

AUGUST 2011

# WWGA PRODUCER UPDATE

**STATE RAM SALE SET FOR 83<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL EVENT:** The 83rd Annual Wyoming Wool Growers Association "Wyoming State Ram Sale" is set and ready to go. The sale is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2011. The Sale and associated activities begin on Monday September 12th on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in Douglas, Wyoming. The sale itself is set to begin at 9:30 a.m. on the 13th, but all rams will be available for viewing beginning by 1:00 p.m. on the 12th.

Some of the region's best ram producers from several intermountain states have pre-entered more than 300 of the finest rams to be found for this year's sale. The Wyoming State Ram Sale is one of the longest continuously running ram sales in the nation and is recognized as the oldest "range ram" sale in the country. "Over the past 80+ years, our Wyoming sale has developed and maintained a reputation for offering the highest quality rams bred specifically for the rigors and demands of the range conditions of the intermountain west," said Dean Von Krosigk, Ram Sale Co-Chairman and Riverton area Targhee producer. "Rams offered through the Wyoming State Ram Sale are noted for their outstanding characteristics, whether they are bred for wool or meat production. This is exemplified by the fact that in the past, the highest selling Rambouillet and Targhee rams at auction in the nation have come out of the Wyoming State Ram Sale. That's not just range rams, but ALL rams at auction, which indicates that producers across the country have come to recognize and expect the best out of this sale", said Von Krosigk

"We have long been noted for the exceptional quality of the rams at the Wyoming State Ram Sale," said Lee Isenberger, Ram Sale Co-Chairman and Gillette area rancher. "As the industry has changed it has become even more important for every ram to be of the best and highest quality. Our consignors know that in order for them to be successful at our sale, they have to bring their best, and they have continued to respond to that call," said Isenberger.

Rams from the Rambouillet, Targhee, Columbia, Suffolk and Suffolk X Hampshire breeds will be represented. Some of the best Rambouillet rams will be featured in the "Certified" category. Consignments will be offered as singles, as well as in lots of two, three and five. All rams will originate from either a *Brucella ovis* "certified free" herd or will have tested *B. ovis* negative within thirty days of the sale. *B. ovis* is the major cause of ram epididymitis which can cause ram infertility and lead to "open" or non-pregnant ewes at the end of the breeding season.

Again this year, the "Best of the Best" from the just completed 2011 WWGA/MSLC/UW Ram Sire Test will be offered for sale during the State Ram Sale. The top indexing rams from this year's Test have been pre-qualified for inclusion in the Sale. This will be only the second year that rams with data from the GrowSafe system will be offered for sale.

All rams have been carefully screened and scrutinized closely by a shifting committee comprised of noted western sheepmen, sheep extension specialists and veterinarians specializing in sheep herd health. Every effort and precaution is taken to try to insure buyers that only the best, highest quality rams are offered for sale. All rams are sold ready to "go to work".

To receive a sale catalog, call the office at 307-265-5250 or email [wyowool@wyowool.org](mailto:wyowool@wyowool.org).

## WOOL GROWERS EXECUTIVE BOARD ENDORSES GOVERNOR MEAD'S PLAN TO DELIST WOLVES IN WYOMING

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association recently expressed its support and endorsement for Governor Matt Mead's proposal to modify Wyoming's plan on how it will manage wolves upon delisting by the federal government. Governor Mead recently announced that he had reached tentative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a "path to delisting" which requires that the certain specific alterations to Wyoming's current plan and overriding statutes be made.

"While we have staunchly and vigorously supported and defended the current proposed management plan, including three separate lawsuits in federal district court, the Governor's proposal, if it results in delisting of wolves that were foisted upon Wyoming by the Clinton administration, will work for our members and our industry. Consequently the Executive Board of the WWGA has formally endorsed Governor Mead's proposed plan as it has been defined to us," said Gene Hardy, WWGA President.

