

NLPA to Hold Summer Board Meeting in Colorado Springs, July 24-27

Colorado Springs, CO (NLPA) -- The National Livestock Producers Association will hold its summer board meeting at the Antlers Adam's Marks Hotel in Colorado Springs, July 24-27.

The NLPA Summer Board meeting was to include each member organization's full board of directors in order to help directors get a better understanding of their organization's involvement in NLPA. However, due to market conditions and special circumstances among member organizations, the meeting has been scaled back to include only the NLPA Board representatives.

The focus of the 2002 Summer Board Meeting will be the strategic planning of the future direction of NLPA. Facilitating the planning will be Dr. Carol Barbeito, Ph.D., president of CLB & Associates. Dr. Barbeito is a specialist in working with association management and leadership in planning, needs assessment, organization governance and structure, and evaluation. The NLPA Board of Directors will be challenged to refine the goals of the organization and provide direction for the future.

The meeting will kick-off on Thursday evening with a welcome reception sponsored by Mutual of Omaha. Friday's meeting will consist of planning sessions and will be followed with a reception and dinner that evening. Meetings will resume on Saturday morning and should wrap-up around noon. NLPA staff will help organize afternoon outings for historical tours, scenic visits and other activities.

For more information about summer board meeting, please contact NLPA at 1-800-237-7193. Also, look for registration materials on NLPA's web site (www.nlpa.org) in May.

NCFC to Hold Fifth Annual Washington Conference, June 10-12

Washington, D.C. (NCFC) – The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives will hold its 5th Annual Washington Conference at the Washington Court Hotel on June 10-12.

The Washington Conference unites NCFC Council members, senior managers, directors and farmer members of NCFC cooperatives and provides an opportunity for participants to meet with key decision-makers in Congress.

The NCFC Washington Conference promotes greater awareness, understanding and support for farmer cooperatives, and related issues and the policies and programs that affect producers on a national level. More than a meeting, this conference provides an opportunity to deliver the message of farmer cooperatives to Capitol Hill and to the new Administration.

For more information or to register for the meeting check the NCFC web site at www.ncfc.org or call Christina Cooper at 202-879-0809.

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Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association Announces Upcoming Changes

Baraboo, WI (Equity) - Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association, in an ever-increasing effort to derive the highest price for their patrons' livestock and to positively position itself for the future, on April 2nd, announced some upcoming modifications.

The auction market in Ettrick is being renovated into a replacement only facility – meaning that it will only handle dairy and feeder cattle. The market will hold its final slaughter sale on April 15th and then reopen under its new status on April 25th. It will hold biweekly dairy and feeder cattle sales, herd dispersals and any other special interest sales.

As a result of the new status at Ettrick, the Sparta auction market will be adding a Monday slaughter sale day.

The auction markets in Beetown and Ripon will be converted to strictly private treaty centers, starting May 1st and May 2nd, respectively. Their patrons are being encouraged to market their livestock at Lomira (which will be adding an additional sale day), Johnson Creek, Monroe, Richland Center or Waukon. Private treaty sales will be available at Beetown, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and at Ripon on Monday and Tuesday from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Effective May 3^d, Pat O'Brien, Lomira Market Manager, will retire

from employment and Chris Kooiman, current Ripon Market Manager, will take on the role as Lomira Market Manager.

A more economical cellular telephone program has already begun implementation.

The cooperative will soon begin self-insurance of transit and feedlot insurance.

These changes are a direct result of the shifting demographic nature of the cooperative's livestock trade area, as well as consolidation of packers and producers themselves. The cooperative makes these decisions with the patrons' best interest in mind – through increased livestock and buyer concentration, their livestock will be exposed to more competitive bidding and yield greater marketing success.

"Our patrons entrust us to effectively and efficiently market their livestock," Greg Beck, President and CEO, Beck. "Through livestock concentration and operational efficiencies, we will meet their requests," Beck said.

All decisions were authorized by the regional board of directors on Monday, April 1st. No other significant changes are planned for the near future.

Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association comprises 22 divisions, which assists today's producers with the marketing, managing and financing of their agricultural businesses.



The National Producer

Monthly newsletter of the National Livestock Producers Association

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NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Applications are available online!

Visit the NLPA Web site at www.nlpa.org or call 1-800-237-7193

McGwin Named VP of Administration for the Iowa Premium Pork Company

Colorado Springs, CO (NLPA) – The Iowa Premium Pork Company in Des Moines, Iowa, is pleased to announce that Marston McGwin is the new Vice President of Administration.

