



View from the Great Lakes State

Brett Pharo, APSA President

I think most everyone involved in the U.S. sheep industry is aware of the Lamb Industry Roadmap that was developed in 2013. Those of us that have been around for a few years are aware that this isn't the first report on challenges faced by the industry and lists of things that need to be done to change the direction we're headed. In the past, that was where it ended, with no real action being undertaken. Maybe desperation breeds action, but this time there seems to be some honest attempt to make some changes in the industry. A couple reasons for that are that all segments are involved and there was developed a timeline with specific people/organizations assigned to work on implementation of specific goals. If you're unfamiliar with the Roadmap project, I would encourage you to look it up. You can find links on the ASI website. Then I would encourage you to look at what your part might be in working together with others to strengthen our industry.

We face some significant challenges. With over 300 million people in the U.S. today, the sheep inventory is smaller than it was when there were only 5 million people here in 1800. Per capita lamb consumption is small compared to other meats, but it has been

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holding steady for several years now, even as U.S. production has decreased. Imports have filled the gap. How do we revitalize the sheep industry in the United States? That's the overriding question that spawned the Roadmap project. All aspects of the industry were, and are, involved including producers, packers, feeders, universities, state and breed organizations, etc.

The Roadmap identified four broad areas for goals:

1. Product characteristics
2. Demand creation
3. Productivity improvement
4. Industry collaboration.

Also identified were several conceptual changes that need to happen within the industry. Some of those are:

Every sector is vital and must be profitable.

Consumer value must drive the industry.

Must make rapid productivity improvements.

Producers must make decisions based on "the numbers" and sound analysis.

Participants must take a long-term view rather than just maximizing short-term profit.

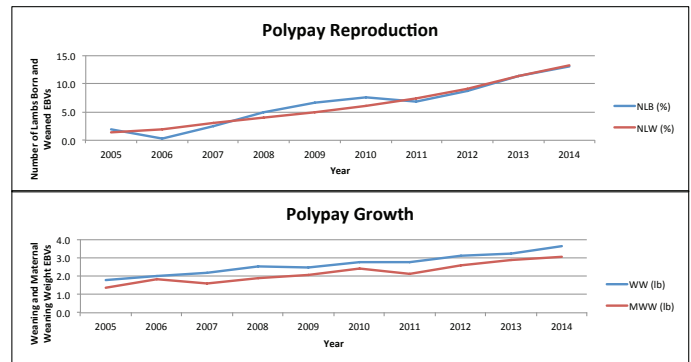
The Polypay breed is particularly well suited to be a contributor in some key aspects mentioned within the Roadmap, especially in goal #3, productivity improvement. Most obvious of these might be increasing per-ewe meat production and addressing seasonality problems. What can we, as an organization, do to move forward the implementation of the Roadmap? What can I, or you, as an individual producer do? Taking a long-term view, how can we help the American sheep industry make rapid productivity improvements?

The number one objective listed under goal #3 is widespread use by producers of quantitative genetic selection. Breed associations like APSA and state sheep associations have been particularly challenged to work toward this objective. The reason is that quantitative genetic selection has proven to be more effective at making progress than other methods. The success has been proven in beef, dairy, sheep in Australia, and in U.S. sheep where NSIP has been used.

The objective is for commercial operations to make their ram selections using NSIP as one of their tools, and for seedstock operations, both maternal and terminal, to participate in NSIP so that the genetic data is available to the commercial operations.

How are Polypay breeders doing in this regard? I understand we're currently third in numbers on NSIP, behind Targhee and Katahdin. It would be good to

move back up that ladder. Our number of NSIP flocks did increase by a third in 2015, and 68% of sheep registered with APSA in 2015 were from NSIP flocks. There is very strong demand for Polypay sheep from commercial operations looking for sheep with "numbers." As the charts below show, the breed is making progress in economically important traits needed to help build the American sheep industry.



Along with the other stake holders, we are making some progress toward some of the Roadmap goals, but there is more work to do. NSIP participation may not be a good fit for some operations. That's understandable and perfectly reasonable. What's harder to understand is the visceral opposition some have to the APSA encouraging the use of NSIP. Participation by APSA members certainly doesn't harm those that don't, and arguably promotes the breed as a whole. Use of quantitative genetic analysis as one tool in the selection process is the direction the industry is heading. Because Polypays have so much to offer to the American sheep industry, the APSA should be an industry leader in the use of technology. We need to pull together as a breed and as an industry, and do all we can to accomplish the lofty goals laid out in the Lamb Industry Roadmap. It's our future.

Let's See What You've Got

Whether your flock is larger or smaller, whether you're a long-time member or a newbie, whether your operation is intensively or extensively managed, you're probably quite proud of your Polypay sheep. You have reason to be. So, if you've got some pictures of your operation, how about sharing with the rest of us? Do you have pictures in the pasture, in the barn, in the feed lot, moving through the chute, on the rail, or anywhere else? We'd love to see them in the newsletter. We always have a few spots to fill in with pictures, and maybe it's your turn. Please send contributions to: brettpharo@gmail.com.

