



# Mountain States Lamb Cooperative

## April 2016 Newsletter

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### MSLC 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting July 20-22, 2016

Our 14th Annual Meeting will be held this year in Loveland, Colorado, July 20-22. The headquarters in beautiful Loveland will again be the Embassy Suites. We hope all our members can join for this very important annual meeting and update. In addition, we will take a special tour of our lamb plant in Greeley.

The event kicks off on Wednesday evening, July 20, with our welcoming reception. You will not want to miss this special time to reconnect with fellow producers.

The MSLC Annual Business Meeting will get underway first thing Thursday morning, July 21. The day will feature many Co-op, MSR, and industry updates, along with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Friday will be set aside to tour our lamb plant as owners.

As plans are finalized, we will send a full agenda with the registration information in late May or early June. As in prior years, your registration fee will include all your meals and tour transportation costs.

We are excited to return to the Embassy Suites Loveland as it has been rated in the top 1% of all Embassy Suites in the world for 5 years running. They also did an excellent job for us when we were there in 2011. It is a 50-minute drive from Denver International Airport or to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

The two room suites include free parking, complimentary cooked to order breakfast and a nightly manager's reception featuring snacks and cocktails. You can go ahead and reserve your room

by calling 1-800-Embassy and reference the Mountain States Lamb Group block. Our rate for double occupancy in a suite is \$139.00. Mountain View rooms are \$159.00. June 24, 2016 will be the cutoff for room reservations. If you have any problems with room reservations, please give our office a call.

### BOARD ELECTIONS

It is board election time again. This year District 2 and 3 are up for election. The board seats are for a three-year term.

District 2 includes ID, IA, MT, NE, ND, OR, SD, and WA. This seat is currently held by Robert Oxarango, Emmett, ID.

District 3 includes the states of AZ, CA, CO, KS, MO, OH, TX, UT, and NM. Jay Hasbrouck, Ault, CO currently holds this board seat.

Nominations forms will be sent out later this month, with voting to take place in June.

### AFFIDAVITS

If you are an A share member of the Co-op please find enclosed a Country of Origin Labeling affidavit and a Quality Assurance affidavit. Please complete these affidavits and return them to the office at your earliest convenience. They can be returned via mail, fax, or scanned and sent by email to [mailbox@mslamb.com](mailto:mailbox@mslamb.com). Thank you for returning them quickly and avoiding any delays in processing your lambs. We are required to have these forms signed each year and kept on file.

## **FRENCH RACKS FOR MOTHER'S DAY AND/OR FATHER'S DAY**

Mother's Day is coming up on May 8 and Father's Day is June 19. Lamb makes the perfect gift for either occasion and we think Rack of Lamb is hard to beat. We offer 4 rib and 8 rib racks.

Give us a call at the office if you are interested in lamb for any occasion. Just remember it is best to call at least two weeks before you want the meat shipped.

## **TOP LAMBS**

Louis and Jerry Schmidt from Monte Vista, Colorado marketed our top lambs in December. Fed by the Schmidts, these lambs returned an average of \$4.18 in marketing premiums. The average pelt in December returned \$10.27.

January's top lambs were marketed by Meike Ranch from Kaycee, WY. Fed by Drake Feedlot in Pine Bluffs, WY the lambs returned a \$5.03 average on the grid and another \$2.93 in natural premiums for a total premium of \$7.96. The average pelt returned \$10.84 in January.

Randall Jones, Otto, Wyoming, fed and marketed the top February lambs. These lambs returned an average of \$3.75 in market grid premiums and another \$2.75 in natural premiums for a total premium of \$6.50. The February average pelt earned \$7.12.

## **Market Update**

A strong dollar continues to create very strong pressure from imports and weak demand for American Lamb. Relatively lackluster Christmas demand led to an oversupply of lambs by the first of January. The industry as a whole and your Co-op continue to try to move lambs through the system and get current.

While the purchase of the plant has certainly allowed us to get more lambs killed, we obviously

till have to be able to move the meat. With the purchase of the plant we have been able to pick up carcass customers and this has helped. A strengthening pelt market has been another bright spot.

Your meat company, Mountain States Rosen, has added additional sales staff. MSR continues to focus on developing new markets and expanding our customer base. Members attending the annual meeting will be able to learn about all the new marketing efforts and opportunities. Sales staff will be on hand to discuss how your product is marketed and will present samples of our product and our various packaging capabilities.

## **SHARE SALES**

Our D share offering went incredibly well. Thank you to everyone for the strong support that enabled us to complete the purchase of the plant and with a lower level of bank financing.

With the purchase of the plant there has been increased interest in Mountain States Lamb Cooperative and our A shares. We have several new members and several more memberships in process.

If you are interested in buying, selling or leasing shares please give the office a call. We maintain a list of those members who have notified us that they have shares available for sale or lease. Either list will be sent out upon request. It is up to the individuals to work out the terms of any transaction and then notify the office.

Leasing arrangements must have a lease form completed and signed by both parties. These forms are available from the office.

When there is a sale the buyer should send the check made out to the seller (original shareholder) to the office. The shareholder should endorse their A certificate and send it to the office. After the board has approved the transaction, a new certificate will be issued to the buyer and the check mailed to the seller.