



Sheep Sense

Official Newsletter of the
Manitoba Sheep Association

mbsheep.ca

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*Holiday Greetings to
MSA members*



MSA Annual General Meeting

March 6, 2010

Herman Prior Centre,
Portage la Prairie, MB



*Wishing ewe the Happiest
Holiday Season
From the Manitoba Sheep
Association
Board of Directors*

Chairman's Report— The Year to Date By Lucien Lesage

What we have done: Sponsors and/or facilitators of

- Eastman shearing school
- FAMACHA seminars
- Mountainview Fall Show and Sale
- 4H Stockfest in Brandon
- Royal Winter Fair—booth
- Red River Ex—Touch the Farm booth

We are members of : KAP,MFAC, Ag in the Classroom and C&F.

We have also met with our Ag Minister to address sheep industry concerns such as flock expansion and slaughter capacity to meet local demands.

In the area of slaughtering and marketing, I have spent a few days with our sheep specialist visiting abattoirs and retailers, and some success has been achieved, but still more has to be done.

Since our meeting with Hon. Rosanne Wowchuk, government has rolled out the “On Farm Food Safety Program” and traceability initiatives. We are still meeting with government as more work needs to be done to insure a balanced cost of time and money to producers.

We are applying to launch to studies—a DNA tagging study and a photoperiod study.

Challenges:

As government goes forward, more time will be needed to insure producers concerns are heard. We are a volunteer producer group representing MB sheep producers. The cost of time spent doing the business of the organization is currently borne by the directors. To address this, a per diem should be considered.

We should also look at the way the board operates. Our constitution states we need six board members to make a quorum. We presently have only 6. CCWG will no longer have a representative, and we have two vacant positions.

Financial:

We are in a good financial position and should be budgeting for more promotion, and lobbying. This should be our third year of a \$11,000 surplus.

Should you have any issues or questions, please contact me at 204-744-2858 or email lmlesage@gmail.com



District Reports

North West—Matt Helash

No Report

West— Brian Greaves

No Report

South West— Gerry Oliver

Meeting was held Nov. 16, at Souris with six in attendance. Chair Lucien Lesage was present. Several topics were discussed. No representative was appointed.

Central

No Report

Interlake—Rick Willett

We had 3 people plus myself. We had an informal discussion on numerous topics. Had coffee and pie and went home. A better attendance would be appreciated

Eastman - Richard Davies

Eastman held a district meeting at which Stuart Greaves was elected as a director , starting officially in Jan. “I am looking forward to taking on the role and hope that I can be an asset to MSA. If anyone needs to contact me please don't hesitate to do so -204-425-8034 “.

**To all members,
new and old—
please forward your e-mail
address to Sheep Sense, so
that we can update the ad-
dress list and continue to send
you important interim info.
gerry@spiritsands.ca**

Lamb Industry Looks To Expansion

Airdrie, Alberta, October 26, 2009

Lamb production in Alberta is currently the most profitable of all livestock industries. However current lamb supplies meet only about half of the demand, with stores and restaurants forced to look outside Canada for their product. With that in mind, the Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) has launched a campaign to support the expansion of existing flocks and to increase lamb production across the province.

"Many other livestock producers are re-evaluating their operations right now, so we need to ensure that they are aware of the opportunities in the sheep industry," says Margaret Cook, Executive Director of ALP. "For too long, we have been in the shadow of the cattle industry and our producers, while smaller in numbers, are just as committed and skilled. Sheep producers need to step up and be proud of their industry and their animals, and show they have a serious and profitable business with a strong future."

While planning to bring new producers into the fold, the campaign also hopes to entice existing producers into expanding their businesses to help meet consumer demand. "Existing producers need to understand that having new producers enter the industry is not competition," says Cook. "There is plenty of current and future market for everyone. There is greater risk in continuing to force retailers and consumers to buy import lamb than in having higher production levels of lamb from more local producers."

