

## **Missouri Sheep Producers (MSP) Lamb Carcass Merit Program**

**Rationale:** A significant number of small and mid-size sheep flocks exist in Missouri. The majority of producers market lambs through local auction barns. Many producers do not have any baseline carcass data to assess their genetic or management system. Known carcass data might help drive mating and/or marketing decisions and contribute to greater flock profitability.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Recruit Missouri born and fed market lambs to be processed at Superior Lamb Corporation in Denver, CO for the purpose of collecting carcass data.
- 2) Provide carcass merit summaries to characterize Missouri lamb value.
- 3) Provide education/outreach to Missouri sheep producers regarding end product value for their market lambs.

### **General Program Rules and Guidelines:**

- 1) Producers can nominate up to (6) head of market ready lambs per year.
- 2) Lambs must be less than or equal to one year of age at the time of shipping.
- 3) Lambs must be a minimum of 110 lbs live weight on day of shipping.
- 4) Only ewe or wether lambs are eligible (intact ram or cryptorchid lambs are excluded).
- 5) ALL lambs will be fitted with EID tags unique to the MSP program.
- 6) Lambs will be loaded on a semi-truck starting at 5 pm on the first Thursday of the Missouri State Fair that coincides with the Missouri State Fair Lamb Carcass Show.
- 7) The loadout will occur at a site in or near Sedalia, MO on the day of shipment.
- 8) Producers will send a \$12/hd deposit at the time of nomination. The fee covers EID tags and trucking to Superior Lamb. The fee is non-refundable.
- 9) Nominations will open April 15, 2021 and will close June 1, 2021.
- 10) Carcass data will be collected by Lincoln University and University of Missouri personnel.
- 11) Superior Lamb will send one check for the load to MSP.
- 12) MSP will write checks to individual producers for their respective lambs.
- 13) Lambs will be paid for on a carcass weight basis.
- 14) Lambs must be free of obvious signs of clinical and contagious disease at the time of shipment.
- 15) Lambs must be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection written within 7 days of shipping date.
- 16) All lambs are subject to the regular processing and pricing practices of Superior Lamb Corporation. Discounts for trim loss or condemnations will be passed along to the individual producer if their specific lambs experience such price losses.

**Data collection and sharing:** All carcass data will be kept anonymous. Data will be shared with all program participants with unique identifiers removed. Each participant will also receive their individual data in hard copy or electronic copy per their choice at the time of payment. Ownership of the anonymous data set will remain with MSP for educational and outreach purposes.