



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860

# *Herd the News*

July 2016

*The mission of the California Wool Growers Association is to be the voice of the California Sheep Industry at the local, regional, state, and national level. The Association will provide service to its members through effective communication that ensures the long-term prosperity of the industry and promotes economically viable and environmentally sound production practices.*

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## **U.S. Sheep Experiment Station – Celebrates 100 years**

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The U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES) was established as a sheep breeding and rangeland grazing research facility. To provide a natural resource base for sheep grazing research, lands were withdrawn from the public domain between 1915 and 1922 by Executive Order and purchased from the private sector between 1940 and 1942 by the USDA-Bureau of Animal Industry (predecessor to the USDA-Agricultural Research Service [ARS]). These lands contain subalpine meadow, foothill, sagebrush steppe, and desert shrubland ecosystems. This diversity provides unparalleled research opportunities. In 1949, the ARS and the University of Idaho entered in to cooperative research MOU.

The USSES' research goal since inception is to discover, develop, and deliver solutions that facilitate the responsible and sustainable management of rangelands as a critical resource for our Nation's food-security. Sheep grazing provides a means to harvest forage from the landscape to be converted into nutritious and delicious meat protein. Accordingly, the research focus is to achieve the greatest practical production efficiency of rangeland sheep breeds, while protecting natural resources and enhancing rangeland health to improve the feeding quality of native range plants, mitigate catastrophic wildfires, reduce the spread of invasive weeds, and maintain quality wildlife habitat.

Since 1916, the USSES has developed and released the composite sheep breeds Columbia, Targhee, and Polypay, which are adapted to America's western landscapes and have served the sheep industry well. Furthermore, the USSES has developed rangeland, fire, vegetation-recovery, and grazing management solutions that facilitate the sustainability of multi-use landscapes managed by the private sector, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and State Trust Lands in Intermountain West states. These science-driven products are only possible because of the complete integration of the rangeland and livestock science programs at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station.

The USSES is located approximately six miles north of Dubois, Idaho, which is the Clark County seat. The USSES has research land in two states: 27,930 acres of ARS land at Headquarters, which has office, laboratory, animal, equipment, and residential buildings, dry-lot facilities for research throughout the year, lambing facilities, and lands used for spring and autumn grazing and rangeland research; approximately 16,600 acres of ARS land in Montana, which is used for summer grazing and rangeland research

To learn more about the research being conducted at the USSES go to - [http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site\\_main.htm?modecode=20-56-05-00](http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=20-56-05-00)

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## Presidents Message – Frankie Iturriria



Summer is here and with it comes long, hot days. Most of the California springers are gone now with a few of the late lambs still to be marketed. It is encouraging to see the lamb and wool markets strengthen some after a lackluster spring. Let's hope that this trend continues.

The strategic planning committee has been busy these last few months. The committee has met five times since January and is excited to unveil what it feels will be the new face of CWGA. Most of you have received an email in the past few weeks detailing the proposals that the committee has come up with. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this committee for their hard work and dedication to this project. The committee is made up of Ellen Skillings, Erica Sanko, Jim Yeager, Ed Anchordoguy, Lloyd McCabe, Ryan Indart, and Dan Macon. It has been a great experience to work with these folks who definitely share a passion for our organization and our industry! The final proposal will be unveiled at the annual meeting where the whole Board will get a chance to vote on all of the changes.

Erica has been very busy for some time now working on our annual convention. The convention will take place in Minden, NV at the Carson Valley Inn on August 27 and 28. The convention will kick off with a golf tournament at the Genoa lakes Country Club Friday morning. If you think that sheep producers don't golf, I encourage you to come out and join some of our members as they make their way through the course. Friday afternoon will be the informational session followed by an evening at the JT's Basque Restaurant in Gardnerville. On Saturday we will have the annual meeting followed by another the Shepherder's Ball. Please take a look in this newsletter for the details and I encourage you all to attend.

I want to remind all of the producers to take a look at the products offered for sale by CWGA through Animal Health International. Products such as vaccines, dewormers, minerals, and general supplies are offered at very competitive prices and at the same time you will be helping the organization. The products can either be directly shipped to you or dropped at a centralized location. Please contact the office today to see what all is offered.

I hope to see you all in Minden.

### Carson Valley Fun Fact

*The Spanish & French Basques played an important role in Northern Nevada history as shepherders and later as inn and restaurant owners. The Basque people made their way to the Silver State during the mining boom of the 1800's. Shortly it was discovered they were better off providing meat and wool to the miners, plus Nevada's open spaces were perfect for their sheep herds. They often stayed in boarding-houses and the group dining rooms of these 'homes away from home' marked the beginning of Basque family style dining. Basque dining in Gardnerville remains a culinary attraction, and the staple cocktail of choice, a Picon Punch!*

# Producer Resources and Information

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## A New Name in Rangelands!

