

## **TAIL DOCK RULE**

To: All Jr. Show Lamb Exhibitors and Breeders

It is time that everyone is beginning to think about the  
2008 Junior Livestock Show

If you are planning to sell lambs to exhibitors or you are an exhibitor looking to purchase.

**REMEMBER THE TAIL DOCK RULE.**

**THIS WILL BE ENFORCED AT THIS YEARS SHOW.  
NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

### **LAMB TAIL DOCK RULE**

#### **EXTREME DOCKING OF TAILS FOR ALL MARKET SHOW LAMBS IS PROHIBITED!!**

In order to determine extreme tail docking, a non-pliable surface (such as a standard credit card) is raised in a vertical plane. If such surface (or card) catches (or lifts) the tail, no violation occurs. If the non-pliable surface raised in a vertical plane does not catch (lift) the tail, a violation occurs. The lamb will then be disqualified from all competition.

Scientific research indicates the incidence of rectal prolapse is reduced when the tail is docked in a non-extreme manner. Incontinence can also be a result of extreme tail docking. Complete tail removal (extreme docking) is not an accepted sheep production practice and serves no purpose other than appearance and that is a matter of opinion.

This decision was reached in response to concerns regarding surgical dock procedures. Strong support in favor of this decision has come from the Colorado State Veterinarian=s office, the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association, the Colorado Woolgrowers Association and the Animal Care and Use Committee of the National Western Stock Show. (In Washington State this stand has been taken by the Washington State Sheep Producers for the past 4 years.) Note that Colorado has one of the largest sheep populations in the nation.

Packers who purchase show lambs often place them in feed lots and they report loss due to prolapse, and are hesitant to purchase short docked lambs. In most cases those lambs that are deemed extreme short docked are penalized \$10.00 per lamb.

A vet check for tail dock, sore mouth, open lesions and all other medical criteria pertaining to sheep will be in effect before the weigh in of the lambs. Any lambs that are quarantined will be taken home immediately from the vet check area.

**LAMB TAIL DOCK RECOMMENDATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY OCTOBER 21, 2007  
BY VOTING DELEGATES OF ALL COUNTIES AT WASHINGTON STATE 4-H  
LEADER'S FORUM**

**ADOPT THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AVMA) AND  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SMALL RUMINANT PRACTITIONERS (AASRP)  
POSITION REGARDING TAIL DOCKING OF LAMBS. LAMBS SHOULD BE DOCKED  
DISTAL TO THE CAUDAL TAIL FOLD.**

I'm looking forward for this years show. I hope you all are too. Help me in Welcoming Angie Smith. She has agreed to be the new Lamb Barn Superintendent and Kim Nelson will remain as the Assistant Super intent.