### **INSIDE:**

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- \* WWGA EXECUTIVE BOARD ENDORSES GOV. MEAD'S WOLF PLAN
- \* USDA UNDERSECRETARY AVALOS TOURS PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PROJECTS IN JOHNSON CO
- \* RANCHING REVOLUTIONARIES
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- \* WWGA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Governor Mead's plan, which creates a "flex zone" south of the current boundary between management of wolves in Wyoming as trophy game animals under the authority of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and statutorily defined "predators," which are under the management of local county predatory management boards, is ostensibly needed to provide wolves an avenue to traverse from Wyoming into Idaho during winter. "If this area is truly needed only for winter travel, then Governor Mead's plan should suffice for its intended purpose while at the same time providing for protection for our members flocks when they are in that same area for summer grazing," said Hardy. "The Governor needs to be commended for devising an innovative and creative solution that, if implemented as he has proposed, should work for all parties directly affected by the deleterious presence of wolves, most importantly our members."

"Other than Judge Johnson's ruling back in January, more progress has been made on getting this issue resolved by Governor Mead, working with the Wyoming Congressional delegation, in the past seven months than had been made in the past several years," said Bryce Reece, WWGA Executive Vice President. "If this truly results in finally getting wolves delisted and into Wyoming's hands to manage, the citizens of Wyoming owe the Governor tremendous thanks."

**JOINT WYOMING/IDAHO WOOL GROWERS CONVENTION FAST APPROACHING:** The second joint Idaho/Wyoming Wool Growers Association's convention is set to take place November 11-13, 2011 in Sun Valley, ID. The convention promises to be fun, informative and full, and is set in one of the most beautiful locales anywhere.

The annual WWGA Membership meeting will take place on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 a.m. It is at this meeting that the WWGA budget is set for the coming year, any resolutions are considered, and officers are elected.

The joint Idaho/Wyoming Convention begins at 2:00 p.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup> and runs through noon on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>. Friday evening will feature the "Getting to Know Ewe" reception, and will also feature the annual fundraising auction which has become a popular feature of WWGA conventions. Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> offers a full day of informative presentations and meetings, and concludes with a lavish and extravagant banquet featuring American lamb as the main dish.

A registration form will be available for download from the WWGA's website by September 15<sup>th</sup>, and will also be sent directly to all current WWGA members by mail. A complete agenda will be available by Friday, October 22 which will be available by download from the website or by calling or emailing the WWGA office in Casper.

**YOUTH FLOCK WINNER ANNOUNCED:** This year's winner of the WWGA Youth Flock Award is 15 year old Bryce Conzelman of Hulett (Devils Tower). This year's flock are Rambouillet's. Bryce will be receiving his sheep over the fall months as the ewes are bred. Tracy Dilts and the Wyoming Rambouillet Assn. were responsible for putting this year's flock together.

**NOMINATIONS FOR WWGA AWARDS SOUGHT:** The WWGA is soliciting nominations for one of the four awards given by the Association during our annual convention. The four awards (a short description of each follows, for a more complete description of each award, please visit the WWGA's website) are:

(1) **Harold Josendal "Patrón" Award:** The Harold Josendal "Patrón" Award is presented to a sheep producer who has made substantial contributions to the Wyoming sheep industry and the WWGA; (2) **"Compadre" Award:** The "Compadre" Award recognizes industry contributions from a professional in a position or field related to sheep production; (3) **"Amigo" Award:** The Amigo Award recognizes outstanding management of resources to enhance flock or resource management; and (4) **"Portavoz" Award for Media:** The "Portavoz" Award recognizes outstanding year-long coverage of the sheep industry for media not directly related to the sheep industry.

To nominate someone for one of these awards, please submit a short description describing the person and their qualifications for the award to a WWGA Executive Board member. The Executive Board will select the winners of this year's awards at their October 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**MOLLOY UPHOLDS DELISTING OF WOLVES IN MONTANA AND IDAHO :** U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy on Wednesday upheld a congressional rider removing gray wolves from Endangered Species Act protection. The decision means wolves are delisted in Montana and Idaho, and those states may go ahead with their

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## USDA UNDERSECRETARY RESPONDS POSITIVELY TO WWGA INVITE, TOURS PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PROJECTS IN JOHNSON CO

*(reprinted due to the graciousness of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup)*

“We have the best pilots in the country,” says Wildlife Services (WS) Wyoming State Director Rod Krischke of the five men his agency uses in the state to fly the planes used in coyote control operations.

