



# The Idaho Wool Grower

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BULLETIN

## West Central State Wool Growers Convention

The West Central State Wool Growers Convention was held in Casper Wyoming November 8-10, 2018. Things were switched up with more people flying in, and having dinner off location at different facilities including, the Fairgrounds and the Nicolaysen Art Museum.

The highlight of the weekend was the opening event with the shearing Calcutta. Blake and Caleb Ball made Idaho proud by showing us their shearing skills!

Friday was a familiar schedule with updates from, ASI, PLC, the Department of the Interior, Forest Service and a Marketing Panel. Senator Barrasso was kind enough to visit us in his busy schedule to give an update on the happenings in Washington D.C.

Saturday was put on by the University of Wyoming professors and Extension. They had many different workshops from production and health management to feed and guard dogs. Everyone could find at least one topic they were interested in.

Those that didn't get up for Saturday mornings opening speaker Trent Loos, missed out. The cowboy put a humorous spin on how the public relates to agriculture and what we can do to improve that.

Mountain States Rosen provided delicious lamb that was prepared in a variety of lamb dishes. Lamb was shown in a different light throughout the convention from Himalayan cuisine to traditional tacos and fajitas. Of course the Presidents Banquet was a hit with rack of lamb as the main course.

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### Upcoming Events:

American Sheep Industry Convention  
January 23-26, 2019  
New Orleans, Louisiana

ASI Fly-In  
Washington D.C.  
Dates: TBA



1<sup>st</sup> picture  
on the Right  
Blake Ball  
is Shearing.

2<sup>nd</sup> picture  
on the Right  
is Caleb  
Ball with  
Peter  
Orwick a  
great team  
for the  
Calcutta

## The IWGA at Convention



Fun was had by all!

## ***Presidents Letter***

### ***The Idaho Wool Grower Bulletin***

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The Idaho Wool Grower  
Bulletin is included as part of  
membership dues.

**Dues:** 4 cents per pound of wool  
sold or 40 cents per head of all  
sheep owned 1 year of age or  
older.

#### Minimum Dues:

Individual \$40

Associate \$65

Business Associate  
\$185

As 2018 ends and we begin a new year, it's time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2019.

The not so positive. 2018 brought many challenges to our industry. We had to endure low prices for our lambs, while watching retail prices remain at high levels. Again this year, extremely heavy fat lambs helped drive prices down. The collapse of the pelt market also worked to push lamb prices lower. An early spring and abnormally dry summer resulted in lighter lambs at the corral and higher death loss.

Now let us look at the positive!

2018 brought record high wool prices to almost all classes of wool. Due to climate conditions, the quality and volume of wool was overall better than past years. The United States gained access for lamb meat to the Japanese market. The resumption of exports to Japan by itself won't have a significant impact on our market. It is, however, a tremendous first step. With Japan now open, it significantly helps in negotiations with other countries such as Hong Kong and ultimately China. If we can export our product to other Asian nations it could be a boon to our industry. China is the number one producer and consumer of lamb worldwide, they are also one of the largest importers of lamb.

The Idaho Woolgrowers intervened in a lawsuit between Wildlife Services and a radical environmental group. While it was determined that Wildlife Services must write new a new NEPA document, we prevailed in the remedy phase of the suit. WS will be able to continue normal operation while new documents are written. I would like to thank Mark Collinge and Mike Santini, two retired WS employees who really went above and beyond the call of duty to submit declarations in support of the program. Mike Guerry, Barry Duelke, Jeff Siddoway, J.C. Siddoway and Don Pickett also need thanks for their declarations. Lastly, a big thank you to Bill Myers from Holland and Hart for all your hard work representing us in this case. After attending two different hearings in this case, I learned that it takes a special talent to articulately, effectively and successfully argue in federal court.

Thank you to all of you who made the trek to Casper, Wyoming for our Tri-State Convention. It was a hike, to say the least to attend. The three Executive Directors put together a good program with very good information. A buffet lamb dinner and a sheep shearing contest was a great and new addition this year. We had discussions about guard dogs and their effectiveness. Worming protocols and efficacy. Successful vaccination programs. How to effectively prevent and treat Coccidia. Terry Padilla from the USFS assured us that the Forest Service will be in Idaho soon to show us how their sheep separation strategy works. A wonderful rack of lamb dinner Saturday night closed out a great convention. Thank you to Mountain States Rosen for providing all the lamb for our convention, it was delicious!

2019 starts my second year as the President of your organization. There is much work to do. Your Idaho Wool Growers needs to be able to move fast and be acutely responsive to the member's needs. It is vital that everyone who contributes to this organization feels that their dollars are being spent to strengthen our association. Everyone's phone calls, texts, letters and e-mails are important and will be answered. We will be timely sending out information about upcoming events. Event information will be sent by mail and e-mail. Our website, [Idahowoolgrowers.org](http://Idahowoolgrowers.org), will also be a resource for members to obtain information about events. The newsletter will be very informative and regular. Lastly, our Facebook page will also have regular updates about your association. I am always looking for ideas to improve our association. If any of you have comments, let's visit. I can be reached at (208)731-0832 and my e-mail is [Johnknoh@msn.com](mailto:Johnknoh@msn.com).

