



# Mountain States Lamb Cooperative

## August/September 2015 Newsletter

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### 2015 MSLC Annual Meeting

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Mountain States Lamb Cooperative was well- attended by more than 115 producers, sponsors and family members from 11 states. The membership meeting featured financial, operational and strategic updates on Mountain States Lamb and our meat company, Mountain States Rosen. Some of the strategic moves discussed continue to move forward and an update will be provided to members when possible.

Mike Wheeler, CEO of Nugget International, provided members with insight to the current pelt market and a good understanding of the challenges the pelt market is facing. Kevin Quam, Head of JBS Lamb Business, provided an update on the lamb plant and fielded questions about the industry.

Friday's Big Horn Mountain Sheep Tour featured a variety of weather, incredible scenery and a close-up look at the grazing operations of Hamilton Ranch, Regan and Wendy Smith and Kay Neves.

Thursday evening, Double J Feeders was recognized for marketing the three millionth lamb. Nugget International donated the pelt awarded to Double J recognizing that accomplishment.

Friday evening, Don and Pete Meike, and Jw and Thea Nuckolls, graciously shared fascinating stories about their lives in the sheep business with the attendees.

Another successful annual meeting was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors. Please thank these sponsors when you get the opportunity as their donations keep your registration fees reasonable.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**Nugget International-Mike Wheeler,  
Windsor, CO**

**JBS Lamb-Kevin Quam, Greeley, CO**

**Center of the Nation Wool-Larry  
Prager, Belle Fourche, SD**

**Double J Feeders-Hasbrouck Family,  
Ault, CO**

**J-9 Crop Insurance-Terry Gertge,  
Ault, CO**

**Great Plains Wool Company-Bruce  
Barker, Big Horn, WY**

**Houghton Hampshires-Dean  
Houghton, Polo, MO**

**Powell Early Lamb Pool-Powell, WY**

**Rod Smith Trucking-Billings, MT**

**Mountain States Rosen-NY and  
Greeley, CO**

## NEWS TO EWES

It is going to be very important that all members submit their projected supply numbers and slotting for 2015 and 2016 to me as soon as possible, please. It looks like there will be a lot of lambs on feed in the winter months and it is of utmost importance that MSR and I know what our supply numbers are so that we may plan accordingly.

Please let me know how many tags you need if you are going to tag your own lambs. Please be as accurate as possible because it adds extra cost to MSR when I have to send another small bunch out for a second order. It is actually cheaper to send extra tags that can be used later as opposed to sending several shipments.

The pelt market is still very stagnant and doesn't look promising in the near future. It is my recommendation that you do not shear lambs if they are going to be killed by the first of the year. Keep in mind that the lambs will need 1 inch regrowth to receive any premium. Non-desirable pelts are getting as low as a negative \$2.25 per head.

It is my recommendation that producers kill their lambs at a little lighter weight than usual, especially up until January. I have a few reasons for this recommendation. First, it seems the carcass price reflects higher dollars for lambs under 155 pounds. Second, in case of an industry backup, it is essential that we get as many lambs moved through the system as early as possible to minimize the extra weight in the feedlot. Third, if a producer's lambs get pushed a week then they will not take severe discounts if we have been taking

lambs at lighter weights up until that point.

Just a reminder, we are having some interest in killer ewes and replacement ewes.

Please contact me with any questions.

*Brad*

## TOP LAMBS

Reed Land and Livestock topped the grid for both June and July. The June load average \$3.22 in grid premiums with 80% grading YG2. In July, Reed earned an average of \$3.92 in grid premiums, in addition to \$4.32 in natural premiums for a total average premium of \$8.24 per head. Both loads were fed by Tom Reed. During June, pelts averaged \$4.55 and in July they averaged \$4.32.

Etcheverry Sheep Company topped the grid in August with a \$4.82 per head average. The lambs also averaged another \$5.06 in natural premiums for a total average premium per lamb of \$9.88. These lambs were fed at Double J. Pelts averaged \$5.88 in August.

## MSLC Board Elections

Brad Boner was reelected as the Director for District 1, which covers the state of Wyoming.

Your MSLC board for 2015-2016 is: Frank Moore, Chairman, Brad Boner, Vice-Chairman, Mark Wahl, Secretary-Treasurer and Jay Hasbrouck and Robert Oxarango board members. Associate Board Members, appointed by the MSLC Board and non-voting members, are Burt Kunzler and Fred Roberts.

## 2015 Share Usage

Please remember that it is your responsibility to make sure all your shares are filled. Unfilled shares will be penalized. If you have any question regarding where you stand on filling shares for 2016 please give us a call at the office.