One of those pilots was on hand July 13 when USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Ed Avalos spent time in Johnson County, making a few tour stops and hearing specific issues of concern to the Wyoming’s sheep industry, most of which were related to predator control and the importance of WS.

The first stop on Avalos’s tour was the Purdy Ranch south of Buffalo, where a bright yellow WS airplane and an on-the-ground trapper worked in conjunction to try to present a live demonstration of aerial coyote control to the Undersecretary.

Although the coyote that had been spotted earlier that morning left the country before the tour group arrived, Avalos was able to hear first-hand accounts from fellow tour participants on the importance of funding for the airplanes.

“The scenario when we bring an airplane to a ranch is usually one of two things – it’s calving or lambing season or the rancher is moving livestock to a place that hasn’t been hunted before, or the ranch is actually having coyotes kill livestock,” said WS Southeast District Supervisor Craig Acres. “That constitutes a call from a cooperator, saying it’s that time of year when he’s had problems before, or he’s found a fresh kill.”

Acres said that, if a wildlife specialist, or trapper, is familiar with the area, it doesn’t take much time to scout or locate coyotes before the plane comes.

“If they’ve been in the area before, they have a good idea of where the coyotes will be and how they travel across the ranch,” said Acres, adding that coordination calls are made the night before the hunt, at the minimum between the trapper and pilot, communicating about weather and where both will be.

“Usually trappers will have the coyotes spotted, or have them howling, and they’ll put the plane right in the spot where they’ve seen or heard them,” said Acres.

“Unless the county has a trapper, this is about the only tool we have in terms of being effective,” said Wyoming Wool Growers Association Executive Vice President Bryce Reece, who led the tour. “We have five airplanes in Wyoming right now, and they’re busy all the time. We have a big state with lots of country, and there would be no way for the trappers to cover the country on the ground.”

Krischke said one thing that’s particularly valuable about the airplane is its selectivity.

“We have wolves, grizzly bears and black-footed ferrets, among other things, and the value of the airplane is that we can address problems and identify every animal that’s taken,” he noted.

“This is selective – they won’t shoot anything but that coyote,” said Reece.

After taking a ride himself in the airplane, Avalos and the tour group proceeded to Buffalo, where Johnson County officials explained their rabies management strategy, which consists of trapping skunks around the outskirts of town.

The group was treated to lunch at the historic TA Ranch south of Buffalo before settling into the restored granary for an educational afternoon. Avalos first heard from Brad Boner of the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative/Mountain States Rosen about the co-op’s take on the new Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) rule.

“The rule uses words such as ‘fair’ and ‘unfair,’ which open a legal Pandora’s box. The overly broad terms are one reason why your agency’s had so many comments,” said Boner, who also mentioned unintended consequences.

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WWGA President Gene Hardy (right) visits with USDA Undersecretary for Regulatory and Marketing Affairs Ed Avalos (center) and Wyoming Wildlife Services State Director Rod Krischke (left) during the Undersecretary’s recent visit Wyoming (Christy Hemken, Wyoming Livestock Roundup, photo)

# RANCHING REVOLUTIONARIES

## So...a rabbi and a rancher walk into a bar... By Rod McQueary

Reprinted from the Fall 2011 issue of RANGE magazine, with permission (thank you C.J.!). Call 1-800-RANGE-4-U if you want to subscribe or for a sample copy.

Chuckling yet? Okay, this is no joke. It is far more than that. This is a story involving hardship, ingenuity, and no small amount of courage. This is about western American sheep-ranching families looking at the dismal prospects of going broke, and how they turned that situation around.

### The Agony

During the 1990s, sheep ranches were faced with bad news from all sides. Producers had years' worth of unsold wool. They had lost the guaranteed market provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wool Incentive Program. Lamb prices were low, in part because of imported lamb from Australia and New Zealand. On top of that there were ever-increasing production costs. It all combined to make any future raising sheep impractical or impossible.

