



Michigan Sheep Producers Association

Michigan Shepherds Weekend

January 4 –6, 2019

Crowne Plaza, Lansing MI

925 S. Creyts Rd, Lansing, Michigan 48917

Crowne Plaza

For hotel reservations, call 877-322-5544. A block of rooms has been reserved for Shepherd's Weekend participants at a rate of \$110.00 +tax/night. **When making reservations, specify Michigan Shepherd's Weekend, (online reservation group code: MSW). Make your reservation by December 21, 2018 to qualify for this price.**

MAIN SPEAKERS: John Steele was raised on a 2000 ewe farm in England and Eadie Steele was raised on a mixed livestock farm in Ontario. The Steele's now operate 2000 maternal composite ewes along with some select terminal sire composites on 700 acres near Norwood, Ontario. Their farming operation is a combination of technologies and production system from around the world, adopted to suit Ontario conditions and markets. The Steele's have won many awards for their farming methods, but they consider their greatest achievement to be their children Ian (age 26) and Chelsea (age 24).

Jordan Moody hails from Big Timber, Montana as a 7th generation shepherd. Jordan's family has run as many as 12,000 ewes on public lands in Big Sky country with the ranching operation needing to adapt to deal with pressures facing all Western USA sheep operations. Jordan is currently seeking her Master's Degree in Animal Science at MSU working on the interaction of nutrition and reproduction in sheep under the direction of Dr. Richard Ehrhardt.

Schedule of Events – Friday, January 4 – Room D

Sponsors listed on Sponsorship Page

- 6:00 pm Light refreshments available to participants and audience prior to the start of the program.
- 6:30-8:00 pm **Industry and Innovation Presentation Competition**
Presentations by young producers on topics relevant to the sheep industry. This year presentations will be judged and a winner will be chosen from each division. MSPA will pay for the hotel room for Friday night only for the first 4 participants registered. Please contact Heather Ludlam at drhludlam@gmail.com for more information, competition rules, and to get registered!
Young Producer Division- ages 18-35. Winner will receive a trip to the ASI Convention January 23 –26, 2019 in New Orleans, LA. Registration, airfare, and lodging included.
High School 4H/FFA Division- ages 14-17. Recognition and prizes will be given to all participants.
- 8:00-9:00 pm **Informal panel discussion with Michigan Young Producers** from all over Michigan.
This will be a great opportunity to learn from each other!
- TIME PERMITTING: Introduction of MSPA mentors in attendance. This is an opportunity to meet MSPA producers willing to mentor others—young producers, new producers and anyone looking to learn.

Schedule of Events – Saturday, January 5

Banquet Rooms D, E, F

- 7:30 am Registration in Lobby for programs and competitions.
- 8:00 am Early bird coffee sponsored by Sydells, Inc and Kent Nutrition Group
- 8:45-9:10 am Opening session/welcome – Ben Bartlett, President MSPA
- 9:10-10:20 **"Sheep Farming Innovations in Michigan during 2018" - Dr. Richard Ehrhardt,** Departments of Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Science, MSU.
A review of lamb markets along with innovative new practices and ideas gleaned from the field in 2019.

- 10:20-11:25 **“Show Ewe the Money” - Eadie Steele**, Shepherds Choice, Norwood, Ontario. Your business plans and financial statements are living documents. They allow you to monitor the strength and health of your business. Just like your sheep, your finances cannot be ignored.
- 11:30 – 11:45 **Dale Thorne** – American Lamb Board
- 11:50 Lunch on your own or buffet offered by hotel. Mingle with vendors.
- 12:00 Ram Session.** Discussion moderated by Dave Meeuwse. Meet in the Packard Room with/without your lunch to discuss current topics of interest or concerns to the sheep industry. We are also looking for input on items to include in MSPA Policy

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: EXPLANATION OF EACH BREAKOUT SESSION IS DESCRIBED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Time	ROOM C Dale Thorne Facilitator	ROOM D Ben Bartlett Facilitator	ROOM E Wendy Villarreal Facilitator	ROOM F Dave Meeuwse Facilitator Program developed by Dr. Richard Ehrhardt
1:15 – 2 pm	How to Improve Your Wool Clip for both commercial and purebred producers- Letty Klein	Using Your Time for Profit – Ben Bartlett	Developing the Profit Mindset – Part 1 Roger Betz, MSU Extension, Farm Business Management Educator	Benefits of a National Sheep/Goat Defect Registry Dr. Tasia Taxis, Dept. of Animal Science, MSU
2:05 – 2:55 pm	Do you want to direct market Lamb? - Megan Wortman, American Lamb Board	Using YOUR Talent for Profit – Eadie and John Steele, Ontario sheep producers	Developing the Profit Mindset – Part 2 Roger Betz, MSU Extension, Farm Business Management Educator	A: 2019 Michigan Flock Survey Info Session – & B: Value added production through certification Aimee Swenson Buckley Ph.D. Candidate, MSU
3:00	Ice Cream Break Sponsored by Mid States Wool Growers and Purina Animal Health Group			
3:15 – 4 pm	Check off dollars – where are they spent – Megan Wortman, American Lamb Board	Using YOUR Treasure for Profit – Mark Oberlin and Jennifer Whitford, GreenStone FCS	NRCS Primer for the Beginning Farmer Karry A. Tricky, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS	Sheep Production at MSU Lacey Quail, MSU Sheep Teaching and Research Center Manager

