



View from the Great Lakes State

Brett Pharo, APSA President

April around our part of Michigan was one for the record books. Records have been kept for over 100 years, but we broke the record for April snowfall by 17 inches! It was a doozy and made lambing a bit tougher. Though when I look at the devastation of the fires and drought in the west, I can't complain much.

Even though it was a tough lambing this year, it's still a great time of year. One of the things that makes it great is it's a time that everybody pulls together to get things done. In the above picture, taken last fall, can be seen some of my helpers. Both of my two daughters, and my five grandkids (ages 3-8) live within a mile. Deb and I are truly blessed.

All the grandkids love helping and want to be involved in everything from feeding to cleaning to necropsy. (I wonder for how many years they will ask to clean pens, as they do now). All four of the girls, ages 5-8, have pulled lambs, a couple have pulled fecal samples, and one actually successfully pulled a jugular blood sample this year.

When things get hectic, when challenges arise, when the to-do list never shortens, let's remember how blessed we are to be doing what we're doing.

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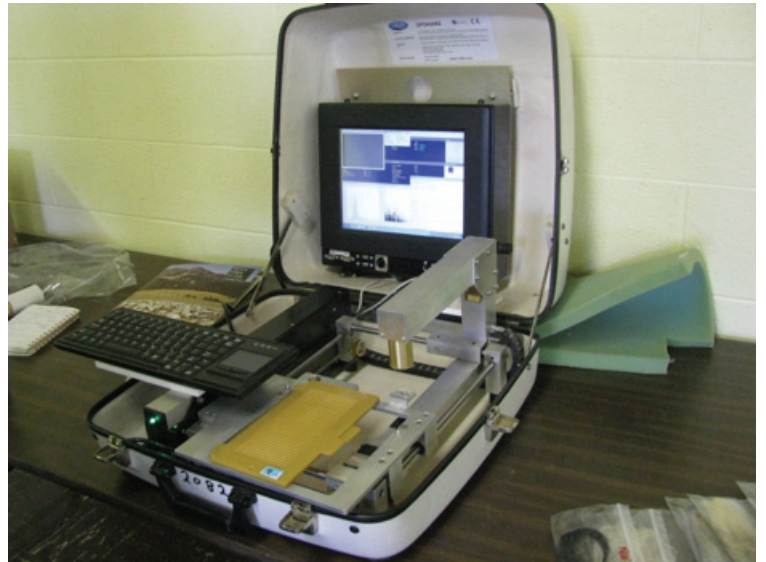
NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center offers wool fiber diameter testing

Christopher Schauer, PhD

Director and Animal Scientist, NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center

The NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center (HREC) recently acquired an OFDA 2000 through a lease with the American Sheep Industry Association that gives the HREC the ability to test fleece samples for sheep producers. The OFDA has the ability to test a multitude of fleece variables, including, but not limited to, fiber diameter and standard deviation (in microns), comfort factor (% of fibers less than or equal to 30 microns), staple length, and minimum/maximum micron diameter across the staple. Samples can be sent to the NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center at the address below, or schedule permitting, the HREC staff and graduate students can travel and conduct the testing on the farm. When testing on the farm, sorting of sheep by individual traits or producers defined indexes is available. Availability for on the farm testing is limited, but samples sent to the HREC via mail can usually be processed within a week. The sample size is about the diameter of a pencil, and usually collected from the side of the sheep. The cost of analyzing samples is \$2.00/sample for ND residents, \$2.50/sample for out of state residents, and \$350 plus travel costs for on the farm testing. If interested in this service, please contact Dr. Christopher Schauer.

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Annual Membership Meeting

The 2018 annual membership meeting of the APSA will be held following dinner Friday, July 27 at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, IA. The agenda will be a general discussion of the activities of the association over the past year or so.

I hear Jerry and Larry may be doing some of their famous grilling. Plan to attend both the dinner and the meeting. It's a good opportunity to participate in your breed association, and to socialize with fellow Polypay breeders and breeders of other breeds who will be attending the dinner



APSA/Let's Grow FEC Project

2018 is the third, and final, year of our grant from ASI's Let's Grow Committee for work on genetic resistance to parasites.

