

## **Frequently asked sheep pool questions**

**Question:**

**Who can sell sheep and wool through the Western Montana Sheep Growers Association Pool?**

**Answer:**

**Any sheep or goat producer in Western Montana. We have members from Libby to Sula and Plains to Garrison, as well as, a few from Idaho. Most members have flocks of 30 head or less, while one has over 800 head.**

**Question:**

**How many sheep does the pool sell each year?**

**Answer:**

**In 2006 the pool sold 2,600 feeder lambs and 400 mature sheep.**

**Question:**

**What do I have to do to sell a sheep or feeder lambs through the pool?**

**Answer:**

**Call pool manager, Gary Hewitt @ (406) 258-4210 or (406) 544-2337 to consign your animal(s) for sale.**

**Question:**

**What does it cost to sell through the pool?**

**Answer:**

**There are two charges \$10.00 annual dues and marketing fees.  
Fees for selling animals are \$1.50 per head.  
Fees for selling wool are \$0.06 per pound.**

**Question:**

**When do I have to pay the dues and fees?**

**Answer:**

**The association year runs January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Therefore, dues are due and payable January 1<sup>st</sup>. Fees are deducted from proceeds of the sale.**

**Question:**

**Once I join the pool, am I required to sell all my animals through the pool?**

**Answer:**

**No. Each year, it is up to you as to the number, if any, animals you want to sell through the pool.**

**Question:**

**Do I have to sell all my animals at one time?**

**Answer:**

**No. As a matter of fact, you would be “better served” to sell your lambs as they become “of weight” (see next question).**

**Question:**

**Is there a minimum number of animals I have to sell at any one time?**

**Answers:**

**No. In fact, more than thirty percent of or producers sell 10 or fewer animals.**

**Question:**

**What should my lambs weigh when I consign them?**

**Answer:**

**The buyers are told the lambs will weigh between 80 and 110 pounds. Since, it can take a month to a month and a half to accumulate a load and lambs will gain an average of a half pound a day, you should call to consign them when they reach about 80 or 85 pounds. Buyers are asked to bid with prices reflecting the average weight for each producer. Heavier lambs receive lower prices per pound.**

**Question:**

**When can I sell my animal(s)?**

**Answer:**

**Since, we sell “pooled” animals by the truck load (48,000#) we sell mature sheep once in May or June and once again in October or November.**

**Feeder lambs are also sold by the truck load (500 head) as they are accumulated from May through October.**

**Question:**

**How often are feeder lambs sold?**

**Answer:**

**As often as the loads accumulate. The first load will sell from early June or early July. Following loads will sell every month to month and a half through October.**

**Question:**

**What is the price?**

**Answer:**

**Once a load has been accumulated they are put up for bid to seven (7) to twelve (12) buyers. You will be told the price when called to deliver you animals.**

**Question:**

**Where do I deliver the animals?**

**Answer:**

**You may deliver your animals to either of our scales near Victor or Ronan.**

**Question:**

**Once I consign my animals do I have to sell them through the pool?**

**Answer:**

**By consigning your animals you have entered a verbal contract to sell them through the pool. However, if you call the manager prior to that particular load being offered for sale, the manager may allow you to remove your animals from consignment. Also, you can adjust your number of animals consigned at any time prior to the animals being offered for sale.**

**Question:**

**When will I get paid for the animals I sell?**

**Answer:**

**You should receive payment within one week of delivering your animals.**

**Question:**

**Where do the feeder lambs go when they are sold?**

**Answer:**

**In the spring and summer most of the lambs go to feedlots in South Dakota, Colorado or Nebraska. Lambs sold in the fall usually go to alfalfa, grass seed, or pea fields in Washington, Oregon or California. In recent years our lambs have gone to CO, ID, NE, OR and SD.**