The USDA documents that one percent of the entire American population left the rural landscape between 1980 and 1990. In that same decade 40 percent of sheep ranchers left the land. There was no economic reason to stay. My wife calls those desperate economic times "circling the drain." My friend Baxter calls it "two kicks from tits up."

### A Glimmer of Hope

There had been some unsuccessful attempts to improve the lamb market, and each one left valuable lessons. So when a group of remaining lamb producers gathered to try to invent a survival plan, they had a pretty good idea of what they needed. They found a model in U.S. Premium Beef, which combined processing capabilities with a vital preexisting marketing framework.

Bryce Reece, executive vice president of the Wyoming Woolgrowers Association says: "As soon as we met with U.S. Premium Beef management, especially Steve Hunt, CEO, we knew we wanted our organization to be similar to theirs. Our budding co-op would never have happened without their help."

Among the several roadblocks they faced to organize a value-added lamb co-op were the need for capital and a co-op law that excluded nonpatron members. There were those who did not raise sheep themselves who realized the importance of the sheep industry to the economy and heritage of Wyoming and the American West. Some of these individuals wanted to provide capital for the new value-added lamb cooperative. With help from their attorneys and Wyoming Woolgrowers, ground-breaking legislation was enacted in Wyoming that allowed nonpatron ownership of up to 85 percent. This was the first such legislation in America, and several states have since passed similar "new generation co-op" guidelines which have made the formation and expansion of capital-intensive cooperatives possible.

The equity drive continued and that was only a part of the struggle. No packing plants wanted anything to do with a Podunk gaggle of ranching revolutionaries with wild ideas. Reece says: "I heard 'No,' 'No thank you,' 'We are not interested' more times than I can count. We thought we would never find the packer-marketer we needed."

Then they came up with a long shot. As they gathered around a kitchen table trying to figure out what their next move was, somebody asked, "Where's our market?" At that time the only people who were buying lamb anywhere in the United States were in the Northeast and the Jewish kosher markets. So they thought, "What the hell, what have we got to lose?" And they called the Bronx.

B. Rosen and Sons owned a lamb and veal processing plant serving the eastern United States, particularly the Jewish community. It had the reputation, facilities and marketing capabilities in place. The unknown person on the phone listened politely to the lamb ranchers, and when the spiel ended,

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there was silence. Then the light went on, the sun came out, the prayers were answered. The phone voice said, "Come to New York."

So the ranchers from the West went to break bread with the rabbis from the East.

**Epilogue**

In February 2003, after raising almost \$10 million, about 120 lamb ranchers in 10 western states and the non-patron investors bought half of the Rosen enterprise, with first right of refusal should the Rosen family decide to sell the rest. They formed Mountain States Rosen, LLC.

As part of the Mountain States Rosen charter, the lamb producer-owners committed to supplying the existing marketing system with a total of 250,000 lambs per year. Since it is vital that lambs are available and ready to process year-round, lambs come from different climates all over the West. When the co-op first started supplying lambs to Rosen and Sons, the kosher market represented about 20 percent of its total sales, but eventually it was flying rabbis in to the Greeley, Colo., plant on a weekly basis to conduct the ritual kills. No doubt the rabbinical robes in Greeley raised as many eyebrows as the cowboy hats did in the Bronx.

Now Becky Gitthens, director of Finance and Operations, says the kosher program at Greeley has been indefinitely postponed. Mountain States Rosen markets all the lamb it has without it. "Lamb prices are at a record high. Increased production costs, a decline in the U.S. lamb crop, the weak dollar, and a shortage of lamb worldwide have all contributed to a tight supply and higher prices. This is a great time to be a lamb producer and for the producer-owners of Mountain States Rosen the future is bright."