May 2019 bring ample mountain snow, abundant green grass, fine wool, many heavy lambs and above all joy, health and happiness to all.

Thanks,

John



## ***Follow Your Own Dreams or Someone else will have you building their dreams***

*By Brandy Kay  
IWGA Executive Director*

As most of you know, I had a very inspiring professor named Dr. Wells in College. He was always telling us to follow our dreams and to "Dream Big". He lived by this, it allowed him to have a very comfortable life and he was always a happy man, even when stressed. Why did this make him happy? There are a couple of reasons 1. He was doing something he loved 2. He was following his own dreams and creating his own life instead of working towards building someone else's dream.

I think we could learn a lot from him, especially as producers. Many of you have the first one down. You are ranchers raising sheep, it is something that you love and you can see it by your passion, care of your animals, and family involvement. The second one can be a little bit more elusive sometimes, especially with the markets, politics and labor process you have to work with. However, I think this is where great possibility lies. I have listened to you be inspired by and frustrated with some of the groups and industry entities and agencies you work with. Sometimes going from one to the other. That is because these groups, individuals, entities and agencies are trying to have the producers follow their dream. What if the producers were leading the industry towards their dreams? It may take time and even a little courage, but nothing is impossible and sometimes the greatest accomplishments come when others tell you it can't work.

In the spirit of the New Year I challenge all of you to work on your dreams. After all, dreams really are where goals start. It can be in whatever area you want, lamb prices, grazing, labor, anything. Remember to "Dream Big"! Do not be afraid, if you can't dream it, you won't know when you have it.

Once you have your dreams, be ready to work towards them. This may not be popular, you may have to travel or attend meetings, but it will be worth it. The Sheep Industry is your industry, you should direct it in the way you want it to be.

As always if there is anything I can help you with please email or call!

I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

*-Brandy*



Congratulations to Annette Eddins for her retirement from the University of Idaho at the United States Sheep Experiment Station after 32 years.

She is loved and will be missed! We wish her the very best!!

The picture at the left shows Annette receiving an Award for her service from the Idaho Wool Growers at Convention.

### *A Continuing Dream*

*I've tried to form my thoughts into rhyme,*

*So I can express them in a short time.*

*While at my desk I set and ponder,*

*My thoughts begin to weave and wander.*

*From days of youth to present day,*

*And things I've done along the way.*

*Some of which I am ashamed,*

*Others for which I have been blamed.*

*Then through my mind while half asleep,*

*Floats the memories of friends and sheep.*

*Of a gray-haired man with grandson near,*

*Moving lambs and ewes their coats to shear.*

*To tromp and stuff the sacks so ample,*

*Is for me but one example.*

*If you have sheep or been around,*

*You'll know of pleasures that can be found.*

*The dream was started by my dad,*

*When I was younger, just a lad.*

*Dad, out fixing fence on a dreary day,*

*Wearing Levi jacket and hat of grey.*

*He had sheep, a small farm flock,*

*With ewes to lamb and tails to dock.*

*The usual problems with any sheep,*

*Which ones to sell, which ones to keep.*

*Ewes and lambs in shoulder high grass,  
That got shorter and shorter as days would pass.  
  
Then when summer would change to fall,  
There would be hardly any grass at all.  
  
I'm still not sure how he kept them straight,  
With no number system, no day or date.  
  
His record book was just one page,  
With total head count, never age.*

*It was for me a mystery,  
How he could tell the history,  
And still keep each one from the next.  
  
The marks he read were like a text,  
The split in the ear, the freckled face,  
The wrinkled nose or peculiar pace.  
  
The shade of wool or shaggy coat,  
All the things of worthy note.*

*Helping Dad by driving truck,  
Hauling sheep was just my luck,  
To get a load of dire ewes,  
Be real careful so none I'd lose.  
  
Or loading lambs on a hot summer day,  
Will teach a person wrong things to say!  
  
These things and more that I could list  
Are gone for now and often missed.*

*He sold off the sheep because of his health.*

*Damn on the bad knees and Damn old age its stealth!*

*The corrals become weed beds, the sheds fall apart.*

*He died early one morning because of his heart.*

*Old friends die or move away,*

*But sheep I think are here to stay!*

*To be a part of this great industry*

*I've gone in hock with Mom and Lee.*

*The bank of course gave us a loan.*

*Then turned us loose out on our own.*

*To turn the wheels and oil the cogs,*

*To brave the weather and beat the dogs.*

*To sort off the good ones and sell the rest,*

*Trying to build up a flock of the best.*

*To continue a dream, a way of life,*

*With my young girls, my friend and wife.*

*Written by Dell M Mangum of Blackfoot Idaho in 1982.*

*A man who knew the value of Dreaming.*

**IWGA 2018 Standing Resolutions: Lamb & Wool  
WOOL CONTAMINATION**

Be it resolved that the IWGA urges all wool growers to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the use of sheep paint, not altering the branding paint in any way, and IWGA urges wool producers to be aware of polypropylene contamination and to take those steps necessary to assure that wool clips are free from this type of contamination.