We've had some good participation in the first two years, but can always use more. By having more members submitting the data, we've shortened the timeline for having useful EBV's. Actually, they are becoming useful already. In some parts of the country, that EBV has become one of the most important EBV's for ram buyers. The more data collected and submitted, the more accurate the results.

Of course, the secondary part of that grant, the collection of blood cards on sires with phenotype data available, may eventually be the most important contribution to the industry from this grant. Genomic research, which this card collection is slated to support, was a topic of discussion at a recent ASI Genetic Stakeholders Committee meeting in which I recently participated.

This project takes a little effort and a little time, but it's worth the input.

Contact Cristopher Schauer, christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu, with any questions or to participate.



2018 Sales of Interest

Given the poor prices that have been the rule at APSA national sales for the last several years in Sedalia, Springfield, and Berrien Springs, especially when compared to prices at other sales and at the farm gate, the APSA Board has decided to suspend having a national sale in 2018. Other sales featuring APSA sheep continue to bring good prices. Some of those are listed below. Consider consigning.

June 25-30 Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO

July 27-28 Center of the Nation NSIP Sale, Spencer, IA

August 10-11 Eastern NSIP Sale, Wooster, OH

Membership Dues

You will notice on your address label, in addition to your address, a year designation. This is the year of your last dues paid. If that year is prior to 2018, your membership dues are due.

Youth View

Hello, my name is Daniel Shapiro, I'm 15 years old and have been raising Polypay sheep for 4 years. This is my 8th year as a 4-H member. The first few sheep that I had were all club lambs and just used for meat. I needed an upgrade. My parents and I were always interested in Polypay sheep for their wool and meat capabilities, their fast growth, and gentle demeanor. This year, I have 6 baby lambs. I have always been happy with this breed of sheep. The sheep have been able to do as they have been bred to be. They are very easy to work with, especially to show both in junior shows, and in open competitions. Overall, my take of the Polypay sheep is that they are a very good sheep to raise for beginners in sheep and I would recommend them to anyone who would be willing to raise sheep. I hope to see you at the Midwest Stud Ram Show in Sedalia, Missouri!



My guardian sheep dog hard at work.



Director Election Time

The APSA Bylaws call for election of members to the board of directors each year for three year terms. With the new bylaws, the number of directors is being reduced to seven. That means that this year two directors will be elected.

The terms of Mark Meurer, Chris Kaeb, and Jeremy Refshaw are up this year, with Meurer ineligible to run for another term at this time.

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

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 membership meeting in Spencer, IA.



Meet the Candidates

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

Chris Kaeb

I live with my wife and children on a grain farm in east central Illinois. We have been raising sheep since 2005 and Polypays in particular since 2006. We breed about 30 ewes every year. Our flock is enrolled in NSIP/Lambplan and our main goal is to produce Polypay sheep with strong maternal traits that will thrive in a variety of environments. I have sold rams and ewes to both purebred and commercial breeders in various states. I was elected to the APSA Board of Directors in 2015 and currently serve as the association treasurer. I have a passion for raising sheep and would like to do my part to help keep the Polypay breed moving in the right direction. I would appreciate your consideration of me for reelection to the APSA Board of Directors.

Jeremy Refshaw

My family and I have been raising Polypay sheep for 12 years and we have been on NSIP for 11 of those years. I was drawn to the breed because they are production sheep that adapt to many different environments and management styles. I believe Polypay sheep are the ideal maternal breed to use in commercial crossbreeding programs.

I have sat on the board of directors for 3 years. During that time we revised the bylaws and secured the FEC grant. We are currently working to establish a successful sale venue for Polypay members.

I will continue to help make the American Polypay Breed one of the cornerstones of the American Sheep Industry and to help fellow APSA members promote and improve Polypay sheep. I would be honored to serve for another 3 year term on the board of directors.

Ballot for the Board of Directors of the American Polypay Sheep Association 2018

Chris Kaeb (_____)

Jeremy Refshaw (_____)

You may vote for up to two candidates.

Each active membership that has 2018 dues paid is entitled to one vote.

You may return the ballot in person to an APSA director prior to the annual membership meeting in Spencer, IA, or you may mail your completed ballot, postmarked by June 30, 2018 to Brett Pharo, 12266 Cherry Ave., Rapid City, MI 49676. All ballots will be opened and counted 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.