

DSANA President's Update Email -- August 2017

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and your sheep well! There are many things happening with DSANA that can have a significant impact on our industry. I'll briefly highlight the most important.

The Lacaune semen has arrived in the U.S.A. thanks to the persistent efforts of Tom Clark and Yves Berger. All of those who ordered semen have been notified that it is here. Please know that if you have not paid your DSANA dues AND forwarded your farm identification information to Tom Clark, you won't receive the semen. Martin Dally has the semen in storage and will work with producers to see the artificial insemination is done appropriately. Tom sent out a procedural email memo from Martin on July 17. If you haven't received the information, please contact Tom.

DSANA board wrote and received an American Sheep Industry grant to begin the process of establishing a dairy sheep genetic improvement program. A genetics improvement workgroup was formed consisting of Dr Ron Lewis, Tom Murphy, Russell Burgett, Axel Meister, Bee Tolman, Tom Clark, Flavio Schenkel, Mariana Marques de Almeida, Liam Callahan, Bill Halligan, and Laurel Kieffer. This group will be meeting August 21-22 in Minneapolis to develop a plan of action for moving forward with genetic improvement across North America. The results of our workgroup will be shared at the DSANA symposium in Sherbrooke Quebec this fall.

We have created an online survey that will help us get a start in understanding who is doing what pertaining to record keeping. ***We would greatly appreciate your participation in this survey.*** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DSANA2017> It should take you between 10 and 15 minutes to complete. Please check into this and complete it as soon as you receive this email. We would like your input for our August 21 meeting.

The annual DSANA symposium is coming up soon – November 30 through December 2. It looks to be quite an event. Marie-Chantal Houde and the Canadian symposium committee have quite a line-up of presenters and tours. Cheese and sheep dairy experts from Canada and the Roquefort region of France will be presenting. Register soon. It looks to be another fine opportunity to learn and network. Check the DSANA website and Facebook page for updates.

November 1 is the time to pay DSANA dues for 2018. Get ahead of the curve and pay your dues now. Encourage those who are not members to join in. I'm looking forward to traveling to Canada this year to continue learn and meet new people. Hope to see many of you there also.

Laurel

DSANA President