The campaign was launched at the Alberta Sheep Symposium that was held October 23-25 in Leduc, Alberta. About 200 sheep producers and industry representative were in attendance at the conference organized by the Alberta Sheep Breeders Association, with assistance from Alberta Lamb Producers. Attendees heard from speakers on such industry-related topics as traceability, animal handling, flock health and predator control.

The expansion campaign marks the third phase in ALP's strategic plan to grow the provincial sheep industry. Over the past 2 years, ALP undertook a market survey to gauge what was needed to grow the industry, and what the market was looking for in terms of end product, as well as a producer survey to determine their needs. With this in mind, they developed a new strategic business plan.

The three themes of the new campaign are pride, recruitment and expansion, which were all priorities identified through the earlier research. The campaign includes materials such as brochures, direct mail, advertising and an industry video. These will support existing training materials for new and existing producers. The campaign will also be extended to government and stakeholders to make them aware that the lamb industry is gearing up to the challenge of meeting market demand.

"There's so much opportunity in the market now and we haven't been taking advantage of it as an industry," says Cook. "We're proud of the progress we've made and it's time for our industry to step up and seize the moment. We want to build on our successes, make our producers' businesses stronger and see more Alberta lamb on consumers' plates."

Alberta Lamb Producers is a producer directed and funded organization that represents the interests of Alberta sheep and wool producers to help build a sustainable, thriving sheep industry for all stakeholders. ALP provides every member with the opportunity to have a positive influence on the industry as a whole. ALP is responsible for a variety of programs all aimed at supporting producers and ensuring the continued growth and profitability of the industry.

For more information, contact Margaret Cook at 403.948.8533 or info@ablamb.ca or check the website at <http://www.ablamb.ca>.



Time for Action in the Sheep Industry

By Courtney Denard

The future of Ontario's sheep industry will need to include information technology on the farm, genetic selection tools, and efficient value chains- this according to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Delma Kennedy, Sheep Specialist with OMAFRA, made those suggestions at the annual sheep seminar held in Atwood recently.

Kennedy spoke to a record number of attending sheep producers about the potential of the Ontario sheep industry. "Whenever anyone talks about the sheep industry in our province, the one thing that always comes up is the tremendous opportunity that exists to supply the marketplace. This opportunity is nothing new," Kennedy said. The supporting statistics have been around for years. Information gathered in the last census period (2001-2006) indicated that 50 per cent of new immigrants to Canada came to live in Ontario. This means about 28 per cent of Ontario's population is now made up of foreign born individuals and many of these people come from countries with a much higher annual consumption of lamb. As a result, the province has seen a slow but steady rise in the per capita consumption of lamb over the last decade.

So why then is Canada currently only supplying 40 per cent of the demand and leaving the door wide open for countries like New Zealand to fill the gap? The simple answer to this would be the continuously declining provincial ewe flock, but there's more to it than that.

Kennedy says it's a lack of long term planning on behalf of the industry. "The industry needs to develop a vision of what a profitable sheep farm in Ontario will look like in 2020 or 2025," she said.

To get started, Kennedy encouraged producers to consider three main components when drawing up business goals for their farm. The first item on the list is implementing information technology on the farm.

"The world is becoming more information hungry and the sheep industry needs to respond to that," said Kennedy.

This year alone announcements have been made about dead stock regulations and full traceability. The new provincial dead stock regulations, established in March 2009, require producers to keep detailed records on each death including the species and age of the animal, weight of the animal prior to disposal, the date and time of death and method of disposal.

In July, Federal agriculture ministers agreed that a mandatory comprehensive national system for livestock will be in place by 2011.

"Producers are going to have to find a way to use information technology on the farm in an efficient manner to keep up with all of these requirements," Kennedy said. To ensure a smooth transition, the industry will need to be involved in the process helping producers apply new technologies and providing software at an affordable cost. Secondly, producers need to pay more attention to genetic selection tools on the farm.

"Although these tools are available, the industry has not committed itself to selecting for common traits and goals with enough ewes to make the kind of change that is possible," said Kennedy.

