

A Big Prairie Perspective

Mark Meurer, President

When I was growing up, there was thing you could count on. If the White Sox were playing, we were listening. My Dad was an avid White Sox fan and he made sure his kids were too. My kids are White Sox fans and now I'm making sure my grandkids are Sox fans, as well. My Dad saw two White Sox, World Series Championships in his lifetime and I've witnessed, one. Not a great track record for World Series victories. But, that didn't stop us from believing with every new season, that this might be the year we win another championship. Ever optimistic!

I guess being optimistic is how I choose to look at most things. My optimism has never been higher for the American Polypay Sheep Association and the future of our breed. Demand for Polypay genetics is the highest I've ever witnessed. From coast to coast, our genetics are in demand. Polypays can perform in any environment, within any production system and meet any market demand they are presented with. The desire for accelerated lambing and out-of-season breeding is growing and no single breed is better poised to help in that transition. We're in a good place as a breed association.

To further our commitment to the commercial sheep industry, our association has committed support to three different grant proposals that will benefit the commercial industry. Grant proposals include genomic research into robustness and climatic resilience in the U.S. sheep population, research on mastitis, udder health and genomic congenital defects and research into genomics and the development of genetically enhanced estimated breeding values. When the board asked me to serve as president of our association this past year, the one thing that I wanted to accomplish, was to put the Polypay breed at the forefront of all discussions within the commercial sheep industry. We have a board that feels the same. We need to lead and

continued on p.2

APSA Board of Directors

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| Mark Meurer, <i>President</i> | 2023-1 |
| 1669 Midway Rd.
Ashton, IL 61006
meurer66@gmail.com | |
| | 815-973-5576 |
| Bryce Freking, <i>Vice-Pres.</i> | 2022-2 |
| 924 35th St.
Ceylon, MN 56121
frekingpolypay@gmail.com | |
| | 605-310-0733 |
| John Anderson, <i>Secretary</i> | 2022-2 |
| 10131 Munson Rd.
Shreve, OH 44676
johnwallaceanderson@gmail.com | |
| | 330-749-9053 |
| Chris Kaeb, <i>Treasurer</i> | 2021-2 |
| 639 N. 1000 E Rd.
Buckley, IL 60918
cakfarm@gmail.com | |
| | 815-457-2618 |
| Jeremy Refshaw | 2021-2 |
| 1339 290th St.
Waubun, MN 56589
refshawranch@yahoo.com | |
| | 218-230-5383 |
| Kathy Ewert | 2022-2 |
| 20009 62nd St.
McLouth, KS 66054
kmewert@embarqmail.com | |
| | 913-796-6044 |
| Mark Van Roekel | 2023-2 |
| 3891 390th St.
Orange City, IA 51041
mandbvr@gmail.com | |
| | 712-540-8710 |



not follow. As far as I'm concerned, we are the most important commercially-based, breeding stock in the nation and we need to be at the table when issues concerning our industry are being discussed. That's why I'm so excited about our involvement with these grant proposals. Not only will this research, if funded, benefit everyone in the commercial sheep business, but these grants will also propel the Polypay breed to the forefront of the sheep industry, in my opinion. These opportunities will be good for all Polypay breeders.

I'm also optimistic that we'll be able to gather together this summer for our APSA Annual Meeting to be held during the Center of the Nation Sale in Spencer, IA on July 30th. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. CDT and a Zoom link will be made available for those not able to attend. The annual meeting is a great opportunity for fellow breeders to share information, renew friendships and learn more about the future of the industry. Please plan on attending in-person or via Zoom.

As the weather warms and Spring is full bloom, we're busy at Big Prairie Polypays getting ready for another breeding season. Rams will be put with ewes at the end of April and I'm optimistic we'll have a great set of naturally-conceived lambs on the ground in late September and October. As I write, the White Sox have won four in a row, and my optimism for a World Championship is renewed again this year. Things are good! We all have reason to optimistic. Our breed is in demand and big things are on the horizon.

As always, thank you for continued support of our association and the commercial sheep industry. If you ever have questions or just want to talk, please give me a call or send me an email. I'd love talking sheep with you and maybe even a little baseball!

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 Summer newsletter would need to be sent to meurer66@gmail.com by July 15.

Annual Membership Meeting

The 2021 annual membership meeting of the APSA is planned to be held at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, IA, on July 30th, at 8:00 pm CDT, in conjunction with the Center of the Nation NSIP Sale on the 31st. At this time, the Center of the Nation Sale is still a go for that weekend. If that changes, and IF we have a workable email address for you, you will be notified. If in doubt, contact a board member to confirm. If you are unable to attend in person, we plan to have online participation available via ZOOM meeting. A Zoom link will be made available and emailed at a later date.