McGwin started his new position on April 22. McGwin's main duties at the Iowa Premium Pork Company will include managing the company office and developing programs to help the 1,400 members of the cooperative maintain their independence.

"I am excited about the opportunity to be here, to help the cooperative grow and prove that a group of independent farmers can produce livestock as efficiently and cost-

effectively as the large, integrated companies," McGwin said.

Previously, McGwin was the Director of Pork Marketing for Southern States Cooperative, Inc., in Richmond, Va. One of McGwin's achievements at Southern States was his development of a Pork Pricing Model that used the wholesale value of pork products along with the cost of production at the farm level and the cost of processing to determine a fair and equitable price to be paid to farmers. McGwin was also a senior economic analyst at Southern States and was the Vice President of



Marston McGwin

the Credit Department at Michigan Livestock Exchange/ Michigan Livestock Credit Corporation. He also has extensive financial experience from working in the banking industry for many years.

McGwin and his wife, Martha, are living in Winterset, Iowa.

Iowa Premium Pork is a closed cooperative with 1,400 independent pork producers as members. Iowa Premium Pork is working with Producers Livestock Marketing Association, Omaha, Neb., to provide marketing services, which includes pooling market hogs, and offering performance feedback and risk management services.

Veneman Selects Reifschneider as GIPSA Administrator

Washington, D.C. (USDA) – On April 2, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the selection of Donna Reifschneider as the new administrator of USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

Reifschneider comes to USDA from the Meat Export Federation where she has been an executive committee member since 1999. Prior to that, she was president of the National Pork Producers Council, coordinating state and national policy and strategy and negotiating with Canadian and Mexican pork organizations on trade issues.

"Donna Reifschneider brings to USDA unique experiences in the private sector that will be beneficial in administering important marketing programs," Veneman said.

Reifschneider, and her family, own and operate a 600-sow, 1000-acre hog and grain farm in southern Illinois. She served as chair of the Pork Quality Assurance committee from 1992 - 1998 and as chair of the Pork Food Safety committee from 1995 - 1998.

She also has served on the Pork Trade committee since 1999 and participated in trade missions to China, Japan, Argentina and Brazil.

Reifschneider is a participant in Illinois Governor Edgar's Commission on Animal Agriculture, the University of Illinois Blue Ribbon Task Force on Extension and the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program. She is a graduate of Southern Illinois University.

She officially joined the USDA on April 15.

GIPSA facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

Bollman Industries Uses New Scouring Train to Make Wool Processing More Efficient

*By Ross McSwain
Special Correspondent*

It's big, it's blue, it's noisy and its six wash bowls can easily handle a mid-sized city's dirty laundry in a matter of a few hours, but this giant washing machine is being used to scour wool that is made into hats.

"It performs much like a washing machine, except the wool is sent through the various washing cycles on a conveyor belt," explained Jason Bannowsky, general manager of Bollman Industries scouring operation in San Angelo, Texas.

The huge Andar Company scouring train is a state-of-the-art operation designed and manufactured in New Zealand. The equipment is fully twice or more efficient than old

scouring equipment that Bollman had been using since 1940.

Bollman of Texas, a division of Bollman Industries of Adamstown, Pa., replaced its old scouring line last year with a loan from the Sheep and Goat Fund administered by the National Livestock Producers Association of Colorado Springs. The fund is made available through the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center in Washington, D.C.

According to Bannowsky, the new equipment allows the company to scour 2,500 pounds of wool per hour, more than double the capacity of the old equipment. During test runs last year, the new scouring train was able to wash and dry up to 50,000 pounds of wool per work day. It has been in full operation since last August, he said.

Bollman Industries, founded in 1868, is a long-established business and user of wool, mostly in the production of mens' and women's hats. The firm also does commission scouring for some of America's leading woolen mills, including Pendleton, Frostmann and others.

Before locating its scouring plant in San Angelo, Bollman had a scouring operation in San Marcos, near San Antonio.

Bannowsky said Bollman specializes in handling short, fine wools that are sought by the felting trade. The wool staple is generally from 1-1/2 to 2 inches in length and paint free.

San Angelo is an ideal location for the plant since this particular type of wool is produced within a 200-mile radius of the city. At the height

continued on page 5 . . .

The photo at left is of Bollman's state-of-the-art wool scouring train recently installed at their San Angelo facility. Below, a Bollman employee makes final inspection of scoured and dried wool.



Final Rule Issued on Establishment of Lamb Checkoff

Denver (ASIA) – The final rule establishing a national, industry-funded lamb promotion, research and information program was issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service. The American lamb checkoff order was published in the April 11th Federal Register, following the public comment period conducted last fall.