**SUPPORT OF U. S. SHEEP STATION**

Be it resolved that the IWGA supports a close working relationship between the Agricultural Research Service and the University of Idaho on collaborative research projects that benefits the Idaho and this nation's sheep industry. The IWGA is adamantly opposed to any effort to close the station and calls on the industry to design research programs that address the current problems of the industry. Research programs that would benefit the Western Sheep Industry include studies on western watersheds of moderate well managed grazing that promotes maintenance of micro-terraces to enhance water retention capabilities of these watersheds.

**RANGE EXTENSION TEAM**

Be it resolved that the IWGA fully supports the efforts of the Range Extension Team and urges the legislature and University of Idaho to continue to fund and support the range extension program. The IWGA fully supports the UI Range Center at the University of Idaho and calls for the funding of that center. The needs of state and federal land management agencies have shown that rangeland specialists are critical to the management of public range lands and the rangeland program at the U of I will go far to meet these needs.

**RANGELAND RESOURCE COMMISSION**

Be it resolved that the IWGA supports the Rangeland Resource Commission and its activities that forward Idaho's livestock industry in the eyes of the public.

**RANGE MANAGEMENT BASED ON SCIENCE**

Be it resolved that the IWGA calls on the U.S.F.S. to recognize that micro-managing the grazing of sheep can be detrimental to, not only the animals, but the range they graze as well. The IWGA calls on the U.S.F.S. to recognize that the improvements in the watershed and plant communities brought about by well managed sheep grazing improves the range for fish and wildlife. The IWGA calls on the U.S.F.S. to utilize peer review and outside review on scientific publications that are the basis of many decisions regarding range management. The IWGA is opposed to the concept of capability and suitability as important decisions will be made not based on science, but rather on criteria not related to proper range management practices. The IWGA calls on research to be undertaken to determine the effects of grazing on rangelands managed by the USFS.

**UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO SHEEP PROGRAM**

Be it resolved that the Idaho Wool Growers Association support adequate funding to maintain and expand sheep research programs at the UI. The IWGA encourages wool growers to support endowments to the University of Idaho that will forward research regarding the Idaho Sheep industry.

**UI CALS AG RESEARCH & EXTENSION SYSTEM\***

Be it resolved that the IWGA go on record in support of the University of Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension System. The University of Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension System funding is identified by the IWGA as a high priority for the State of Idaho, its counties and Idaho's agriculture industry. Cooperative opportunities and partnerships can be fostered to further enhance Idaho's Agricultural Research and Extension System. The IWGA calls on the Governor, Idaho Legislature, State Board of Education, and elected officials to protect Idaho's economic and agricultural future by stabilizing funding for the Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension System.

**Farm Flock and Purebred Breeders**

**SHOW LAMBS TAIL DOCK**

Be it resolved that the IWGA condemns ultra-short tail docking. This practice leads to incidental rectal prolapse. Forced exercise and forced feeding of unnatural (i.e. liquid) diets is also condemned. The IWGA urges state and county livestock shows prohibit such practices.

**Animal Damage and Disease Control**

**ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL**

Be it resolved that the IWGA supports all legal predator control measures, including lethal and non-lethal control practices that are available to producers that will help prevent losses.

**WOLF MANAGEMENT**

Be it resolved that the IWGA fully supports the delisted status of the Canadian Gray Wolf in the state of Idaho. Federal funding should be made available for wolf control and wolf management programs. Funding should also be made available to reimburse livestock owners for damages caused by the wolf.

**SCRAPIE**

Be it resolved that the IWGA urges all Idaho wool growers to acknowledge and comply with the current scrapie program to control and eliminate this disease. The Idaho Wool Growers supports the continuation of the Scrapie Grant funding offered on the federal level that has been utilized by the Idaho Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board.

**BLUETONGUE VACCINE**

Be it resolved that the IWGA actively work to make a Bluetongue vaccine available to the Idaho Sheep Industry.

## **IWGA 2018 Standing Resolutions: State & Federal Lands**

### **LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTATION**

Be it resolved that the IWGA calls for states, with help from the federal level if necessary, to become uniform in their implementation of health rules on the transportation of livestock.

### **LIVESTOCK TRAILS**

Be it resolved that the IWGA urges established livestock trails parallel to and across expanding highways be maintained and not restricted and that trailing be recognized as a valid use of transportation corridors. The IWGA supports the continued use of existing driveways as well as the reopening of several key livestock driveways to help relieve wool growers of financial stress and to help reduce the spread of foot-rot and other diseases that are more easily communicable because of trucking.

### **NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL**

Be it resolved that the IWGA calls on all federal, state, and local land management entities to coordinate with one another for the effective control of noxious weeds. The IWGA supports the legislative effort to increase funding to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to a sufficient level for effective noxious weed control so long as the legislative initiative equitably proportions the cost burden to all citizens of the state.