As Mountain States Rosen has developed retail markets for lamb across the entire country, the co-op membership has grown and there is currently room for a limited number of new producers. By September 2008, the co-op had completely paid off its original investment and were in the position to exercise its opportunity to purchase the second half. It became 100 percent owners of Mountain States Rosen and by the time you read this article, it will have processed its two-millionth lamb. In less than a decade it has turned around an entire industry and become the second-largest lamb-marketing company in the United States. Not bad work for a bunch of sheep ranchers who were once circling the drain.

By phone, Bryce Reece tells me they do have one problem.

"What would that be?" I ask.

He chuckles. "They can't get enough lambs."

*Rod McQueary is a part-time writer living in rural Wyoming where mail comes twice a week. He wears wool and lines his saddle with sheepskin. So far, he has never met a leg of lamb he didn't like. He is married to Sue Wallis, a Wyoming legislator with her own unique skills and notoriety.*



"Prize winning" sheep on display at UW Stock Farm (Old Territorial Prison)—circa unknown— Wyoming

# WWGA Calendar of Events

August 25-26	Legislature's Joint Travel, Rec., Wildlife Committee, South Pass City
Aug. 29 (7-9 pm)	WGFD Revised Gray Wolf Mngmt Plan Public Meeting— WYDOT Auditorium, Cheyenne
August 26-28	Green River Livestock Stock Dog Trial, Kemmerer
August 30-31	Legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee, Sundance
August 30-31	Legislature's Joint Transportation Committee, Guernsey
Aug 31	Final Weigh WWGA/MSLC/UW Ram Test
Aug. 31 (7-9 pm)	WGFD Revised Gray Wolf Mngmt Plan Public Meeting— WGFD Office, Lander
September 7-11	Meeker Classic Sheepdog Championship Trials, Meeker, CO
September 12-13	Legislature's Joint Minerals Committee, Guernsey
Sept 13	Annual WWGA Ram Sale Membership Meeting- Douglas
September 13-20	2011 National Sheepdog Finals, Strang Ranch, Carbondale, CO
September 23-24	Hawaii Sheep Producers Assn. Annual Meeting, Maui, HI
September 26-27	Legislature's Joint Agriculture Committee, Afton
Oct. 7-9	15th Annual Trailing of the Sheep Festival, Wood River Valley, ID
Nov. 10-12	92nd Annual WY Farm Bureau Federation Meeting, Little America, Cheyenne
Nov. 11-13	Joint WWGA/Idaho Wool Growers Convention- Sun Valley, ID
January 25-28, 2012	ASI's Annual Convention, Scottsdale, Arizona

## 2011 WWGA STATE RAM SALE SCHEDULE of EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011	<i>CONSIGNOR'S MEETING, 6:00 P.M. STATE FAIRGROUNDS (if called)</i>
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 10:00 A.M.	<i>SIFTING OF ALL CONSIGNED RAMS—<u>DEADLINE FOR ALL RAMS TO BE IN PLACE!!</u> STATE FAIRGROUNDS</i>
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 1:00 P.M.	<i>STATE PREDATORY ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETS IN CONJUNCTION WITH WY. ASSOC. OF COUNTY PREDATORY ANIMAL BOARDS: 4-H BUILDING</i>
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 3:00 P.M.	<i>WWGA ANNUAL STATE RAM SALE MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 4-H BUILDING</i>
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011	<i>RECEPTION AND DINNER AT THE MOOSE CLUB IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ABOVE MEETINGS</i>
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 9:30 A.M.	<b>83RD ANNUAL WYOMING STATE RAM SALE</b> <b>STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Douglas, WY</b>

# 2011 Dues Paid Update

The following members have paid their 2011 dues at the levels indicated,  
or made other contributions to the WWGA.

**The WWGA THANKS YOU!!!!**

*(as of August 24, 2011. Members names (other than Business Associates and Gold Level ) will appear only once per year)*

Please Note— We have made every effort to make sure all who have paid their dues or made contributions to the WWGA are recognized, BUT if you have paid your dues or made a donation or contribution and do not see your name: (1) accept our apologies and (2) let us know so that we can rectify the problem (email wyowool@wyowool.org with info).