To do this, Kennedy says a base flock of 100,000 ewes selected for traits that take advantage of the resources available in Ontario is needed to provide efficiencies and genetic improvements to the industry. Successful sheep producers will need to be able to identify and select ewes specifically for traits that will make their sheep profitable in Ontario, Kennedy explained.

Future research on genetic selection tools will be important as well and Kennedy sees two main goals.

"Genetic research needs to be accomplished to determine where efficiencies can be found in production systems and to allow the industry to take advantage of new genetic technologies," she said.

Efficient value chains will also be necessary to launch a profitable sheep industry and Kennedy says it comes back once again to ewe flock size. Because information and regulation burdens are also increasing for the rest of the sheep industry, there needs to be a large enough ewe flock so that efficiencies can be found along the whole value chain.

For example, processors need a large enough volume of business to be able to afford to operate and make investments in their lamb enterprise. And consumers expect to be able to purchase the same product of the same quality on a weekly basis.

Kennedy urged the industry to stop having the same conversation over and over again.

These are the same opportunities and barriers that we have seen for the past two decades. The question is: can we use some of the new technologies in information and genetics to break out of the current cycle and grow the Ontario sheep industry?"

The follow article was published in the 24 November edition of the Ontario Farmer –

MOUNTAINVIEW 3RD ANNUAL FALL SALE

August 29th, 2009 was a busy day for Manitoba Sheep Producers who attended the 3rd annual fall sale held in Dauphin.

This year the Manitoba Sheep Association combined their annual sale and show event with the Mountainview effort which made for a gathering of new people and new ideas which is always good for any project.

The stands were full during the sale even though the sheep numbers were lower than anticipated, probably due to the high demand for sheep over the previous months.

The Betty Wallace Junior Sheep Show, once again; was a major attraction and it was noted what great caliber of young shepherds Manitoba is developing. There were not as many young folk participating, but the committee hopes to remedy that next year with more emphasis on junior programs in the coming year.

Hayden Lewis was the top scoring Junior Shepherd this year, with Sierra Viola runner up. Top placing futurity ewe lamb was owned by Hayden Lewis and Micaela Spencer had the 2nd place lamb. Hayden Lewis also had the first place Futurity Yearling Ewe, while Tyler Spencer placed 2nd in that class. Sierra Viola was the first place judge in the Junior Show, Hayden and Bethan Lewis had a tie score for the 2nd placing in this part of the competition. Sierra Viola also had the first place score in the Mature Ewe Class. Hayden Lewis placed second with his ewe. For the ewe lamb class, it was Hayden in first place and Sierra in second place. Champion Handler went to Sierra Viola and she received the Stourieknowe Texels Award. Judge for the day was Bob McKay, Souris, Manitoba

In the open classes:

Grand Champion Market Lamb was awarded to Ward Mortenson and Lois Trowell of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan.

Champion Ram Lamb of the show went to Mortenson and Trowell with their Suffolk Ram Lamb; Ward 12W – sired by Strand WL23 out of Ward 31R. This great young flock sire sold to Jill & Mark Humphries of Kola, Manitoba for \$490.00

The top yearling Ram was owned by Ken McLaren of Sifton, Manitoba. He proudly exhibited Strourieknowe Vist 19U, a Texel Yearling Ram, sired by Perth 10P and out of Naomi 6N. He sold for \$300.00 to Tony Atkinson of Mountain Road, Manitoba.

Grand Champion Ram of the show went to Linda Westman with her Suffolk Ram Lamb – Westman PLW371W, which is sired by Pullen Lad 79T and out of Westman PLW2T. This ram sold to Rick Willetts of Eriksdale, Manitoba for \$300.00. A stylish Rideau ewe lamb Rocky Meadow 8W sired by Rocky Meadow 13U and out of Rocky Meadow 48S sold to Ken Hodge of McGregor, Manitoba for \$220.00. This young female was exhibited and sold by Eugene and Louise Sabot of Richer, Manitoba. She was the only registered female in the show, but certainly had many compliments from the

judge.