The agenda for the meeting will include a treasurer's report, announcement of the results of the board election, introduction of the board, and any other topic the membership wishes to discuss.

Mark your calendar to attend this meeting. It's your organization. Hope to see you in July.

2021 Sale Events of Interest

Polypay sheep continue to be in demand across the country. There are three sales listed below that draw significant participation by APSA members. You can be assured there will be quality Polypay breeding stock consigned to each of them. Why not have some of the consignments be yours? For more details on participation as a consignor, buyer, or both, check with the web sites.

June 14-19 Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO
www.midwestsale.com/2021

July 12-14 NSIP Online Sale, Polypays on 12th,
<http://nsip.org/home/events/2021-online-sale/>

July 30-31 Center of the Nation NSIP Sale,
Spencer, IA
<http://nsip.org/home/events/center-of-the-nation-nsip-sale/>

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 2021, your membership dues are due.

MEINDERS STOCK FARMS SUMMER POLYPAY SALES

"Born to Perform"
Online Polypay Sale, Vol. IV
Monday, July 5th, 2021
 Wlivestock.com
 Buffalo Center, Iowa

Center of the Nation Sale
Saturday, July 31st, 2021
 Clay County Fairgrounds
 Spencer, Iowa



Watch for these elite January and February born rams selling this summer!

This is the best set of rams we have ever produced here at Meinders Stock Farms and the EBVs agree! We will feature sons out of four breed-leading stud rams, each with different strengths to fit the needs of your flock!

Ram ID	Sire	Birth Type	Mwwt	Wwt	Pwwt	NLB	NLW	Mat Index
MSF 1002	Diamond K 9107	Triplet	2.1	1.9	5.3	25	29	117.4
MSF 1009	Hidden Valley 7022	Twin	1.6	2.9	5.6	26	39	121
MSF 1010	Hidden Valley 7022	Twin	1.6	2.7	5.5	26	39	120.9
MSF 1051	Diamond K 9107	Twin	2.1	2	5.2	21	25	116
MSF 1053	PRO-EWE 20038	Twin	1.8	2	4	23	35	119.3
MSF 1054	PRO-EWE 20038	Twin	1.8	2	3.9	23	35	119.3
MSF 1058	Hidden Valley 7022	Twin	1.4	2.8	5.2	24	35	118.6
MSF 1079	Hidden Valley 7022	Twin	1.3	2.7	6	21	33	117.9
MSF 1081	Hidden Valley 7022	Twin	1.3	3.2	7.2	24	34	118.1
MSF 1100	Henke 2115G	Twin	1.1	3.2	7.4	34	32	116.6



Thanks to all the great buyers and bidders who participated in our "Born to Perform" Online Polypay Sale, Vol. III, on April 5th!

13 rams averaged \$879 and went to 6 states!

Buffalo Center, Iowa
 NSIP Flock # 620121

meindersstockfarmpolypays.com

Zach Meinders | 515-320-3835 | meinders2@hotmail.com
 Jake Meinders | 515-320-3738 | meinders5253@hotmail.com

Save the hassle of online and in person sales. Buy production Polypays direct with 40+ years of purebred genetics.

We will meet or beat any online or in person sale animal price of comparable NSIP data. Our flock has above average indexes in all categories.

Hausser Polypays
Eagle, WI

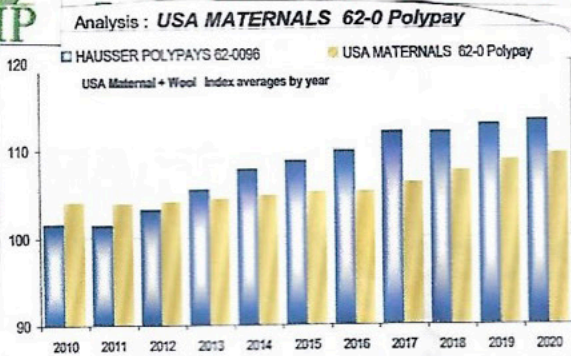
ewe lambs for sale Mat USA index 111.5-117.6