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**Business Associates- \$200.00 minimum**

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*(the WWGA wants to extend a special “THANK YOU” to the following “Business Associate” members for their contributions and encourages all of our members and industry supporters to patronize these businesses whenever possible. Without their support, many of the functions the WWGA undertakes could not be possible!!*

WY Cooperative Extension Service	Farm Credit Services (Jim Palm)
Mountain Plains Agricultural Service	Center of the Nation Wool, Inc.
Wyoming Livestock Roundup	Lathrop (Greenline) Equipment Company

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**Gold- \$2000.00 and above**

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Hardy Ranch, LLC	Truman & Marie Julian
Tom & Renee Davis	Don & Peter Meike
Wm. I Moore	Jerry Dilts
Green River Livestock (Bill Taliaferro)	

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**Silver- \$1,000 and above**

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John & Vicki Child	Fred Roberts
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**Bronze- \$500 and above**

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Robbie and Pat Duncan

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**Purple- \$250 and above**

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Richard & Dorthey Jean Davis	Allison Ramsbottom
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**Blue- Active Producer Member<sup>2</sup>- \$100 and above (includes full voting priveleges)**

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Bill & Kristi Thompson	Kelly Thompson
Roy & Jennie Strock	O’Leary Flock
Jim & Cat Urbigkit	Ed & Barbara Rech
James McCormick	Barbara Dilts

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**ASI Dues (the following members have generously contributed additional dollars to help pay Wyoming’s dues to the American Sheep Industry Assoc.(ASI), THE ONLY national voice of the American sheep producer. THANK YOU!!!)**

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Roy & Jennie Strock	Jim & Cat Urbigkit
Richard & Dorthey Jean Davis	James McCormick
Allison Ramsbottom	Barbara Dilts

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**Donations/Memorials/ WWGA Building/Garden Fund**

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-Barbara Dilts (to Memorial Garden Fund) —4 trees to be planted in memory of Cindy Innes, Anne Boner Joy Hardy and Thelma Ohman

-Bill Taliaferro- In memorial of Eddie Moore

# TEAM SHEEP



# CAMP



For more information on the WWGA's Sheep Wagon Project, please refer to the July 2011 issue of the Producer Update.

If you would like to make a donation to "TEAM SHEEP CAMP" please send them to WWGA, 811 N. Glenn Rd., Casper, WY 82601. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact Bryce Reece at 307-265-5250 or 307-267-3113

**THANK YOU** to the following for their generous contributions dedicated to the Sheep Wagon Project.

**"Bronze Sponsors"**: \$100 contribution: receives a special *bronze* WWGA Sheep Wagon lapel pin and a listing as a **BRONZE** sponsor in any promotional/educational materials developed in conjunction with the Sheep Wagon Project.

- Ed and Barbara Rech
- Bruce Barker
- Wyoming Livestock Roundup

**"Silver Sponsors"**: \$1,000 contribution: receives a special *sterling silver* WWGA Sheep Wagon lapel pin, a specially designed "**TEAM SHEEP CAMP**" embroidered jacket, name listed in smaller type on the vehicle/trailer developed to transport the Wagon and horses and a listing as a **SILVER** sponsor in any promotional/educational materials developed in conjunction with the Sheep Wagon Project

**"Gold Sponsor"**: \$5,000 + contribution: receives a special

**14K plated**

Doug and Susan Samuelson

**Gold**  
**ed**

WWGA Sheep Wagon lapel pin, a specially designed "**TEAM SHEEP CAMP**" embroidered jacket, their name/ranch/logo/brand prominently displayed on the vehicle/trailer developed to transport the Wagon and horses and a listing as a **GOLD** sponsor in any promotional/educational materials developed in conjunction with the Sheep Wagon Project.

- Vern Vivion Family
- Gene Hardy (x2)
- Hardy Ranch
- Shawn + Michelle Musselman
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming State Fair 100th Celebration

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es, regulatory mandates to decrease costs to businesses and a rule that would have prevented the co-op from forming, had it been in place a few years back.

"We appreciate the fact that there are some things to be corrected, but be specific to those things, instead of overreaching and broad," said Boner.

