



South Dakota Sheep Growers Association 82nd Annual Convention

The South Dakota Sheep Growers Association's 82nd Annual Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Spearfish, SD on Friday, September 27th and Saturday, September 28th, 2019. 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.

Friday, September 27th will be our sheep industry tour day. Buses will leave from the Holiday Inn Convention Center with our first stop at Mountain Meadow Wool Mill in Buffalo, WY. It is a family operated mill, owned by Karen Hostetler, and dedicated to supporting local ranchers and raising awareness about ranching culture in the American West. Mountain Meadow is committed to revitalizing the American wool industry through eco-friendly operations and fair prices for ranchers. Mountain Meadow Wool Mill is the largest full service spinning mill in the West. They will take us through the mill as we learn the entire process from raw shorn wool to the beautifully hand dyed finished yarn that is their end product. We will tour through their facility seeing an "up close and personal" view of the factory and each of it's machines as the wool is washed, dried, combed, spun and hand dyed. Afterward there is an opportunity to purchase natural, quality products made with their yarn. This will be rare opportunity to see the complete process of sheep to shelf. We will enjoy a lamb lunch before boarding the buses to head to our next stop the Boller-Mills Ranch in Wright, WY. Travis and Traci Mills are in the heart of natural resource development. We will learn how these young, progressive producers manage their operation. There may even be a fun shearing contest! We will enjoy supper with the Mill's family before boarding the buses to depart for Spearfish.

Our main convention day will be Saturday, September 28th at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Spearfish. This year's convention theme is "The Many Wonders of the Wool Industry". Morning sessions will feature updates from the American Sheep Industry, American Lamb Board, American Wool Council and SDSU. We are especially excited to have several honored guests planning to join us this year – including Peter Orwick, ASI Executive Director; Gwen Kitzan, American Lamb Board Vice-Chair; and Randy Tunby, Wool Council Chair and Dr. Joe Cassady, Professor and Head of the Department of Animal Science at SDSU. In line with our theme, we will have 6 wool industry leaders from around the country to share their perspective. A highlight of the program is a round-table discussion with these wool industry professionals. We will explore local, specialty markets all the way to international markets.

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. We will hear from Dr. Jeff Held and Dave Ollila with an SDSU Extension update and a review of the "Power of Partnership" between SDSGA and SDSU in the afternoon and finish with our annual business meeting.

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's a very busy weekend ~ and we encourage you to make your hotel reservations early. If you have any questions, or would like further information about the convention, please contact any of the organizer listed below. To pre-register contact Lisa Surber.

Lisa Surber
SDSGA Executive Sect.
lisa@sdsheepgrowers.org
Cell 406-581-7772

Dave Ollila
SDSU Extension
David.Ollila@sdstate.edu
Cell (605) 569-0224

Wade Kopren
SDSGA President
wkopren@live.com
Cell 605-545-0842