



# *South Dakota Sheep Growers Association 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention*

The South Dakota Sheep Growers Association's 87th Annual Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn - Downtown in Rapid City, SD on Friday, September 27th and Saturday, September 28th, 2024. The convention continues to provide an excellent opportunity for sheep producers from across the state of SD and surrounding states to gather the latest information on topics relating to sheep and the sheep industry. Our 2-day convention will be full of information, networking and of course, a lot of fun.

This year "Shepherds are Charging for the Black Hills" and for the first time will take part in the Custer Buffalo Roundup on Friday, September 27th. We will take a bus out to Custer and enjoy the roundup, branding, and arts festival. Friday evening's events will include a welcome mixer and lamb cooking team challenge. This event will have teams of 4 preparing a lamb entree that will be judged by local chefs and YOU.

Our main convention day will be Saturday, September 28th at the Holiday Inn Downtown Conference Center in Rapid City. We will begin the morning session with a welcome from Dustin Vining, SDSGA President. Dustin will share with us the association happenings. Drs Jaeger and Cassady will give us an update from SDSU. They are in the final stages of hiring a new Extension Small Ruminant Specialist. We are pleased to have Karissa Issacs join us to give an update from the American Lamb Board. Next, we will have an exciting new face in our area, Dr. Rachel Gibbs. She is the newest hire at NDSU HREC and will present "Advancing Selection Opportunities with Precision Livestock Technologies". Our keynote presentation will come from Dr. Chris Posberg, Montana State University. He will share with us "Breeding and Managing for More Sustainable Sheep and Wool: Where Research is Going". This is a timely topic! Amy Bandel with APHIS Veterinary Services will present information on livestock diseases making the news. There has been a personnel shift in Wildlife Services in our region and we will get to meet some of the new administrators. The Saturday luncheon will feature the Master Lamb Producer awards where select SD lamb & wool producers are recognized for excellence in their area of the industry. After our amazing lamb lunch, we will hear from Peter Orwick with ASI. There is so much impacting our industry and Peter will shed some light on the major issues we face. We are pleased to be working with Heather Gessner, SDSU and she will share necessary information on "Transitioning to the Next Generation". Along with Heather's talk, we will also have an excellent discussion with panelists that have gone through the transition process. Dan Anderson, Trent Turbiville and Paul Erk will give us their thoughts on the topic. The SDSGA membership meeting will start mid-afternoon. Sponsors/vendors will have booths and you will want to be sure to visit them during our convention breaks. We are so grateful to our sponsors! What a full and educational day we will have!

Saturday evening will culminate with the annual auction and lamb banquet. The coveted "Trapper of the Year" and "Shepherd's Award" will be presented followed by the SD finals of the "Make It with Wool" contest. It will be a lovely meal featuring American Loin Chops kindly supplied by Superior Farms. Don't forget about our live and silent auction...there are always unique items up for bids.

It's a very busy weekend ~ and we encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible, as the block of rooms releases Aug. 30th. If you have any questions, or would like further information about the convention, please contact any of the organizers listed below. To pre-register contact Lisa Surber.

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