

# HERD THE NEWS

January 2009

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 1



## CALIFORNIA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

1225 H Street, Suite 101 - Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916)444-8122 Fax: (916)443-1506

Email: cwga@gvn.net Website: www.woolgrowers.org



### USDA SETS DATE FOR LAMB REFERENDUM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that it will offer lamb producers, feeders and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The referendum will be held Feb. 2-27, 2009.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax or via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>. Persons must vote in the referendum at the county FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For

those persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the county FSA office where the person owns or rents land.

Form LS-86 and supporting documentation must be returned in person, by mail or by fax to the appropriate county FSA office. The form and documentation returned in person or by fax must be received in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. The form and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009.

Notice of the referendum will be published in the Dec. 16, 2008, *Federal Register*. Copies of the Final Rule and Notice are available from the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; (202) 720-1115; or via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms](http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms).

**The American Lamb Board has done a tremendous job promoting domestic lamb, particularly within the state of California.**



**CWGA encourages all producers to vote YES on the American Lamb Board referendum in 2009!**

**To place your "Yes" vote, contact your County FSA office. You can either request a ballot, or vote in person at the office.**

## CWGA OFFICERS

### *President*

**Johnny Cubiburu**

Danville, CA

650-452-8057

jcubiburu@voxns.com

### *1st Vice President*

**Dr. Nancy East**

Arbuckle/Alturas, CA

(530) 713-5799

### *2nd Vice President*

**Dominique Minaberrigarai**

Bakersfield, CA

(661) 834-1326

dminaberrigarai@hotmail.com

### *Treasurer*

**Greg Ahart**

Sacramento, CA

(916) 716-0089

grega@superiorfarms.com

### *Past President*

**Joe Mattos**

Visalia, CA

(559) 625-8874

### *Executive Director*

**Lesa Carlton**

Sacramento, CA

916/444-8122

530/263-2383 cell

916/443-1506 fax

cwga@gvn.net



*"Unifying the Voice  
of the Sheep Industry  
Since 1860"*

## A message from CWGA President, John Cubiburu

The focus of this column is to address the number one priority of the California Wool Growers for the month of February. Our message to all members and non members is to please vote YES on the referendum for the National Lamb Check-Off. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) published the referendum rules for the National Lamb Check-Off in December, and both the rules and the ballot will be exactly the same as in 2005. It is important to either go into your local Farm Service Agency office or to call to request the ballot. The Agency will NOT automatically send a ballot so it needs to be requested. Your vote will be a simple Yes or No as one sheep producing individual or company and it will also be weighted. For the weighted part of the ballot you are to vote ALL Ewes, Rams, and Lambs that you had in your operation on any given day in the calendar year of 2008.

At the December meeting of the California Wool Growers Board of Directors we voted unanimously to support a YES vote. I have appointed a VOTE YES Committee. This committee has organized a phone tree to get the vote out; consequently, be expecting a reminder call. We feel that it is extremely important for the sheep industry to assure that the momentum that has been established by the American Lamb Board continues.

Our industry in the recent years has finally reached stability and viability. These are very trying times for the United States economy; however if you compare our lamb market to other livestock and poultry markets you will see that we are the only protein that has been able to maintain in this extremely weak economy. The check off is working. It is exciting to see domestic lamb advertized on food show networks, retail markets, restaurants, magazines, food editorials, and various food shows that are held throughout the United States.

I ask that you please read all the details that we are providing you about the Referendum in this Newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, Lesa or any other Board member with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thank You

John Cubiburu



# AMERICAN LAMB BOARD

## YOUR CHECKOFF. YOUR VOTE.

### REFERENDUM ANNOUNCEMENT - February 2-27, 2009

#### **What is a referendum?**

A referendum means a vote conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) whereby producers, feeders, first handlers and exporters are given the opportunity to vote to determine whether the continuation of the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Order (Order), more commonly known as the Lamb Checkoff Program, is favored by majority of eligible persons voting and a majority of volume voting.

#### **Why are we having another referendum?**

By law, according to the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996 and Order, the Secretary was required to conduct the first referendum not later than 3 years after assessments first began (July 1, 2002). The first referendum was conducted in February 2005. By law, the Secretary is required to conduct a second referendum not later than 7 years after assessments first began. The second referendum is scheduled to be conducted February 2-27, 2009. Just like the first referendum, participants will vote either "yes" or "no" and vote their volume of production.

#### **Does the referendum affect the assessment rate?**

No.