Under the program, U.S. lamb producers, feeders and lamb packers will all pay an assessment. Individual U.S. lamb producers and feeders will pay a one-half (\$.005) cent per pound assessment based on live weight, and the first handler,

primarily lamb packers, will pay an additional 30 cents per carcass. The proposed order calls for a deduction at sale, however, remittance will occur at the slaughter level for most transactions. Lamb imports will not be assessed under the order.

American Sheep Industry Association President Frank Moore said, "It is an exciting step for the American lamb industry to move forward with an industry-wide board to work on our lamb market. The program is the first national livestock assessment to include slaughter companies."

The order calls for a delayed referendum to be conducted no

later than three years after assessments begin. During this time period, refunds may be requested.

The program is expected to raise \$3 million plus each year and will fund promotion, research and information programs. Specific programs will be determined by the program's board of directors who will be appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Industry organizations will nominate representatives to serve on the 13-member board, which will include: six producer representatives, three feeder representatives; three packers; and one seed stock producer.

Bollman Industries Modernizes Wool Processing, continued from page 4

of wool production in western Texas a number of years ago, more than 1,000,000 pounds of short wool was produced annually. That has declined to about 700,000 pounds per year.

Bollman has a hat factory in San Angelo, but it is operated separately from its scouring business. There are about 60 workers in the hat finishing division and 13 work in the scouring operation.

Bannowsky said the new equipment purchased from New Zealand is all automated and is much more efficient than the old equipment.

"We had to have new technology to stay in business," he said, noting that the new equipment removes more heavy solids from the wool, reduces the amount of water needed

in the wash cycles, and can extract most of the wool grease, or lanolin, from waste water rather than lose the by-product down the drain.

"We are now able to sell the lanolin to the cosmetic industry," Bannowsky said. The greasy substance, removed from the waste water through a separator process, brings about 40 cents a pound.

The machinery has huge shakers at one end that will remove a lot of dirt and vegetable matter before the wool is plunged into the vats of soapy water. The new machinery, controlled from a central control system, decreases water consumption, reduces soap use by over half since the water is recycled.

"We dump wash bowls once a week. We used to have to dump daily

using the old equipment," Bannowsky said.

The investment has paid off for Bollman. It gets cleaner wool with less vegetable matter, more even moisture content of wool coming through the dryers, and twice the production.

"We are pleased and our commission customers are pleased with the results," Bannowsky said.

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Ross McSwain lives in San Angelo, Texas. He has been a journalist for the past 40 years and was a farm and ranch editor for 25 of those years. Throughout his career he has worked very closely with the sheep and goat industry in the San Angelo area.

Veneman: "Extraordinary Focus" on Protecting Food Supply USDA Secretary Addresses Animal Agriculture Protection at NIAA Annual Meeting

Chicago (NIAA) – Education, information sharing and finding solutions are more important than ever in protecting the U.S. animal agriculture industry against agroterrorism.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) offered that very opportunity when it brought industry representatives together at its Annual Meeting, March 25-28 in Chicago.

With the theme of, "Animal Agriculture – Dealing with New Realities," NIAA's gathering drew approximately 200 participants, including livestock producers, veterinarians, business executives, scientists, academicians, state and federal animal health officials and other stakeholders in the animal food and fiber industry.

Keynote speaker Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and other NIAA presentations and discussion focused on food and agricultural security, bioterrorism, animal health safeguarding and emerging diseases.

"We are engaged in looking at the entire food supply with the idea of protecting it – not just against unintentional threats, but also against intentional threats," Veneman said. "Many of the issues we dealt with all last year, particularly foot-and-mouth disease (in the United Kingdom), are the very issues we worry about when we worry about intentional threats. So the mission at the U.S. Department of

Agriculture has been one of extraordinary focus on these issues."

Veneman explained USDA's stepped-up prevention programs March 26 at the NIAA recognition banquet. She emphasized how Sept. 11 has strengthened the working partnerships among state and federal government, universities and industry. This type of cooperative model was used at the California Department of Food & Agriculture, where she worked as Secretary of Agriculture prior to taking the national office. She credited Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, California state veterinarian and NIAA board member, for teaching her the value of cooperation.

"It's important to address agroterrorism and other industry issues and look to the future of animal agriculture.