- 4:05 -5:05 **2017 Award Winners – Room F.** Each award winner will have 20 minutes to make a presentation. **Master Commercial Producer, Jim & Claudia Chapman, Master Club Lamb Producer, Henne Family, Master Purebred Producer, Alan Culham.** Dave Meeuwse is facilitator

Description of each Breakout Session

Room C

1:15 – 2:00 **How to Improve Your Wool Clip – Letty Klein**, Pine Lane Farm, MSPA Board Member. Whether you have commercial wool sheep or you are geared to the fiber artist, we will discuss ways to recognize wool quality and to improve the price you get for your wool. Participants may bring a fleece to be discussed and evaluated.

2:02 – 2:55 **Do you want to direct market Lamb? Megan Wortman**, American Lamb Board

3:15 - 4:00 Where will your check off dollar be spent. Find out how we have increased the demand for American Lamb - Megan – American Lamb Board

Room D **Making a Profit with Sheep – using your Time – Talent – Treasure - Ben Bartlett**

1:15 – 2:00 **Using YOUR Time for Profit** – New sheep producers often are short on experience (talent) and money (treasure) but they do have energy and “time” to make their sheep businesses profitable. Are you “straightening nails” or making “\$1,000/hr strategic investments”? Learn how to make the most of your valuable asset

2:05 – 2:55 **Using YOUR Talent for Profit – Eadie and John Steele**, Ontario sheep producers. How to make your sheep business and your talents match. Recognizing your own skills and talents. Recognizing the skills and talents of others. How to fill the gaps that remain with education and professional advisors.

3:15-4:00 pm **Using YOUR Treasure for Profit – Mark Oberlin and Jennifer Whitford, GreenStone FCS.** Is your money working for you or are you always playing catch up and “hoping for the best”? Your money, owned and borrowed, should be making you money. Ideas and guidelines from people who have “seen it all” - what works and what doesn’t work.

Room E

1:15 – 2:00 **Developing the Profit Mindset, Part 1: Good Beginnings - Farm Business Plan Creation. Roger Betz, MSU.**

This session will focus on the development of the Farm Business Plan. It will discuss the advantages of creating a plan, both for new farming ventures and for those seeking to define future projects. It will discuss online interactive resources that will walk the farm owner through the process of business plan development. The Farm Business Plan will be able to quantify the question of, "Will my farming venture make a profit?"

2:05 – 2:55 **Developing the Profit Mindset, Part 2: Breakeven Analysis. Roger Betz, MSU** A brutal look at the true costs of farming.

This session will focus on the question of "Is my farming venture making money?" It will dig into the true costs of farming by looking at the process of Breakeven Analysis and further serve to look at how the costs compare to those of a similar farming venture. Although farming is both an occupation and lifestyle choice, Breakeven Analysis should provide us with a clear-eyed look at the consequences of our choices.

3:15 – 4:00 **NRCS Primer for the Beginning Farmer, Karry A.Tricky**, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS

This session will discuss the purpose of the NRCS and how they can assist the farmer in Natural Resources Management. The NRCS provides technical, financial and educational assistance to all private landowners, farmers and ranchers throughout the country. Many MSPA members have already taken advantage of the myriad of programs offered through the NRCS. Learn more about how the NRCS can be of assistance to your farming operation.

Room F

1:15 – 2:00 **Have you, or someone you’ve known, had unexplained traits show up in the flock? Dr. Tasia Taxis, Dept. of Animal Science, MSU.** You are not alone. While the defect might be rare in your flock, across the U.S. the numbers might be quite high. Submitting samples to a National Sheep Defect Registry may aid in identification and prevention of future cases. The success of the registry relies on you!