#### **Who is eligible to vote in the referendum?**

Any person who was or is a lamb (sheep) producer, feeder, first handler, exporter, or authorized representative engaged in the production, feeding, exportation, or slaughter of lambs during the period Jan. 1 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008 - is eligible to vote in the referendum. Supporting documentation which shows a person was engaged in the production, feeding, exportation, or slaughter of lambs will be required.

#### **Where do you vote?**

The referendum will be conducted at local county USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. You can determine the location of your county FSA office by contacting the State FSA office or through an online search of FSA's web site at [www.fsa.gov/pas/default.asp](http://www.fsa.gov/pas/default.asp).

#### **How do you obtain and return a referendum ballot?**

Ballots (Form LS-86) may be requested in person, by fax or by mail, during the voting period, from the county FSA offices and via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms](http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms). Ballots must be returned in person, by fax or by mail to the county FSA office. Your vote is considered valid only when your completed and signed ballot, accompanied by supporting documentation demonstrating your eligibility, is returned in person or by fax to the appropriate FSA office prior to the close of business on the last day of the voting period - February 27, 2009. Ballots mailed must be postmarked no later than midnight on February 27, 2009.

#### **What does the referendum ballot look like?**

You will complete a ballot by voting "yes" if you wish to continue the Lamb Checkoff, or "no" if you do not wish to continue the Lamb Checkoff.

You will also vote your volume, either as a producer, feeder or first handler.

#### **Volume Voting:**

- Producers and seedstock producers will vote the total number of domestic lambs owned and produced during the period Jan. 1 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008
- Feeders will vote the total number of lambs owned and fed during the period Jan. 1 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008
- First handlers will vote the total number of lambs slaughtered during the period Jan. 1 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008

***Under the Lamb Checkoff Program, the term "lamb" is defined as "ovine animals of any age, including ewes and rams."***

For more information about the referendum visit [lambcheckoff.com](http://lambcheckoff.com) or call 866-327-5262.

# News Update from Public Lands Council

## Farm & Ranch Groups Ask Vilsack to Continue Support of Wildlife Services:

On January 12th, a The Public Lands Council (PLC), American Sheep Industry (ASI) and California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) sent a letter to President Elect Obama's Agriculture Secretary nominee, Governor Tom Vilsack, expressing support for Wildlife Services. The letter was signed by 76 producer and state organizations (representing 35 states) in support of USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Agency (WS).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is a crucial partner of American agriculture in protecting our nation's food and fiber production. WS is a critical part of APHIS and plays a key role in protection of livestock from predation, mitigating wildlife damage to agriculture, and disease prevention.

"Livestock losses to predation cost producers more than \$100 million annually. Without non-lethal and lethal predator control by Wildlife Services these numbers could easily double or even triple," explained Skye Krebs, a rancher from Ione, Oregon, and Public Lands Council President. "The agency provides a means for striking a balance in the wildlife/livestock interface, including limiting the spread of disease from wildlife." Krebs continued, "Wildlife Services also offers protection to endangered species from more common predator species. Additionally, they play a vital role in public safety, reducing threats to aircraft by controlling bird populations around airports, reducing bird strikes to aircraft."

The letter was sent yesterday to Governor Vilsack and signed by 76 producer and state organizations representing 35 states in support of USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Program (WS).

"While we realize wildlife plays an integral part of the rangeland ecosystem, it is important to sustain a balance between species. Through wildlife services we are able to limit disease, enhance public safety and minimize economic losses to ranchers." Krebs stated.

## Senator Salazar was confirmed as the next Secretary of the Interior

Five other secretaries, including Governor Vilsack as Agriculture Secretary, were also confirmed.

### *Salazar Confirmation Hearing*

On January 15th, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a confirmation hearing for Senator Ken Salazar for the position of Secretary of Department of the Interior in the Obama Administration. The tone of the hearing was very positive.

In his opening remarks, Senator Salazar outlined six priorities he will have as Secretary:

1. Bring Back the Highest Level of Ethics
2. Energy Independence
  - a. Conservation
  - b. Renewable Energy (solar, wind, geo-thermal, transmission lines)
  - c. Technology
  - d. Responsible Development with a balanced approach
3. Preserved/Enhanced Landscapes:
  - a. Monuments, Parks
  - b. Protection of Farm/Ranch Lands
4. Water in the West
5. New Agenda for Indians
6. Young People

During the question and answer session many topics were discussed such as the billions of dollars in back-logs for work to be completed by the department, drilling on the outer continental shelf (OCS), reviewing Bush administration decisions/rules/policies, renewable fuels, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Climate change was a common issue throughout the Q&A portion of the hearing. Senator Salazar made it clear, he is interested in being "intimately involved" in energy and climate change and how the Interior Department will be part of the nation becoming energy independent.

