California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860

Herd the News

July 2015

The mission of the California Wool Growers Association is to be the voice of the California Sheep Industry at the local, regional, state, and national level. The Association will provide service to its members through effective communication that ensures the long-term prosperity of the industry and promotes economically viable and environmentally sound production practices.

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Lamb Market Conditions and USDA Buy-Up

- Livestock Marketing Information Center

In May, the USDA announced it would make up to \$10 million available to purchase lamb products for Federal food nutrition assistance, citing: low live slaughter lamb prices, continuing large levels of lamb in cold storage, and increased lamb imports that were made more attractive to buyers due to the rising value of the US dollar. On June 24th, the American Sheep Industry issued a <u>press release</u> regarding a statement from USDA that it opened the bid process for 640,000 pounds of lamb roast and bids must be received by July 13th. Reviewing the lamb market the first half of 2015 confirms those issues.

First, the most recent Cold Storage report, released monthly by USDA-NASS, reported over 39 million pounds of mutton and lamb in commercial freezers at the end of May. This was 55% higher than the tonnage in May of 2014 and consistent with the trend seen since the beginning of 2014, of significantly increasing volumes of lamb in cold storage. Imports from January through May are up almost 8% year-over-year, or an additional 4 million pounds. Note that cold storage report does not detail what amount of product is lamb or mutton, domestic or imports, or types of cuts.

For the first half of the year, Federally Inspected sheep slaughter was 6% below that of 2014. Breaking out into categories, yearling and lamb slaughter was 5% below year ago and mature sheep slaughter dropped 16%. To put it in perspective, yearling and lamb slaughter accounts for about 94% of total sheep harvest annually, and the majority of the current year-over-year decrease has come from the decrease in yearling and lamb numbers (accounting for 84% of the year-to-year difference). Since April, lamb and yearling slaughter has been below year ago levels, as has mature sheep slaughter.

Federally Inspected lamb and mutton production follows the slaughter trend, although to a lesser extent as carcass weights have slightly increased (on average, about 1 pound heavier than year ago). Production levels the first half of 2015 were 5% below that of 2014.

On the price side, the 3-market average (CO, TX, SD – individual markets reported weekly by USDA-AMS) price of feeder lambs for first quarter of 2015 was almost 7% below year ago levels. Prices have picked up recently, sitting much closer to 2014's. Still, second quarter of 2015 averaged 5% below that of 2014, and the last week of June feeder lamb prices were at \$199.86 per cwt. Feeder lamb prices are mostly following their normal seasonal pattern this year, expect to see the low in the market during July, with prices starting to trend up again October through December.

Continued on page 3...

Members are the Best Recruiters

– Dan Macon, CWGA Treasurer

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Ryan Indart, Vice President Clovis

Dan Macon, Treasurer Auburn

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We might run into someone at the feed store and the sales yard. Perhaps we see them at the fair every year. Maybe we hear about them from the crew that shears our sheep. The bottom line – we all know sheep producers who are not members of our California Wool Growers Association! As members, we have an obligation – a responsibility – to ask these folks to join!

Over the years, I've heard all of the excuses:

"They only represent the big guys." "They only represent the little guys."

"I already belong to [fill in the blank]."

"I used to be a member, but I guess I let it lapse."

"They took a position on [fill in the blank] back in 1957 that my granddad disagreed with."

And my favorite – "I didn't know the California Wool Growers Association existed!"

As some of you know, we've been offering workshops on sheep production and pasture management for many years. Most of the people who attend are new producers, but some are established operations. And most are not members of CWGA! Because of this, every workshop we offer now features a short presentation about the value of CWGA membership. Here's what I tell our students:

- CWGA members get substantial discounts on important vaccines.
- CWGA represents our interests in Sacramento and (through ASI) in Washington DC. Some of these issues might not seem important to small producers like us, but they are critical to the entire sheep industry. The proposed Department of Labor rules are a great example – I don't use herders, but they are critical to the future of our industry.
- CWGA offers great educational opportunities. At this summer's convention in August, for example, we're offering a full-day sheep quality assurance program important for large and small producers alike!
- Through CWGA, we get to network with other sheep producers from all over California (and all over the country). I learn a tremendous amount from my fellow producers when we get together.
- No other organization addresses sheep specific issues with the depth of knowledge that CWGA brings to the table.