2:05 – 2:55 **Aimee Swenson Buckley Ph.D. Candidate, MSU.** January 1 launches the inaugural statewide flock survey. This project is nationally the first of it's kind, and will work to gather info on demographics, genetics, and producer barriers for every shepherd in Michigan. Come learn about what information the survey will be gathering, the importance of your participation, and how it will be used to benefit our industry. Plus, producers in attendance will have the opportunity to complete the survey on site. www.michiganflocksurvey.com (20 min).

Description B: There are a growing number of options for value-added certifications for sheep producers. Learn what certifications are available and how to approach the process. Certification options for Humane, Non-GMO, and Organic categories will be briefly introduced to allow producers to begin to research the best option for their operation (20 min).

3:15 – 4:00 **Lacey Quail, MSU Sheep Teaching and Research Center Manager.** Research, extension, and teaching programs are all valuable tools that can be used to advance sheep production in all areas across the country. Learn about sheep production at MSU and how we incorporate these tools into our program.

Saturday evening

- 5:00 – 6:00 pm Walk thru the Trade Show
6:00 pm Social hour and youth auction – Doyle Dingman, Auctioneer
6:30–10:00 pm Sub sandwich & pizza party (Youth sponsors are listed in the Youth Program)
7:00 pm Banquet –Ben Barlett, MC. **Lamb donated by Wolverine Packing Company**

Schedule of Events – Sunday, January 6 Banquet Rooms D, E, F

- 8:00 am Wake up coffee **sponsored by Sanders Insurance Agency**
Breakfast on your own. There is a restaurant in the hotel or fast food restaurants close by.
- 8:30 am Meditation – Dale Thorne – Packard Room
- 9:00–10:00 **“Why we do what we do” - John Steele**, Shepherds Choice, Norwood, Ontario.
The thought process behind our systems approach to efficient building design, lambing protocols and pasture management. We all need balance between necessary jobs and lifestyle choices. Are you working for your sheep, or are your sheep working for you? For more info and background visit <http://www.shepherdschoice.ca>
- 10:05-11:15 Annual meeting MSPA President– Ben Bartlett
- 11:15-11:30 ASI Update, **John Dvorak**, ASI Region 3 Director
- 11:30 Brunch – Buffet Lunch. **United Producers Inc. helps sponsor the brunch.**
- 12:30-1:30 pm **“Western USA sheep production: Traditions and Challenges” - Jordan Moody.**
Description: The vast majority of lamb produced in the USA comes from Western rangeland yet we know very little about the traditions and challenges of this production system. Learn about the traditions and challenges of western rangeland sheep production from a 7th generation Montana shepherd.

Youth Programs & Activities

(Aurora Room on southeast corner of hotel lobby)

Sponsors listed on Sponsorship Page

Saturday, January 5

9:30 – 9:35 am Welcome Young Shepherds- **Brenda Reau**, Youth Committee Chair

9:35 -10:25 **The Wonder of Wool - Letty Klein**, Pine Lane Farm, MSPA Board Member

Letty judges fleeces across the country and will talk about characteristics that make up a fleece and how to evaluate good wool. There will be a discussion on the fleece differences between breeds of wool sheep. Participants are encouraged to bring a fleece or even a sample for hands-on discussion.

10:25-10:35 **Wool Breed Bingo - Samantha Ludlam**, Youth Committee Member, Former MSPA Scholarship Recipient

10:35 –10:45 Door prizes and refreshment break. **Sponsored by Scovill's Sheep City**

10:45 - 11:45 **"Doc, why do a necropsy?"- Dr. James Averill**, Deputy Director Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Donna Averill, MSU Veterinary Technician. Willowcreek Farm
Learn the value of conducting a necropsy on a sheep that has died. Such insight may help stop further deaths from occurring

11:15 –11:50 **Moving Sheep: Are You Prepared?** Are you buying or selling sheep out of state? Going to a show? This session will help you understand health papers and what you need to do to move sheep across state lines- **Dr. James Averill, Deputy Direct MDARD and Donna Averill, MSU Veterinary Technician.**

11:45 –Noon Door prizes and announcements for afternoon schedule

12:00 –1:00 pm LUNCH on your own with your parents

*** Preregister for one of the two afternoon activities so we can plan for transportation and supplies.**

1:15–3:45 **Bus Tour: "See what the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has to offer"**. Have you ever wondered how a laboratory operates...do we have a deal for you. Get a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes and see how a veterinary laboratory operates and see the tools they use to determine a sheep's illness. Youth under 9 must be accompanied by an older sibling or parent.

OR

1:30 – 3:00 ***Make -It Take-It Wool Workshop and Games. Julia Schlegel**, Former MSPA Scholarship Recipient
Join us for some hands-on fun making sheep crafts and playing some games. Youth under 6 should be accompanied by an older sibling or parent.

