143rd Annual Montana Wool Growers Convention

December 4-5, 2026

Billings Hotel and Convention Center-Billings, Montana

Agenda Subject to Changes

Thurs-Dec 3	1pm	MWGA Board Meeting
	6-8pm	MWGA President's Reception hosted by MWGA President Scott Blackman
Friday-Dec 4	7:30am	Resolutions Session Begins
	8:00am	Registration Opens, Trade Show Opens
	9:00-10:00	LIVE on Voices of Montana
	10:00-10:30	Coffee Break Sponsored by Stockman Bank
	10:30-11:00	Jessica Fantinato-Deputy Administrator for APHIS Wildlife Services, National Update
	11:00-11:50	MSU Graduate Research Presentations
	12:00-1:30	Lunch and Keynote-**Jillien Streit, Director MT Dept of Agriculture**
	1:30-2:15	What if health is the most valuable trait we don't measure? Antibody response as a tool for sheep selection-*Scott Bowdridge, Ph.D., Professor and Livestock Extension Specialist, School of Agriculture and Food Systems, West Virginia University*
	2:15-3:00	Livestock Antibiotic Sustainability-*Dr. Katie Rein, DVM; Dr. Rachel Endecott, PhD; Marc King, Sweet Grass County Extension Agent*
	3:00-3:30	Coffee Break- Sponsored by CKP Insurance
	3:30-4:00	James Brown - Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
	4:00-4:30	ALB Update - *Dave McEwen, ALB Director*
	4:30-4:50	Wildlife Services - Montana Update-*Dalin Tidwell, Montana WS*
	4:50-5:10	Board of Livestock Update-*Greg Wichman, BOL Member*
	5:10-5:30	Livestock Loss Board-Leslie Doely Executive Director
	5:30-6:00	Shuttles leave for Speed Shear at Miller's Horse Palace
	6:00-9:00	Speed Shear Competition, Calcutta, Live Auction Fundraiser and Western Ranch Supply Watering Hole - Miller's Horse Palace
Sat-Dec 5	7:30	Resolution Session Continues, *If Necessary*
	8:00-8:30	ASI Update-*Mike Michenor, Executive Director*
	8:30-9:00	Wool Market Update-*Scott Lammers, Center of the Nation Wool*
	9:00-10:00	*Lamb Market Analysis Outlook-Tyler Cozzens, Director Livestock Marketing Information Center*
	9:00-10:00	US Sheep Experiment Station Collaborative Project - Stakeholder input session (parlor 1000)
	10:00-10:30	Coffee Break - Sponsored by Roswell Wool Brokers
	10:30 -11:15	MWGA Public Affairs Update-*Calli Michaels, MWGA Public Affairs Director*
	10:30-11:30	*Sam Fraser- ram sale consignor workshop (parlor 1010)*
	11:15-11:45	Collaborative Adaptive Management: Steps for science-based rangeland management plans-*Dr. Hailey Wilmer, Research Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA-ARS US Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, ID*
	12:00-1:30	Lunch and Keynote-
	1:30-2:15	MT State Veterinarian - Tahnee Schmanski
	2:15-3:00	Virtual Solutions for Sheep and LPD's - Thomas Chadwick, HerdStreet
	3:00-3:30	Coffee Break Ice Cream Social Sponsored by Northern Ag Network
	3:30-5:00	MWGA Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers
	6:00	Banquet Bar and Silent Auction Open
	7:00	Silent Auction Closes
	7:00	Annual Wool Grower Banquet
	8:30	Make It with Wool Fashion Show
Sun-Dec 6	7:00	Past President's Breakfast
	8:00	MWGA Board Meeting