Continued on page 3...

Lamb Market Outlook – cont'd...

Second quarter slaughter lamb prices, on a national direct hot carcass basis, averaged just over 2% above of year ago, the last week of June prices were at \$291.14 per cwt (dressed basis). Normally slaughter lamb prices seasonally increase into summer, but both 2014 and so far 2015 have experienced counter seasonal price declines. If 2015 follows the pattern set in 2014, the national direct hot carcass slaughter lamb market could have bottomed the end of May.

The outlook for the sheep and lamb market continues to be uncertain, counter-seasonal price patterns make forecasting future prices difficult. Generally speaking, the significant decrease in overall slaughter levels suggests increased retention rates of ewes and ewe lambs, which is further supported by impressive pasture and range conditions so far this year across most of the U.S. (barring California). This could be confirmed in the January 2016 USDA-NASS livestock inventory report.

Lamb and mutton import levels continue to be high, and cold storage levels continue to increase and be above year ago volumes. The increased cold storage levels specifically, and to some extent import levels, create an overhang in the slaughter lamb market and prevent prices from increasing significantly. Feeder lambs appear to be following their normal seasonal price trend, putting expected prices the third quarter of 2015 between \$190-210 per cwt. and the 2015 annual average even with that of 2014. Third quarter slaughter lamb prices, on a national direct hot carcass basis, may be slightly higher than second quarter prices levels, however this will depend heavily upon the market clearing ability and movement of imported lamb and product in cold storage. Look for 2015 annual prices of slaughter lambs to be about even with 2014 as well.

Officer's Message - cont'd...

- CWGA's organizational structure provides opportunities for members to develop and change key policies.
- CWGA has created a new marketing program Certified California Lamb that will provide all of us (large and small producers alike) a chance to expand the market for our product.

All of us – farm flock producers, seedstock producers, club lamb operations and range sheep operations – have a stake in the future of the sheep business. And each of us has a role to play in the future of our industry organization. So I encourage you to speak up the next time you run into that non-member at the feed store or at the sales yard. Contact Erica at the CWGA office for a stack of membership applications and put them to use!

Nevada H-2A/DOL Outreach Event Planned – August 18th, Reno

Nevada Congressman's Mike Amodei office has extended an invitation to neighboring states and other sheepherders to an upcoming H-2A Outreach Event with the Congressman, Las Vegas Department of Labor (DOL), and surrounding area sheep producers. The event will discuss DOL's H-2A compliance investigations

The event is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th in Reno, Nevada. Event agenda, location, etc. have yet to be finalized and are dependent on interest from sheep producers in Nevada and surrounding States.

If any CWGA members are interested in attending, please contact Erica at the CWGA office (<u>erica@woolgrowers.org</u> or 916-444-8122) by August 3rd.

CWGA will forward a list of California producers interested in attending the H-2A/Las Vegas DOL Outreach Event to the Congressman's office.

155th Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

Friday, August 28

10:00 am – 12 noon	Ram Sale Committee Meeting					
1:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Sheep Safety Quality Assurance Workshop					
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Welcome Reception					
<u>Saturday, August 29</u>						
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast					
8:00 am – 12 noon	CWGA Membership Meeting					
12 noon – 1:00 pm	Luncheon honoring Past Presidents					
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	CWGA Membership Meeting					
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Cocktail Reception					
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Shepherds Ball Dinner and Award Presentations					



HOTEL INFORMATION Portola Hotel & Spa

Room Rates are: \$149 per night (Single or Double) Call: 1-888-222-5851 or Book Online at: <u>https://resweb.passkey.com/go/cawoolgrowersassociation</u> Group Code: mention California Wool Growers Association **Make your room reservation by July 29th.**

Accommodations Include:

- Homemade chocolate chip cookies upon arrival
- Concierge services
- Complimentary 24-hour fitness center
- Outdoor pool & Jacuzzi with cabanas

PORTOLA HOTEL & SP

AT MONTEREY BAY

- On-site shops, wine lounges & galleries
- Full service salon & spa
- Valet & covered self-parking *Discounted Fee* \$12/day
- Bicycle rentals
- Pet-friendly (*Additional Fee Required)

Things to do:



Monterey – Grab Life by the Moment

Visit <u>http://www.seemonterey.com/</u> to learn about all the things Monterey has to offer.