### **SAGEBRUSH SEEDING**

Be it resolved that the IWGA oppose sagebrush seed being mandatory in seed mix used on burned areas. Whether or not sagebrush seed is necessary in the mix should be determined on a site by site basis.

### **POISONOUS PLANT RESEARCH**

Be it resolved that the IWGA urges the USDA/ARS Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory to conduct research on the problem of poisonous plants spreading throughout the state of Idaho, and IWGA requests the Congress of the United States to provide adequate funding to support this research.

### **STATE LAND LIVESTOCK TRAILS**

Be it resolved that when state lands are being contemplated for sale and these lands have established trails for sheep, that these trails and sufficient acreage for bed grounds be retained to service the industry.

### **FEDERAL GRAZING FEE RATE**

Be it resolved that the IWGA supports a fair and equitable formula to determine grazing fees on federal lands, including a 7:1 AUM ratio, and favors consideration of a fee system which includes credits for permittee management which relieves government from funding similar activities.

### **FISH AND GAME**

Be it resolved that the IWGA opposes any private land purchase by the Idaho Department of Fish & Game until all options and alternatives have been explored to manage these wildlife resources without the purchase of these lands. The IWGA calls on state legislation to be enacted that would put in place a NO NET LOSS procedure whereby the Idaho Department of Fish & Game would put back into private ownership a like amount of land for any new land purchased in the future.

### **WILDERNESS/MONUMENTS**

Be it resolved that the IWGA oppose additional federal lands being designated as wilderness, or administratively decreed a protected area, where grazing and grazing related activities, including animal damage control and the ability to trail livestock on historic livestock trails, will be reduced or eliminated or where existing programs that benefit all who utilize these lands will be restricted. The IWGA calls on Congress to amend the Antiquities Act to provide for Congressional approval on all monument designations put in place by Presidential Executive Order.

### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

Be it resolved that the IWGA calls on our Congressional delegation to work diligently for changes in the act that will make it fair and workable for all parties involved, and that these changes recognize economic and social impacts of listing species.

### **FIRE RESTORATION**

Be it resolved that the IWGA urges land management agencies to recognize livestock as a tool in fire management and control of watershed erosion and encourages said agencies to utilize sheep in fire prevention and restoration efforts. Be it resolved that the IWGA call on all federal and state land management agencies to evaluate burned areas, on a site by site basis, so that a proper determination can be made as to when livestock can be returned to the area.

### **LITTER MANAGEMENT**

Be it resolved that the IWGA calls upon the legislature of the State of Idaho to address the growing problem of waste bottles and cans on the highways, byways, rangelands, and scenic waterways and to implement programs to help resolve this growing problem.

### **IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS) \***

Be it resolved that the IWGA calls on Idaho's Congressional Delegation to work closely with the Department of Homeland Security-Department of Labor and Congress to implement legislation and/or rules that will require INS to more actively pursue those individuals that "jump contract" and return them to their home country. The IWGA urges our Congressional Delegation and ASI to work with the Western Range Association in assuring that appropriate statutory or regulatory language be adopted that will maintain the special rules pertaining to the sheep industry in the H2A program. The differing wages for sheepherders in the various western states has led to confusion and discontent among workers. IWGA supports the addition to the H2A program of a "In time of need" regulation that will allow foreign workers to come in quickly, when needed, for the production of food and fiber. The IWGA supports the inclusion of the "special procedures" provisions in any immigration bill being considered by Congress.

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPORT**

Be it resolved that the IWGA supports the development of renewable energy generation in the state of Idaho. All avenues should be explored that forward renewable energy use in concert with Idaho agricultural industries.

**IWGA 2018 Standing Resolutions: State & Federal Lands  
LANDOWNER CONSERVATION INCENTIVES TAX  
CREDIT PROPOSAL**

Be it resolved that the IWGA supports legislation that would provide state income tax credits to willing landowners who make qualifying conservation contributions. Qualifying land owners should be allowed to sell these tax credits to willing buyers. The IWGA will only support such a program if it ensures that participating working ranches remain in operation and viable. These tax credits should only be made available to landowners who receive greater than 50% of their gross income from farming and ranching. Participating landowners should be given the opportunity to enter into term easements. Upon its completion, the IWGA Board of Directors will review the legislation and develop a specific recommendation for IWGA's position related to it.

**BIGHORN SHEEP / DOMESTIC SHEEP\***

Be it resolved that the IWGA strongly oppose the termination or reduction of grazing permits on public lands and the removal or reduction of domestic sheep utilizing these permits based solely on the premise that bighorn sheep that populate the same range, or close to the same range, are "at risk" from transmission of disease from domestic sheep.

The IWGA supports congressional actions that would prevent active allotments from being closed due to the presence of bighorn sheep. The IWGA also supports the opening of alternative allotments to help wool growers who have lost range because of the bighorn sheep, fire, or any other activity that has closed active allotments

**ISDA RANGE PROGRAM SUPPORT**

Be it resolved that the IWGA supports the continued funding of the Idaho Department of Agriculture Range Program. IWGA urges, as funding allows, three positions for this important program.