We are excited to release UC Rangelands, a new initiative launched by Leslie Roche, Ph.D. and Ken Tate, Ph.D. at UC Davis, in cooperation with other faculty and researchers at the University of California and UC Cooperative Extension.

The mission of UC Rangelands is to develop and advance science-based knowledge to diverse management and policy stakeholders to promote agricultural and environmental sustainability on California's grazing lands. As part of this initiative, we are building a new one-stop-shop for rangeland research information and resources at [www.rangelands.ucdavis.edu/](http://www.rangelands.ucdavis.edu/). At this new web-based information center, you will find updates on current projects by the UC Rangelands team, as well as highlights of future and past research and outreach activities.

You can learn more about the UC Rangelands team and get links to all UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources advisors by visiting [www.rangelands.ucdavis.edu](http://www.rangelands.ucdavis.edu)

## New Promotional Materials Available on U.S. Lamb Marketing Resource Center

As Summer heats up and Ewe start to plan for Farmers Market sales, fairs, festivals, and more, the American Lamb Board has new promotional materials available to order! Visit the Lamb Resource Center, Marketing Resources section where you will find new materials including a new recipe brochure, time and temperature infographics, newly designed cutting mats, oven mitts and more! The new brochure is second series of the “Curriculamb”101 brochures titled “Curriculamb-Lamb Cuts”. The new brochure includes a wealth of Cut education information and eight delicious new recipes and images. <http://lambresourcecenter.com/marketing-resources/>

## RMAC White Paper – Prescribed Herbivory for Vegetation Treatment Projects

Prescribed Herbivory for Vegetation Treatment Projects is a new white paper approved by the Rangeland Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) to the State Board of Forestry. It “provides assistance in implementing prescribed herbivory projects by CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Program (VMP) Foresters and others contemplating fuel reduction projects. Herbivores are currently an underutilized tool for strategically reducing hazardous fuel loads. The information included in this document will give the reader a broad overview of prescribed herbivory, the fuel types that may be treated, basic considerations for project design, and how to locate a contractor to perform the service.”

[http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board\\_committees/range\\_management\\_advisory\\_committee/policy\\_and\\_reports/white\\_papers/prescribed\\_herbivory\\_for\\_fuel\\_reduction\\_final\\_june-2015.pdf](http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/range_management_advisory_committee/policy_and_reports/white_papers/prescribed_herbivory_for_fuel_reduction_final_june-2015.pdf)

## U.S. Baseline Lamb Cost of Production Model

The American Sheep Industry Association retained the Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC) to build baseline estimates regarding the on-farm/ranch costs of producing lambs. The LMIC-assembled working group used best-estimate industry parameters to generate regionally representative budgets, which will be constructed to facilitate a national aggregate.

Lamb production occurs across the United States and in a variety of ecological zones; economic costs of production reflect that diversity. Farm-level production costs and risk have increased in the last decade and needs to be described and evaluated including feedstuff costs, management practices, labor costs, predator losses, etc. The lamb industry includes several sectors, but this sector is the foundation and economic aspects require careful documentation and estimation. The scope of the project is available for review at [www.sheepusa.org/ResearchEducation\\_OtherResearch\\_UsBaselineLambCostOfProductionModel](http://www.sheepusa.org/ResearchEducation_OtherResearch_UsBaselineLambCostOfProductionModel).

# California Legislative Update

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On June 2, the California legislature adjourned to meet the house of origin deadline requiring all bills originating in the first house to be passed to the second house. Bills not passing either house of origin are considered dead. Below are pieces of legislation the livestock industry took a position on and their current status.

## **AB 2324 (Eggman) \*Support – Advanced to Senate**

Implemented in 2015, *Assembly Bill 1871: Agricultural products: direct marketing: certified farmers' markets*, excluded wool from being eligible to be sold in the certified section of the farmers market. Wool was not listed as an agricultural product in Section 47000.5 of the Food and Agricultural Code and deemed a non-certifiable agricultural product despite it being sold directly by the sheep producer to the consumer in a non-processed state.

Assembly Bill 2324 proposes to modify Section 47000.5 of the Food and Agricultural Code to list raw processed wool as an agricultural product. This would allow for wool to be sold as a certified agricultural product at farmers markets.

