



View from the Great Lakes State

Brett Pharo, APSA President

As I write this, I've just returned from the Michigan Shepherds Weekend in Lansing. As usual, this was a great, reinvigorating experience. I don't know what the final head count was, but it was in the range of 330 participants I think, plus nearly twenty vendors. That's a lot of positive energy.

Cat Urbigkit, editor of *The Shepherd*, was the featured speaker, and spoke on guard dogs. Honestly, that was far more interesting than I expected, as she has travelled all over the world researching the topic, as well as having significant personal experience in Wyoming.

There were a handful of joint sessions as well as fifteen break-out sessions. These ranged from sessions for beginning shepherds, to marketing, to panel discussions such as moving from a small or medium size operation to a large one, to wool, to NSIP, to a tour of the new sheep facilities at MSU, and even one with me sharing about the APSA/ Let's Grow grant and development of FEC EBVs. And that's just the adult sessions.

The young folks had their own sessions. A couple of these were sheep industry knowledge competitions; one was hands-on experience collecting and examining semen.

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Open Seat 2017

Happy New Year: Changes to Labeling of Feed and Water Medications

Dr. Kathy Ewert, DVM

Effective January 1, 2017, the labels on all medically important antimicrobial drugs administered in or on the feed or water of food-producing animals were revised. One revision eliminated all production claims such as improving feed efficiency or increasing rate of gain. Another revision changed the marketing status of medically important antimicrobials administered in/on feed from over-the-counter (OTC) to a new type of prescription called a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). Also, the marketing status of medically important antimicrobials administered in water was changed from OTC to prescription (Rx). At this time, the labels of injectable antimicrobials that are sold OTC were not changed. Injectable products will still be available OTC, but I expect that to change, too, sometime in the future.

What is a medically important antimicrobial?? The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) defines any antimicrobial that is used in human medicine as a medically important antimicrobial. The classes of medically important antimicrobials and examples of those antimicrobials (now known as VFD drugs) that are administered in or on the feed or water of food-producing animals include: aminoglycosides (Neomycin); lincosamides (Lincomycin); macrolides (Tylosin, Tilmicosin); penicillins; streptogramins (Virginiamycin); sulfonamides (sulfadimethoxine); and tetracyclines (oxytetracycline, chlortetracycline).

Even though ionophores are antimicrobials, they are exempt from this revision because they are not considered important in human medicine. Medicated feeds containing an ionophore [such as lasalocid (Bovatec)] will still be available for OTC purchase and will not require a VFD. The only time that a VFD will be required for an ionophore is if it will be combined with a VFD drug and administered in or on the feed.

From this point forward, if you need a medically important antimicrobial that will go in/on feed or in the water to prevent, control, or treat a disease for which there is a label claim (remember extra-label use of medically important antimicrobials in/on feed or in water is illegal), you will need to have a veterinarian issue a VFD for a feed medication and write a Rx

for a water medication. According to section 504(a) (1) of the Food Drug & Cosmetic Act, “[a]ny animal feed bearing or containing a [VFD] drug shall be fed to animals only by or upon a lawful [VFD] issued by a licensed veterinarian in the course of the veterinarian’s professional practice.” In order for a veterinarian to issue a VFD or write a prescription, she/he will have to know you, your production facilities, and your animals. In other words, a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) will have to exist between you and your veterinarian.

How does the VFD ruling affect sheep producers? Let’s use CTC 4 Crumbles as an example. CTC 4 Crumbles contain the medically important antimicrobial chlortetracycline at 4 g/lb. For sheep, there is a label claim to reduce the incidence of vibronic abortion. That’s it. There is no label claim for growth promotion or treatment of bacterial pneumonia in sheep. As of January 1, 2017, use of CTC 4 Crumbles in sheep for anything other than reducing the incidence of vibronic abortion is off label, and therefore, illegal. If you have an abortion problem and wish to use CTC 4 Crumbles in your flock, your veterinarian with whom you have established a VCPR will write a VFD. You will take 2 copies of the VFD to your local feed store. You can purchase the amount of CTC 4 Crumbles listed on the VFD. You leave one copy of the VFD at the feed store and keep one copy in your records for a minimum of 2 years. You must follow the directions for administration of CTC 4 Crumbles exactly as they are written on the VFD. If you need more CTC 4 Crumbles, your veterinarian must issue another VFD or have the number of “refills” listed on the VFD.

