

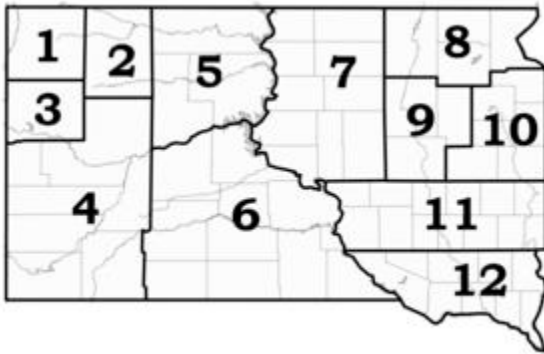


SOUTH DAKOTA SHEEP GROWERS ASSOCIATION

SDSGA Mentor Network for New Producers – 2018 Report

Within the SDSGA organization, there are 14 directors representing 12 districts across South Dakota. Directors identified a “beginning shepherd” within their district and supplied them with a Sheep Production Handbook from ASI and also to serve as mentors for that person.

SDSGA Mentor/Beginning Shepherd List:



District	Mentor	Beginning Shepherd
1	Dustin Vining 605-354-9966 11360 Miller Place Buffalo, SD 57720	Chet Yost Newell, SD
2	Max Matthews 605-244-7158 12878 SD Hwy 75 Bison, SD 57620	Colt Kopren Bison, SD
3	John Erk 605-456-3139 PO Box 397 Newell, SD 57760	Levi McDonald Newell, SD 57760
4	Tammy Basel - Treasurer 605-985-5205 16079 Minnehaha Pl. Union Center, SD 57787 tbasel@gwtc.net	Neomni Lermon Belle Fourche, SD

5	Estelle Cook 605-466-2170 HC 68 Box 7 Glad Valley, SD 57644	Brandon Lemke Family Dupree, SD
6	Steve Clements 605-859-2803 21708 10 Mile Rd. Phillip, SD 57576	Brigham Bennett 23635 Willow Creek Rd Phillip, SD 57567
7	Jon Beastrom 605-224-8120 26345 - 293rd Ave. Pierre, SD 57501	Dustin Burgraff Family Wyatt (8) Mound, SD
8	Tom Dosch 605-329-2478 Box 517 Frederick, SD 57441	Chris Paulson PO Box 174 Pierpont, SD 57468
9	Bill Fuller - Secretary 605-532-5152 17557-434th Ave. Clark, SD 57225 lams4u@itctel.com	Justin Dale Family Breanna (15), Erica (13), and J.D. (9) Clark, SD
10	Rufus DeZeeuw - President 605-542-7541 21315 US Hwy 14 Elkton, SD 57026 rpdezeeuw@itctel.com	Joe Clark Elkton, SD
11	Jim VanDyke 605-770-1095 38919 SD Hwy 34 Wessington Springs, SD 57382	Pending review
12	Tom Manning 605-253-2844 30060 - 471st Ave. Beresford, SD 57004	Pending review
At-Large East	Tim Flint 605-327-3578 45113 - 288th St. Viborg, SD 57070	Pending review
At-Large West	Wade Kopren 605-244-7292 13300 190th Ave. PO Box 339 Bison, SD 57620	Tate Nash Prairie City, SD

Mentor/Beginning Shepherd Activity:

Mentors evaluated potential recipients and selected one from each district. Mentor delivered Handbooks and met with recipient to discuss needs and how they might use the Handbook. Mentors encouraged beginning shepherds to join the state organization, attend regional extension activities and attend the SDSGA Annual Convention.

Additional Information on Beginning Producers:

Some mentors provided detailed information about their beginning shepherds. This information is summarized below.

Justin Dale Family (Bill Fuller) have children, Breanna (15), Erica (13) and J.D. (9), that are highly involved with raising sheep for 4-H projects and FFA. Director Fuller indicated that this family seemed like a perfect place for the book of sheep information.

Levi McDonald (John Erk) is a young sheep producer from Newell. Levi has participated in the SD Sheep program in the past. Within the last couple of years, Levi has worked to build his flock to make it financially viable options for providing for his young family. Levi additionally works for other sheep producers in the area. The Sheep Production Handbook is an excellent reference for him well into the future says Director Erk.

Chet Yost (Dustin Vining) is a young shepherd from the Newell area who operates a 400 head commercial sheep operation. Director Vining was pleased to give Chet the book and looks to him to be a leader in the future.

Brigham Bennett (Steve Clements) runs a small flock of 35 Rambouillet ewes. She enjoys helping at shearing time and learning about herd health & select rams. Director Clements believes that Brigham will use the Handbook to look up suggestions for herd health & handling facilities and also to do a better job preparing her preparing the farm's wool clip.

Joe Clark (Rufus DeZeeuw) operates a small diversified cattle, sheep, and chicken farm. The sheep enterprise is "Lamb to Finish" operation. He has about 35 cross-bred ewes. Joe looks forward to using the Handbook to gain information on rearing bottle lambs, flock nutrition, ram selection, and health and vet protocols. Director DeZeeuw hopes that Joe will gain new ideas for making improvements to his operation. Additionally, Rufus has assisted Joe in genetic selection of ram and identifying ideal traits for operation.

Chris Paulson (Tom Dosch) operates a small commercial sheep farm, running 10 Katahdin ewes. He is the grandson of Director Dosch and he is helping him to establish his own flock of sheep. They are used the book together to reexamine herd health and pasture and grazing management. To date, Chris has learned to vaccinate and more about feeding, nutrition and record keeping.

Neomni Lermon (Tammy Basel) teaches FFA in Belle Fourche. She runs a very active but new program and Director Basel feels that the Sheep Production Handbook will compliment her animal science teaching tools.

Dustin and Lynn Burggraff (Jon Beastrom), of Mound City and their 5 kids, Wyatt (9), Ty (7), Tate (4), Hayes (2), Jace (7 months), got started in the sheep business in the winter of 2017. The family

homeschools their 5 boys and was looking for a way to include them in the ranch at a young age. They purchased 10 running age registered ewes from Beastrom Targhees of Pierre SD and lambed them out. Burggraff says their plan was to start a flock as a way to complement the cattle already running on the ranch. The children have now gotten more involved in the lambing process they decided to show the sheep in 4-H and open class shows. Director Beastrom has mentored the family on an almost weekly basis answering questions about lambing, feeding, and vaccination protocols. The family indicated they had a lot to learn as they felt like they didn't know anything about sheep as they had just been around cattle their whole lives. The Handbook will be a great reference tool for the whole family.

Itemization of Costs/Expenses:

14 Sheep Production Handbooks * \$74.95 (ASI) = \$1,049.23

Fed Ex Shipping \$74.50

Total Cost to SDSGA = \$1,123.73



Neomni Lermon, FFA Teacher from Belle Fourche, SD receiving her Sheep Production Handbook from Tammy Basel, Treasurer, SDSGA.