**ELIMINATE ETHANOL SUBSIDY**

Be it resolved that the IWGA calls on congress to eliminate the incentives for corn to be used for ethanol production. It is time for ethanol to stand on its own two feet in the market place.

**New Resolutions**

**ECONOMIC VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS**

**WHEREAS:** There is increasing pressure from many groups to increase grazing fees to levels that will make it economically unfeasible to continue grazing on many Western rangelands; and

**WHEREAS:** The Federal land planning process which started with NEPA and the settlement of the NRDC suit has identified many areas of public lands in the Western United States that have real or perceived conflicts concerning uses of such lands; and

**WHEREAS:** The pressure of these uses on livestock grazing has made livestock operations on public lands increasingly more difficult to manage economically not only for the permittee but also for the land manager and the taxpayer; and

**WHEREAS:** Livestock operators in the Western United States have been dependent upon public lands as an integral part of their operations for many decades and have established a tenure on public lands that has been recognized by financial institutions and the State and Federal government for years; and

**WHEREAS:** It has been established by the Federal Government and precedents have been set that use permits have realistic values and have been purchased by the Federal Government; and

**WHEREAS:** Grazing rights add a substantial value to base property;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Idaho Wool Growers Association request that our congressional delegation initiate legislation that compensates permittees for losses associated with alternative uses of currently permitted land;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Idaho Wool Growers Association recognizes a grazing permit as private property that cannot be separated from the base property without loss of value.

**PUBLIC LANDS PERMIT VIOLATIONS**

**WHEREAS:** Livestock grazing on public lands is under attack; and

**WHEREAS:** In many instances actions are perpetrated to create a conflict between the permittee and the agency;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** Permit violations resulting from other resource users shall not be used to penalize the permittee.

**WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS, AND OTHER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Idaho Wool Growers Association opposes unilateral designation of any additional land as a national monument, additional wilderness, or other special designation on either Forest Service or BLM Lands, or state land;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The IWGA pursues the declaration of the roadless/wilderness study areas void so that multiple use management can continue for the benefit of the land resources and all users of these lands;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The IWGA will assist affected members and their local communities in efforts to move beyond the status quo and define solutions to these roadless/wilderness issues; especially when these proposed solutions provide for the continued viability of ranching operations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The IWGA supports active grazing management of wilderness areas for public enjoyment and access for fire reduction management.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** As proposed solutions to these issues are developed, IWGA will review them on a site-specific basis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** If livestock grazing is reduced as a result of a wilderness or other land use designation proposal, or by agreement by the affected permittees, those permittees must be compensated in such a manner so that their ranching operations remain viable. All compensation and associated funding shall be made at the same time that any such reduction or agreement is implemented.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** In accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, the designation of wilderness does not require, in fact precludes, the automatic retirement of grazing permits. The option to use grazing as a management tool, and to maintain the viability of ranching operations, should always be left open.

#### **NON-WILLFUL TRESPASS**

**WHEREAS:** Non-willful trespass may cause a permittee to be subject to civil penalties or criminal sanction (43CFR4150.1) and result in the authorized officer withholding issuance of a grazing permit or lease, or suspension in whole or in part of a grazing permit or lease, or in cancellation of a grazing permit or lease and grazing preference (43CFR4170.1-1(a)); and

**WHEREAS:** Circumstances beyond the control of the permittee, for example, unfenced range boundaries, fences/gates opened by persons other than the permittee, and fences damaged by large game animals, often hamper timely control of livestock and result in non-willful trespass; and

**WHEREAS:** When changing pastures in a grazing system, common sense and reason needs to be used by all parties before a trespass is issued;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That IWGA supports amending federal and state lands regulations to establish a procedure for informal resolution of non-willful trespass violations at the local level without prejudice.

#### **NOXIOUS WEEDS, POISONOUS PLANTS, AND PESTS**

**WHEREAS:** Noxious weeds, poisonous plants, and pests present an ever-increasing problem on private and public lands; and

**WHEREAS:** Weeds, poisonous plants, and pests on state and federal lands are spreading and contaminating private lands;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Idaho Wool Growers Association requests that all federal and state land management agencies ~~instigate~~ provide funding for a more effective weed, poisonous plants, and pest control program.

#### **RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS:** Specific utilization levels are being applied as standards in riparian areas to remove domestic livestock from entire pastures and allotments, regardless of whether management systems are in place; and

**WHEREAS:** There is apparently not enough effort by agency personnel to work with permittees to identify alternatives that would distribute domestic livestock grazing to manage riparian areas without closure of entire pastures and allotments to grazing; and

**WHEREAS:** A short period of heavy grazing during unusual circumstances such as drought would not do irreparable damage to riparian areas;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That in the implementation of the Riparian Area Management Policy, management actions should be tailored to each specific site to be managed. Arbitrary application of specific utilization levels should not be generally applied to riparian areas where management systems are in place or can be implemented. Alternatives to redistribute livestock grazing should be developed wherever possible;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That monitoring programs be established based on trend and utilization mapping of the entire pasture, rather than specific stubble height on key areas;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That closure to livestock grazing should be the last resort and only when necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the resource and protect the welfare of the livestock.