Annual Meeting Event Descriptions

Producer Workshop/Seminar

Sheep Safety Quality Assurance Level 1 Producer Training – Melissa VanLaningham, DVM, Superior Farms and Dan Macon, Flying Mule Ranch

The Sheep Safety Quality Assurance (SSQA) program applies quality principles to the raising of sheep, involves education, design and outside verification. Attendees will be trained on quality concepts, such as specifications, process mapping and standard operating procedures from a California sheep industry perspective. Following this program, attendees will enroll in the Level 2 training that includes developing on-site mission statements, flowcharts and inspection plans scheduled for December 2015.

Antibiotics: The Regulations Are Changing & What You Need To Know For Your Operation – Annette Jones, DVM, State Veterinarian, CA Department of Food & Agriculture

Dr. Jones will provide an overview of regulatory changes on antibiotic use in food animals and impacts on the sheep industry and producer animal health practices.

Matching Your Facility with Sheep's Natural Behavior – Nancy East, DVM

Dr. East will discuss the importance of how gaining an understanding of sheep's natural behavior is critical in developing an effective method for the proper handling and care of sheep.

Friday Night – Welcome Reception

Friday's session will conclude with a welcome reception at the Portola Hotel & Spa where attendees will have an opportunity to meet with your fellow industry stakeholders to discuss current and upcoming industry issues and goals!

CWGA Membership Meeting

On Saturday, the membership of CWGA will be discussing many business items related to the industry and the Association. The meeting will allow every member to discuss in detail, plans, resolutions, Board of Director nominations, officer elections, and ideas that you may have to better the California sheep industry. All CWGA members are encouraged to attend to be a part of the policy making process. There will also be reports from our National and State affiliations—all of which have an influence on the California sheep industry.

Guest Speakers:

Preferences and Complaints associated with American Lamb Quality in Retail & Foodservice Markets – Travis W. Hoffman, Colorado State University

Lamb Market and Outlook – *Dr. David Anderson, Professor and Extension Economist, Texas A&M University*

Shepherds Ball

Saturday evening will be the finale of the meeting, and the opportunity to look back on the previous year while looking forward to the future. CWGA and the membership will celebrate at the Annual Shepherds Ball where individuals will be honored for their dedication and service in the industry.

Convention Registration Form – Early Bird Due July 29th

	Early Bird Deadline: 7/29/2015	Deadline 8/14/2015	Quantity	Total
CWGA Member	\$200	\$225		
Non-Member	\$230	\$255		

Full Registration (Includes all Friday and Saturday events and meals)

Individual Day and Meal Registration

Event/Meal	Cost	Qty	Total
One Day Registration – (Friday or Saturday – pay for meals as an addition)	\$75		
Friday Welcome Reception	\$25		
Saturday Memberhsip Luncheon at the Portola Hotel	\$45		
Saturday Shepherds Ball at the Portola Hotel	\$65		
Late Fee (if register after 8/14/2015)	\$50		
	Total Due		

Contact Information

Name	Companions 2	Companions Name			
Ranch/Company Name					
Address	City	State	Zip		
Phone #	Email Addres	Email Address			

Send Registration Forms and Payment To:

California Wool Growers Association – 1225 H Street, Suite 101 – Sacramento, CA 95814 <u>EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION IS DUE JULY 29TH</u>. Registration Deadline is August 14th. Please make checks payable to California Wool Growers Association

Dedicated to a Tradition of Integrity

Roswell Wool is the Only:

- » Producer owned and operated warehouse
- » Auction-based warehouse for all consignments
- » Warehouse operating on the West Coast allowing for ease of exporting and accumulating wools from various locations, saving freight costs and hauling fees



Mike Corn, Manager 1-800-624-WOOL mikecorn@roswellwool.com Roswell Wool Truly Appreciates Your Loyalty and Friendships

Thank You

California!



