

Sheep Producers To Vote On Pennsylvania Referendum

DENVER — Sheep producer leaders nationwide will decide whether to merge the National Wool Growers Association (NWGA) and the American Sheep Producers Council (ASPC) at the American Sheep Industry Convention. Final decisions will be made at the annual meetings of NWGA and ASPC, Jan. 20 and Jan. 21, respectively. The convention will be January 18-21 at Bally's in Las Vegas.

The Implementation Committee recommended "American Sheep Industry Association, Inc." (ASI) as the official name of the organization if the merger is approved. The committee polled NWGA and ASPC boards of directors and "American Sheep Industry Association" was favored by a 2 to 1 margin. The Implementation Committee is responsible for developing detailed recommendations regarding the merger.

Pending acceptance of the merger, the new board of directors will meet during the convention, Jan. 21, to elect an 11-member executive board which will include a president, vice president and secretary/treasurer of the new association.

ASI's major functions will be similar to NWGA's and ASPC's current functions: lamb and wool market development, producer services and government relations. NWGA and ASPC represent the interests of the nation's 114,000 sheep producers.

ASPC conducts advertising, publicity, merchandising, educational and public relations programs to increase the demand and awareness of American lamb and wool for the sheep industry. NWGA is involved in regulatory and legislative matters that affect the American sheep industry such as the Wool Act, animal damage control and public lands issues.

The NWGA and ASPC board of directors voted in favor of the merger plan in their October board meetings and many of the states are considering the merger at their

state conventions this fall. The USDA has also given its written approval for the merger.

In addition to the important merger decision, the American Sheep Industry Convention will feature many other programs. Some of the nation's leading experts in lamb, wool, international trade and marketing will be speaking during the convention.

"Meeting the Marketing Challenge," at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, will feature speakers Drs. John Allen and Tom Pierson of Michi-

gan State University, as well as representatives from Sterling-Rice Communications. Speakers will discuss the importance of effective marketing programs, and how to reach the consumer with the most effective message.

At 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20, a team of Texas A&M researchers, who offered a popular workshop at the 1988 convention, will explain "Meeting the Challenge in Lamb Feeding and Product Distribution." They will take lamb

through product stages to the meatcase, and discuss how and why lamb sells. Dr. Russell Cross and Dr. Jeff Savell of Texas A&M, and Dr. Daryl Tatum of Colorado State University will speak.

Friday afternoon at 3, the information session will be "Meeting the Management Challenge," with Dr. Wayne Purcell of Virginia Tech, Dr. Charles Parker of Ohio State University, and a panel of producers who participated in the

National Sheep Improvement Program.

The final information session at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, will feature a wool marketing panel and Thomas Drummond of the Australian Wool Corporation on "Meeting the Challenge in Wool Marketing and Processing."

For more information or registration forms contact American Sheep Industry Convention, 200 Clayton St., Denver, CO 80206; (303) 399-8130.

High Moisture Is High Risk In Poultry Industry

BY HERBERT C. JORDAN
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Poultry farmers seem to have a love affair with water in the last quarter century.

Poultry feed that used to be 9 percent moisture is now 11 percent or higher moisture. This allows mixed poultry feed today to be less nutritious, more variable and rot, spoil or decompose faster.

Manure that used to dry soon after it was produced is now allowed to lay wet at 50-95 percent water in over half of all poultry farms. Water in manure makes it too heavy to haul, too toxic to use and too odorous to spread.

The most frequent government citation against farmers historically has been for layer manure that is old, wet and decomposed. Odor and flies lead all other complaints about old, wet manure. Crop toxicity or reduced crop yield occurs more with old, wet manure than with dry or fresh poultry manure. A successful program is to reduce water in feed and manure. Plan to do as follows:

- Feed high-quality mash or pellets to poultry - fresh, no older than one week in storage after processed;

- Feed ground feed products that are nine percent moisture or below;

- Dry manure one hour after it is produced to below 50 percent moisture and in one day to below

10 percent moisture if possible;

- Keep manure dry in storage;
- Turn manure into the top three inches of soil soon after the manure is produced;

- Do not allow excess moisture in feed or manure to damage your program.

Excess moisture or water in feed, meat, eggs or manure is a costly problem. Moisture or water has these disadvantages:

- The density of water is about twice that of dry matter feed or manure so it weighs double for the same volume measured. This makes it too heavy and costly to transport;

- The microbe count in high moisture feedstuffs or high moisture manure is many thousand

times higher than in dry products. These dry products are more stable in storage, and quality is maintained;

Quality, price, performance and shelflife are inversely proportional to percent water in any of these products.

Seek help, if moisture content is a problem on your farm.

lent in manure over 50 percent water.

The flies, odor, toxic gas and unidentified products that damage people and plants are more preva-

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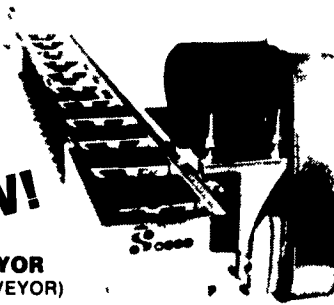
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