

NSIP NEWS

A monthly newsletter of the National Sheep Improvement Program



info@nsip.org



<https://nsip.org>



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WOW, what a summer. Hot, dry, floods, and fires; there certainly has been a variety across the country. I hope everyone is surviving alright. It has been busy since our annual meeting in Reno, NV in January. Going to an all-volunteer staff has presented some challenges but has also presented some opportunities as well. As you can see from Cody's report, we are getting our financial house in order which has been a heavy lift and thanks to Cody for taking it on and thanks to the membership for bearing with us and responding positively.

We have some new committees that are getting off the ground, as you can see from this newsletter. Additionally, there are several things going on behind the scenes that will come out as they come to fruition. As you probably know, we have been in discussions regarding transitioning the NSIP database into a cloud-based system. Me, not being all that savvy on those sorts of things, was unaware of the bits and pieces needed to make that happen. We have been in frequent communication with our partners at Lambplan and Helical (the contractor that works the magic behind the scenes) and I am confident we are going to get to a new product that will serve us well. This won't be without some growing pains however so stay tuned and hang in there.

I really need to mention that the cooperation and engagement by our partners has been very good. We met with a couple of the main people in July and I believe we have a clearer picture of where we are going to land. More to come on that. Rest assured that the Exec board is working hard for our success. As always if you have an issue, question, heartburn (I will even accept an atta-boy) my contact info is on the website, don't be bashful.



Curt Stanley
NSIP Chairman

Financial Report

Cody Hiemke

NSIP Treasurer



During the last six months, my primary NSIP efforts have been getting our books in line and making sure communication is timely. I trust everyone has seen improvement in the latter.

The Books

To get our books in line, I have been auditing each member's account in QuickBooks, looking back through 2023, to ensure all data fees have been invoiced and payments are current. We encountered two primary challenges:

- 1) There are months where data fees were not invoiced, but should have been. This is a problem since those data fees correspond with a payment NSIP made to Sheep Genetics in Australia.
- 2) When transitioning from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online in mid-2024, not all data transferred to the new QuickBooks. This resulted in open invoices in the old version without the ability to see if they've been paid.

So far, 1150 of 1458 data-fee line items have been reviewed. Thanks to all members who assisted with follow-up questions. I know it can be frustrating when I'm asking whether you did or did not pay an invoice over the last few years. Our books are now in strong condition, and we aim to complete the full review by October 31.

Enrollment Fees & Billing Overview

I've encountered confusion regarding how invoices work. To assist with better understanding, I drafted the following:

Annual enrollment costs consist of three fees:

- 1) \$100 per flock enrollment fee
- 2) \$2.50 per ewe exposed the previous fall
- 3) 25 lambs x \$4.50/lamb = \$112.50 pre-paid data fees

The first two categories are capped at \$500 (ewe flocks >160 head are not charged more). These funds support the functions of NSIP.

When weaning weights (or older) measurements are submitted, a \$4.50 one-time charge is incurred on each animal. This represents the fee that NSIP pays to Sheep Genetics/LambPlan for generating the EBVs. Pre-paid data fees offset a portion of those charges. If submitting fewer than 25 lambs per year, the credit does not carry over to the next lamb crop.

NSIP invoices monthly after receiving billing files from Sheep Genetics following the mid-month EBV run. Membership receipts and credit memos are also issued monthly.

Online enrollment is preferred, however we can still process checks and are trying to also streamline that process.

Invoicing/office timeline

I'm not a full-time employee. After losing out on most of my spring, since mid-June I've tried to implement a timeline to the tasks I perform. So we're all on the same page, below is a general schedule.

Nearly daily

- Monitoring the NSIP email. Generally, people get a reply from me within 1-3 days. If for some reason I haven't replied, ping me again.

Weekly

- Record Stripe payments, maintain reporting documents, assign new NSIP IDs.

Monthly

- Membership receipts + credit memos
- Data-fee invoices and account reviews

Active reporting list

The active reporting list sent to MLA/Sheep Genetics lists members who can receive reports after submitting data. Due to the office changes earlier this year, we delayed purging the reporting list to only current members.

Effective with the **August 31st** submission date, only those who submitted **2026 enrollments** will receive reports. If you haven't signed up for 2026 membership but would like to, please visit this link to sign up online: <https://nsip.org/membership/>.

Communications with Australia

Sheep Genetics has flagged more NSIP emails as spam. When emailing **database@sheepgenetics.org.au**, please:

- Include a subject line (e.g. Data run for [BREED CODE])
- State whether data is **new** or a **EBV update** request
- Note major dataset changes (pedigrees, IDs, weight-date changes)

Please email info@nsip.org with questions before emailing Stephen Field in Australia. The only time we ask that you email Stephen is when submitting new data.

As always, don't hesitate to call or email with questions at info@nsip.org or (415) 302-8035.

Interested in Joining the NSIP Finance Committee?

We're seeking fiscally minded members with a solid understanding of bookwork and financial processes.

If this sounds like you, reach out to Cody to learn more.

Technical Committee Update



This past July, several U.S. sheep geneticists attended the World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP) in Madison, WI. The WCGALP has been held in different locations every four years going back to the 1970s but has not been hosted in the U.S. since 1986 (Lincoln, NE). This gathering of scientists, students, and industry professionals is often referred to as the “Olympics” of animal breeding and genetics. Oftentimes people think of geneticists as one homogenous group, but there are many sub-disciplines including the use of new phenotyping technologies (behavior, health, robustness, and environmental impact), statistical modeling and advanced computing, DNA and molecular advances, mating designs and selection index development, as well as species and regional specific challenges. All these sub-disciplines work together with the goal of using breeding and genetics to solve current and future challenges in the sustainable production of high-quality products from livestock.