262-495-2692



Maternal ewes and Rams with Maternal & Terminal Sire Traits



2020 Mature ewes lambing at 267%

2021 Mature ewes lambing at 262%

Flock tested OPP negative January 2020

USA MATERNALS 62-0 Polypay							Maternal + Wool
	MWwt	Wwt	Pwvt	PEMD	NLB%	NLW%	
2011	0.48	0.81	1.84	0.00	2.7	5.5	103.9
2012	0.49	0.78	1.86	0.00	3.6	6.0	104.1
2013	0.51	0.71	1.79	0.00	4.5	6.8	104.4
2014	0.53	0.75	1.84	0.00	5.6	7.6	104.7
2015	0.47	0.73	1.75	0.00	6.9	9.0	105.1
2016	0.51	0.70	1.68	0.00	7.4	9.1	105.2
2017	0.61	0.77	1.83	0.00	7.6	10.7	106.1
2018	0.74	0.96	2.23	0.00	8.6	12.9	107.4
2019	0.86	1.02	2.38	0.00	11.8	15.2	108.6
2020	0.98	1.01	2.46	0.00	12.2	16.2	109.3

HAUSER POLYPAYS 62-0096							Maternal + Wool
	MWwt	Wwt	Pwvt	PEMD	NLB%	NLW%	
2011	0.47	0.65	1.80		7.5	0.4	101.5
2012	0.76	1.03	2.77		10.2	2.5	103.3
2013	1.02	1.04	2.76		12.8	6.6	105.5
2014	0.97	1.26	3.13		15.4	12.4	107.8
2015	1.08	1.01	2.60		16.3	14.3	108.7
2016	1.03	0.73	1.93		17.4	17.9	109.8
2017	1.18	0.84	2.44		22.2	22.5	112.0
2018	0.98	0.82	2.41		23.6	23.8	111.9
2019	1.21	1.19	3.46		23.0	23.9	112.8
2020	1.50	1.63	4.63		21.7	22.3	113.2

Mary & Don Hausser S67 W38381 Hy ZZ Eagle, WI 262-495-2692

d.mhausser@gmail.com

Director Election Time

The APSA Bylaws call for election of members to the board of directors each year for three year terms. This year two directors will be elected.

The terms of Chris Kaeb and Jeremy Refshaw are up this year. Both have served two terms and can't serve another term at this time. Nominations were requested in the winter newsletter and APSA members nominated only the two candidates listed below by the March 31 deadline. 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

Kayla Inbody

My name is Kayla Inbody, I started raising Polypays in 2012 and have been hooked ever since! My husband Luke and I have about 12-15 polypay brood ewes along with 10 head of white dorpers. I have been tossing around the idea of running for the board for awhile now and finally got the courage to do so. I believe that the future of the association lies in the hands of the junior members, without the juniors there is no growth and future of a breed. Promoting junior involvement would be a focus of mine. Some things to benefit this would be to bring back the junior show, with the option of a futurity ewe comeback show, and starter flock which has been discussed. I think that the board could use some diversity to help represent the breed as a whole part, which I feel that I can add that diversity and perspective with an open mind.

Matt Chadwick

My name is Matt Chadwick, together with my wife Kelsey and our girls Dava (6) and Daphne (3) we make up Chadwick Sheep Company in Murray, KY. We are currently running 85 registered Polypay ewes with a focus on mixing traditional phenotypically traits with NSIP production. We began entering our ewes in NSIP in 2020 utilizing data all the way back to our first lambing season. We practice intensive rotational grazing with our ewes from post-weaning through late gestation. Our love for the Polypay breed dates back to our high school days when we were just dating. Kelsey applied for and won a Polypay starter flock. The contrast in the mothering capabilities and production in comparison to her original flock black-faced cross was tremendous. During college, we were married and went through a season of our life where we could not afford and did not have the time to keep sheep. However, in 2015, we have been blessed to move back to the farm and start our family. We had the desire for our children to have the same opportunities to grow up with the farm life we were blessed with. So we returned to the Polypay breed and purchased our original foundation ewes from Sammons Polypays. I would like to serve on the board because I feel very strongly that Polypays are an excellent breed that brings a wide variety of benefits to the farm and I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to further their reputation in the industry. I also would like to work with the board to return to an annual National Show and Sale with youth events. Our current farm is a direct result of those youth events and proof they are a great resource to establish new lifetime breeders. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

Ballot for the Board of Directors of the American Polypay Sheep Association 2020

Kayla Inbody (____)

Matt Chadwick (____)

You may vote for up to two candidates.

Each active membership that has 2021 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, 2021 to Mark Meurer, 1669 Midway Rd., Ashton, IL 61006 . 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 Mark and include your name in the return address section.

