# Dakota Lamb Growers Co-op News

**From DLGC President Susan Holler**

DLGC Members,

This is Dakota Lamb Growers Cooperative’s 16th year in existence. There have been many challenges and changes during this time. Change is rarely easy and our journey has had a steep learning curve. As we review our by-laws, it is evident how far we have come, from marketing individual meat cuts to selling live lambs to 2 packers. Initially the main focus of the Co-op was natural lamb. As the industry changes this emphasis has lessened. In addition to selling lambs on a carcass basis, so we have an indication of quality, the Co-op continues to explore new marketing alternatives. As our industry continues to shrink new marketing options and alliances are essential. In an attempt to bring our by-laws and related documents (uniform marketing agreement, UMA) in line with how we are currently functioning the board is starting the process of revamping our by-laws and evaluating the UMA. A by-laws review committee was formed last spring to make recommendations on the current documents. As the committee took on the task of updating, it became evident that an overhaul was necessary. The number of amendments that would be needed became overwhelming. The conclusion was to re-do the bylaws to fit how the Co-op has changed.

The board has sought out an expert to help with this process. We met Dr. Greg McKee, director of the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives at North Dakota State University, several years ago at an annual meeting in Hettinger. Since joining NDSU in 2006, he has pursued a mission of conducting, promoting and coordinating university education and research on cooperatives; strengthening the operations of existing cooperatives; and working toward expanding employment and economic opportunities through cooperatives. Currently, Dr. McKee teaches a semester-length course on cooperative business management.

Thus far he has been able to review our by-laws and the DLGC by-laws review committee has scheduled a conference call with him to discuss his comments. Our goal is to have the by-laws revised by the time of the annual meeting, Dec. 11-12 in Fargo, ND. We are requesting member input with the goal of voting on the new by-laws at the annual meeting. We are all members of DLGC and it can only be strengthened with member input. Plan on attending the 2015 Annual Meeting to help with this process. We are working on new innovative opportunities to move the co-op forward as we remodel our organization and the corresponding by-laws. We are optimistic about the

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**Directors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Susan Holler</td>
<td>White, SD</td>
<td>605-695-9478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP</td>
<td>Jeff Young</td>
<td>Herman, MN</td>
<td>320-808-4079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jeff Petersen</td>
<td>Oakes, ND</td>
<td>701-710-1497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Terry Ness</td>
<td>Pierre, SD</td>
<td>605-280-0130</td>
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Ken Yerger
Harlowton, MT
406-350-1315

Kelley O’Neill
Rushford MN
507-458-6244

Chad Hasbargen
Wheaton, MN
320-815-5185

Submit calendar events, ads and article ideas to:
dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com
Visit dakotalambgrowers.com
potential a new value added product has to revitalize the industry and greatly increase profitability.

In addition to Dr. McKee, the Saturday morning program will include Jay Fuhrer, District Conservationist with Natural Resource Conservation Service from Bismarck, North Dakota. He comes highly recommended as an engaging speaker. Check out our annual meeting announcement in the newsletter and plan on attending the DLCG 2015 meeting in Fargo on Dec. 11-12. It is your co-op and your board is looking forward to your input as DLGC takes on new opportunities.

Susan Holler, DLGC president

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President’s Message (continued)

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**DLGC March and June Board of Director Meeting Minutes**

**March 17 Conference Call Minutes, Susan Holler Presiding**

Present: Susan Holler, Jeff Young, Chad Hasbargen, Kelley O’Neill, Mina Doerner

Call to Order: 8:25 pm Central

Reports

1) Secretary minutes for 2/16/2015 read & reviewed (MTD for J. Petersen). Motion to approve Feb. 16 minutes as read made by K O’Neill; 2nd J Young. 3Y, 0N. Approved. (NOTE: Suggested that in the interests of space available in NL, minutes should be limited to motions. Jan & Feb minutes revised to reflect this and will be emailed to Board prior to April cc.)

