

**Michigan Shepherds Weekend**  
***An annual conference presented by the Michigan Sheep Producers Association***  
January 9-11, 2026 | Crowne Plaza Hotel  
925 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing, MI 48917

**Schedule of Events – Friday, January 9**

- 6:30-7:15 p.m.     **Young Producer & Flock Grant Presentations** - Reo Room  
Young Producer Finalists will share their presentations with the audience and answer questions. Winners of the Flock Grant program will also share their successes and challenges with their purchases over the past year.
- 7:15-8 p.m.        **Introduction to NSIP and Practical Application of EBVs** - Reo Room  
Presentation by David Scales, Executive Director, NSIP  
  
The mission of the National Sheep Improvement Program is to provide predictable, economically important genetic evaluation information to the American sheep industry by converting performance records into relevant decision-making tools. Explore Estimated Breeding Values for tracking and measuring decisions for your sheep flock.
- 8-9 p.m.            Presentation by Dr. Travis Hoffman, Associate Professor/Extension Sheep Specialist, North Dakota State University/University of Minnesota

**Schedule of Events – Saturday, January 10**

- 7:30 a.m.           **Registration & Trade Show Opens** - Lobby & Royale Atrium
- 8 a.m.               **Early Bird Coffee** – Lobby
- 8:30-9 a.m.        **Welcoming Session** – Ballrooms ABC  
Dave Meeuwse, MSPA President  
Vendor Preview  
  
**American Sheep Industry Update** – Ballrooms ABC  
Larry Hopkins, Region III Director, ASI
- 9:15-10 a.m.      **Breakout sessions, Round I**  
**Livestock Housing: What to Consider** – Ballroom D  
  
**Other Ways to Use Sheep** – Ballroom E  
Speakers:  
  
**What I Learned from Shepherding in an Emergency** – Ballroom F

**Continued – Saturday, January 10**

- 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Breakout sessions, Round II**  
**AgrAbility: Assistive Technology** – Ballroom D  
Samantha Wolfe, Agricultural and Occupational Health Extension Educator, MSU Extension
- Making Economical Sense of Showing Lambs** – Ballroom E
- What to Do with Wool** – Ballroom F
- 11:45 a.m. **Lunch** – DeSoto Foyer & Cord Room  
*Mingle with vendors. Lunch on your own or purchase tickets in advance.*
- Noon **Ram Session** – Ballrooms ABC  
Moderated by Dave Meeuwse  
An open forum discussion about current trends in sheep production.
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Keynote Session** – Ballrooms ABC  
Presentation by Dr. Travis Hoffman, Associate Professor/Extension Sheep Specialist, North Dakota State University/University of Minnesota
- 2:15-2:45 **Ice cream break**
- 2:45-3:30 p.m. **Solar Grazing Presentation** – Ballrooms ABC  
Presentation by M. Charles Gould, Extension Bioenergy Educator, MSU Extension
- 3:45-4:30 p.m. **Breakout sessions, Round III**  
**Lambing to Load-out: Logistics of Lamb** – Ballroom D
- Using Land for Hunting Leases** – Ballroom E
- PFAS Contamination in Agriculture – What it means for your farm and the food supply chain** – Ballroom F  
Faith Cullens-Nobis, Extension Educator, MSU Extension  
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly referred to as “forever chemicals,” have been used in a wide range of consumer and industrial products—and are now being detected in soil, water, crops, and livestock across the country. This session will provide a general overview of PFAS, exploring how these chemicals enter the farm system, and how they may affect our food supply chain. Learn the science, risks, and current response strategies to help you navigate this evolving issue in food and farming systems.

### ***Continued – Saturday, January 10***

5-5:45 p.m. **Producers of the Year presentations** – Ballroom E  
Presentations by MSPA's producers of the year awardees honored at the 2025 annual banquet:

- 2024 Commercial Producers of the Year: Marvin Dane Family
- 2024 Club Lamb Producers of the Year: Salinas Family
- 2024 Purebred Producers of the Year: Anette & Matthew Garcia

6 p.m. **Social Hour and Youth Auction** – Ballrooms ABC  
*Cash bar available as you settle into the evening celebration program*

7 p.m. **Banquet Dinner**  
Four awards are presented during the banquet program: Commercial Producer, Purebred Producer & Club Lamb Producer, plus the Service to the Industry award. The live auction will continue after dinner to support statewide youth programs.

### **Schedule of Events – Sunday, January 11**

7:30 a.m. **Registration & Trade Show Opens** - Lobby & Royale Atrium

8 a.m. **Early Bird Coffee** – Lobby

8-8:30 a.m. **Faithful Reflection**

8:45-9:45 a.m. **Solar Grazing Q&A** - Ballrooms DEF  
Moderated by M. Charles Gould, Extension Bioenergy Educator, MSU Extension

10-10:45 a.m. **Annual Business Meeting\*** – Ballrooms DEF  
Dave Meeuwse, MSPA President

*\*Following this meeting, board members and newly elected board members are asked to meet for a brief reorganization meeting*

11 a.m. **Brunch** – Ballrooms ABC  
*Mingle with vendors. Brunch on your own or purchase tickets in advance.*

Noon **Closing Comments** – Ballrooms DEF  
**A Historical Reflection – Trends and Opportunities in the Michigan Sheep Industry**  
Presentation by Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, Senior Specialist-Small Ruminant, MSU Extension and MSU Department of Animal Science