CWGA interprets raw processed wool to include wool that is washed, scoured, drawn out, twisted, and wound into undyed fibers. CWGA will be working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to include this language in policy to ensure producers have the opportunity to market their wool direct to consumers.

## **AB 2757 (Gonzalez) – Dead but Resurrected**

Numerous agricultural and business organizations were successful once again in defeating a proposal which sought to end the long-standing overtime provisions for agriculture. Currently, overtime is only accrued after IO hours per day or six consecutive days of work. AB 2757 by Assembly member Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) proposed to transition the current overtime provisions to the standard 8 hour, 5-day workweek. The bill required 41 votes to pass and failed with a vote of 37-34. The livestock industry appreciates the strong commitment made by Republicans and Democrats alike in helping to defeat this harmful proposal. Special thanks should be given to Assembly member Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) who worked tirelessly on behalf of farmers and ranchers to encourage his colleagues to defeat this proposal.

## **AB 2243 (Wood) \*Support – Advanced to Senate**

California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) was instrumental in passing AB 2243 by Assembly member Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg) which will tax the sale and distribution of medical marijuana to fund law enforcement efforts against illegal marijuana cultivation and address the various public safety and environmental threats facing farmers, ranchers and rural communities from illegal grows. Specifically, 30 percent of the funds raised by the tax will go directly to local law enforcement to target illegal cultivation. In addition, two percent of the proceeds will go to the California Department of Justice to fund regional law enforcement coordinators that will streamline enforcement efforts amongst the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, California Bureau of Narcotics, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and local law enforcement. The bill requires that the funds focus on areas that have been the hardest hit by illegal cultivation so ranchers and their communities can benefit directly from increased law enforcement activities.

## **AB 1577 (Eggman) \*Support – Advanced to Senate**

This bill will enable growers, processors and packers to donate goods directly to a qualified food bank and receive a tax deduction equal to 15 percent of the total value of the donation. The bill is sponsored by the California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF).

### **AB 1960 (Lackey) \*Sponsor – Advanced to Senate**

This is CCA sponsored transportation legislation that seeks to exempt trucks used in agriculture from the Basic Inspection of Terminals (BIT) program administered by the California Highway Patrol. Pickups and trailers exceeding 40 feet in combined length must participate as well as pickups with a flatbed or a gross vehicle weight rating of greater than 11,500 lbs. The BIT program requires fleet inspections at least once every six years and a fee of \$130 be paid annually. The BIT program serves as the mechanism for various enforcement actions against a carrier.

### **AB 2002 (Stone) \*Oppose – Advanced to Senate**

AB 2002 would require any person representing an individual or group of individuals before the California Coastal Commission (CCC) earning more than \$2,000 to register as a lobbyist in accordance with the California Fair Political Practices Commission and adhere to the Fair Practices Reform Act. AB 2002 discourages individuals or businesses impacted by the CCC to hire technical or legal consultants to provide proper guidance on CCC issues.

### **AB 2162 (Chu) \*Oppose – Dead**

This bill would circumvent regulatory authority currently held by the counties and prohibit the harvest of an oak tree without a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has twice declined to regulate the harvest of oak woodlands. Counties currently regulate the removal of oak trees as they see fit.

### **AB 2357 (Dahle) \*Co-sponsor -Advanced to Senate**

This bill would exempt stock ponds that are not filled year round by an active surface water diversion from new emergency monitoring, measuring and reporting regulations adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board implemented in accordance with 2015 budget trailer bill SB 88 (Senate Committee on Budget). Because the bill was enacted as part of the budget, it bypassed the regular legislative process and virtually no debate occurred. More work needs to be done, but this bill moves the ball in the right direction. CFBF and CCA are co-sponsoring the bill.

### **SB 1317 (Wolk) \*Oppose – Advanced to Assembly**

This bill would require counties overlaying medium and high priority groundwater basins to issue temporary use permits for any new groundwater wells. Some counties already opt to do this, but SB 1317 would remove this discretion from counties entirely. All medium- and high-priority groundwater basins are already subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and must be managed in accordance with a Groundwater Sustainability Plan in the future.

### **SB 1383 (Lara) \*Oppose – Advanced to Assembly**

This bill would require the California Air Resources Board to reduce methane and other "short lived climate pollutants" by 40 percent by the year 2030. Livestock are deemed a significant source of methane from manure management and enteric fermentation. Up to this point, regulatory efforts have left agriculture relatively untouched and SB 1383 will be problematic by focusing even more regulatory scrutiny on methane.