What’s the bottom line? All production claims for all food animals have been removed from the labels of medicated feed or water medications. You will need to establish a VCPR with your local veterinarian so that she/he can issue a VFD or Rx if they determine that the use of a medically important antimicrobial in feed or water is justified. There are only a handful of medically important antimicrobials approved for administration in the feed or water of sheep. These new regulations will further limit the sheep producer’s

ability to treat his/her sheep with feed or water medications. It remains to be seen if FDA will consider some leniency in extralabel use of certain feed and water medications for sheep.

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.

Dues Reminder

Remember, APSA dues are now due for 2017.
The year you are paid up through is on your mailing label.

Bylaws Amendment

A committee has been reviewing the corporate bylaws for the last couple years. They found several things that needed to be updated to make the bylaws more clear and useful. There were other parts that seemed no longer relevant or necessary. After careful consideration, the committee decided that it would be best to amend the bylaws with a complete rewrite. The APSA Board voted to accept their proposed amendment and present it to the membership.

You will find a copy of the proposed amendment enclosed with this newsletter for your review. Please send any comments or questions to a board member.

A ballot will be sent to eligible members in a later mailing

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.

View Continued

I think there were eight young (18-35), very capable producers that competed in a discussion competition with the winner getting a trip to the ASI convention in Denver. There were twelve folks that competed in the Make-It-With-Wool competition to earn a trip to compete in Denver.

And, of course, there was a great banquet for adults plus a pool/pizza party for the youth. Thousands of dollars was raised for the youth program through the annual auction.

All in all, it was another great experience. Though our organization isn't as large, are there things we could adopt for our summer annual meeting and sale?

One topic that seemed to come up in every Q&A, in roundtable discussions, and over the dinner tables, was the topic of parasite control. I think our work on the genetics of parasite resistance is timely.

We heard reports from our ASI representative, from the Let's Grow coordinator, and our Lamb Board representative. There are certainly problems in the American sheep industry that continue to need to be addressed. Half of the lamb consumed in the US is imported. Though a strong dollar is a contributor to this, an inconsistent product is a serious problem. To have fresh lamb available year round, many lambs are being held too long in the feed lots. Can Polypays help with this seasonal lambing problem?

Another problem is low number of lambs weaned. It was stated that Texas, the number one sheep state, has a weaning rate of 0.7 lambs per ewe. Certainly the environment there might not support what the upper midwest does, but can Polypays help with this problem? Our breed has a lot to offer to the industry.

It was very encouraging to see the numbers of young people making the choice to go into sheep production as a vocation. Some are coming home to join with parents and/or siblings in operations that are expanding to over 1000 ewes. Others are taking it on themselves and shooting for several hundred ewes, at least. The greatest portion of these operations are using Polypay sheep, either exclusively or in a cross-breeding system. That says a lot about the reputation of our breed. Young producers are excited about our industry.

Indeed, there is a bright future out there for our industry and for the Polypay breed, if we make it so. Let's focus on the big picture while taking care of the details. The future is ours to make. Let's do it right.

2017 Polypay Breeders Directory

This membership directory includes members whose dues are paid up as of 1/4/17. It is updated once a year.

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

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Director Nominations

In 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. We need your input.

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



One of Howard Lindaman's flock sires, Henke HF5048Y

Financial Position

The APSA ended the calendar year 2016 in excellent financial condition. Though rising costs have seen other sheep organizations raise fees, we have been able to hold the fees for membership and registrations steady. That may change at sometime in the future to meet rising operating costs, but for now we've avoided raising fees.

The association has the following assets:

Bank Balance	\$23689.79
Accts Rec. from members	\$ 968.00
Total Assets	\$24657.79

The association has the following liabilities:

Accts Pay. to Assoc. Registries	\$ 75.80
Accts. Pay. to members	\$ 406.51
Director Credits	\$ 3077.00
Remaining Grant Funds	\$ 1077.31
Total Liabilities	\$ 4636.02
Net Worth	\$20021.17

2017 National Sale

The 2017 American Polypay Sheep Association National Sale and Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds in Berrien Springs, MI on Friday, June 16th and Saturday, June 17th.