2) Treasurer’s Report for 2/23-3/16/15 read & reviewed (MTD for T. Ness). Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report as read by C Hasbargen, 2nd K O’Neill. 3Y, 0N. Approved.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHECKING ACCOUNT</th>
<th>SAVINGS ACCOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previous balance (as of 2/13/15): $6,169.34</td>
<td>Previous balance (as of 2/13/15): $30,790.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses: $318.00</td>
<td>Interest (3/1/15): $2.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income: $902.50</td>
<td>End balance (3/16/15): $30,792.52</td>
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<td>End balance (3/16/15): $6,753.84</td>
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# Head Delivered: Feb: 199 Superior, 70 Strauss; March: 310 Superior, 0 Strauss; FYTD TOTAL 3237 head

5) Summer meeting June 26-27, 2015-Holler Farm, White SD. Friday social with meeting on Sat.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn made by K. O’Neill; 2nd J. Young. Meeting adjourned @ 9:43 pm.

**June 26 Summer Meeting Minutes, Susan Holler Presiding**

Present: Sue Holler, Jeff Young, Chad Hasbargen, Terry Ness, Kelley O’Neill (via phone), Ken Yerger (via phone), Dan Persons, David Peterson, Jim Hanssen, James Ostlie, Mina Doerner

Called to Order: 4:37 pm Central

Reports:

1) Secretary minutes for 3/17/2015 read and reviewed. (April and May cc minutes N/A-no calls).


Dated: March 17-June 26, 2015

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previous balance (as of 3/16/15): $6,753.84</td>
<td>Previous balance (as of 3/16/15): $30,792.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses: $1,257.43</td>
<td>Interest, total (3/31, 4/30, 5/31/15): $7.68</td>
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<td>Income: $2,152.50</td>
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# Head Delivered: March: 426 Superior; April: 521 Superior, 90 Strauss; May: 95 Superior; June: 39 Superior FYTD TOTAL 4098 head

Manager Reimbursements (Requested): $432.56

(Manager hours will be submitted after summer meeting) Motion to approve bills by J. Young, 2nd K. O’Neill. Bills approved.

3) ByLaw Review Subcommittee: No motions made on Subcommittee Discussion/Proposal.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn made by C. Hasbargen; 2nd T. Ness. Meeting adjourned @ 5:55 pm.
DLGC July and August Board of Director Meeting Minutes

July 21 Minutes, Susan Holler Presiding

Present: Sue Holler, Jeff Young, Terry Ness, Kelley O'Neil, Mina Doerner
Called to Order: 8:24 pm Central
1) Secretary minutes for June 26 read & reviewed. Motion made by T. Ness to approve June 26 minutes as read; 2nd by K. O'Neill. 3Y, 0N. Minutes Approved.
2) Treasurer's Report for 6/26-7/21/15 read & reviewed (MTD for T. Ness). Motion made by K. O'Neill to approve Treasurer's Report as read; 2nd by J. Young. Motion carried 3Y, 0N. Approved.
   Dated: June 26-July 21, 2015
   CHECKING ACCOUNT
   Previous balance (as of 6/26/15): $7,648.91
   Expenses: $1,021.86
   Income: $410
   End balance (7/21/15): $7,511.41
   SAVINGS ACCOUNT
   Previous balance (as of 6/26/15): $30,800.20
   Interest, total (6/30/15): $2.53
   End balance (7/21/15): $30,802.73
# Head Delivered: June: 39 to Superior; July 125 to Superior  FYTD TOTAL  4223 head.
3) Bills from Summer Meeting. Sue Holler Summer Meeting Expenses=$687.08; food total $379.38; Holiday Inn: 2 rooms, Tara Hansen, $307.70. Manager Reimbursements for Summer Meeting Lodging=$298.89 (Super 8: Ness, Hasbargen/Young, Pfliger). Appreciation tokens to Patterson ($100) and MJ Powers ($50) for help during summer meeting. Motion made by K. O'Neill to pay bills submitted & to pay appreciation tokens; 2nd by J. Young. 3Y, 0N. Bills/tokens approved.
4) Manager payment: 5/15 conference call through July 21 (excludes conference call) total 43.57 hours x $20/hr=$871.40. Motion made by J. Young to approve Manager payment; 2nd by K. O'Neill. Motion carried 3Y, 0N. Payment approved.
Adjourned: Motion to adjourn made by T. Ness; 2nd K. O'Neill. Meeting adjourned @ 9:30 pm.