#### **IDAHO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IN NATURAL RESOURCE DECISIONS AND ESA ACTIONS**

**WHEREAS:** The economy and environment of Idaho and the property and jobs of Idaho's citizens are endangered by the ever-increasing regulatory actions of various state and federal agencies; and

**WHEREAS:** Idaho citizens and communities, in their efforts to defend their property and economy from unnecessary, unreasonable or unproductive regulation, are often inadequately prepared to make the required technical, legal, economic, and scientific comments; and

**WHEREAS:** The economy and environment of all Idahoans would benefit from an increase in the scientific validity and common sense of natural resource regulation;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Idaho Wool Growers Association supports general fund appropriations for at least three range/natural resource staff at the State Department of Agriculture to fully participate in all decision-making processes with those involved in regulating Idaho's natural resources on private, state, and federal lands.

#### **STATE LANDS GRAZING PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS:** State lands play an integral part in many Idaho range livestock operations; and

**WHEREAS:** The highest long-term net return to the endowment requires a stable, viable livestock industry; and

**WHEREAS:** A properly managed program is in the best interest of both the livestock industry and the beneficiaries of the endowment.

**WHEREAS:** The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is undergoing a process to review the grazing program and consider changes to the grazing lease rate.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** Any changes to the current grazing fee must be based on a formula that ties it to market conditions, that allows the price to go down as easily as it goes up, and any increase in the fee must be sufficiently researched and explained.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** IWGA shall not support a change to the rate structure, or the development of a tiered grazing rate, unless IDL can adequately justify the change through sound financial information and a comprehensive review of such a change on the grazing leases in the state.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That IWGA continue to work with legislators, IDL, the State Land Board, and the livestock industry to strengthen tenure and, where needed, modify state land lease renewal procedure so that the process is streamlined and that these leases better meet the needs of the industry;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** IWGA shall work with IDL and the Land Board to ensure that they understand the need for the grazing program to remain a valuable component of the endowment asset portfolio, because grazing provides sound management by the ranchers who hold the leases and ensures a predictable, stable and low risk cash flow to the endowment.

#### **RESOURCE MONITORING**

**WHEREAS:** Voluntary data collection may be beneficial to the permittee and state and federal agencies alike;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** IWGA shall support a permittee or third party monitoring program such as the Public Lands Council Monitoring MOU that is legitimized and accepted by the state and federal agencies.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** While the IWGA supports permittee and third party monitoring they do not support permittees being required to turn their data over to a state or federal agency.

#### **10. OPEN RANGE**

**WHEREAS:** Idaho's current open range law states that it is the duty of the landowner to fence out unwanted livestock on the open range; and

**WHEREAS:** The law also makes clear that on open range, livestock can legally be on the highway and it is the obligation of the driver to avoid them; and

**WHEREAS:** As more people move into Idaho's rural areas, there is increasing pressure to change the current open range laws;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Idaho Wool Growers Association stands in strong support for Idaho's open range laws and strongly opposes any efforts to weaken them.

#### **BLM & FOREST SERVICE PERMIT RENEWAL & TRANSFER**

**WHEREAS:** The reduction in the number of range personnel, the litigation, the appeals and the cost and length of time involved with the environmental review process have drained significant resources and have prevented the US Forest

Service and BLM from completing environmental reviews according to schedule and prior to the expiration of grazing permits;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That IWGA and PLC work with Congress to ensure that no permittee will be deprived of the re-issuance of a grazing permit or lease because the Secretary of Agriculture or Interior failed to complete NEPA review prior to expiration or transfer of any permit or lease;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That IWGA and PLC work with the federal agencies to find a long-term strategy in order to complete the environmental review process in a timely, thorough and practical fashion.

#### **BLM REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE PRIORITIES**

**WHEREAS:** The current administration's available time and resources will limit the effort to make regulatory and administrative changes in the BLM; and

**WHEREAS:** Those items that would gain a true and proper scientific process, gain security and stability for permittees and lessees and assure that arbitrary authority is diminished by access to due process would provide the greatest relief to the greatest number of ranchers.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That when participating in the process of reforming BLM grazing regulations, the IWGA shall place a high priority on the following regulatory and administrative changes and shall seek to have the PLC and ASI do the same;

- Interested public and affected interests should only participate in allotment management at the resource management planning level, unless the permittee seeks to participate in a collaborative management effort.

- The concepts of rangeland health assessments and standards and guidelines should be eliminated and decisions should be based on quantitative monitoring data measuring progress towards functionally defined goals such as proper functioning riparian or uplands condition.

- NEPA analysis should not be required for the renewal of grazing permits unless significant modification of the permit is occurring, nor for activities that implement the goals of a Resource Management Plan that has met existing NEPA requirements.

- Rangeland Studies is defined as *any nationally or regionally approved study method that is described by Technical Reference and/or approved by a State level or higher BLM science advisory team that is accepted by the authorized officer.*

- Changes in permitted use must be supported by *quantitative monitoring data, field observations, rangeland studies, and ecological site inventory data*, not just whatever data is acceptable to the authorized officer.