Legislative Update

Groups File Lawsuit to Vacate 'WOTUS' Rule — American Farm Bureau Federation

The American Farm Bureau Federation, Texas Farm Bureau, Matagorda County Farm Bureau, and 11 other agricultural and industry groups have asked a federal court to vacate the controversial new rule redefining the scope of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

The complaint, filed in federal district court in Texas, claims the new rule grants EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers broad control over land use far beyond what Congress authorized in the Clean Water Act. The lawsuit also claims vagueness and over-breadth of the rule violate the U.S. Constitution. The groups also challenged EPA's aggressive grassroots advocacy campaign during the comment period, which reflected a closed mind to concerns expressed by farmers and others.

AFBF's co-plaintiffs are the American Petroleum Institute, American Road and Transportation Builders, Leading Builders of America, National Alliance of Forest Owners, National Association of Home Builders, National Association of Manufacturers, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Mining Association, National Pork Producers Council and Public Lands Council.

For a copy of the complaint: <u>http://www.fb.org/tmp/uploads/15%20CV%20165%20Complaint.pdf</u>

California SB 27 (Hill) – Livestock: Use of Antibiotics Update

This bill seeks to establish new protocols for the use of medially important antibiotics in livestock production, phase out the purchase of medically important antibiotics without a prescription by a veterinarian, and develop a voluntary tracking program.

CWGA has been working with other agricultural organizations to provide meaningful amendments to the bill's author and the Governor's office. At this time, the CWGA Executive Board has adopted a Neutral position per CWGA and industry member policies and resolutions. The Executive Board will reconsider its position when SB 27 is in its final form.

SB 27 was heard in the Assembly Agriculture Committee on July 1st and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Ag Gets Hours of Service Rule Waiver

America's farmers have been granted a two-year waiver from the U.S. Department of Transportation's hoursof-service rule for certain drivers.

The rule, issued in mid-2013 by DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), required truck drivers to take a 30-minute rest break for every eight hours of service. It would have prohibited drivers hauling livestock from caring for animals during the rest period.

In 2013, livestock, poultry and food organizations petitioned the FMCSA for a waiver and were granted an exemption from complying with the regulation. A request was again made this April by the American Sheep Industry Association and the coalition, asking the FMCSA to renew the waiver and to extend it for the two-year maximum allowable under federal law.

Simpson Language Keeps Sheep Station Open

Washington, D.C. – Last Wednesday, July 8th, Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson praised the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee's decision to preserve ARS research programs including those at the U.S. Sheep Experimental Station (USSES) in Dubois, Idaho. Simpson, who requested the language in the FY16 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, is working with other western representatives to support the USSES.

"I was disappointed when USDA attempted to close USSES last year and failed to provide prior notice to Congress and the sheep industry," said Simpson. "I am very pleased this appropriations bill includes language that maintains the mission at Dubois. Because of its location and expertise, staff at the Dubois station are working on unique issues, including research on the domestic-wildlife interface that is vital to the sheep industry's future."

Congressman Simpson has worked closely with USDA, University of Idaho, and members of the sheep industry throughout the process to ensure the long-term viability of the USSES and the economic activity it generates in the area.

After the committee meeting Simpson said, "The bill passed out of committee today recognizes the station's valuable work and is an important step towards ensuring the stakeholders and ARS come together to work on a viable, long-term future for USSES."

The Agriculture Appropriations bill was passed by the House Appropriations Committee on a voice vote.



Certified California Lamb – Program Update

Currently the CCL program is being presented to grocery retailers whose customers prefer a fresh, local, high quality product. Presenting a new product, such as CCL, involves many steps and can average three to six months or longer before a product is available to consumers. The goal is to have CCL product in grocery meat cases by the end of 2015.

Producers who market directly to consumers and meet all the CCL requirements can begin using the CCL label. Producers will need to enroll in the CCL program.

CERTIFIED CALIFORNIA LAMB REQUIREMENTS:

- Lambs must be verifiably documented to be born, raised, and harvested exclusively in California.
- Lambs must be less than 1 year of age as determined by physiological maturity using the USDA grading standards.
- Carcasses must be no greater than 85 lbs. dressed weight, grade USDA choice or higher, and must have a USDA yield grade of 1-3.
- Producer must be a member of California Wool Growers Association.