### **SB 1396 (Wolk) \*Oppose – Advanced to Assembly**

This bill would establish a working group within the Wildlife Conversation Board to focus on the "Inner Coast Range" area comprised of Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Trinity, Tehama and Yolo counties. SB 1396 does authorize the WCB working group to accept public funds and purchase fee interest in property for another public agency. The working group is also authorized to purchase real interest in property so long as it is not the majority owner. Although the bill does not allow the WCB to hold fee interest in property unless it's donated, the fact that WCB can be used as a conduit to transfer private lands to public ownership is against CCA's "no net loss of private property" policy.

## Legislative Update

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### APHIS Seeks Comments on Proposed Rule to Allow the Importation of Bone-In Lamb Meat from Uruguay

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proposing to amend its regulations to allow for the importation of bone-in lamb meat from Uruguay. According to the APHIS release, this proposal is based on evidence from a comprehensive, science-based risk assessment that shows bone-in lamb meat can be imported safely from Uruguay provided certain conditions are met.

Currently, only deboned lamb can be exported from Uruguay into the United States.

Uruguay requested an exemption from the foot-and-mouth disease deboning mitigation required under the current regulations, in order to export rack of lamb to the United States.

Uruguay's proposed exemption would apply to a select group of lambs. These lambs would be subjected to additional mitigations, including FMD testing with negative results, individual animal identification - as part of a national traceability system - and separation of select lambs from other FMD-susceptible animals following testing.

After a thorough evaluation and a 2014 site visit to verify Uruguay's documented process, APHIS has determined that Uruguay has the authority, ability and motivation to ensure the measures are followed and that the proposed plan poses a negligible risk of bringing FMD into the United States.

The American Sheep Industry Association will be reviewing the proposed rule and developing a set of comments. The proposed rule is available at [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-01/pdf/2016-15625.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-01/pdf/2016-15625.pdf). Comments can be submitted at [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2015-0050](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2015-0050) through Aug. 30.

On June 2, the California legislature adjourned to meet the house of origin deadline requiring all bills originating in the first house to be passed to the second house. Bills not passing either house of origin are considered dead.

Listed below are pieces of legislation California Cattlemen's Association (and California Wool Growers Association) took a position on with their current status. Due to the makeup of committees in the Senate, Senate bills opposed by CCA have a greater chance of being defeated in the Assembly.

### Meat Exempted in Senate GMO Label Compromise

A bipartisan compromise reached Thursday in the U.S. Senate on labeling of genetically modified organisms exempts foods in which meat and poultry are the main ingredients from mandatory disclosure.

Legislation prohibits any food product derived from an animal to be considered as bioengineered solely because the animal may have eaten bioengineered feed, according to an announcement from Sen. Pat Roberts (Kan.). Roberts, Senate Agriculture Committee chairman, said the proposal establishing a national mandatory system of disclosure for foods containing GMO ingredients was the result of negotiations with ranking member Debbie Stabenow (Mich.). Companies' options for disclosure under the Senate legislation include text on a package, a symbol or a link to a website.

The agreement, reached just days before the nation's first biotechnology food labeling law was set to go into effect in Vermont on July 1, prohibits states from mandating labels of food or seed that is genetically engineered.

## Center of the Nation NSIP Sale to be Held on July 23

Over 100 rams and 25 ewes available for purchase at the sale

AMES, Iowa – Farmers will have an opportunity to purchase seedstock through the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) at the 2016 Center of the Nation NSIP Sale on July 23 at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, Iowa. Sale catalogs for the sheep, which includes estimated breeding values (EBVs) will be available through Conover's Auction Services after June 25. Over 100 rams and 25 ewes will be available at the sale.



This year's sale will include pen groups of rams. Groups of 3-5 rams will be offered for sale with buyers having the opportunity to buy their choice of animal or the whole pen. This portion of the sale is being implemented to offer groups of rams to large commercial operations.

Another new feature of the sale in 2016 will be the offering of select proven rams that NSIP consignors have successfully used in their own flocks. These elite rams are ranked in the top five percent of the breed for various traits measured within NSIP. This sale provides an opportunity for new members of NSIP to connect genetically to other flocks to improve the value of their efforts in breeding more productive seedstock. Educational seminars will be conducted in the morning of July 23, before the sale. Details on the seminars will be listed in the catalog. The sale will also be broadcast online through the Conover Auction Service website. Commercial transportation from Iowa to Idaho is will be available from Farnsworth Livestock, contact Doug directly (208-520-5065) to make arrangements.

For more information contact Dan Morrical, professor of animal science and extension sheep specialist at Iowa State University, at 515-294-2904 or [morrical@iastate.edu](mailto:morrical@iastate.edu).