MASTITIS Part 1: Peracute/Acute Clinical Mastitis: A Veterinary Emergency

Dr. Kathy Ewert, DVM

This article, Part 1 of series of articles on mastitis, will focus on peracute and acute clinical mastitis which is caused by a bacterial infection within the udder. This type of mastitis usually only affects a single ewe and literally manifests itself in a matter of hours. It should be considered a veterinary emergency. The ewe must be treated promptly and correctly if you plan to save her udder and her life.

Peracute mastitis is most often seen several weeks after lambing, but occasionally may occur soon after weaning. The first thing that you may notice is the ewe appears to be lame or, if she is still nursing, she won't let her lambs nurse. Check the udder immediately. You will probably find a swollen, firm, warm, painful, and reddened udder. Check her milk. It will likely be watery, blood-tinged, or have clumps in it. Observe the ewe further, is she depressed or off feed? Take her rectal temperature (normal about 102°F). If her temperature is elevated, not only does she have mastitis, but she also has a systemic infection. If not treated aggressively, as the mastitis progresses, the udder's circulation becomes compromised and gangrene sets in. If this happens, the udder will get dark and become cold and is referred to as "blue bag."

It might be tempting to give the ewe a shot of some antibiotic that you may have around, but first obtain a sterile milk sample from the affected udder. Your veterinarian can help you with that procedure. Culturing that milk sample will be very helpful to determine the offending bacteria and will generate a list of antimicrobials to which the bacteria is sensitive to help in the proper long-term treatment of the ewe. It could also suggest the treatment for another ewe should your flock have a second case of mastitis.

Once the sterile milk sample has been obtained, work with your veterinarian to determine the best course of therapy for the ewe. Antimicrobials (for the infection), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (for pain, fever, and toxemia), and even I.V. fluids (for shock and dehydration) may be necessary to save the ewe, and hopefully, her udder. With this type of mastitis, there is a good chance that the infection is caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* or *Mannheimia haemolytica*. Because these organisms aren't always killed by the same antimicrobial, your veterinarian may initially suggest a broad spectrum approach (i.e., using more than one antibiotic) to treat the mastitis. There are very few antimicrobials approved for use in sheep and none approved for treatment of mastitis. You will have to use an antimicrobial in an off label manner which requires the oversight of a veterinarian. Other things that you can do is apply warm moist compresses to the udder and strip out the nasty, mastitic milk every few hours. Keep the affected ewe away from other ewes and her lambs until the initial treatment has taken effect. Bottle babies are in your future, at least for the short term. Keep her warm and make her as comfortable as possible with clean, dry bedding. Keep clean water in front of her as she could easily dehydrate and offer her small amounts of hay/grain as she will take them.

If the ewe is systemically ill, there is about a 30-40% chance that she will die. If she has developed "blue bag," that part of the udder is dead and will slough off over the course of a few weeks. If only half of the udder is affected, you will still have a ewe with one functional side of the udder. If you notice and aggressively treat the mastitis early, there is the chance that you can save the ewe and her udder.

In non-dairy flocks, peracute/acute mastitis seldom manifests as a flock outbreak; however, there are management changes that you can initiate within your flock to avoid even one case of this devastating mastitis. All of these management changes are aimed at protecting the muscular sphincter at the end of the teat. The muscular sphincter is a barrier to the outside, dirty world in which most ewes live. The sphincter keeps the udder and the milk that it produces sterile. Any disruption to the integrity of the teat sphincter will allow bacteria to enter the udder, thereby setting up the perfect environment for an infection. Some management changes to consider:

- Cull ewes with pendulous udders and large teats. Select replacement ewe lambs from ewes with tight udders and small teats.
- House ewes and lambs on dry, clean bedding. If at all possible, keep ewes from having to lay in the mud.
- If a ewe has triplets or more and she has a pendulous udder or large teats, consider bottle feeding one or

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MASTITIS (cont.)

more of the lambs as they get older and more aggressive while nursing. The more mouths there are at the breakfast bar, the greater the likelihood that the integrity of the teat sphincter could be compromised.

- Manage lambs to prevent lamb pneumonia.

Mannheimia haemolytica, one of the main pathogens that causes acute mastitis, also causes pneumonia in lambs. In fact, *M. haemolytica* is found in the respiratory tract of healthy lambs, too. Once again, excessive or frequent nursing is a good way to introduce *M. haemolytica* or any pathogen into the udder.

- Lambs with sore mouth can transmit the disease to the ewe's teats. If the sore mouth lesions are severe enough, they, too, can disrupt the integrity of the teat sphincter.

- Finally, avoid weaning ewes if they are still producing a lot of milk. For several days prior to weaning, feed only grass hay and water to decrease the ewe's milk production. Wean your ewes in a dry, well-bedded environment to avoid introducing any bacteria into the milk-distended teats and udder.