Sale averages were as follows:

Yearling Rams -	\$300.00
Ram Lambs -	\$402.00
Ewe Lambs -	\$220.00 (registered)
Comm. Yrlg ewes	\$250.00
Comm. Ewe lambs	\$150.00

The Mountainview Sheep Association wishes to thank the Manitoba Sheep Association for all their encouragement and help in putting on this sale. We were certainly proud to be chosen as the location this year for the provincial sale event; and hope to do our job in the coming year by contacting people and encouraging more breeders to take advantage of the annual sale event. It has proven to be a reliable place to sell and to source good breeding stock.

A special thank you to Dr. Judy Hodge, for her work with our culling committee and for her support and interest in our Manitoba sheep industry.

Also thank you to the Dauphin Ag Society for their support and encouragement of the sheep industry in our corner of Manitoba. We are grateful for the facilities and equipment which they have supplied for this event.

Without the enthusiastic support of our sheep breeders we could not go forward with this event. We are grateful for the vision and effort of the folks who attend this sale as both sellers and buyers.

We want to remind our sheep breeders across Manitoba that this industry is one of the best in Canada to be involved with. It is important to put our shoulders to the wheel in promoting our Manitoba Breeding Sheep. We have some very good bloodlines. We have excellent commercial flocks and it is imperative to work hard now in firmly establishing this industry here in Manitoba. It may not seem necessary to work hard, when buyers are coming right to the door step and paying good money, but it will not always be like that and we need input from sheep producers everywhere in making this a solid agricultural industry in Manitoba. With a bit of forethought now, we can be well ahead of the game when times get a bit tougher. Get out and support your local sheep associations and groups. It is an investment in the future.

It is very difficult for young people to get into agriculture in this day and age. Sheep are the answer and there is a lot of education that we can put out there for young folk now, so that they have a strong agricultural option when they are ready to start farming.

Submitted by Virginia Fox

Classified Ads

Full blood Black Dorper semen \$500; 10 straws @\$50 ea., Ram: Zorro WDI 32R Contact Lorna
www.wall2wallsheep.com or wall2wallheep@yahoo.ca.

Package of 5 Dorper Full Blood (pure) Ewes \$3000 for all or individually priced. 2 x2007, 1 x 2008, 2 x 2009. Phone 204-664-2027 or www.wall2wallsheep.com or wall2wall-sheep@yahoo.ca. to view pics.

FOR SALE: 3 Marema/Akbash cross puppies for sale, 4 1/2 months old; have been with sheep all the time and seem to be very promising guard dogs. Contact Victoria at 204-643-5380

Ewe lambs, \$200 each. 40 dorper/Katahdin crossbred ewe lambs—Feb/Mar 2009. some bred for Feb 2010. For info contact Lorna 204-664-2027 or email wall2wallsheep@yahoo.ca. Visit www.walltowallsheep.com to view pics

For Sale: Texel yearling ram; 2 Cotswold yearling rams—one white one coloured. \$300 each Contact: Gerry Oliver, 204-834-2261 or gerry@spiritsands.ca



Stockfest 4-H SHOW AND SALE 2009 Results Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB September 25-26, 2009

Class 01 EWE LAMBS Sponsored by: Canadian Sheep Breeders Association

1st Nathan Trowell Wooly Wonders
2nd Sierra Viola Prairie Shepherds
3rd Max Wegner Prairie Shepherds
4th Hayden Lewis Archie 4H
5th Tyler Spencer Prairie Shepherds

Class 02 YEARLING EWE Sponsored by: Vanguard Credit Union

1st Hayden Lewis Archie 4H
2nd Nathan Trowell Wooly Wonders
3rd Sierra Viola Prairie Shepherds
4th Tyler Spencer Prairie Shepherds
5th Bethan Lewis Archie 4H

Class 03 CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION EWE from classes 01 & 02 Sponsored by: The PRAIRIE SHEPHERDS 4H CLUB

1st Nathan Trowell Wooly Wonders
2nd Hayden Lewis Archie 4H

Class 04 MATURE EWE Sponsored by: Russell Redi-Mix Concrete

1st Russell John Eddy Wooly Wonders
2nd Nathan Trowell Wooly Wonders
3rd Sierra Viola Prairie Shepherds
4th Hayden Lewis Archie 4H
5th Rebecca Miller Wooly Wonders

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Scrapie and Import/Export: CNGF Update

November 2009

What is Scrapie?