Further details available at – http://cawoolgrowers.org/certified lamb/certified lamb.html

Producers interested in participating in the program should contact Erica Sanko with CWGA at (916) 444-8122 or erica@woolgrowers.org for further details.





Superior Farms Celebrates New Processing Plant

A festive atmosphere permeated Superior Farms in Dixon on July 8th as hundreds gathered to celebrate the veteran business' completion of a state-of-the-art lamb processing plant.

Sipping virgin margaritas and nibbling on lamb and barbecue sliders, community members and local, state and national leaders feted the build and the business while also indulging in carnival-like games and other festivities.

Established in the 1920s, the older portion of the employee-owned plant has served communities throughout the state and the West Coast for almost 100 years, officials said. Last year, construction began on the newer, greener, more technologically savvy building, which will continue its service for the next 100 or so years.

"We're modernizing and right-sizing the plant," said Shane Mackenzie, vice president of operations. The plant's now more energy efficient, he added, with better refrigeration and insulation.

"The ergonomics and safety are better for employees," Mackenzie said. "They're the ones who contribute the most."

Rick R. Stott, the company's president and chief executive officer, emphasized that the company will continue to care for the community and aims to continue to provide great service.

"So the future is more exciting than even today," he said.

The plant is slated to be operational by late August.

http://www.thereporter.com/general-news/20150708/superior-farms-in-dixon-celebrates-new-build



Protect Your Flocks Health With Vaccines From CWGA

- 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 \$27.50/50 dose bottle and \$47.50/125 dose bottle

- Covexin 8

For the vaccination of healthy cattle and sheep against diseases caused by Clostridium chauvoei, Cl. septi- cum, Cl. novyi Type B, Cl. haemolyticum, Cl. tetani and Cl. perfringens Types C and D. Refer to label for com- plete information. \$31.50/50 dose bottle or \$26.50/50 dose bottle with an order of more than 12 vials

- Vision® CD-T with Spur®

Clostridium perfringens Types C&D Tetani Bacterin-Toxoid *Adjuvant - U.S. Patent Nos. 3,790,665 and 3,919,411 Indications For use in healthy cattle, sheep and goats as an aid in preventing disease caused by Clostridium perfringens Types C&D (Enterotoxemia) and Clostridium tetani (Tetanus). \$27.00/50dose bottle or \$24.00/50 dose bottle with an order of 12 bottles or more.

Blue Tongue– Temporarily Unavailable

If you would like to be notified once the vaccine is available, please send contact information and dosage request to <u>info@woolgrowers.org</u> to be added to the list of names requesting the vaccine.



Scrapie Efforts: Remember to Educate, Report and Submit

The Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP) provides sheep and goat producers the opportunity to increase the marketability of their animals through demonstrating scrapie freedom in their flock or herd or by monitoring their flock for scrapie through the Select Category. Additionally, the SFCP contributes to APHIS' scrapie surveillance strategy, testing sheep and goats from flocks and herds that otherwise might not be sampled through traditional slaughter surveillance.

The SFCP was revised in 2013, the Select category of the revised SFCP allows producers to monitor their flocks for scrapie without the intensive inventory, inspection and commingling restrictions of the export monitored program. Participating flocks are listed at (https://vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/scrreports/sfcpHome).

Producers are encouraged to become familiar with scrapie and signs of the disease. Educate yourself about the clinical signs of scrapie and how to prevent scrapie. Contact your State Veterinarian or the USDA Veterinary Services Area Office for your state if your sheep or goat, older than 12 months, exhibits clinical signs of scrapie. If the animal is determined to be a scrapie suspect you may be eligible to receive indemnity for the animal. Testing clinical suspects is the most cost effective way to find scrapie infected animals. Submit samples or

whole heads from sheep and goats over 18 months of age that die or are euthanized on your premises. Additional information is available on how you or your veterinarian can submit samples or whole heads for scrapie testing. Go to

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie for more information.

