

# Sheep Industry News



## Wool Council Finalizes FY 2004 Budget

At meetings in Denver, Colo. last week, the American Sheep Industry Association's (ASI) Wool Council finalized the Wool Trust Budget for FY 2003-2004 and recommended approval by the ASI board of directors.

Preliminary work began by hearing proposal updates from industry associations awarded funding through the wool outreach program in FY 2002-2003. Wool program updates were also presented by companies working with ASI on market research and promotion, quality improvement, information, wool producer planning, U.S. wool strategy and program development. The wool foundation and administration were also approved.

## Executive Board Meets in Denver

The executive board meeting of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) was called to order by President Guy Flora at 1 p.m. on July 11 in Denver, Colo.

A priority item on the agenda was the approval of the FY 2003-2004 Wool Trust budget and the approval of the FY 2003-2004 dues budget. Both budgets are recommended for approval by the ASI Board. A mail ballot will be sent to the Board of Directors next month for full board approval.

Committee reports included an update by Janet Mawhintey, chair of the Legislative Action Council, concerning the one-year extension of the Lamb Market Adjustment Assistance Program. To date, 24 U.S. senators and numerous U.S. representatives have backed ASI by communicating their support to extend the LMAAP program to the USDA. Chairman Henry Bonilla (R-TX) included language in the FY 04 appropriations bill urging USDA to extend the retained ewe-lamb program for an additional year.

Tentatively set for Sept. 23 and 24 in Washington, D.C., is the second Lamb Summit between the sheep industries of Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S. The board worked toward developing an agenda for this gathering that would be beneficial to the U.S. sheep industry. Potential topics for discussion at this upcoming meeting include pharmaceuticals, quality improvement, and an inquiry into which markets and programs are showing increased lamb demand for Australia and New Zealand. It was agreed that Guy Flora and Cleve Dumdi will select the U.S. participants for the Sept. meeting.

The Minor Usage Minor Species legislation was discussed. Adding a tax incentive component to the language of the bill would provide additional incentive to pharmaceutical companies to label products for the U.S. sheep industry.

Margaret Soulen-Hinson updated the board on the progress of the sheep insurance project. ASI is seeking funds to assist in the development of an insurance program.

A priority for the sheep industry is to finalize completion of its emergency communication plan in the event an animal health issue arises. The board will continue to explore the best avenues in the development of this substantial communications plan.

A national animal health identification plan is being discussed by many in industry and government, which generated considerable discussion, questions, and concerns at the meeting. ASI is represented on the national committee and agreed to communicate with the organizers of the plan that the sheep industry will continue to participate in this endeavor but that endorsement of the proposed rule would be held until publication of the plan.

The next meeting of the ASI Executive Board is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 24-25.

## Agriculture Appropriations Update

During consideration of the House Agricultural Appropriations bill, U.S. Reps. Dennis Rehberg (R-MT) and Darlene Hooley (D-OR) offered an amendment to allow the USDA to continue the process of implementing country-of-origin labeling, which was signed into law last Congress as part of the Farm Bill.

The Rehberg-Hooley Amendment was designed to counteract the language included in the appropriations bill which would eliminate funding to the USDA for COOL implementation on all meat products for a year.

The Rehberg-Hooley Amendment failed by a narrow margin — 208 against, 193 for.

The Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee marked up and approved the FY 2004 Agricultural Appropriations bill on July 15 without any restrictions on funding for the labeling rules. Full Senate Committee action is also expected this week.

## Border Updates

On May 20, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency reported a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) prompting a ban on the importation of all live ruminants and ruminant meat and meat products. While the investigation and discussions between the two countries continue, the border between the U.S. and Canada remains closed.

Also of concern to the U.S. sheep industry is the slow-down of lamb imports into Mexico. Mexico normally buys the majority of the U.S. supply of adult sheep. Thus, the slowdown at the southern border is resulting in reduced prices for adult sheep.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) has been actively working with the appropriate agencies to assist in a resolution to these border issues. ASI will relay any new information to its members as it becomes available.

## FMD in Bolivia and Paraguay

Within the last week, both Bolivia and Paraguay have reported outbreaks of foot and mouth disease. Bolivia confirmed four cases while Paraguay confirmed 13. The infected animals in both countries will be destroyed and many more will be closely monitored.

## Australian Lamb Exports Drop in 2002-2003

Financial year export statistics released by Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Australia revealed that lamb exports declined 10 percent in 2002-2003. A combination of high domestic prices, continued shortage of heavy export lambs and the rapidly appreciating Australian dollar are quoted as the causes of this drop.

A drought-induced shortage of suitable heavy lambs for the U.S. market saw lamb exports to the U.S. drop 5 percent.

## New Technique Has Potential for Wool

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported this week that a new technique which eliminates two steps in the wool manufacturing process could open a new market for wool growers.

The new technology, called 'non-woven wool,' does not need to be spun or woven.

Dr. Len Stephens, Chief Executive of Australian Wool Innovations, said it will provide an alternative to polar fleece and can be used to make any kind of soft padding.

## Weekly National Market Prices for Wool

The USDA posted prices for wool for the week beginning July 16, can be accessed at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/FullStory.asp?StoryID=1300>. These rates are used to determine the loan repayment rates for marketing assistance loans and to calculate loan deficiency payments.

