



2016

GLOBAL DOHNE CONFERENCE

JULY 21 -22 | AUSTRALIA

Celebrating
50 years

“A must for all sheep producers”



USA Sheep Production Overview

Introduction

- ” Range: Larger sized, fenced and unfenced, herded.
- ” Farm: Midsized, fenced, use cropping, untillable.
- ” Confinement: Intensive, expensive, harvested feeds.

Geographical Influences

- “ Arid/Semi-arid: Mainly in the west, large flocks.
- “ Mediterranean: Coastal (California, Oregon, Washington), mid-sized to large.
- “ Interior: Mountains, Great Basin, high elevations, mostly large.
- “ Plains: Central US, flat, lower elevation, mixed large and small.
- “ Grain Belt: Higher rainfall, small to mid-sized.
- “ Eastern: Smaller flocks, smaller properties, expensive.
- “ Southern: Hot, humid, tropical, hair type, parasite resistant, mostly small to mid-sized.

Historical

- “ The Spanish introduced sheep to America, trailed West, then back East.
- “ Provided food and fiber for early settlers.
- “ Sheep were important, no refrigeration, remote outposts.
- “ 50-60 Million sheep in the World War II era.
- “ Now 4.5-5 Million, holding, efforts to rebuild.
- “ Ethnic/Non-traditional markets- 20-25%.
- “ Producers income: 80% meat, 20% wool, ideal is 70% meat 30% wool.

Governmental

- “ Too much interference: Career politicians (õDo-Goodersö), wild horses, EPA, WOTUS, fish, birds, antibiotics, predator reintroduction.
- “ Too many policy makers have no connection with the land- wonø get their hands dirty and look down on those who do.
- “ Itø a sad day when our own policy making politicians donø even know that water flows down hill.
- “ In America, the sheep producer is an endangered species.

Video

” <https://youtu.be/vHQAPOxXMjk>



Marketing (Meat)

- “ Meat: 70 to 80% of sheep producer's income.
- “ Domestic: traditional, retail stores, restaurants, fine dining, ethnic, growing.
- “ Export: Mexico, old ewes, surplus sheep, lambs increasing, exports to Asia increasing.
- “ Sold by weight (live or carcass).
- “ Carcass- whole, boxed 3 piece, primal, packaged case ready.
- “ 45lb & under, 45-55, 55-65, 65-75, 75 & up.

Wool Marketing

- “ Wool warehouses: Official weight, sampling, testing, analysis, auction on sealed bid, domestic and export.
- “ US growers need to prepare our wool clip better.
- “ Our role has been to help growers produce higher quality and quantity without affecting lamb production, we like 10 to 12% of body weight in high quality wool, with ewe weaning her body weight (140lb ewe would equal two 70lb weaned lambs), currently we have a lambing percent of 130-135%, although it has been as high as 147%, but the drought has lowered it.
- “ Current lamb prices.
- “ Current wool prices.

Summary

The United States still has dedicated producers struggling to improve their operations. Range lands that are best suited for livestock production, be it sheep, cattle or a combination. In closing we join our friends around the globe with the optimism that tomorrow will be better and brighter. Thank you!

