

A Big Prairie Perspective

Mark Meurer, President

I once heard a preacher say, "We should live our lives with an attitude of gratitude." Be thankful. I thought in this edition of the newsletter, I'd say "thank you" with an attitude of gratitude.

First, thank you to the APSA membership. Our association has continued to stay the course and focus on the commercial sheep industry. I recently received an email from someone that I have the utmost respect for. In fact, to this day, this individual is my mentor. He was my old boss and a leader in the livestock industry. He wanted to thank our breed for staying committed to the commercial sheep business. So many other breeds have veered away from the commercial industry and focused on the show ring. As an association, people recognize that we as Polypay breeders, have not lost focus on the American sheep producer. Thank you for your dedication, commitment and hard work in keeping the Polypay breed focused on what really matters...the commercial sheep industry.

Second, I'm thankful for a Polypay board that has focused on positioning our breed in the forefront of the commercial industry. With our commitment to three excellent grants that will benefit the sheep industry and our renewed interest in developing a youth starter flock program focused on commercial sheep production, we have a lot to be thankful for. Financially, our association is strong, our membership numbers are steady and registrations are running well ahead of last year. A heart-felt thank you to our out-going board members who have served us so well. Thanks to Chris Kaeb for his leadership and for serving as Treasurer for several years. Thanks to Jeremy Refshaw for his commitment and leadership in developing our youth starter flock program. Their leadership will greatly be missed, but we welcome Kayla Inbody and Matt Chadwick to the board to fill their shoes. Kayla and Matt will be great additions to the board and we look

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APSA Board of Directors

Mark Meurer, President	2023-1
1669 Midway Rd.	
Ashton, IL 61006	
meurer66@gmail.com	815-973-5576

Bryce Freking, Vice-Pres.	2022-2
924 35th St.	
Ceylon, MN 56121	
frekingpolypay@gmail.com	605-310-0733

Matt Chadwick, Secretary	2024-1
200 Shadow Circle	
Murray, KY 42071	
chadwicksheepcompany@gmail.com	270-227-8731

Mark Van Roekel, Treasurer	2023-2
3891 390th St.	
Orange City, IA 51041	
mandbvr@gmail.com	712-540-8710

John Anderson,	2022-2
10131 Munson Rd.	
Shreve, OH 44676	
johnwallaceanderson@gmail.com	330-749-9053

Kathy Ewert	2022-2
20009 62nd St.	
McLouth, KS 66054	
kmewert@embarqmail.com	913-796-6044

Kayla Inbody	2024-1
10356 Cty Rd. 30	
Dunkirk, OH 45836	
flinn_13@hotmail.com	419-306-2451



Perspective continued

forward to their insight and involvement on the board.

Finally, thank you to all the consigners and buyers who attended sales and online sales this spring and summer. Our breed continues to provide excellent genetics that have done outstanding in the sale ring this past year. We had a strong sale at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale and the NSIP Sale in Spencer was well attended and successful, with rams averaging over \$1000 per head and ewe lambs averaging almost \$600 per head. Individual online sales were also strong and generated a lot of interest and enthusiasm for the Polypay breed, as well. Again, thanks to everyone who consigned and thanks to all the buyers around the country who put their faith in Polypay genetics.

As always, if you ever have questions or just want to chat, please call me at any time! Let's keep an attitude of gratitude and be thankful for being a part of the best breed of sheep in the nation! Polypays.

FOR SALE: POLYPAY RAM LAMBS

6201412021021021-USM 116.37 QR
6201412021021018-USM 119.28 RR
6201412021021070-USM 117.77 QR
6201412021021068-USM 118.74 RR
6201412021021037-USM 118.94 RR
6201412021021006-USM 119.70 RR

6201412021021021 sired by
6200782017017415

Rest are sired by
6200782018018370

Wollin Sheep Farm
Scott Wollin
218-686-5513

Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the American Polypay Sheep Association was held at 8:00 p.m. CDT on July 30th at the Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IA during the Center of the Nation Sale. The meeting was well attended by an in-person crowd and via Zoom. Mark Van Roekel, APSA board member, provided ice cream and brownies.

President Meurer call the meeting to order and relayed that the membership numbers are stable, registrations are running ahead of last year and the financial condition of the APSA is very good.

A report was given by Jeremy Refshaw on the starter flock program and Ron Lewis, PhD, John Carlson, PhD and Kathy Ewert, DVM provided reports on the three grant proposals that the APSA is involved with.