Additional information on NSIP can be received through Rusty Burgett, NSIP program director, at [rustyburgett@gmail.com](mailto:rustyburgett@gmail.com).

### Let's Grow Webinar Talks Sheep Nutrition

Iowa State University Animal Science Professor Dan Morrical, Ph.D., will join host Jay Parson, Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to present the next Let's Grow Webinar - Refining Our Nutrition Program to Meet the Mineral and Vitamin Needs of our Sheep Flocks - on July 19 at 7 p.m. CDT.

Minerals and vitamins are not required in large amounts but inadequate quantities or imbalances of these nutrients can create quite a problem in flocks. Excess copper is probably the primary toxicity seen in sheep flocks. Increased molybdenum and sulfur can both reduce copper absorption and is an example of how minerals interact to impact sheep. This program is aimed at helping producers understand the current problems that happen when sheep are not appropriately supplemented. Additionally, there will be a focus on reviewing mineral tags and understanding what they say and how they need to be fed. The last portion of the presentation will focus on how to make modifications to existing diets to improve the production of flocks.

This webinar is being presented as a follow up to the well-received program given in 2015 by Robert Van Saun, Ph.D., Dietary Supplements: A Necessity or Folly. That webinar is available on the Let's Grow webpage at [www.sheepusa.org/Growourflock Resources EducationalWebinars](http://www.sheepusa.org/Growourflock_Resources_EducationalWebinars).

Register to participate in the July program by going to <http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8004453821931145730>.

# The Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP) Standards Have Been Updated

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The June 2013 Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP) standards have been updated. The May 2016 SFCP standards are now in effect.

The basic structure of the program has not changed. There are still two categories in the SFCP: the Export Category (with Export Monitored flocks and Export Certified flocks), and the Select Category (Select Monitored flocks).

The updates address/clarify:

- Sampling requirements, advancement, and genotyping lambs/kids in genetically resistant flocks;
- Veterinary inspection of cull animals;
- Imported embryos/oocytes;
- Animals originating from Inconsistent States;
- Special circumstances involving “Lost to Inventory” and “Found Dead” animals; and
- Reporting requirements for the use of milk/colostrum from a lower status flock.

A copy of the updated standards and a summary of the revisions are available on ASI's site at [www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms/AnimalHealth/Scrapie](http://www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms/AnimalHealth/Scrapie).

## May 2016 Monthly Scrapie Report Available

The May 2016 monthly report for the National Scrapie Eradication Program is available at [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly\\_scrapie\\_report.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly_scrapie_report.pdf).

The report announces that no new positive cases of scrapie in sheep have been reported in May nor were there any new infected or source flocks designated in May.

As of May 31, there were two flocks with an open infected or source status. Two infected and three source flocks have been designated in FY 2016; four flocks have completed clean-up plans and have been released.

## Protect Your Flocks Health With Vaccines From CWGA

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### CWGA Now Offering Dewormers, Nutritional Products, Health Supplies and More Sheep Vaccines

Please refer to the animal health product and pricing list on the CWGA website at – <http://cawoolgrowers.org/vaccines/vaccines.html> or contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org) to request a product list to be mailed.

For questions, please contact the CWGA office (916) 444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org).

### Blue Tongue Type 10 Now Available

Bluetongue – Type 10 vaccine from Colorado Serum to CWGA members at a discounted price.

Pricing: \$16.00 per 50 dose vial plus shipping.

To place an order please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org).



# Utah Wool Marketing Association



*Marketing Wool to the World*

Contact: Will Hart Griggs – Manager  
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*Looking forward to speaking with you, Bill & Susan Shaul*



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[www.woolgrowers.org](http://www.woolgrowers.org)

### Mark Your Calendars

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July 19, 2016 – Lets' Grow  
Webinar: Nutrition and  
Supplementation  
<http://www.sheepusa.org/>

July 23, 2016  
Center of the Nation NSIP Sale  
Spencer, IA

**August 26 – 27, 2016**  
**CWGA Annual Meeting**  
**Carson Valley Inn, Minden, NV**

August 30, 2016 – Let's Grow  
Webinar – Best Practices to  
Increase Your Lamb Crop  
<http://www.sheepusa.org/>

December 2, 2016  
CWGA Board Meeting  
Sacramento, CA

January 25 – 28, 2017  
ASI Annual Convention  
Denver, CO

For more industry events go to the  
CWGA website & click *Industry Events*  
<http://cawoolgrowers.org>

***Please submit all liability insurance  
requests 10 days prior to the event to  
ensure adequate processing time.***



California Wool Growers Association

Unifying the voice of the California Sheep Industry since 1860