger-Litton Livestock.

5 Head of Certified Rambouillet Rams sold for an average of \$1670/head

For complete sale results please visit:

www.wyowool.com

Make plans to attend the 88th Annual Wyoming State Ram Sale in Douglas, WY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

Utah Ram Sale

October 8, 2015

Spanish Fork, Utah

117 Rambouillet Yearling Rams averaged \$903.85/head

4 Rambouillet Ram Lambs averaged \$700/head

7 Rambouillet Stud Rams averaged \$2085.71/head

For more information visit:

utahramsale.com



High Selling Certified Rambouillet, Lot 110 consigned by Forbes & Rabel Rambouillets sold for \$2250 to Isenberger-Litton Livestock

Right: Champion Junior Show Rambouillet Ewe, Keystone International Livestock Exposition. Exhibited by Kaley Scott, Pulaski, Pennsylvania. Kaley was a 2015 recipient of an ARSBA scholarship in July.



Above: Champion Ram, 2015 North American International Livestock Exposition. Exhibited by Isaiah Bauck, Dew Drop Farms, New York Mills, MN.



Supreme Champion Over All Breeds and High Selling Ram, 70th Newell Ram Sale. Consigned by Regehr Sheep, Marion, SD. Purchased by Gary Haiwick, Highmore, South Dakota for \$4000.

National Sheep Improvement Program

What is it? Is it for you?

In today's every changing world, with more and more people utilizing data to ascertain the value of a specific product, the National Sheep Improvement Program, or NSIP, is the sheep industry's version to obtain more significant data in analyzing certain genetics or bloodlines.

As a group involved in production agriculture, everything we do is genetically driven. No matter whether the focus is wool, lamb, or both, genetics are the key. As we follow the other species of livestock, poultry, or crop production, more and more data is being collected at a rapid pace, in order to improve the quality and quantity of the product produced. With a world population growing exponentially, it is imperative that we work diligently to continue to grow the quality and quantity of food and fiber produced. We are at a point in time where our decisions and work as an agricultural society may be a key to the sustainability of future generations of people. With the world population slated to need twice the food and fiber product in the year 2050 as it does today, we need to consider many options as we move forward in time.

With all of the progress that has been made in other sectors of production agriculture through the utilization of data collection resources, the National Sheep Improvement Program is one resource or tool that is currently available to sheep producers nationwide as they take the next step forward in analyzing their current operation and making genetic selections for the future.

If you are interested in more information, or feel as if the program might be of interest to you, please visit their website at NSIP.org or give them a call at 712-579-6376.

Mountain States Lamb Cooperative to purchase JBS Plant

On November 23, Mountain States Lamb Cooperative announced they have entered into an agreement with JBS USA to acquire the JBS Greeley Lamb Plant as well as any other related assets. Frank Moore, chairman of MSLC noted that by acquiring the JBS plant, the company will truly be "range to table" strengthening the sustainability of the American Sheep Industry in the Mountain West of the US.

Brad Boner, vice chairman of MSLC noted that the pending acquisition represents a major opportunity for MSLC to add harvest capabilities which is an integral piece of the value chain. The members of MSLC will now control all stages of the production of their lamb from raising, harvesting, processing, packaging, marketing, and distribution.

MSLC is a multi-state, producer-owned cooperative based in Douglas that was formed in the late 1990's in an effort to increase margins and make the industry more sustainable while also halting the decline in the American Sheep Industry. MSLC has producers in 15 states, and maximizes the potential for profit for its members by paying for quality on a premium grid and also offers premiums for all-natural, source-verified lambs.

RAM TEST UPDATE

Texas Agrilife Experiment Station:

62 Rams on Test

Highest ADG to date: 1.47 lbs/day

University of Wyoming:

55 Rams on Test

Highest ADG to date: 1.25 lbs/day

North Dakota State University:

61 Rams on Test

Highest ADG to date: 1.34 lbs/day

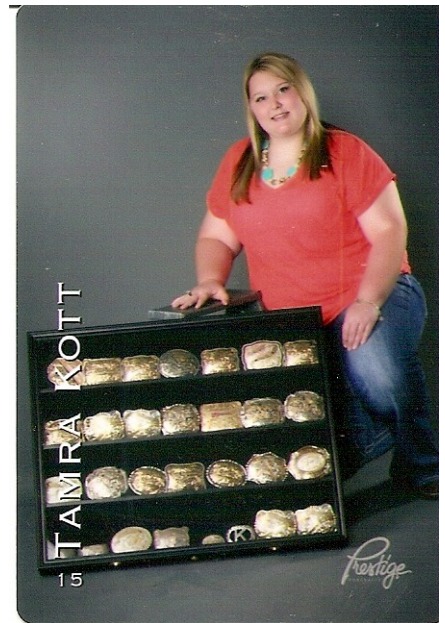
Want to learn more about wool and wool research?

Visit: www.sanangelo.tamu.edu
or watch online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Svzs8SD-T6U>

2015
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT

TAMRA KOTT
JUNCTION, TX



Dear ARSBA:

Thank you so much for everything y'all have done for me over the past 5 years. I have made so many friends and learned so many life lessons through this organization. It's hard to believe that after all of my hard work through the years, it's finally paying off. This scholarship will be a huge help towards paying for my education at Texas A&M University.

Thanks again and Gig'em!

Using Livestock Guardian Dogs

Personnel from Texas A&M Agrilife Research and the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service at San Angelo have completed the publication ***Livestock Guardian Dogs***. The eight page reference guide is available at sanangelo.tamu.edu under publications and as publication EWF-028 9/15 in the Agrilife Bookstore at Agrilifebookstore.org.

The publication complements ongoing field work with the dogs at ranches in Menard and Ozona, Texas managed by Agrilife Research in San Angelo.

"This publication is for producers interested in using guardian dogs for the first time," Dr. Reid Redden stated. "It's also for those who may have had some previous troubles with guardian dogs protecting their flocks and herds against predators. The information presented will help both audiences get started on the right foot and maybe resolve some issues that they have seen in the past." Getting the dogs properly bonded to the livestock to be protected is paramount to success. They are one of the best predator management tools available because they work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year he said.

AMERICAN RAMBOUILLET SHEEP BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

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Robbie Eckhoff
Executive Secretary
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@RambouilletAssn*

**Find us on the web:
www.rambouilletsheep.org**

2016 National Rambouillet Show & Sale

July 4-9, 2016

Pipestone, Minnesota

National Jr. Show - July 7, 9:00 AM

National Meetings - After Jr. Show

National Show - July 8, 8:00 AM

National Sale - July 9, 9:00 AM

ARSBA REGISTRY OFFICE

P.O. Box 231

Wamego, KS 66547

(785) 456-8500 (phone)

asregistry@gmail.com

Memberships (January 1 to December 31)

Next Day Fed Ex: \$20.00

Senior Membership Dues: \$40.00

Next Day UPS: \$40.00

Junior Membership Dues (19 & under): \$15.00

Membership Reinstatement: \$10.00

Juniors must be a member to qualify for scholarships or to exhibit in the National Junior Show.

Registration and Transfer fees as of 1/1/2015:

All animals 12 months of age and younger: \$7.00

All animals over 12 months of age: \$14.00

Transfers under 60 days from date of sale: \$6.00

Transfers after 60 days from date of sale: \$12.00

Rush orders: **DOUBLE FEES**

Non-Members: **DOUBLE FEES**

**WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
2016 NATIONAL RAMBOUILLET SHOW &
SALE**

**HOTEL AND FULL SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS COMING SOON!**