Bryce Freking, Vice President, gave an update on the APSA online sale that potentially will be held next spring.

Election results were presented and the board thanked Jeremy Refshaw and Chris Kaeb for their service on the board and welcomed Matt Chadwick and Kayla Inbody to the board as new members.

Meeting adjourned around 9:00 p.m.



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.

2021 Polypay Sale Results

It was great to see Polypay sheep and producers again being able to gather in person for sheep sales. Interest in and demand for Polypay sheep remains high among commercial producers.

The summer sale season started off, as usual, with the Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Sedalia, MO. Six Polypay rams sold for an average of \$650. Seven Polypay ewes sold for an average of \$489.

The top selling rams were two rams consigned by Luke and Kayla Inbody, L&K Sheep, that sold for \$1000 each. They headed for new homes in Iowa and South Dakota.

Next up was the NSIP Onlin Sale. 27 Polypay rams sold online for an average of \$994. 28 Polypay ewes sold for an average of \$903.

Top selling rams were consigned by:
Univ. of Wisconsin \$1800 to SD
Shady Lane Farms \$1700 to SD
Refshaw Ranch \$1650 to ND
JCC Polypays \$1600 to CO
Diamond K Sheep Co. \$1525 to IA
JCC Polypays \$1500 to NE

On the last day of July, the Center of the Nation NSIP Sale was held in Spencer, IA. 42 Polypay rams were sold in this sale for an average price of \$1030. 43 Polypay ewes were sold for an average of \$597.

Top selling rams here were consigned by:
Shady Lane Farms \$4000 to KY
Meinders Stock Farms \$2200 to CO
Hausser Polypays \$1800 to WI
Refshaw Ranch \$1700 to IN
Big Prairie Polypays \$1600 to PA
Big Prairie Polypays \$1600 to IA

View from the Great Lakes State

Brett Pharo

It's already the middle of August. Where has the year gone? It's been an unusual year, it seems, though I suppose they all are unique. After a fairly mild winter and a warm April for lambing, the weather turned cold in May. This resulted in a lot of damage to the cherry crop, which is the main crop in this area. Interestingly, our small personal use orchard of peaches, pears and apples fared quite well.

We spent the spring and early summer through the end of June in a drought, which made for some grazing challenges. Normally, during May and June, we have plenty of rain. Then, in July, the heavenly spigots opened up as we came to our "dry" season. We had the wettest July on record. In August, the day before our small county fair started, we had a torrential downpour for a couple hours. Nobody really knows how much rain we got as all of us have gauges that only go to 5 or 6 inches. That caused a lot of damage, including wiping out the road we would normally travel on to the fair. We were able to take alternate routes, though.

At the fair, my four granddaughters had market lamb projects. Their lambs were 50% Polypay, and represented the breed well. Being a very small fair, there were only seven lambs there (still the biggest livestock category), 6 of 7 were the junior age group. Proud grandpa watched as those four girls took the top four places in junior showmanship. For the top three, it was not close except between them. They all did a fantastic job, including the fourth place finisher who is autistic and with her first project. Her stimulus tolerance was tested, but she kept it together well. They also took the top two places in the market class. All four had some very meaty lambs. When it came sale time, there were a couple tears, but they gained the top four prices by a good margin. I may need to talk to them about a loan. It's always gratifying to see the interest in, and knowledge of, sheep grow in younger generations.

In a few days, we'll turn rams in to start the 4-H cycle again. Only for a few days, though, as I don't like lambing in the cold.



Polypay Breed Standards

Polypay sheep are a very versatile breed, and fit well into many commercial and purebred scenarios. Different breeders in different situations will naturally apply differing emphases to their selection process. To be registered, though, requires adherence to certain standards, both pedigree and physical. These standards are laid out in the corporate bylaws, and can be found on the APSA website at polypay.org.

Per the bylaws, the physical standards a Polypay must meet to be registered are described as follows:

Physical requirements - The animal must be:

1. Free of gross anatomical defects including entropion, parrot jaw, etc.
2. Free of wool blindness
3. Free of neck folds
4. Free of extreme britchiness or coarseness of wool
5. Ewes must be polled; scurs in rams are undesirable and should be discriminated against.
6. All wool must be white and have no more than 10% colored hair on the face or legs
7. Be permanently and continuously identified by ear tags or tattoo prior to weaning



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 Fall newsletter would need to be sent to meurer66@gmail.com by October 15.



Pee on the electric fence they said
It'll be fun they said