Details of exact times are yet to be set, but we expect that sheep will be exhibited for sale order on Friday and the sale will be Saturday afternoon. We expect the annual meeting and dinner will take place Friday evening.

Auctioneering and sale management will be by Andy Korb.

Berrien Springs is in the SW corner of Michigan. Southern Michigan is home to many commercial sheep flocks, with Polypay being a preferred breed. There are thousands of Polypay ewes who will need mates and thousands more commercial crossbred ewes within a few hours that could use your Polypay genetics.

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.

Other 2017 Sales of Interest

June 19-24 Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO

July 28-29 Center of the Nation NSIP Sale, Spencer, IA

August 11-12 Eastern NSIP Sale, Wooster, OH

September 14-15? Newell Ram Sale, Newell, SD

Registrations

1464 sheep were newly registered with the APSA in 2016.

The five states with the most registrations were MN - 285, WI - 245, NE -243, IL - 152, and OH - 126. MN, WI, and NE accounted for over half the registrations, and the top five together accounted for almost 72% of registrations.

The member with the most registrations was the US Meat Animal Research Station in Clay Center, NE with 234 registrations.

Let's Grow

The APSA was able to secure a three year grant from the Let's Grow Committee in 2016 to work on identifying genetic parasite resistance in Polypay sheep. A second part of the grant project is to collect DNA samples for genomic research on animals backed by phenomic data through NSIP. A basic reality in genomic research to identify trait-gene connections is the need for sufficient number of DNA samples from subjects that have sufficient trait data available to the researcher.

We should be thankful to the Let's Grow Committee for their willingness to support the project, and also to Dr. Christopher Schauer for his work in writing the grant request. I've heard there's been much interest among sheep producers and researchers in our project. I know that after hearing a presentation on our project, both Let's Grow coordinator Alan Culham and committee member Susan Schultz indicated they were pleased they funded our project.

The grant is set up to pay each year for up to 1000 quantitative fecal egg analysis on samples submitted, and to pay for blood cards for two blood samples for each ram with lambs being tested. The hope was to have at least ten participants each year combining to submit at least 1000 samples each year. So, how close did we come the first year? We had 762 fecal samples done at LSU, submitted by 11 APSA members. All eleven were NSIP members, so that data has been entered, resulting in more animals with FEC EBVs and an increase in accuracy.

That's not a bad first year. We've got two more years available on this grant. Hopefully, all those that participated the first year will do so again, but we have plenty of opportunity for more folks to participate. If you graze lambs, consider taking this opportunity to start a program that can benefit your flock, your customers, the Polypay breed, and the American sheep industry. Participation is on a first come, first served basis for all APSA members.

To participate, or if you have questions, contact project coordinator Chris Schauer, (701-567-3582; chris_schauer@yahoo.com) or Jerry Sorensen (712-755-7250; wclones@harlannet.com).

USSES Research Report, September 2016
Taken from the ASI website

Productivity of Rambouillet, Polypay, and Romanov-White Dorper x Rambouillet Ewes Mated to Terminal Sires in a Western Range Production System U.S. Sheep Experiment Station

D.R. Notter, M.R. Mousel, K.A. Leymaster,
G.S. Lewis, J.B. Tayler

Report Summary

Objective: Compare productivity of Rambouillet, Polypay, and Romanov-White Dorper x Rambouillet ewes mated to terminal sires in an Intermountain West rangeland production system.

Approach: Productivity of 212 Rambouillet, 236 Polypay, and 231 Romanov-White Dorper x Rambouillet-crossbred ewes born in 2009, 2010, and 2011 was evaluated through 4 lambings. Beginning as lambs, study ewes were managed in a range-type production system, annually mated to terminal-sire type rams, and evaluated for multiple measures of ewe productivity.

Implication: Polypay and Romanov-White Dorper x Rambouillet ewes weaned a substantially greater weight and number of lambs than did Rambouillet ewes. Romanov-White Dorper x Rambouillet ewes weaned a modestly greater weight and number of lambs than Polypay ewes. The semi-prolific Polypay and Romanov-White Dorper x Rambouillet ewes benefitted from additive breed effects and hybrid vigor that favored better ewe lamb performance and greater numbers of lambs born per ewe lambing at all ewe ages.

The complete report can be accessed on the ASI website.

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, 2017 to:

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