August 18 Minutes, Susan Holler Presiding

Present: Sue Holler, Jeff Young, Kelley O'Neil, Terry Ness, Chad Hasbargen, Ken Yerger, Mina Doerner
Called to Order: 8:06 pm Central
Reports:
1) Secretary minutes for July read & reviewed. Motion to approve July 21 conference call minutes made by K. O'Neill, J. Young 2nd. Minutes approved.
   Motion to approve Treasurer's Report for July 21 to August 18 made by K. O'Neill, J. Young 2nd. Report approved.
   Dated: July/August 18, 2015
   CHECKING ACCOUNT
   Previous balance (as of 7/21/15): $7,511.41
   Expenses: $1,021.86
   Income: $410
   End balance (8/18/15): $6,931.54
   SAVINGS ACCOUNT
   Previous balance (as of 7/21/15): $30,802.73
   Interest (8/02/15): $2.78
   End balance (8/18/15): $30,805.51
# Head Delivered: July: 361 to Superior; August: 325 to Superior  FYTD TOTAL  4784 head.
3) Motion to make by K. Yerger to authorize MTD to contact Dr. Greg McKee (NDSU, Director of Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives) to obtain McKee's professional advice and assistance in reviewing DLGC Bylaws before 2015 annual meeting. K. O'Neill 2nd. Approved (5Y; 0N).
Next call: September 15 @ 8pm Central (AMENDED: Call moved to Sept. 22 @ 8pm)
Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by K. O'Neill, 2nd J. Young. Meeting adjourned @ 9:18 pm.
2015 DLGC Annual Meeting: December 11 & 12, Fargo ND

Friday, Dec. 11: NDSU Sheep Unit and Holiday Inn of Fargo

- **Tour of NDSU Sheep Research Unit**  
  Tour begins at 3:30 pm  
  with Shepherd Steven “Skip” Anderson and NDSU faculty
- **Board of Directors Meeting**, Holiday Inn  
  4:30-6:30 pm,
- **Dinner** at The Gallery, Holiday Inn  
  7:00-??:00 pm

**Saturday, Dec. 12: Holiday Inn of Fargo**

- **Registration**  
  8:30-9:00 am-coffee and treats
- **Jay Fuhrer**  
  9:00-10:00 am  
  Soil Health Specialist, NRCS, *It’s Not Just Dirt Anymore*
- **Gregory McKee**  
  10:30-Noon  
  Director of Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives NDSU
- **Lunch**  
  12:15-1:15 pm
- **Election of Officers & DLGC Business**  
  1:30-3:00 pm

Please check out the website for Program details: [www.dakotalambgrowers.com](http://www.dakotalambgrowers.com)


**Please R.S.V.P. to Mina @ 605-651-9530 or email dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com by Sunday, December 6**

Directions to NDSU Sheep Unit: Traveling from the south on I-29, take Exit 67. Turn right (east) onto 19th Avenue North and take a right onto the first farm road (south side of the road). The Sheep Unit is the first farm. We will gather at 3:15 pm and start the tour at 3:30 pm.

Please check the Co-op’s website for news, opportunities, and pertinent links:

[www.dakotalambgrowers.com](http://www.dakotalambgrowers.com)

If there is something you would like to see on the site, or news you would like to add, please contact Mina Doerner (Manager, Brookings, SD) at 605-651-9530 or email [dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com)
Please R.S.V.P. for Annual Meeting dinner on Friday night (12/11) and lunch on Saturday (12/12) so we can order food! Call Mina @ 605-651-9530 or email dakotalambgrowers@gmail.com

NO LATER THAN Sunday, December 6

2015 Annual Meeting Speaker Bios

Saturday, Dec. 12: Holiday Inn of Fargo

Jay Fuhrer
9:00-10:00 am
Soil Health Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jay Fuhrer is a Conservationist employed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in Bismarck, North Dakota. Growing up on a small grain and livestock farm, Jay’s interests have always centered on agriculture. Jay emphasizes Soil Health as a foundation for cropping systems, grazing systems, cover crops, soil biology, pollinators, insects, wildlife, and quality of life. In addition, Jay uses cover crops and livestock integration to connect the cropping and grazing systems together, raising the Soil Health bar even higher.