Scrapie is a fatal disease that affects the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Other TSEs include bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, chronic wasting disease in deer and elk and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. Scrapie is a reportable disease under the federal Health of Animals Act, and a control program exists to prevent its spread.

What is the difference between classical and atypical Scrapie?

Classical - or typical -- scrapie is the form of scrapie that is best known by most people. It is the form of scrapie that is primarily transmitted in the fluids of goats and sheep giving birth. Classical scrapie is not considered to be a human health risk.

Atypical scrapie is a newly recognized form of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) that differs from classical scrapie, affecting a different part of the brain and producing different reactions on certain biochemical laboratory tests. Most cases are detected in much older, sometimes apparently healthy animals of genotypes associated with increased resistance to classical scrapie.

The latest World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) scrapie chapter says "atypical scrapie is clinically, pathologically, biochemically and epidemiologically unrelated to 'classical' scrapie, may not be contagious and in effect, may be a spontaneous degenerative condition of older sheep."

In recognition of the general international understanding that atypical scrapie is probably not a contagious disease, and occurs frequently as a single case within a herd/flock, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will not respond to a case of atypical scrapie in the same manner as a case of classical scrapie. Cana-

dian goat herds and sheep flocks in which a case of atypical scrapie is detected will be screened for the presence of concurrent classical scrapie. If classical scrapie is not detected, it is highly unlikely that CFIA will take any additional measures related to the detection of the case of atypical scrapie.

When it comes to human health, there is no basis to suggest that atypical scrapie poses a risk to humans. Finally, the confirmation of atypical scrapie cases has not appeared to have had an impact on international trade and associated requirements.

Scrapie - What's the Concern?

It has been said many times that worrying about scrapie in the goat industry is not a big deal. Scrapie has been predominantly documented in sheep. Canada has had a relatively low number of positive cases reported in goats. So why worry about this?

Even though Canada has had a low number of scrapie positive goats reported, it does not mean that it is not out there. If we have not been actively looking for the disease, we cannot establish a scrapie free status or a minimal risk status if we have not been compiling the statistics to present to the international community.

What is Canada doing now to detect and control Scrapie?

1. National Scrapie Surveillance Program
 2. This is a voluntary program where producers are asked to contact their local CFIA office in the event an animal over the age of 12 months of age dies on farm. Samples can then be collected and sent away for testing for scrapie to help establish the prevalence of scrapie in the national herd.
 3. Under this program, producers are also encouraged to report all goats aged 12 months and older that exhibit the following signs and symptoms:
 - Unexplained weight loss
 - Problems standing or walking
 - Changes in behaviour
1. Animals ordered condemned under this program are eligible for compensation.

Sheep Breeds

ÎLE DE FRANCE



This breed was developed in the 1830's and was first registered in 1892. Since 1933 they have been performance tested and have had their own test station since 1972. It is the dominant breed in France and was first imported to Canada in 1995. The Ile de France has been selected for two primary purposes: as a terminal sire to produce vigorous, hardy, and fast growing lambs with superior carcass traits; and as an improver for crossbreeding with maternal breeds in a commercial flock. In this capacity they add hardiness, longevity, feed conversion and out of season breeding ability to a ewe flock. They have an excellent flocking instinct and are very successful when raised on pasture. Their high wool quality is an asset when crossed with range breeds.



New Links

Guard Llamas

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1527.pdf>

Livestock Guardian Dogs Fact Sheet

<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=5f3648e8-ceed-48ab-adc7-66a2031e0636>



Ontario Stockyards Inc.

