

# News “Ewe” Can Use

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## SPECIAL EDITION

In an effort to keep costs down and ensure that the project can continue to support the small ruminant industry, here are a few articles that were unable to fit into the 12 page summer newsletter/sale catalog. We feel that this information is still very valuable and wish to get this information to you in a timely fashion.

Help support the project by signing up for an electronic copy of the newsletter. To do so please contact Sara Hare at:

[Sara.Hare@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Sara.Hare@mail.wvu.edu)

Thanks!

# ASI Forms Livestock Protection Dog Group

(June 1, 2009—Sheep Industry News)

With the rural-urban interface increasing every day, the sheep industry has been tasked to find ways to co-exist with non-agriculture uses of land and resources.

Nowhere has this been more apparent than issues revolving around the use of guard dogs on both public and private land.

While people are stepping up recreation and other uses of areas of the West, sheep permitted to graze and their livestock protection animals are coming into contact with other resource users more and more. In addition, guard animals of smaller farm flocks are being exposed more to neighborhood residents and their pets, as well.

“This conflict with people is worrisome due to changing demographics, increased level of recreational use of lands that we operate on and with encroachment of development,” adds Bryce Reece, executive vice president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association. “We increasingly are seeing conflicts between livestock guard animals and people or other animals, particularly domestic dogs and wildlife.”

Brown and Reece together are assisting the American Sheep Industry Association’s (ASI) Predator Management Committee with a new working group that aims to be proactive in the issue and reduce the conflicts that happen through education of all parties involved.

The ASI Guard Dog Working Group, formed

at the 2009 convention, has been tasked to take the lead for the industry and investigate solutions to livestock protection dog, human and wildlife conflicts, ultimately protecting the use of the animals, which are irreplaceable to the sheep industry.

The working group, which consists of producers from throughout the United States, is taking a two-pronged approach to their work.

The first step is to create educational materials, signage, etc. for the federal land-management agencies to provide to anyone who is traveling near sheep grazing allotments. The group hopes to target local trail associations and recreation groups, etc. with this material, as well.

The materials produced by the working group, some of which has already been printed, is geared toward educating recreationalists, etc. on grazing and its importance, the role of the livestock protection animals and how to handle an encounter with sheep and a dog.

“A little education goes a long way,” says Brown.

In addition, producers who use guard dogs on private land also have conflicts that public education could hopefully alleviate, as many face neighbors who allow domestic dogs to run loose or don’t understand guard dogs roaming across property lines to follow offending predators or domestic dogs.

“This isn’t just a West issue. The majority of sheep with guard dogs are in the West, but they are a tool that is used all over. The producers in the East have their own unique set of circumstances and issues, but education is going to help,” Reece adds.

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**\*\*For the full article please visit:**



# Agriculture in Uncertain Times

*Helping producers and others meet the challenge ...*

Designed to provide current information to farmers, ranchers and educators about the challenges in today's agricultural economy. The webinars and tools found there are some of the best currently available.

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All webinars are scheduled to begin at: 12:00 Eastern/11:00 Central/10:00 Mountain/9:00 Pacific

<http://www.farmmanagement.org/aginuncertaintimes/>

## What's Around the Corner & Down the Road?

\* David Kohl - Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech

## Where Are We? - a panel of agricultural lenders

\* Jay Penick - CEO Northwest Farm Credit Association

\* Curt Covington - Senior VP, Agribusiness Banking, Bank of the West

\* Chris Beyerhelm - Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs with the Farm Service Agency

## Where Do We Want to Go? - a panel of agri-business professionals

\* Cori Price - VP Senior Loan Officer South Valley Bank Lakeview Oregon

\* Bob Syron - Director of Credit for Wilbur Ellis

\* Joel Lorenzen - Chief Credit Officer, Farm Credit Services Southwest

## How Do We Get There?

\* Duane Griffith - Extension Specialist, Montana State University

\* Dale Nordquist - Extension Specialist, Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota

## **Operating in the face of uncertain markets**

September 9 - Where Are We?

September 16 - Where Do We Want to Go?

September 23 - How Do We Get There?

## **Families facing uncertainty in agriculture**

October 7 - Where Are We?

October 14 - Where Do We Want to Go?

October 21 - How Do We Get There?

## **Operating in risky environments**

November 4 - Where Are We?

November 11 - Where Do We Want to Go?

November 18 - How Do We Get There?

## **Pulling it all together: Managing Ag Enterprises in Uncertain times**

December 2 - Where Are We?

December 9 - Where Do We Want to Go?

December 16 - How Do We Get There?



# “The Hand That Feeds Us”

A new U.S. organization known as “The Hand That Feeds US” has been formed to educate urban news reporters, answer agriculture’s critics and explain why farmers and farm policy are so important to the nation’s future.

The sugar, peanut, rice, cotton, corn, sorghum and ethanol industries have joined forces and have introduced their Web presence at [www.thehandthatfeedsus.org](http://www.thehandthatfeedsus.org).

“We’re the best farmers in the world, but we’re far from being master communicators,” said Andy Quinn, a Minnesota corn and ethanol producer. “For too long, we’ve let a

handful of environmental extremists and coalitions, bankrolled by big business, define our industry in the news.”

Linda Raun, a rice grower from Texas, is a spokeswoman for the campaign. She said producers haven’t done a good enough job telling the media their story, which has led to agriculture being demonized in many of the nation’s top media markets.

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## SUMMER BRINGS NO SLOW DOWN AT YOUR LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY

*An Editorial by Dr. Keith Inskeep*

School is out for the summer, so you might assume that your friends who are professors or graduate students at WVU are in a more relaxed mode. That may be true for a few on 9-month appointments, but most are on a schedule equally as hectic as during the regular semesters. While there is summer school, its enrollment is only about 1/5 of the regular sessions. But in addition to summer school, there is orientation of new students, many graduate students are finishing and defending their theses and dissertations, papers are being prepared for scientific meetings, field and laboratory experiments are underway, grant proposals are being written, and questions from producers and others are coming in by phone and e-mail.

In terms of sheep, we are facing new challenges to obtain animals for research, preparing for out-of season breeding, including checking rams for breeding soundness, continuing various studies in progress, and analyzing data

collected over the past lambing season. It is always a stretch to be sure there are enough rams for breeding, especially for out-of-season breeding at synchronized estrus. In that regard, we have received some encouragement that the progesterone inserts for sheep may be approved for market before the year is out. About time, as we started the efficacy trials in 1998. As soon as we know it is for real, we’ll begin a training program in their use.

This summer is especially busy for those of us involved in the reproductive physiology program. At the request of some of our former students, we have scheduled and begun to organize a reproductive physiology alumni reunion and symposium on July 16th-18th. A part of the effort is trying to find some of those folks whom we haven’t seen in several or even many years. Several of you who receive this newsletter are graduates of WVU and may know where some of those folks that you went to school with, who were involved in the

research in reproduction in sheep and cattle, may be located today. If you worked in that area and haven’t been contacted, or if you know of anyone you think we might have missed, give Keith Inskeep a call at 304-293-2406 extension 4422 or e-mail at [einskeep@wvu.edu](mailto:einskeep@wvu.edu) to help us find everyone.

Others may know where to contact a former student who once collected research data on your farm, but who hasn’t been in contact with us for awhile. We’d appreciate any help.

We hope to see many of you at the performance test sale of rams and bucks. It is a week later this year, in part because of the fact that several faculty members are involved in the reproductive physiology program and reunion.