Gregory McKee
10:30-Noon
Director of Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives North Dakota State University

Gregory McKee is Associate Professor in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics and Director, Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives. Dr. McKee’s teaches a semester-length course on cooperative business management and a capstone course in agribusiness strategy. Dr. McKee has consistently demonstrated an interest in teaching college students and offers the cooperative business management course to several campuses. His research interests include finance, governance, management and human resources of cooperative businesses, with emphasis on agriculture, finance, and utility cooperatives. He has served as a past chair of NCERA-210 and of the Cooperatives Community of Practice on eXtension.org, and as a Director on the boards of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, the Association of Cooperative Educators, and a local credit union. His outreach activities have included presentations to statewide and national cooperative trade associations as well as stakeholders of individual cooperatives.
Friday evening’s Taste of Lamb Fellowship event was very well attended with over 50 people, including DLGC members as well as HD Families and friends. The rain clouds seemed to skirt around the park long enough for Lynn and Dianne Perry to make delicious kebabs; for Mary Ness to serve up some wonderful Lamb Sliders; and for Pastor David Patterson and his wife Penny to grill some outstanding marinated ribs. Thank you to all for your generous contributions of food and time!

The Co-op also hosted an auction, called by Kevin Quail, to raise funds for The Shepherd's Gift: GM1 for HD. Over 26 items were kindly donated by DLGC members and various community members who believe strongly in pushing forward research into Ovine GM1 as a treatment for Huntington's Disease. The auction raised over $1670 for The Shepherd's Gift! Thanks to all who participated in one significant way or another.

On Saturday, the meeting shifted to White, SD, at Pioneer Lutheran Church the next morning. Over 55 folks were in attendance. Dr. Steven Hersch from Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital joined the meeting via Skype to give a quick introduction to Huntington's Disease. Over 35,000 people are affected by this devastating disease in North America alone, with an estimated 150,000 more at risk for developing it. A genetic mutation in the Huntington's gene, which everyone has, changes a normally occurring protein into a form especially toxic to brain cells. While most available treatments are aimed at cleaning up damaged cells, GM1 helps the brain get rid of the abnormal Huntington's protein itself.

Dr. Hersch spoke about the NIH grant proposal under review. He was very positive about the review process and feels that the proposal was very competitive. He was asked how much it would cost to fund the initial phase of the project (toxicity panels in animal models) and he replied that it would probably need about $2 million. Five million dollars would fund the project through the earlier human clinical trials. Dr. Hersch's opinion is that, based on the dramatic results in initial animal experiments, GM1 could potentially be a successful treatment for HD in humans.

Dr. Larry Holler presented updates to the GM1 project. The project has some very strong human assets in its favor: 1) Dr. Steven Hersch is one of the world's leading experts in HD; 2) the Avanti Polar Lipids team is on board to isolate and purify the GM1 from affected lambs; and 3) one of the leading innovators in drug delivery systems, Bill Fry, is also on board to work on the clinical trial phases of the project. On the other hand, the project does face several obstacles, one of which is that the process involves basic, somewhat dirty, sheep production (not a new molecule and not a sleek and sexy process). Someone mentioned that the national organizations for HD actually spend very little towards research and were not open to discussing the GM1 project with HD families at this time.

Two HD families presented their Life-with-HD stories: Wes and Kerry Hilton, and Tara Hansen (a.k.a. Kate's Mom). Hearing these folks speak is always heart-wrenching, and also hopeful in that they have not given up finding a treatment for HD. The Shepherd's Gift was set up to help gain support for the GM1 project; the exact use of funds is still being discussed by the Board of The Shepherd's Gift non-profit organization, but might include a media campaign to help raise awareness of and funding for the GM1 project to move to clinical trials. $5 million is really not an insurmountable amount if HD Families and Sheep Producer Families join forces.

We had a delicious lamb dinner blessed by Pastor David, AND prepared by Pastor David and his wife Penny with help from MJ Powers. Families visited and talked while the kids ran around. After dinner, we toured the Holler GM1 Sheep Facility with Larry Holler. We were able to see several affected lambs (Ovine GM1 gangliosidosis homozygotes) and compare them to normal lambs.

After the tour, current GM1 cooperators met to discuss the GM1 Production Agreement with the Glycoscience Research Inc. Board point by point. If anyone is interested in becoming a cooperator in the GM1 Project, please contact Sue or Larry Holler for more information about the Agreement. Membership in the DLGC will be a requirement.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.