6:30-10:00 pm Sub/Pizza and Swimming Party - Ages 5-18. Cost is \$3.00.

Join your friends for a good time while mom and dad attend the Annual Banquet. Bring your swimsuits and basketballs. Party is coordinated by Donyaellie Wheaton.

Sunday, January 6

REO ROOM

9:00-11:00 am Junior Quiz Bowl Contest - Ages 13 and under will compete in teams of four. Come with a team, or facilitators will help you find a team. Prizes for all teams will be awarded at the brunch.

DUSENBERG ROOM

9:00 11:00 Master Shepherd Competition - Ages 14-18. This event will challenge older youth to apply their skills and knowledge about sheep. Teams of two or three will all be given a "real life" scenario to address. Each team will have time to problem solve and prepare a short presentation that will be given to a panel of judges. Prizes for all teams will be awarded at the brunch.

Weekend Events

Trade Show – Industry representatives from all segments of the sheep industry have been invited to participate in a commercial exhibit area that will be open throughout the weekend.

Warm & Woolly Competition – Handspun Yarn and Handcrafted Items. Guidelines and forms are on misheep.org under the heading Forms. Martha Town and Kelly Brandt have volunteered to help out with this event and invite all members young and old to submit examples of their hand spinning and hand crafted wool articles to demonstrate all the possibilities our wool crop has to offer. This year we invite felters, knitters, braiders, crocheters, weavers, and all other hand crafters who use wool yarns and/or fibers in their creations. We want to demonstrate the variety of uses for the assortment of wools we produce from both our larger and smaller flocks. Items need not be completed in the last year so bring some pieces that show off your skills! If you are considering donating a skein or finished wool craft to one of the auctions, please consider entering it in one of the competitions first. There will be cash prizes awarded! Register for this contest near the registration desk Saturday morning between 7:30 and 10 am.

If you have any questions at all, reach out to Kelly Brandt at kellybrandt@yahoo.com or 616-374-7176 or to Martha Town at mtown@frontiernet.net." Winners will be announced at the banquet.

Photo Contest – Contestants shall consist of two age groups: YOUTH - 17 years old and younger and ADULT – 18 years old and up. Photo shall be a 5x7 only. Pictures may be Black & White or Color. Both Youth and Adult divisions will include the following classes

1. Portrait of a sheep
2. Flock scene
3. Human interest
4. Fairs and exhibitions
5. Shearer at work

Limit – ONE photo per division per contestant. Entries MUST be submitted on Saturday, January 4 between 10 am and 12 noon. Entries must be suitably matted and framed with secure hooks for hanging or be able to free stand.

Entries MUST have the following information on the back of photo to qualify for the contest:

1. Adult's name or Youth's name with parents' name
2. Age group and youth's age
3. Class division

Pictures will be judged late afternoon. Winners will be announced at the banquet. There will be a special award for Best of Show. Photos can be picked up Saturday evening. If you have further questions, please talk to **Deb Caryl** at 810-730-8252.

Silent Auctions – Two silent auctions will provide an opportunity to purchase some great items to support our youth program. The Saturday auction will conclude at 3:15 pm. The Sunday auction will conclude at 11 am. Winners will be able to pay for items at the registration desk. **Coordinator is Brenda Reau.**

Make It With Wool Contest – Make It With Wool participants will conduct a short style show during the banquet and sell Wool Comforter Raffle tickets. **Coordinator is Cindy Reisig.**

Banquet – The MSPA Annual Banquet will begin with a social hour and auction at 6:00 pm on Saturday. Dinner starts at 7 pm. The auction will continue after dinner. The auction includes a variety of donated items and proceeds are used to support statewide youth programs. The "Service to the Sheep Industry Award" will be presented and the Master Sheep Producer Award recipients will be recognized. Banquet tickets are \$25.00 and MUST be purchased in advance and tickets will be collected at the banquet. **Lamb is donated by Wolverine Packing Company.**

Sunday Brunch – A brunch is available for symposium participants. Tickets for event MUST be purchased in advance and will be collected at the brunch.

2019 Shepherds Weekend Sponsors

Friday Night Young Producers Program

The Family Business Consulting Group
Corn Marketing Program of Michigan
David Meeuwse Family
Monterey Veterinary Center, PC
West Michigan Veterinary Services PC

Saturday and Sunday Youth Programs

Christine Ruemenapp
Doug Uzelac Family
Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC Attorneys
Greenstone Farm Credit Services
Pitchfork Ranch
Scovill's Sheep City
Ugly Dog's Farms
Windswept Farms/Ludlam Family

Shepherds Weekend

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