- A scientific review process, using some local range scientists among other range scientists, should be developed to become an official and required part of the BLM protest or appeals process for decisions affecting range management.

- Parties appealing a grazing decision of a federal agency should not be able to bypass the agency adjudication process and take the appeal directly to the federal court.

#### **TEMPORARY NON-RENEWABLE (TNR) PERMITS**

**WHEREAS:** Many range improvements have permanently increased carrying capacity of allotments throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS:** Range managers need flexibility to properly manage the resource;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** IWGA will work to assist permittees in making permanent improvements equate to permanent preference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Range managers should be given the flexibility they need to issue TNR when excess forage is available; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Decisions authorizing TNR should not be subject to public or judicial review.

#### **ABUSE OF THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT**

**WHEREAS:** The Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) passed in 1980 was enacted to restrain overzealous regulators and reimburse parties subjected to unreasonable government action by providing equal access to court; and

**WHEREAS:** The statute was designed to reimburse attorneys' fees so that a party that otherwise would not be able to afford litigation against the government could have an opportunity to justify its position in court and recover attorneys' fees' afterwards; and

**WHEREAS:** Environmental groups have greatly abused the original intent of this Act so that they are able to find procedural flaws in agency actions, sue the government, and receive billions of federal taxpayer dollars in attorney fees for settling or winning these cases which in turn, allows them to continue litigating the government, ; and

**WHEREAS:** Ranchers must pay their own attorneys' fees in order to attempt to participate in the litigation as intervenors.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** IWGA shall seek for the following changes to EAJA and its implementation: 1) There should be better oversight in how EAJA fees are distributed; 2) There should be complete transparency and reporting on the government's expenditures of taxpayer dollars when EAJA fees are awarded; 3) Any other amendments which would level the playing field and prohibit the abuse and overuse of this law.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FIXES FOR GRAZING PERMIT ADMINISTRATION**

**WHEREAS:** Current federal laws and regulations, and the judiciary's interpretation thereof, regarding federal grazing permit administration have created a malfunctioning system whereby opposing groups are able to stymie on-the-ground management and use through an aggressive litigation strategy; and

**WHEREAS:** These issues of concern include: 1) Ease for activists to gain interested public status; 2) The burden of proof is borne by the grazing permittee in the administrative appeals process; 3) The Office of Hearing and Appeals does not follow the Administrative Procedures Act's (APA) standard of proof as it relates to resource decisions; 4) The elimination of an automatic stay of a BLM decision when it is appealed, and; 5) The APA does not currently apply to Forest Service permittees.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** IWGA shall seek for the following changes to federal laws and regulations: 1. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) should be amended to require that participants in the grazing permit decision making process have constitutional or Article III standing.

2. The burden of proof should comply with the burden set by the APA in requiring that the federal agencies bear the burden of showing that their decisions are correct in law and in fact.

3. The standard of proof should be changed so that the BLM has to prove its case by a preponderance of the evidence.

4. The BLM's grazing regulations should be amended to return to pre-Rangeland Reform language so that decisions are automatically stayed if appealed, unless fact specific circumstances support a decision in "full force and effect".

5. The NFMA should be amended so that Forest Service permittees can challenge agency decisions "on the record" under the APA.

These are all of the IWGA's current resolutions for 2019.

**ASI REGISTRATION:** Below is the website and link for registration. Also note that draft agendas for the board, councils and committee meetings are posted on the [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org) site as well for your planning purposes. We continue to run well ahead of last year for registrations so expecting a large turnout!

[http://sheepusa.org/Events\\_2019Convention](http://sheepusa.org/Events_2019Convention)

## Ingredients:

1 bag frozen french fries, cooked according to package directions  
 1 1/2 pounds ground American lamb  
 1 small red onion, grated  
 4 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 lemon, zested with microplane zester  
 4 tablespoons finely chopped fresh mint  
 1 teaspoon coriander  
 1 teaspoon cumin  
 1 teaspoon dried oregano  
 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, optional  
 Kosher salt  
 2 tablespoons olive oil  
 1 cup crumbled feta cheese  
 Israeli Salad, recipe below  
 Tzatziki, recipe below  
 sliced olives  
 fresh torn mint or chopped parsley, for garnish

## *for the Israeli Salad*

1 cucumber, peeled and seeds removed, finely diced  
 2 plum tomatoes, peeled and seeds removed, finely diced  
 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice  
 2 tablespoons chopped parsley  
 Kosher salt

## *for the Tzatziki*

1 cup plain Greek yogurt  
 1/2 cucumber, peeled  
 1 lemon, juiced  
 1 clove garlic, minced  
 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh mint  
 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano  
 Kosher salt

## Directions:

Combine ground lamb, onion, garlic, lemon zest, mint, coriander, cumin, dried oregano, and cayenne pepper in a medium mixing bowl. Season generously with Kosher salt. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Brown lamb, breaking into bite-size pieces as it cooks with a wooden spoon, until fully cooked. Remove from heat.

