



Mountain States Lamb Cooperative

February/March 2015 Newsletter

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Soon to be...Three million lambs!!!

We are closing in on the three millionth lamb harvested through Mountain States Lamb Cooperative since our inception. The MSLC producer that sends the three millionth lamb will be recognized at our Annual Meeting, July 22-24, in Pocatello, ID.

Plan to come and help us celebrate this milestone. Mark your calendars for our annual meeting and watch for hotel reservation information in our next newsletter.

WYOMING TOPS GRID

Two MSLC Wyoming producers topped the January and February market grid. Both producers also fed their own lambs.

In January, Anderson Ranch/EA Sheep Company, Ten Sleep, Wyoming, marketed the top lambs. The lambs were 70% YG2's or better and earned an average of \$4.04 per head on the grid.

February's top lambs were marketed by O'Leary Flock of Torrington, WY. Flock's lambs were 67% YG2 or better and earned an average of \$4.96 per head on the grid.

Overall, MSLC lambs graded 75% YG3 or better in January and averaged 78 lb carcasses. They returned an average of \$1.59 2X dressed.

In February, 82% of our lambs graded YG3 or better and averaged 78 lb carcasses. The lamb returned an average of \$1.58 2X dressed.

The average pelt credit was \$5.36 in January and \$5.71 in February.

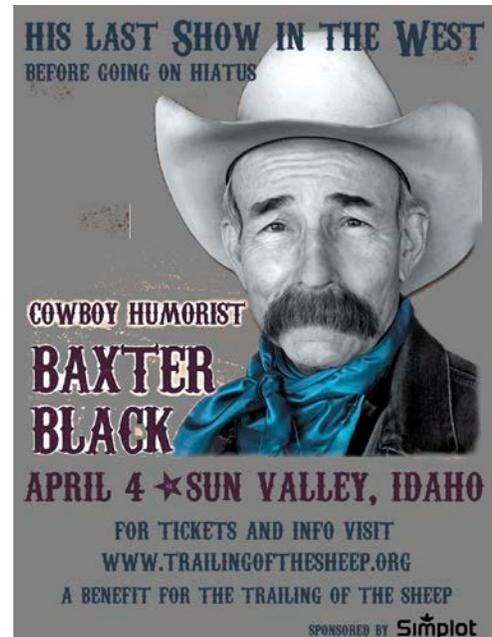
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Producer checks must be properly endorsed or they will be returned by MSLC's bank to yours for endorsement. This also means if your check is made payable to both you and your bank the bank must have a loan officer jointly endorse the check or the loan department must use their endorsement stamp. If your bank uses their general endorsement stamp the check will be returned for proper endorsement.

Failure to properly endorse the check will generally delay the funds being available for your use for at

least another two days. This happens frequently. Call our office if you have further questions.

Also, we are getting a number of calls about 1099s. No patronage dividend was issued in 2014 so no 1099-PATR forms were required this year. Our B shareholders were sent a 1099-DIV as usual.



BOARD ELECTIONS

It is time to start thinking about board elections again. This year the District One board seat is up for election. District One is Wyoming and the seat is for three years. Any MSLC member can nominate a member from District One to that seat. The seat is currently held by Brad Boner, Glenrock, Wyoming. Nominations forms will be sent out in late April.

NEWS TO EWES

It's the time of year that everyone is lambing or beginning to start the process, therefore if anyone is planning on tagging WFCF/Source Verified lambs at home then please call me with numbers and when you will need them. I'm stressing that everyone who can tag at home needs to do so as the feedlots have been running behind and this could turn into a noncompliance for our Source Verified program.

The Pelt market has seen some strength on the unshorn pelts but the shorn pelts have still lagged behind in price due to low demand and short regrowth. Shorn pelts must have 1" re-growth to catch the top premiums, but we will also start seeing discounts for full wool lambs in the near future. It's a reminder that they slow down the harvest process

and increase contamination which can result in more damaged lambs.

I'm not excited to report that the industry is in a backup situation and I am not sure when it will clear up. I'm predicting July, but that all depends on demand. Easter seems to be slow for the competition as compared to MSR. We have been fortunate enough to have good demand and great throughput to keep our membership current. It is still extremely important that we keep open communication when purchases are made and if we make any changes in our delivery plan.

Please feel free to contact me if you need anything or have any questions. **Brad Anderson**

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN.....

As I write this, Mountain States Rosen is 12 years and one week old! Brad Boner released the check that bought us 50% ownership of MSR on Mar 3, 2003. Your co-op had already been marketing lambs since Dec of 2001, and within the next 90 days we will market our three millionth lamb thru MSLC.

We couldn't have done it without your support. Thank you!

We had a great response concerning our "Associate Director" slots. We had seven exceptional names submitted, and narrowed the list down to two new associate directors that have volunteered to participate as non-voting members of your Board over the next two years.

Your two Associate Directors are Fred Roberts and Burt Kunzler. If you get a chance, please thank them for stepping up. I also want to thank the other five members that expressed an interest in the Board. Their willingness to serve is much appreciated.

On another topic, I want to applaud Brad Anderson. With your help and Brad's management the Co-op is current, with good yield grades and weight. The rest of the industry has started to experience an oversupply issue with lambs putting on unwanted extra weight.

Brad has worked very hard to establish a "Uniform Delivery Schedule" built on each member's past delivery performance. Most of you deliver in the same general time frame each year which gives Brad a great base for his schedule. Your timely communications with him on factors that may affect your delivery schedule allow him to make necessary adjustments.

We also have a number of members that do not have consistent delivery schedules for a variety of reasons. Brad has reached out to those members

and with their cooperation has been able to identify lambs committed to the Cooperative and tentative delivery periods. With this information plugged into his long term delivery schedule he is better able to meld our member's lambs with our meat company's needs.

This doesn't necessarily make Brad's job easier, because supply and demand are seldom equal, but it does help him prioritize his committed supply for available kill slots ahead of those lambs that were not scheduled in advance. Going forward it is imperative that you stay in communication with your feedlot and with Brad concerning any changes to your expected delivery dates. Call if you have questions for me. **Frank Moore**

CALLS TO ACTION

We have two very important calls to action. The first deals with H-2A workers and threatens the future viability of our members who depend on herders in their operations. The second threatens the entire American Meat Industry.

Information on the H-2A "Special Procedures" issue can be found at www.sheepusa.org in the Legislative Action Center area. Sheep producers are encouraged to contact Congress and the Department of Labor and explain the importance of this issue and ask them not to move forward with the new rule. A list of talking points is included on the website.

The second issue is the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) Report. The DGAC recommended lower red meat and processed meat consumption and stated that consuming less animal-based foods is "more health promoting and is associated with lesser environmental impact than is the current average U.S. diet". There are number of other issues with the report and these guidelines are used for decision-making in nutrition and food education, policy and school lunch program purchases. There is a 45 day comment period open which at this time is set to end April 8.

Attached are sample letters to Agricultural Secretary Vilsack and Health and Human Services Secretary Burwell. Also included, is a sample letter for your Representative and Senators. Those receiving this by email will find other options attached from Barry Carpenter of the North American Meat Institute. If you would like a paper copy of the NAMI communication sent to you just give the office a call.

There are a number of good articles describing the issues including this one at Agri-Pulse <http://agri-pulse.com/Meat-stakeholders-critical-of-final-DGAC-report-02192015.asp>