Market Report

Week Ending November 20, 2009

	From	To	High		
Lambs, New Crop / cwt.	180.00		242.00	295.00	
Lambs, 65 to 80 lbs. /cwt.	179.00		198.00	220.00	
Lambs, 80 to 95 lbs. /cwt.	177.50		188.0	192.50	
Lambs, over 95 lbs. /cwt.			166.00	180.00	
			185.00		
Lambs, over 110 lbs./cwt.			125.00	161.00	
			165.00		
Feeder lambs /cwt.		150.00	220.00	.	
Sheep /cwt.	80.00	90.00	100.00		
Thinner Types (all weights)			70.00	85.00	
			78.00		
Rams / cwt.	80.00	90.00	105.00		
GOATS:			.	.	
KIDS: 35 TO 49 lbs. /head			65.00	80.00	
			100.00		
			85.00	110.00	
			120.00		
YOUNG GOATS /head	75.00	95.00	115.00		
MATURE DOES /head	80.00	100.00	125.00		
MATURE BILLIES /head	150.00	225.00			
			297.50		

1969 sheep and lambs + 345 goats - All sheep, lambs and goats sold actively at higher prices, due to the upcoming holiday.

Out of Season Breeding of Sheep

Mamoon Rashid, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Sheep are seasonal, polyestrous breeders (come into heat more than once in a particular season) with the average length of the estrous cycle being 17 days. The breeding season for most sheep breeds in Canada begins with declining day length in late summer and fall. The breeding window tends to close with increasing day lengths in late winter or early spring.

Sheep breeds such as Dorset, Rambouillet and Finn-sheep are proven to have more potential to breed out of season than others. Hair sheep are proven to breed year-round in tropical regions as compared to temperate climates. Breeding season for Hair sheep is influenced by rainfall and forage availability, rather than photoperiod.

Behavioral signs of **Heat** or **Estrus** last on average about 36 hours. Ewes in estrus will seek a ram present in the locale, display a little tail wagging and may nuzzle his scrotum. The ewes will also stand to be mounted depending upon rams interest. In the absence of a ram, estrus will go undetected. The heat period is longer in the absence of ram compared to in the presence of ram. Release of ovum (eggs) into the reproductive tract is called **Ovulation**. It takes place towards the end of estrus.

Factors that influence the rate of ovulation include nutritional status, weather conditions and Body Condition Score of the ewes. Nutrition during fetal life and also six months before ovulation at the time of egg maturation plays a major role in this whole process. Breed, age, reproductive status and season of the year are other contributing factors that enhance the rate of ovulation. Better born lambs are mainly dependent on the fertility and activity of the rams. Proper early pregnancy management can also minimize early embryonic death.

The breeding time for ewes can be manipulated to go into out-of-season breeding. This manipulation can achieve different objectives, that can vary from operation to operation with different success rates. Here are a few reasons why change in seasonality may be desired by some producers.

- Labor cost savings due to more time available to

do sheep work in winter than in spring

- Year round supply of lambs to capture all segments of market prices
 - Ethnic Market targeting is one of the reasons some commercial producers may want to accelerate lambing
 - Spring/early Pasture availability for ewes to reduce the feeding cost for maintenance
 - Better Prices for off-season or winter lambs
- More lambs produced per ewe (Potentially)

Breeding season can be advanced by using different methods that include Ram Effect, Light Control, and Hormonal Control with exogenous hormone administration.

Ram Effect: Natural pheromones of rams have a profound and instant effect on ewes that have been kept out of Sight, Sound and Smell (SSS) for a few weeks. Ram effect is most beneficial when most ewes are not cycling but are close. Initially teaser rams (vasectomized) are introduced into the flock and 14 days later are replaced with fertile rams. Not all of the ewes will respond to the first ram effect around 18 days after contact. Ewes not showing estrus signs will respond around 24 days. That is why the teaser rams should be replaced by fertile rams after 14 days. Progesterone priming will be needed for known acyclic ewes to induce ovulation in response to ram effect. Progesterone pessaries (vaginal sponges) treatment to acyclic ewes about a week before ram introduction will result in ovulation. The ovulation rates for these progesterone-treated ewes are potentially higher than non-treated ewes.

