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Targeted Grazing Handbook Available

It has arrived! The Targeted Grazing: A natural approach to vegetation management and landscape enhancement handbook has arrived in the offices of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI).

Employing livestock to manipulate vegetation is as old as grazing itself. Promoting grazing to manage vegetation as a paid service - typically called prescribed or targeted grazing - is a more recent phenomenon. As targeted grazing has gained a foothold in the land management arena, both research and experience have evolved to provide land managers and grazing-service providers with more definitive tools for managing vegetation. This handbook represents a compilation of the latest research on harnessing livestock to graze targeted vegetation in ways that improve the function and appearance of a wide variety of landscapes.

Karen Launchbaugh, Ph.D., a range scientist at the University of Idaho, spearheaded the project, with the assistance of John Walker, Ph.D., a range scientist at Texas A&M University, for the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) with additional financial support from the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

The handbook is organized both as an introduction to targeted grazing for the novice and as a useful reference for those already familiar with the topic. The chapters can be studied collectively or individually, depending on a reader's needs, and they are written toward an audience that includes livestock producers, land managers, landowners, grazing enthusiasts or simple interested observers.

Chapters in the handbook include animal husbandry, plant response to grazing, monitoring plant landscapes, multi-species grazing and applications of prescribed grazing on grasses, weeds, forests, orchards and in agronomic situations. Other contents include prescriptions for specific plants, business plans, labor requirements and guidelines for developing and carrying out contracts.

ASI secretary-treasurer, Margaret Soulen Hinson (Idaho), relays, "Publishing the handbook caps a two-year focused effort at ASI to launch this exciting initiative for sheep producers."

"We are proud of the staff, university participants and the dozen plus authors that worked diligently to bring this professional handbook together for sheep producers and land-management specialists," said Brant Miller (Maine), another sheep industry leader involved with the handbook and member of the ASI executive board.

The handbook is available for the low cost of \$25 and includes the material in both printed form and on a CD.

Copies can be ordered by calling ASI at 303-771-3500, ext. 32 or by email at info@sheepusa.org.

The order form is also located on the home page of the ASI Web site at www.sheepusa.org.

All prepaid orders will be shipped from ASI immediately