Avalos responded, saying that in New Mexico, where he came from, he was a general contractor, and that he understands what it's like to have regulations change on an annual basis.

"We were mandated by the farm bill to change the 90-year-old law, and I understand that, when nothing has really been changed for 90 years, people are concerned about how the changes will impact their livelihood, operations and the futures of their kids, and for good reason," he stated.

"We just had a hearing July 7, and I think we got the message across. The proposed rule is a proposed rule – a starting point. In it we included things Congress told us to put in, and other components that they didn't," he continued. "We received over 60,000 comments, and we're listening. Those comments will direct what we come up with at the end."

"I can tell everybody in this room that there will be modifications to the proposed rule, but I can't go into details. I understand the problem with cooperatives and the unintended consequences," he said, also emphasizing that he and Secretary Vilsack are strong supporters of value-added marketing, and supporters of incentives for producers who do a better job than average.

Avalos also heard from various Wyoming players about state predator control, predator control projects for antelope and deer and the ongoing Big Horn Basin study looking at predators' affect on nesting sage grouse, among other topics, such as the importance of livestock protection dogs to the Wyoming sheep industry.

Of WS as a whole, Reece said his concern is that Wyoming is 50 percent federally owned, and WS is the only entity with predator control activities on federal lands, which operates under an MOU.

"Ninety percent of the sheep in Wyoming spend some portion of their time on some federal piece of property," said Reece. "Having a strong WS presence in this state benefits all counties and all programs, even if they don't directly cooperate with WS."

*Christy Martinez is managing editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and can be reached by calling 307-234-2700 or emailing her at christy@wylr.net*

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scheduled wolf hunting seasons this fall. Wolves are also delisted in parts of Washington, Oregon and Utah.. Idaho's season begins Sept. 1, with an unlimited quota, while Montana's is expected to start Oct. 22 with a 220-wolf quota.

"If I were not constrained by what I believe is binding precedent ... I would hold Section 1713 unconstitutional because it violates the Separation of Powers doctrine," Molloy wrote in his 18-page decision.

But he added higher courts have held that "so long as Congress uses the words 'without regard to any other provision in statute or regulation that applies,' or something similar, then the doctrine of constitutional avoidance requires the court to impose a saving interpretation."

The case, which pitted animal activist groups against Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, questioned whether Congress could end the debate over taking wolves off the endangered species list by changing the law.

In April, Montana Sen. Jon Tester and Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson amended an appropriations bill to remove wolves from federal protection, adding that their change "shall not be subject to judicial review."

That moved the wolf debate from a specific question - whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service legally allowed Montana and Idaho state wildlife agencies to take over wolf management but kept Wyoming under federal control - to a test of one of the highest principles in U.S. government.

Montana Wool Growers Association President Dave Hinnaland lauded the work of Tester and Simpson for their work in putting a halt to the years of costly and unnecessary litigation brought by so-called environmental groups on the gray wolf.

"Every Montanan understands that the endless litigation surrounding wolf management has done extensive harm to Montana's wolf population by lessening the tolerance for the presence of the animal on Montana's landscape," said Hinnaland. "Montana's sheep industry is hopeful that with this ruling Montana will finally be allowed to put in place and carry out its wolf management plan, a plan and process with which our association members have been and continue to be actively involved."

*Source: ASI—Reprinted in part from The Missoulian, Montana*

**The Wyoming Wool Growers Association Proudly Presents:**

*the*  
*83rd Annual*  
**WYOMING STATE RAM SALE**

**See the Special Consignment of the "Best of the Best" Rams  
from the 2011 WWGA/MSLC/UW "Ram Sire" Test**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, — 9:30 A.M**

**Wyoming State Fairgrounds, Douglas, WY**

***The Wyoming State Ram Sale will be your absolute BEST opportunity to view  
and purchase the quality and quantity of rams you need and demand!!***

***For more information or to request a catalog, call 307-265-5250 or visit [www.wyowool.org](http://www.wyowool.org)***

**Wyoming Wool  
Growers Association**  
811 N. Glenn Rd.  
Casper, WY 82601