In the next newsletter, we will discuss chronic mastitis.

Dr. Kathy Ewert is a veterinarian who has been raising Polypay sheep at Notkwyta Ranch, Inc for over 20 years. If you have a veterinary question or a topic that you would like to see addressed in this newsletter, contact Kathy at info@notkwyta.com.



Director Nominations

On the back page of this newsletter is a nomination form for the APSA Board of Directors. Consider whether you might be willing to serve and help guide the future of the American Polypay Sheep Association, or if you know someone that you feel would serve well. Candidates need to be nominated by three members and the form returned by March 31 along with a short resume to Brett Pharo, 12266 Cherry Ave., Rapid City, MI 49676

See You in Springfield

The 2016 American Polypay Sheep Association National Sale will be held in Springfield, IL on Friday, June 17th and Saturday, June 18th. The sheep will be exhibited for determination of sale order at 4:30pm Friday, followed by a Junior show. Our annual meeting and banquet will be held Friday evening. The sale is scheduled to start at 3:00pm Saturday.

Sheep will be exhibited by class and APSA members present will vote to establish sale order. In larger classes, sale order will be set by vote for the top five with the balance drawing for sale order. In addition to viewing the animals moving about in the ring, members will have ample opportunity to touch and closely examine the sheep as well as production data and pedigrees prior to the classes being voted on for sale order.

It is hoped that there will be an educational seminar scheduled for Saturday morning.

The sale will be managed by Jeff Ebert working with American Cheviot Sheep Society. Further details for the event and entry information will be forthcoming.

Start making plans now for the biggest Polypay event of the year. Bring sheep and expectation of having a great time of fellowship with your fellow breeders. Let's make it a good one.

Association in Sound Financial Position

The American Polypay Sheep Association ended the calendar year 2015 in excellent financial condition. Even though several sheep breeds have had to raise membership fees or fees for registrations, the APSA has been able to maintain the fee structure that has been in place while still paying the costs of operating the association and maintaining a comfortable net worth.

The association has the following assets:

Bank Balance	\$25362.11
Accts Rec. from members	\$ 275.00
Total Assets	\$25637.11

The association has the following liabilities:

Accts Pay. to Assoc. Registries	\$ 604.80
Accts. Pay. to members	\$ 330.50
Director Credits	\$ 3109.50
Total Liabilities	\$ 4014.80

Net Worth	\$21622.31
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2016 Polypay Breeders Directory

This membership directory includes members whose dues are paid up as of 1/4/16. It is updated once a year.

Also available on the web at www.countrylovin.com/polypay

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Dues Reminder

Remember APSA dues are now due for 2016.

Advertise

Advertising in the APSA newsletter is available.

Rates are

Full Page: \$85

7.5"w x 10"h

Half Page: \$45

7.5"w x 5"h

Quarter Page: \$25

7.5"w x 2.5"h

3.75"w x 5"h

Ads you would like put in the April newsletter would need to be sent to brettpharo@gmail.com by March 31.

Email Service

While we are happy to continue to mail hard copies of the newsletter, if you would rather have it sent via email we can do that. You would receive the newsletter a few days sooner and it would save the association some money. If you prefer a hard copy, that is perfectly fine, too. If you want email rather than hard copy, let me know at brettpharo@gmail.com.

2014 U.S. Sheep and Lamb

Inventory Up

February 6, 2015

The sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on Jan. 1, 2015, increased by 1 percent from the same time in 2014 reported the National Agricultural Statistics Service in its annual Sheep and Goat inventory report.

All sheep and lamb inventory on Jan. 1, 2015, totaled 5.28 million head, up 1 percent from 5.245 in 2014. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 3.94 million head, also up 1 percent from 3.90 million head on Jan. 1, 2014. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.11 million head, were 1 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on Jan. 1, 2015, totaled 1.35 million head, unchanged from Jan. 1, 2014.

Replacement lambs under one year old showed a 2 percent increase from 635,000 on Jan. 2, 2014, to 650,000 on Jan. 1, 2015.

APSA Director Nomination Form

We, the undersigned members of the American Polypay Sheep Association,

nominate _____
to serve as a Director on the Board of Directors of the American Polypay Sheep Association.

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Three separate voting active memberships must sign this form for it to be accepted as official.

I, _____, desire to, and will, serve to the best of my ability on the Board of Directors of the American Polypay Sheep Association, for a three-year term if elected. Attached is my resume (not to exceed 200 words), which may be mailed to all APSA members so that they may judge as to my qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors of the APSA.

I certify that I am a breeder of purebred Polypay sheep registered with the American Polypay Sheep Association, and I pledge myself to support and obey the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of this association, and the Breeder's Guidelines as contained therein, and to advance the production objectives of the Polypay breed.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Return completed nomination form and accompanying resume by March 31, 2016 to:

Brett Pharo, APSA President
12266 Cherry Ave.
Rapid City, MI 49676