In order to find the remaining scrapie infected sheep and goats and to demonstrate to the world that the U.S. is scrapie free, APHIS needs more sample submissions from mature sheep and goats that die on farm. The only diagnostic tests currently available to determine if a sheep or goat has scrapie require brain or lymphoid tissue. Scrapie is typically diagnosed by finding abnormal prion protein accumulation in the brain and/or

FREE ID FOR PRODUCERS

The National Scrapie Eradication Program provides scrapie program official ID free of charge to producers (call 866-USDA-TAG to get tags), testing of exposed flocks and indemnity for infected flocks. Contact your State or local VS office for more information.

lymphoid tissue (i.e., third eyelid or rectoanal lymphoid tissue, tonsil or lymph node) of infected sheep or goats. A positive test result must be confirmed positive by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) to be designated a scrapie case.

APHIS Posts May 2015 Scrapie Report

The May 2015 report for the National Scrapie Eradication Program has been posted to <u>http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly_scrapie_report.pdf</u> Published by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the report reviews the current progress of scrapie eradication in the United States.

There were no scrapie-infected animals identified in May. At the end of FY2014, cull sheep found positive at slaughter and adjusted for face color was 0.018 percent and is currently at 0.004 percent for FY2015. This measure represents a 76-percent decrease when compared with FY2014 and represents a 97-percent decrease compared with FY2003.

As of May 21, 2015, 26,894 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing in FY2015 of which 21,723 were sheep and 5,171 were goats.

To report sheep with clinical signs of scrapie, contact your local veterinary service office.

CWGA Scholarship Fund Memorials Received

The following memorials were received by the CWGA Scholarship Fund -

In Memory of Cayle Henry Krebs of Ione, Oregon

In Honor of Lesa Eidman, CWGA Executive Director 2003-2015

CWGA awards an annual scholarship to college students pursuing an academic career in agriculture, related to the California sheep industry. Member contributions to the CWGA Scholarship Fund help to support our future sheep industry leaders.

Let's Grow Webinars – Save the Date!

"Optimizing Reproductive Efficiency in Sheep Production with Strategic Nutritional Management" drew 109 attendees from 21 states.

Optimal Ag Consulting worked with Richard Ehrhardt, Ph.D., sheep and goat extension specialist at Michigan State University, to present the webinar.

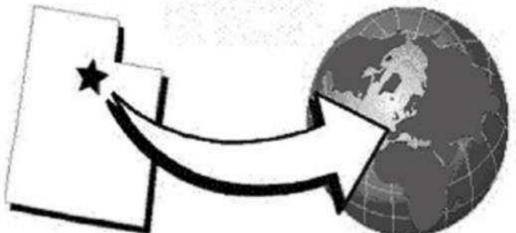
The recording of the event has been compiled and is available at <u>www.optimalag.com/webinars/2015-06-23</u> <u>OptimizingReproductiveEfficiency.wmv</u>. A copy of the slides used for the presentation is posted at <u>www.optimalag.com/webinars/2015-06-23</u> <u>OptimizingReproductiveEfficiency.pdf</u>.

Save the date for future webinars.

- Aug. 25 -- Dave Notter, Ph.D., Virginia Tech University, developing and using breeding objectives
- Sept. 22 Bob Von Saun, DVM, Ph.D., Penn State University, supplementation.

Don't forget to register for this year's Annual Meeting. Early Bird Registration closes July 29th! Book your hotel rooms by July 29th to get the CWGA meeting room rate! See pages 4 through 6 for details.





Marketing Wool to the World

Contact: Will Hart Griggs, Manager

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CALIFORNIA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

1225 H Street, Suite 101 Sacramento, CA 95814 www.woolgrowers.org

Mark Your Calendars

July 29, 2015 Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration Due

August 4-5, 2015 CA Fish and Wildlife Commission Hearing Fortuna, CA

August 14, 2015 Annual Meeting Registration Due

August 28-29, 2015 155th CWGA Annual Meeting Monterey, CA

> September 26, 2015 Farm-to-Fork Festival Sacramento, CA

October 3-4, 2015 Lambtown Festival Dixon, CA

April 9, 2016 96th California Ram Sale Porterville, CA

Please submit all liability insurance requests 10 days prior to the event to ensure adequate processing time.