**-- Ann Veneman
Secretary of Agriculture**

"USDA is now working closely with Gov. Tom Ridge and the Office of Homeland Security staff in understanding the whole issue of protecting our food supply," Veneman said. She is especially pleased with the commitment USDA has seen from the Bush Administration. The Defense Appropriations Act, signed in January, provided an additional \$328 million in USDA funding for homeland security.

Extra security for our nation's food supply could soon be boosted more.



Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman speaks at NIAA's Annual Meeting.

USDA's proposed budget for fiscal year 2003, released in February, includes \$2.367 billion to fight sabotage and protect the nation's food supply from plant and animal disease. That amount is up \$146 million from the current USDA budget. A \$48 million increase has been targeted for animal health monitoring by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veneman said. An extra \$19 million will go to support agricultural quarantine inspection programs, which will provide additional inspectors, canine teams and high definition x-ray machines at high-risk port of entry.

USDA will continue to look for ways to strengthen its partnerships and efficiently use resources, Veneman said. She commended the NIAA organization for bringing different parties to the table to talk about how to improve our food and agricultural systems.

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Editor's Note:

You may have noticed a few changes in this issue of The National Producer, mainly that this issue covers May and June.

It seemed that by the time the newsletter was distributed, the news it contained was outdated. NLPA staff decided that the newsletter would be more useful if it focused solely on member and allied organization news and included more original content. However, original content takes more time to develop, so the staff felt that it would be better to publish six good newsletters a year rather than 12 marginal ones.

We will strive to bring you the news that you don't get anywhere else. As editor, I would also encourage you to send in your commentaries, announcements or your story ideas to help us reach this goal.

I would also encourage you to take advantage of NLPA's weekly news briefs to get the latest industry news. If you are interested, please email me at MASchneider@nlpa.org.

—Melissa Schneider

NIAA Summer Expo to Focus on Animal Identification

Bowling Green, KY (NIAA) – The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has announced ID/INFO EXPO 2002, a conference and trade show devoted to the subject of animal identification and information systems.

The event will take place in Chicago, July 29 - Aug. 1, and will feature the National Food Animal Identification Symposium, the first-ever National Equine Identification Symposium and a trade show featuring manufacturers and service providers in the animal identification and information systems business.

NLPA will also facilitate a Livestock Subcommittee meeting at the ID/INFO EXPO. All NLPA members are invited to participate in the EXPO and the Subcommittee meeting.

For more information, please call Michelle Thomas at 270-782-9798 or visit the NIAA web site at www.animalagriculture.org.

NLPA Plans Annual Commodity Conference in Chicago, June 13-15

Colorado Springs, CO (NLPA) – National Producers Service Company is hosting its annual Commodity Conference at the Allegro Hotel in Chicago, June 13-15.

The conference begins with a visit to Man Financial offices with a discussion of Man Financial's services. On June 14, participants will visit the CME floor and hear overviews of the livestock, dairy and grain markets. On June 15, commodity branch personnel will hold a closed session to discuss internal business issues.

For more information about attending this conference, please contact Scharee Atchison at 1-800-237-7193.

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Veneman Addressed NIAA, continued from page 6

"That's the type of cooperation we need throughout all of our programs," Veneman said. "It's important to address agroterrorism and other industry issues and look to the future of animal agriculture."

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture, Bowling Green, Ky.,

began operations in 2000 as a successor to the Livestock Conservation Institute. NIAA's mission is to be the forum for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communication linkages to animal agriculture professionals.

Announcements

Stuart to Serve Second Term on NIAA Executive Committee

Scott Stuart, CEO of the National Livestock Producers Association, was elected to his second term on the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's Executive Committee. He will also serve as NIAA's treasurer.

Members of the committee (shown below) include: Dr. Don Lein, secretary; Scott Stuart, treasurer; Dr. Richard Hull, chairman; Dr. Ken Olson, vice chairman; and Dr. Richard Breitmeier, at-large member.



Jim Baker, Former GIPSA Administrator, Runs for Congress

Jim Baker is making a bid for a spot in Congress for the state of Arkansas. Baker spent the past 6 1/2 years in Washington, D.C. as Administrator of Grain Inspection, Packer's and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA) of the USDA.

Baker lived, worked and raised a family in central Arkansas. He was named Man of the Year in Arkansas by Progressive Farmer magazine. Before working for GIPSA, Baker was the general manager of Lewis Livestock Company, Inc., one of the top livestock markets in the Southeast United States. Baker, who is from Glenwood, Ark., is a graduate from Southern Arkansas University. He had leadership roles in the following organizations: Arkansas Farm Bureau State Board, Faulkner County Cattlemen's Association, and President of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association.