Light Control (Photoperiod): Day-length manipulations can also be performed to breed out of season. By mimicking the long days into short days, the timely secretions of melatonin will bring the ewes into estrus ('heat'). Ewes should be exposed to long days for about 8-12 weeks then to short days for about 8-12 weeks before the scheduled breeding. Breeding

Cont'd on Page 9

rams should also be treated the same way for better

testicular growth, sexual activity and semen quality (Soundness of Rams). Rams should be introduced for breeding at least 8 weeks after the start of the short-day regime. The days should come to normal actual season days after ram removal.

Exogenous Hormonal Control:

Different methods are in practice to use exogenous hormones to mimic out of season breeding in ewes.

Melatonin Implants placed in the ear will provide continuous levels for one month. Implants will bring the ewes into heat earlier and the breeding season will start earlier.

Exogenous progesterone can be used in two different ways. **MGA** (Melanogesterol Acetate) feeding is considered less labor intensive and a low-cost option compared to **CIDR or Sponges**. (**Easy-Bred CIDR Sheep and Goat** device is available for use in Canada)

MGA feeding requires a prescription from a vet, as it is not licensed for use in ewes. The MGA is being given at a dosage of 0.125 mg, twice daily, to the ewes for 12-16 days. MGA is fed in the form of a feed supplement at the rate of 0.25 lbs/head/day. A PMSG (500 iu) injection is needed 5 hours after the last MGA dose. Introduce rams 48 hours after the last feeding of MGA.

The protocol for CIDR or sponges is :

Insert CDIR into ewe's vagina for 12-14 days. After removal of the CDIR on day 12, give injection of PMSG (400 iu). Introduce fertile rams on day 14 or 2 days after PMSG injection. The ewe's fertility is higher close to the end or start of the breeding season. Natural mating with rams should be at the rate of 10% rams in breeding ewe's flock. Factors that influence fertility include age, breed, weight, nutritional status, health status, month of treatment and ram management. The conception rate during out of season breeding is usually low.

Susceptible breed selection and an optimum body condition score are keys to success for manipulation of a breeding program in ewes.



Stockfest Results - Continued from Page 6

Class 05 JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP Sponsored by: The Manitoba Sheep Association

- 1st Hannah Miller Wooly Wonders
- 2nd Micaela Spencer Prairie Shepherds
- 3rd Russell John Eddy Wooly Wonders
- 4th Bethan Lewis Archie 4H
- 5th Herbert Wegner Prairie Shepherds

Class 06 INTERMEDIATE & SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Sponsored by: The Manitoba Sheep Association INTERMEDIATE:

- 1st Sierra Viola Prairie Shepherds
- 2nd Rebecca Miller Wooly Wonders
- 3rd Hayden Lewis Archie 4-H

SENIOR:

- 1st Nathan Trowell Wooly Wonders

Class 07 PRAIRIE SHEPHERDS ACHEIVEMENT

2009 MARKET LAMB

Sponsored by: Oak River Quick Freeze (1994) Ltd.

- 1st Sierra Viola
- 2nd Herbert Wegner
- 3rd Max Wegner
- 4th Tyler Spencer
- 5th Michaela Spencer

Class 08 OPEN MARKET LAMB Sponsored by: Oak River Quick Freeze (1994) Ltd.

- 1st Russell John Eddy Wooly Wonders
- 2nd Bethan Lewis Archie 4-H
- 3rd Hayden Lewis Archie 4-H
- 4th Nathan Trowell Wooly Wonders
- 5th Sierra Viola Prairie Shepherds
- 6th Rebecca Miller Wooly Wonders
- 7th Hannah Miller Wooly Wonders



Anyone interested in plans for a sheep handling chute, contact:

Richard Davis
204- 427-3633