Top cooked french fries with cooked lamb, sprinkle generously with feta cheese, and spoon on Israeli salad and Tzatziki. Top with chopped olives and torn mint or chopped parsley. Devour!

### **For the Israeli Salad**

Combine all ingredients in a small mixing bowl and season with Kosher salt.

### **For the Tzatziki**

Using the smaller side of a box grater, grate cucumber. Soak up excess cucumber moisture with paper towels. In a small mixing bowl, combine Greek yogurt, 3 tablespoons of the grated cucumber, lemon juice, garlic, mint, and dried oregano. Season with Kosher salt. Taste and adjust seasonings as desired.



Fun Super bowl recipe.

## **Ingredients:**

*1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt  
 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
 4 garlic cloves, minced  
 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger  
 1 tablespoon curry powder  
 Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper*

*8 American lamb rib chops cut 3/4-inch thick, or 1 American rack of lamb (about 1 1/2 pounds), cut into individual chops*

Mix the yogurt, olive oil, garlic, ginger, curry powder, 2 teaspoons salt, and several grinds of pepper in a large bowl. Place the lamb chops in a large baking dish and season well with salt and pepper. Coat all sides with the marinade, cover, and refrigerate at least 3 hours or overnight.

Prepare a hot fire in a charcoal or gas grill.

Grease the grill grates with oil. Wipe off excess marinade, and place the lamb chops on the hottest parts of the grill. Cook, turning once, until dark grill marks form on each side and an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center of each chop registers 130°F for medium-rare, 7 to 10 minutes. (Carry-over cooking will increase the internal temperature off the grill.) Move the lamb to a cooler part of the grill as needed to avoid blackening or flare-ups. Transfer the chops to a platter, cover with foil, and let rest at least 5 minutes before serving.

## ***PAIRINGS***

- Side: Zesty Rice Salad with Mango, Cucumber, Cashews, and Lots of Herbs



**Idaho Wool Growers Association**  
**P.O. Box 1079**  
**Emmett, ID 83617**

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Boise, ID 83708  
Permit No. 497

Electronic Service Requested

## Market Report

For the week of December 21, 2018  
Source: USDA-CO Dept. of Ag Market  
News Service, [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov)

## Idaho Wool Growers Business Directory

The following are Business Associate Members of the Idaho Wool  
Growers Association.

### Lamb Review.

**Feeder Lambs:** San Angelo: 78lbs. 168.00; 80-90 lbs. 150.00-154.00

**Slaughter Lambs:** 40-60 lbs 250.00-278.00, few 282.00-294.00; 60-70 lbs 228.00-256.00, few 272.00; 70-80 lbs 216.00-234.00, 80-90 lbs 189.00-208.00; 90-110 lbs 150.00-168.00.

Shoren and Wooled 110-155 lbs. 120.00-136.0

**Slaughter Ewes:** Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 52.00-63.5; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 65.00-78.00high-yielding 78.00-85.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 58.00-64.00; ; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) 42.00-54.00; Cull 1 (extremely thin) =20.00-40.00.

### Wool Review -

**Domestic Wool-** on a clean basis was inactive this week. There were no confirmed trades reported.

**Greasy Wool-** was at a standstill this week. There were no confirmed trades reported.

**DL Evans Bank**  
PO Box 1188, Burley, ID 83318  
208-678-8615

**David Winters Livestock**  
PO Box 935, Boise, ID 83701  
208-890-2609

**Fairchild Shearing, LLC**  
Vernon & Terri Fairchild  
1402 E 4300 N, Buhl, ID 83316  
208-543-5531

**Fairchild Sheep Shearing,**  
Dallas & Whitney Fairchild  
fairchildsheepshearing@gmail.com  
208-859-7319

**Farmers National Bank**  
PO Box 392, Buhl, ID 83316  
208-543-4354

**IFA**

1127 S 2400 E, Preston, ID 83263  
208-825-3060

**Holland & Hart**  
P.O. Box 2527, Boise, ID 83701

**Harper Livestock, Mike Harper**  
PO Box 36, Eaton, CO 80615 970-454-3181

**Idaho Ag Credit FLCA**

PO Box 985, Blackfoot, ID 83221

**Rocky Mountain Sheep Marketing**

PO Box 2596, Boise, ID 83701

**Western Range Camps**

1145 S Blackhawk Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, UT 84647

**Superior Farms, Livestock Department**

2530 River Plaza Dr. Ste 200, Sacramento, CA 95833

**University of Idaho**

**Animal & Veterinarian Science Dept.**

PREEC-Sheep Center, 875 Perimeter Dr. MS2090,  
Moscow, ID 83844-2090

**Utah Wool Marketing**

55 S Iron St Ste 2 -Building 657, Tooele, UT 84074  
453-843-4284

**J.R. Simplot, Western Stockmen's**

223 Rodeo Ave., Caldwell, ID 83605  
208-459-0806

Burley -208-878-7224; Idaho Falls 208-524-7170