Specific to sheep, we had a good showing of scientists from Australia, New Zealand, Europe,

Africa, South America, and Asia. What is always refreshing to see is that while we all have scientific challenges that are unique to our nation’s production systems, there are far more commonalities. I think the same could be said about sheep producers – at the end of the day we all want to care for our flocks, land, family, and community to the best of our abilities. These commonalities are rooted in over 10,000 years of raising sheep and transcend any language or cultural differences that have followed.

We were happy to present several NSIP related projects at the WCGALP and to learn about challenges and strategies implemented in other sheep producing nations. Additionally, we had productive conversations with scientists in Australia and New Zealand about how developments can ultimately be implemented for NSIP breeders. These collaborations are crucial to ensure the NSIP remains “America’s genetic foundation for a profitable sheep industry”. We look forward to sharing these and other scientific updates in the future.

Center of the Nation Sale Report

July 25, 2026 - Spencer, IA

RESULTS

Breed	Number of Head Sold	Breed Average
<i>Rams</i>		
Polypay	45	\$ 1,493.33
Dorset	10	\$ 1,290.00
Texel	2	\$ 1,025.00
Suffolk	15	\$ 1,823.33
Hampshire	12	\$ 1,216.67
Katahdin	8	\$ 1,025.00
Ile De France	2	\$ 1,000.00
<i>Ram ave.</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>\$ 1,428.72</i>
<i>Ewes</i>		
Polypay	34	\$ 908.82
Texel	2	\$ 550.00
Suffolk	3	\$ 800.00
Hampshire	6	\$ 766.67
Katahdin	5	\$ 710.00
<i>Ewe ave.</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>\$ 851.00</i>



Upcoming Events

September is a busy month for the purchase of new genetics, especially in the West! Here's a list of some upcoming sales that include rams (and ewes!) with estimated breeding values.

Know of an event that isn't on our list? Let us know at info@nsip.org!

August 20, 2026: U.S. Sheep Experiment Station. *Dubois, ID*

- ~ 25 hd of Polypay, Targhee, and Rambouillet rams



U.S. Sheep Experiment Station

Ram Sale & Field Day

August 20, 2026

19 Office Loop, Dubois, ID 83423

Contact: Ms. Shawna Leonard (sleonard@uidaho.edu; 208-852-6298)

The US Sheep Experiment Station will host its 2026 Ram Sale & Field Day on Thursday, August 20, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM MDT.

The Field Day will begin at 9:00 AM with facility tours and talks about using NSIP for flock improvement, the new Centennial breed and direct marketing, RFID technology and data management, and flock health tips.

The Ram Sale will begin at 11:00 AM and include ~25 rams of Polypay, Targhee, and Rambouillet breeds. Also, the 2026 sale will mark the debut of the Centennial breed rams, a new meat-type breed developed for range-based operations. All rams are "NSIP" rams. The final sale list with NSIP and production data will be available late July/early August. The local 4-H will host lunch with proceeds going towards Clark County 4-H programs.

August 22, 2026: Virginia Performance Ram Lamb Test Sale. *Steeles Tavern, VA*

- <https://sas.vt.edu/extension/vtsheep/va-ram-test.html>
- Online bidding available at: livestockbuyer.com

September 15, 2025: Wyoming State Ram Sale. *Douglas, WY*

- 5 NSIP consignors representing approximately 50 hd of NSIP rams
- <https://www.wyowool.com/ramsale>



WYOMING STATE RAM SALE
BEST IN THE WEST
EST. 1926

Schedule of Events

Monday, September 14th, 2026

- 8 AM – DEADLINE FOR ALL RAMS TO BE IN PLACE
- 9:30 AM – SIFTING BEGINS
- 3 to 5 PM – SHEEP PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
Dr. Whit Stewart, UW Sheep Extension Specialist
LOCATION: Wyoming State Fairgrounds—Douglas
- 6 to 9 PM – BUYER | CONSIGNOR APPRECIATION DINNER
LOCATION: Moose Club, 120 N. 2nd St., Douglas, WY
6 PM – Happy Hour • 7 PM – Lamb Dinner

Everyone Welcome!

Tuesday, September 15th, 2026

- 11 AM MST WYOMING STATE RAM SALE
LOCATION: Wyoming State Fairgrounds, Douglas, WY
ONLINE: <https://frontierlivesale.com/>

Join us in 2026!

WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
www.wyowool.com

Scan the QR to receive a catalog!

September 16th-17th: Montana Ram and Ewe Sale. *Miles City, MT*

- Approximately 250 ewes (either NSIP influenced or enrolled)
- Approximately 280 rams enrolled in NSIP
- <https://mtsheep.org/news-events/annual-montana-ram-and-ewe-sale/>



EST. 1926

MONTANA RAM SALE

101st Annual Ram Sale | 13th Annual Ewe Sale

Wednesday, September 16th

- Ewe Sale Social - 5:00pm
- Ewe Sale - 6:00pm

Thursday, September 17th

- Ram Sale Lunch - 11:00am
- Ram Sale - 12:00pm

Delivery Options
Available Outside of Montana!
Contact: Cord Bieber (406) 939-3200

FRONTIER Live Sale
frontierlivesale.com

MONTANA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
EST. 1883
www.mtsheep.org