

AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP

NORTH DAKOTA SHEEPMAN ELECTED ...ASI PRESIDENT

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Denver, Colo. – Burdell Johnson of Tuttle, N.D., was elected president of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) at the 2007 ASI/National Lamb Feeders Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 27, 2007.

Johnson is a fourth-generation lamb and wool producer who raises Columbia and Hampshire ewes and feeds sheep through the family business, Diamond J Livestock. He also raises cattle and grows several crops, including wheat, corn, barley, oats and sunflowers.

He is a former ASI Executive Board representative for Region IV, which is comprised of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota. He has also served on numerous ASI committees including resolutions, predator management, nominating, strategic planning, 2002 and goat. He served as co-chair of ASI's Legislative Action Council and currently chairs the Industry Task Force Committee.

Johnson has been recognized for his involvement in agriculture for which he has earned three awards – the 1996 North Dakota State University Outstanding Agriculture Award, the 1999 State Friend of Extension and the 1999 Conservation Farm Award. He is a past chairman of the North Dakota Ag Coalition and has served on the North Dakota State Board of Ag Research and Extension. He currently is president of the North Dakota School Board Association and serves on the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund.

Johnson and his wife, Theo, have three children: daughter, Keri (husband Jason Braun); daughter, Stephanie; son, Michael; and two grandchildren, Josie and Blake Braun.

Commenting on his election to the office, Johnson says, "It is a great pleasure to work with and for the great people of the American sheep industry. This is a united industry, and together, I believe we can only make it better. In the upcoming months, we will continue to work on the Farm Bill and disaster programs along with putting together the LRP-Lamb insurance programs to benefit our industry."

Other officers elected to the ASI Executive Board at the convention were Glen Fisher of Sonora, Texas, to the office of vice president and Margaret Soulen Hinson of Weiser, Idaho, to the office of secretary/treasurer.

ASI is a national trade organization supported by 44 state sheep associations, benefiting the interests of nearly 68,000 sheep producers.

TEXAS SHEEPMAN ELECTED...ASI VICE PRESIDENT

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Denver, Colo. – Glen Fisher of Sonora, Texas, was elected vice president of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) at the 2007 ASI/National Lamb Feeders Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 27, 2007.

Fisher is the major partner and manager of Askew-Fisher Ranch, located on 18,000 acres of land in Sutton County, Texas. He runs approximately 1,800 head of sheep and 400 cows, as well as offers a hunting enterprise on his ranch.

Before being elected to the office of vice president, Fisher served as secretary/treasurer of ASI. He has served on the ASI Executive Board and is a past chairman of the American Wool Council. In addition to ASI, he has served as past president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association, past director of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center and past director of the Texas Polled Hereford Association. Fisher managed the Sonora Wool and Mohair Co. for 16 years and has also been involved in numerous civic and local organizations. Currently, Fisher serves as co-chair of the ASI Goat Committee.

Fisher is married to wife, Linda, and has two children, daughter, Tammy, of Washington, D.C., and son, David, who lives near San Antonio, Texas.

Commenting on his election to the office, Fisher says, "Of course it is an honor to be elected. The best thing about being involved with this organization is that we have almost total unity in the industry. We are in very good shape, but we still have challenges. It's exciting."

Other officers elected to the ASI Executive Board at the convention were Burdell Johnson of Tuttle, N.D., to the office of president and Margaret Soulen Hinson of Weiser, Idaho, to the office of secretary/treasurer.

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IDAHO SHEEP PRODUCER ELECTED...ASI SECRETARY/TREASURER

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Denver, Colo. – Margaret Soulen Hinson of Weiser, Idaho, was elected secretary/treasurer of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) at the 2007 ASI/National Lamb Feeders Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 27, 2007.

Soulen Hinson is a third-generation livestock producer. Along with her father, Phil Soulen, and brother, Harry Soulen, she runs a range sheep and cattle operation. Soulen Livestock runs approximately 8,000 head of ewes and 1,000 cows. They have been in business since the early 1920s. The business is headquartered in Weiser and operates in six Idaho counties. Soulen Livestock's base property is comprised of approximately 50,000 acres that is used in conjunction with various state, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and private land leases.

Soulen Hinson attended the University of Idaho from 1974 to 1979 majoring in special education and elementary education. After graduation, she came back to the family livestock business and has been actively involved in various industry associations.

Soulen Hinson is past chairman of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. She currently is a member of the University of Idaho's Citizen's Advisory Board for the Policy Analysis Group and an advisory board member for the College of Natural Resources. She is on the board of directors for the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho, an advisory board member for the Center for Conservation Incentives and serves on the Third Judicial Magistrate Commission. She chairs the Weiser Memorial Hospital Board and co-chairs the ASI Prescribed Grazing Committee

Commenting on her election to the office, Soulen Hinson says, "As an officer in ASI, I will continue to work cooperatively with a wide variety of agencies to develop programs that will help to stabilize and grow the sheep industry. Currently, there are two major goals that I envision for ASI. First is developing some revenue streams that will keep ASI funded out into the future; LRP-Lamb (Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb) is a piece of this. The second is to increase the size of our industry. It is important that we have enough critical mass to maintain the infrastructure necessary for lamb and wool production."

Other officers elected to the ASI Executive Board at the convention were Burdell Johnson of Tuttle, N.D., to the office of president and Glen Fisher of Sonora, Texas, to the office of vice president.

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TWO MEMBERS ELECTED TO...ASI EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Denver, Colo. – Two U.S. sheep producers were newly elected to the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) Executive Board at the 2007 ASI/National Lamb Feeders Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 27, 2007.

Burton Pfliger of Bismarck, N.D., was elected to represent ASI's Region IV, which is comprised of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Oklahoma.

Pfliger is a third-generation sheep rancher who was born into the business. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science from North Dakota State University in 1985. Currently, Pfliger and his wife, Pattie, run approximately 350 ewes, which make up a purebred Hampshire flock, a purebred Suffolk flock and a flock of Rambouillet/Columbia/Dorset cross commercial ewes. The Hampshire and Suffolk flocks are used to produce range and terminal sires.

Pfliger currently is on the ASI Wool Council and has previously served on the ASI Legislative Action Council and the Predator Management Committee. He has served as president of the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers and is currently the ASI director for the organization. In addition, Pfliger is on the executive board of the Ag Coalition in North Dakota, has served as the chair of the North Dakota State Board of Ag Research, Livestock Granting Committee and serves as the local vice chair of the Missouri Slope Wool Pool.

"It's new and exciting," Pfliger says about his election to represent Region IV. "I am looking forward to the input from the constituent states. I would like to have the states feel free to contact me with the needs of the local sheep industry. I will do my part to make it happen if possible."

Clint Krebs of Lone, Ore., was elected to represent ASI's Region VIII, which is comprised of California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska.

A fourth-generation sheep producer, Krebs, along with his brother, father and their respective families, have a range operation running five bands of ewes and lambs in two different locations – one for summer and the other for winter – in Oregon. Krebs has been raising sheep his entire life, taking a break only to get his bachelor's degree in agriculture economics from Oregon State University. Krebs currently serves as a director for the National Lamb Feeders Association. He has served as past president of the Oregon Sheep Growers Association and has served as past chairman of the Oregon Sheep Commission.

Krebs and his wife, Maureen, have two daughters, Jessica Langley and Shelby, and a son, Cameron.

“It feels rewarding (being elected), and I’m excited. I see the LRP-Lamb as a tool, and I am looking forward to getting it up and going. We are a small industry, and we have to keep our voices in front of the people who make decisions. There are more sheep people we can get involved, and I am looking forward to being involved in that as well.”

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