## Alfred State Orvis Award



Alfred State College agriculture/animal science graduate Nicole Olynk of East Northport, left is congratulated by ASC Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. John M. Anderson for being named one of four recipients of the Paul B. Orvis Award for Excellence. The award was presented during the college's 92nd annual Commencement exercises. The Orvis Award is a glass bowl, presented to the outstanding senior in each of the College's three academic schools — Arts and Sciences, Management and Engineering Technology, and Applied Technology — and the baccalaureate programs. Olynk, the School of Arts and Sciences recipient, who also graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, served as a tutor in the Peer Tutoring Program and treasurer of the Collegiate Agricultural Leaders organization, while achieving grades that kept her on the Dean's List all four semesters at Alfred State College. The 2001 graduate of John H. Glenn High School, Elwood, N.Y., is the daughter of Paul J. Olynk of Old Brookville, N.Y., and Nancy E. Olynk of East Northport.

## Shorthorn Juniors Race To Indy

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Shorthorn juniors from coast to coast raced to Indianapolis, Ind., June 30-July 5, to take part in the largest Shorthorn junior event of the year.

More than 400 kids representing 27 states and close to 500 head of cattle came together to compete for coveted titles. During the two-day show, over 600 head of Shorthorn cattle were exhibited.

Prior to the National Junior Shorthorn Show, the Youth Conference provided a full week of activities for the junior members, allowing them the opportunity to participate in friendly competition against each other and other states in both individual and team contests.

These contests included photography, speech, arts and crafts, team salesmanship, showmanship, herdsmanship, team fitting, beef cook-off, and livestock judging contests.

During the three Youth Conference sessions held throughout the week, junior members concentrated on personal development and leadership skills.

During these sessions, state delegates voted on the 2003-2004 AJSA Board of Directors, as well as participate in the selection of the 2003-2004 National Shorthorn Lassie Queen.

The newly elected American Junior Shorthorn Association Board of Directors includes: Allison Meyer, Greensburg, Ind., president; Sara Hunter, Goodell, Iowa, vice president; Catherine Williams, Boling, Texas, secretary; Amy Caverly, Clinton, Maine, public relations; Heidi Bowman, Greenville, Ohio, director; Bethany Melroe, Gwinner, ND, director; Luke Bowman, Greens Fork, director; Aaron Hahn, Minonk, Ill., director; and Bret Fahrmeier, Lexington, Mo.

Representing the Shorthorn breed as National Shorthorn Lassie Queen will be Christina Ipsen, Plymouth, Ill., and Alter-

nate National Shorthorn Lassie Queen, Ann Ewald, Waldorf, Min.

Outstanding juniors from the eastern region recognized at the awards banquet included:

Team Fitting  
5) Ohio 2, Nolyn Holley, Heidi Bowman, Nick Barney  
Arts & Crafts  
Prospector II  
4) Amy Swallow, Ohio  
Intermediate  
4) Tom Wise, Ohio  
Photography  
Prospector II  
5) Trista Davis, MD  
State Scrapbook  
4) Maryland  
Team Salesmanship  
Prospector II  
2) Troy Bennett and Trista Davis, MD; 3) Lydia Ulry and Amy Swallow, Ohio; 4) Tyler Rowland and Marla Conley, Ohio.

Intermediate  
4) Rebecca Hamilton and Ben Warfield, MD.

Speech  
Prospector II:  
1) Claire Bennett, MD; 4) Troy Bennett, MD.; 5) Trista Davis, MD.

Intermediate:  
4) Alyssa Swallow, Ohio.

Senior Prepared:  
5) Sara Jo Campbell, Pa.  
Senior Extemporaneous:  
Showmanship

Prospector II:  
1) Haley Bowman, Ohio; 4) Jacob Boyert, Ohio.

Herdsmanship  
Over 12 head:  
2) Ohio 3) Dakota Plains 4) Missouri 5) Oklahoma

Livestock Judging  
Senior Division:  
2) Kyle Fleener, Pa.

Intermediate Division:  
4) Ben Warfield, MD.

Prospector II:  
1) Amy Swallow, Ohio; 2) Keilah Ketron, Ohio.

## Pasture Walk To Explore Small-Scale, Diversified Farming

BERKSHIRE, N.Y. — Kingbird Farm will host a pasture walk here July 30. Kingbird Farm is a small, horse-powered farm on a forested hillside in Tioga County, N.Y.

Now in their seventh year of production, farmers Michael and Karm Glos produce a diverse array of certified organically raised meats, produce, and value-added items. Their products include certified organic beef, chicken, turkey, eggs, herbs, and produce (onions, garlic, shallots,

scallions, potatoes, and other vegetables). They also seasonally raise pork outdoors on certified organic pasture and certified organic grains. Field work is done with their Percheron and Hafflinger horses. Kingbird Farm is certified organic by NOFA-NY Certified Organic LLC (a USDA accredited certifier) for produce, pastures, chickens, turkeys, and eggs.

Pasture walk topics will include fencing and shelter for different species of livestock, rotat-

ing multiple species of livestock on shared pasture, and planning grazing needs to coincide with marketing.

For more information and to pre-register, contact Sharon Vanduson at Cornell Cooperative Extension-Cortland County at (607) 753-5078. For more information about Kingbird Farm visit [www.kingbirdfarm.com](http://www.kingbirdfarm.com). For more information on a variety of small farm topics, visit [www.smallfarms.cornell.edu](http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu).