



View from the Great Lakes State

Brett Pharo, APSA President

As I write this, it's April and we are just getting started with lambing here in Michigan. After a rather mild winter, the first half of April has been colder than normal and snowy. Hopefully, the last half will look more like spring.

Though it's a busy time, I always like lambing season. There's so much potential in the new life. I suppose that every day throughout the year begins with much potential. Far too often we fail to recognize it.

Though the sheep industry in America faces some challenges, especially from government, there is much potential for moving forward and expanding the industry. The various sectors of the industry have come together the last few years like never before. Participants have recognized that continuing to do things the same old way just wasn't working and some concrete steps needed to be taken if the industry was going to be a viable business. It won't be easy nor quick, but I think we are beginning to see the start of a turn around in the American sheep industry.

We should be proud of the contributions we've made, but we should recognize the need to double down in our efforts, both as individuals and as a pure-bred association. The future is ours to determine.

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Challenges for the Sheep Industry

Holly Neaton, DVM

March 30, 2016

Productivity improvement and industry collaboration. These are 2 out of 4 goals of the ASI's Lamb Industry Roadmap. In the winter Polypay newsletter Brett Pharo asked us what we, as an organization do to move the implementation of the Roadmap forward and help the American sheep industry make rapid productivity improvements.

One of the surest and most progressive ways would be to improve the health of the flocks. We spend time and money attempting to manipulate genetics and fail to realize that diseases hold our animals back from expressing the genetic traits we try so hard to improve.

I hear testimonies and horror stories from flock owners of all breeds who live all over the country. They call as they have seen the little OPP Concerned Sheep Breeder's Society ad in The Shepherd or Sheep Industry News with my phone number in it describing a clinically Ovine Progressive Pneumonia virus infected sheep. I simply listen and give them some advice on diagnosing and control of the virus.

USDA reports that close to 30% of the sheep in the USA are infected with the OPP virus. A friend of mine who is very involved in the swine industry can't believe the sheep industry doesn't care about a disease that is so prevalent.

The OPP virus only lives in the cells of sheep. It doesn't hang around in the environment like other nasty diseases that we could talk about another time that need to be gone also (Johnes, Caseous Lymphadenitis, Scrapie). You buy the OPP virus when you buy the sheep.

The clinically wasting sheep or hardbag ewe is only the tip of the iceberg. Production is affected a long time before clinical signs become evident – poorer milk production, reproduction efficiency, lameness, colostrum quality. The virus sneaks in to slowly invade and affect productivity. You just buy more and more milk replacer and cull younger and younger ewes.

The USDA MARC in Clay Center Nebraska has been researching this virus over the last few decades. This has revealed some wonderful news regarding how the virus is transmitted. We have used this research to run an Eradication Trial in Minnesota with the help of the USDA, Board of Animal Health, MN Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers and the OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society.

We are in our 3rd year of the trial and have found that if the protocols for avoiding transmission and testing are followed, the virus can be controlled without orphaning lambs or shipping all your adult ewes. All management and testing is aimed at the replacement ewe lambs, keeping them free from the virus by avoiding contact with the adult flock after weaning.

We unfortunately have also found that using genetics to breed your way out of OPPV infection does not work. We have suspicions that certain genotypes affect how the virus is recognized or controlled in the animal but obviously much more research is needed. We sincerely hope the USDA continues to fund and encourage this research.

The Eradication Trial information can be found at:

www.bah.state.mn.us/sheep-goats;

www.mlwp.org/opp-trial

www.oppociety.org (look in the Library)

The USDA is responsive to industry needs. They approached the OPP Society several years ago to ask if they could be of any help when they found their presence was no longer needed for Scrapie eradication but they still desired to keep involved with the sheep industry. They may not have money to directly spend but their field staff are out there and want to be involved with producers.

Hence the MN Eradication Trial. The USDA and MN BAH DVMs and technicians collect all the samples and confirm inventories. The MN VDL gives a discount on the ELITEST (an elisa test used in other countries found to be much more accurate for small ruminant lentivirus detection) and the MLWP donate for each animal tested also. This brings the cost down to \$2 per head plus materials.

Wouldn't it be great if this could be a nationwide program supported by the USDA? We asked a few repre-

sentatives to suggest this to the ASI Health Committee and state representative committees at the meeting in Scottsdale and found no response or interest.

On a personal note, I work with medical device companies who use sheep for many of their research projects. I am constantly searching for healthy sheep to fill their project orders but they are getting harder to find. They need to be negative for OPP and free from CL. Both have invaded so many of our flocks. I am also scared to death of purchasing rams from a sale or any flock that has not tested though I am in need of new genetics.

I have had Polypays for 30 years, purchasing my first ram via air freight from Crumpled Horn Ranch in Montana. They told me at that time they were OPP free and to watch out for the virus.

So what am I suggesting? Maybe a discussion on how the Polypay breed – one of the most productive and seemingly progressive using NSIP information– could lead the way by using improvement of animal health as a key to reach both of half of the goals of the Roadmap: increasing productivity and industry collaboration.

Anyone want to talk about it?

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Genetic Stakeholder

As an Industry Partner with ASI in 2016, the American Polypay Sheep Association is entitled to a seat on the ASI Genetic Stakeholder Committee. Glen Jones has been appointed and has agreed to serve in that capacity for us. If you have any comments, concerns, or ideas you'd like shared with the committee, contact Glen and let him know. Thanks, Glen.

Dr. Clarence Hulet

1924 ~ 2015

The American Polypay Sheep Association lost one of the founders of our breed in December. If you know the history of the Polypay breed, you know the important part Dr. Hulet played. Below is an obituary that was published in the Salt Lake Tribune. Our condolences go out to his lovely wife, Donna Mae.

Clarence Veloid Hulet departed his earthly existence on 23 Dec. 2015 at age 91 from the effects of Alzheimer's disease. He was best known for his loving heart, devotion to his wife and family, service in the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, substantial scientific achievements, wood carving, gardening, carpentry, and a ready wit.

Clarence was born 2 July 1924 in Chinook, MT to Francis Edgar and Ella McEwen Hulet. He was raised on farms near Wendell, ID during the Great Depression. He served in the US Navy for two years as a signalman on an aircraft carrier during World War II and filled a 33-month LDS mission to the Samoan Islands. Clarence earned a Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young Univ. and Masters and PhD degrees in genetics and physiology of reproduction from the Univ. of Wisconsin.

Dr. Hulet taught at Idaho State Univ. before moving on to his research career at the US Dep't of Agriculture Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, ID where he became Research and Location Leader. He was instrumental in developing the Polypay breed of sheep plus other innovations. With Fullbright-Hayes research scholarships he moved his family to New Zealand for ten months where he conducted research and shared his expertise there and in Australia and later in several other countries. After 25 years, he transferred to the Jornada Research Station at Las Cruces, NM where he developed the research program. He authored text-book chapters, popular articles and numerous scientific papers. Honors include the prestigious "Fellow" award. Clarence believed deeply in the power of prayer and credited divine inspiration for his success.

In 1952 he married Donna Mae Feulner in the Salt Lake LDS Temple and served faithfully as a husband, father, bishop and counselor in a stake presidency, affecting many by sharing his spiritual experiences. He and Donna Mae served missions in Wisconsin and England/Wales.

Clarence enjoyed taking his children fishing and camping in his home-made trailer, helping them raise orphan lambs and teaching them gardening skills. He sang silly songs and spoke Samoan into his last days.

Clarence is survived by his wife, Donna Mae; their eight children, Ladell (Randy) Muhlestein, Brian (Debbie), Diana Grover, Kelvin (Carol), Sherilyn (Kimber) Johnson, Lynn (Tanya), Glade (Sherry), Kendall (Carolina Nunez); brother, Grant (Wanda) and sister, Ella May Sawyer; 41 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren. He has joined his parents and siblings, Maureen Rapple, Kathleen Frances, Elise, Dorothy Pincock and Reed.

Published in Salt Lake Tribune from Dec. 27 to Dec. 29, 2015

National Polypay Sale

The 2016 American Polypay Sheep Association National Sale will be held at the state fair grounds in Springfield, IL on Friday, June 17th and Saturday, June 18th. The schedule of events is as follows. All times are approximate.

Friday 4:30p Sheep exhibited for determination of sale order.

Friday 8:00p Dinner and annual membership meeting at Poe's Catering on the Hill.

Saturday 8:00a Jr. Show

Saturday 3:00p APSA National Sale

Dinner will be at:

Poe's Catering On the Hill

295 E. Andrew Rd.

Springfield, IL 62707

It will be a lamb dinner.

Cost will be \$15 and \$7.50 for under 12.

APSA has a block of rooms reserved at:

Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield

3100 S. Dirksen Parkway

217-529-7171

Block of 25 rooms reserved

Two queen beds

\$104/night + tax

Breakfast included for up to four per room

APSA block/rate is good through May 26

You can either call the above number and request APSA rate or register online to automatically get the rate at:

Your HiltonLink is: <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/S/SPIGIGI-APSA-20160616/index.jhtml>

See you there.