# Western Summit

**The Public Lands Council (PLC) invites you to attend the Western Summit in Salt Lake City, UT on February 26-27.**

The Summit goal is to bring together a wide range of interested parties to identify tools and strategies needed to maintain a stable climate for ranching operations and conservation benefits in the west. You are invited to attend and work with us as a team to preserve ranching and conservation benefits in the West.

Please contact PLC immediately if you would like to make a presentation or attend one or more of the subject sessions. We welcome ideas for achieving success in the areas below.

**The summit will have four primary components addressing each of the following areas, consisting of two sessions each day starting at 9:00am. You may choose to participate in one or more of these:**

**Public Relations (February 26):**

Developing a public relations strategy to increase the visibility of public lands issues

- Identify Messages and Targets

- Funding

**Agency Relations (February 26):**

Helping the Forest Service, BLM, and NRCS better meet multiple use responsibilities and landscape conservation goals

**Legislation (February 27):**

Pursuing legislation to preserve ranching, open space, and other conservation benefits

**Litigation (February 27):**

Discussing litigation strategies to stabilize the business climate for ranching

For more information & to RSVP, contact Dustin Van Liew - Deadline to RSVP for Summit and make hotel reservations is February 12th! Lodging: Little America Hotel, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 [www.littleamerica.com/slc](http://www.littleamerica.com/slc) Hotel Reservations, call: 1-800-437-5288 (Please note 'Range Summit' when reserving room in order to get the block rate)

## **CWGA is now carrying FootVax and Covexin 8 vaccine!**

**Protect your flock's health and support CWGA!**

**Purchase your vaccine today!**

**See page 8 or go to [www.woolgrowers.org](http://www.woolgrowers.org) for more information.**



**GUARD DOGS  
FOR SALE**

*Livestock Guardian Puppies  
Anatolian Cross*

*Working Parents, raised with sheep,  
goats and chickens  
Available NOW!*

*Contact: Sue Reuser  
(530) 865-0255 [www.cormo.us](http://www.cormo.us)*

**WORKING BORDER  
COLLIES FOR SALE:  
REGISTERED!**

3 year old obedient male, black & white.  
Dog trained on sheep and cattle. Great  
working dog & very affectionate. Great  
pet, also. Long haired registered border  
collie. \$1500

12 week old border collie registered  
pup, black & white female. Sweet pup  
with great instincts. Mother and father  
are both great working dogs & on  
premises. Come see them in action! Lots  
of promise with right trainer! \$400

Contact: [krobidart@aol.com](mailto:krobidart@aol.com) or  
(209) 727-3349

**VACCINE**

**SOLD BY CWGA**

**- FootVax -**

Footvax is a multi-strain ovine footrot bacterin for the prevention and treatment of footrot in sheep. Designed to stimulate a strong immunological response for the protection from new infection and treatment of infection if already present.

\$88 per 50 dose vial

\$78 per 50 dose vial with an order of more than 12 vials

**- Blue Tongue -**

Bluetongue disease occurs primarily during the months of summer and early fall. For this reason animals should be vaccinated in the spring or early summer to establish immunity before outbreaks occur.

10, 11 and 17 strains - 100 dose vials - \$32/vial

**Campylobacter Fetus-Jejuni Bacterin**

A two strain vaccine that is recommended for use to **prevent abortion losses** associated with either C.fetus or C.Jejuni

Available in 50 and 125 dose bottles

**- Covexin 8 -**

For the vaccination of healthy cattle and sheep against diseases caused by Clostridium chauvoei, Cl. septicum, Cl. novyi Type B, Cl. haemolyticum, Cl. tetani and Cl. perfringens Types C and D. Refer to label for complete information.

**Sheep Dosage:** Inject 5 ml. subcutaneously followed by a 2 ml. dose in 6 weeks. Revaccinate annually with 2 ml. prior to periods of extreme risk or parturition. See additional revaccination information on label.

Call today - (916) 444-8122 Place your order today, with CWGA!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**February 2-27, 2009**

American Lamb Board Referendum Vote  
County FSA Office

**March 10, 2009**

Ca Sheep Commission Board Meeting  
Sacramento, CA

**March 13, 2009**

CWGA Board Meeting  
Los Banos, CA

**March 24, 2009**

California Ag Day at the Capitol  
volunteers needed  
Sacramento, CA

**April 18, 2009**

California Ram Sale  
Tulare, CA

For more information about any of these events,  
visit [www.woolgrowers.org](http://www.woolgrowers.org) for detailed  
information