Other Sale Opportunities

Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO

June 21-23

Center of the Nation NSIP Sale, Spencer, IA

July 22-23

Director Election Time

The APSA Bylaws call for election of three members to the board of directors each year for three year terms.

The terms of Glen Jones, Diane Hermann, and Jim Hansson are up this June, with Jones and Hermann ineligible to run for another term at this time.

Nominations were requested in the winter newsletter and three nominations were received by the March 31 due date. You can find brief resumes of these candidates elsewhere in this newsletter.

A ballot form to vote for directors is included in this newsletter with instructions for submitting it. The ballots will be opened at the annual meeting in Springfield.



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 July newsletter would need to be sent to brettpharo@gmail.com by June 30.

Meet the Candidates

Below are brief resumes of the candidates for the APSA Board of Directors

Kathy Ewert

My name is Kathy Ewert and I have been raising Polypay sheep since 1994. I am also a veterinarian. Over the course of my 35-year veterinary career, I was in a large animal practice and was employed by 3 different universities and by 2 different pharmaceutical companies. In 2008, I retired from my pharmaceutical career as Director of Research and Development and redirected my focus to our flock of Polypay sheep. Since 2008, we have grown the flock to over 75 ewes and I have had the pleasure of raising Polypay sheep as a full-time endeavor. We have an accelerated flock and expect our ewes to lamb every 7-9 months, so there is always something to do. We have a closed, high health status flock, have achieved Export Monitored Status in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program, and participate in the National Sheep Improvement Program. In addition to sheep, we raise our own hay, have 100 laying hens, a few Red Angus cows, and waaay too many horses.

I have always believed that the Polypay breed can be integral in moving the sheep industry forward. To that end, I would appreciate your consideration of me for the APSA Board of Directors.

John Anderson

I retired from The Ohio State University in the spring of 2015. I worked in the Dept of Animal Sciences at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster Ohio for over 32 years. I am active in the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and have been Co-Chair of the Buckeye Shepherds Symposium for a number of years.

We bought our first Polypay ewes in 1987. Currently we have 95 ewes and are planning to expand our flock this year to 125 ewes. We have had up to 140 ewes in past years.

Our production system is pasture based as much as possible. We currently lamb 3X a year, but for 14 years we lambed 5X a year on the STAR system. January lambing is in the barn; we do as much of the spring and fall lambing on pasture as the weather permits.

We use NSIP to help with the selection of breeding stock. We select for traits that our customers are interested in; out of season lambing/ability to accelerate, milk production, ability to wean 2 or more lambs per lambing, growth, parasite resistance, performance on pasture and good wool are the main areas. Polypays are very versatile sheep!

We are members of a ram sharing consortium. I really like cooperating with other breeders to speed up genetic progress, plus it gives me more people to talk to about sheep production.

In the past we have purchased and sold rams at the Polypay National Sale and the Spenser Iowa sale.

I see two goals for APSA to continue to strive for. One is to stay inclusive and user friendly in order to increase memberships. The second is to be supportive in encouraging Polypay breeders to use technology, where appropriate, to improve our breed's relevance to the American sheep industry.

Bryce Freking

My name is Bryce Freking, my wife Bobbi and I along with our 2 daughters operate Freking Polypay Genetics. We are a small flock growing with great goals for the future. We currently are running 95 ewes on NSIP with aspirations to grow to 500 pure-bred ewes. We have selected and culled over the past several years to produce reliable, consistent, and "get what you pay for genetics". Our focus since our beginning has been on fact based production that are structurally correct and traits that pay the bills.

In 2014 Henke Family Polypay's Elm Creek Polypay, Dakota Krome POA & Polypay, and Freking Polypay Genetics formed Performance Polypay Genetics. 4 Flocks with very similar philosophies on sheep production and management. We as a group are currently running 300 ewes with 11 sire lines. As a group we are working together to create Polypays that are performing for everyone from the small farm flock to the large commercial operations.

I look forward to the opportunity to help a great organization promote one of the truly great breeds of sheep in the world.

Ballot for the Board of Directors of the American Polypay Sheep Association 2016

Kathy Ewert (____) John Anderson (____) Bryce Freking (____)

You may vote for up to three candidates.

Each active membership that has 2016 dues paid is entitled to one vote.

You may return the ballot in person at the annual dinner/meeting in Springfield, IL, or you may mail your completed ballot to Brett Pharo, 12266 Cherry Ave., Rapid City, MI 49676. All ballots will be opened at the annual meeting.

Mailed ballots should be returned as follows to assure a secret ballot:

1. Mark your ballot
2. Place ballot in an envelope with the word "Ballot" on the outside
3. Place that envelope inside another envelope addressed to Brett and include your name in the return address section.