

## RIGHT RISK NEWS

### Needs for Financial Management Education Among Sheep Producers

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Crop Insurance Sign Up**  
(Most Spring Planted Crops)  
- March 15, 2015

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**  
Deadline for spring-seeded forage and all other crops  
- April 1, 2017

For more information see:  
<http://www.rma.usda.gov>  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

The American Sheep Industry - Let's Grow Committee recently commissioned a survey of its members for their interest in financial management education. Responses offered by primary operators, secondary operators, family employees and non-family employees provide valuable insights into their thoughts about financial management education.

Responding producers reported an average history of 22 years in agricultural production. Operators expressed their intention to continue their involvement in agriculture for 23 years

on average. The most commonly expressed operator age category was 55-64 years, followed by 45-54 years. In total 72 percent of respondents reported holding a 4-year college degree, with fully 42 percent reporting a graduate degree.

What is the highest education level you have attained?	Percentage
Less than High School	1.2%
High School	25.8%
Trade School	9.4%
College Degree, 2 yr.	27.1%
College Degree, 4 yr.	71.8%
Graduate Degree	42.4%
Other	9.4%

#### Learning Alternatives

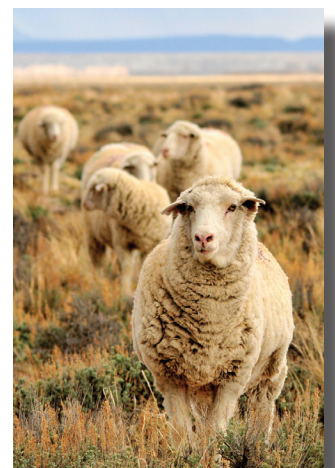
When asked if they prefer an online ten-week course or a series of two-week online lessons, the majority responded that they would prefer the series of lessons (86.8 percent).

Most respondents indicated a nearly even split for the top preferred learning alternatives, including live one-hour webinars (23.3 percent), live online presentations followed by interactions with instructors and peers (23.1 percent), self-directed online courses (22.3 percent), or in-person meetings/workshop/field days (23.3 percent). Other preferred learning alternatives suggested by write in comments included YouTube videos, actual in-person course, magazine format, a mix of self-directed learning with complimentary online seminars, two-day conference, small group collaboration, and written course materials.

Which one of the following are you most likely to choose?	Percentage
An online ten-week course that provides an in-depth look at a single subject area.	23.5%
A series of five two-week online lessons that cover several topics within a single subject area.	86.8%

When asked how they prefer to receive information, most responded that they prefer workshop/meeting/field days (10.7 percent), over electronic newsletters (10.4 percent), e-mail (9.4 percent), or print (9.4 percent). Conversely, respondents indicated that they had received information over the past 2 years most often by email (13.8 percent), followed by webinars (13.3 percent), electronic newsletters (12.8 percent), and print (12.1 percent).

When asked if they had ever taken a financial management course, most responded that they had (51.3 percent). In addition, the majority felt it was likely that they would participate in an online lesson (62.5 percent), whereas others were unsure (18.4 percent).



How Much Risk is Right for You?

## HIGHLIGHTED COURSE: RISK SCENARIO PLANNING

The *Risk Scenario Planning* course, is designed to help users evaluate risk and risk management strategies. Course sections include an Introduction to Risk, Risk Strategies, Risk Scenario Planning Tool Overview, Expectations About the Future, and the Risk Management Framework. The course also provides four, separate Case Studies: Gates Creek Land & Livestock, Big Country Farms, Bell Livestock, and Z-F Ranch. The case studies provide examples of the application of risk scenario planning. Analysis using the *Risk Scenario Planning* tool is also demonstrated.

The *Risk Scenario Planning* tool relies on a partial-budget framework to capture the financial effects of proposed management changes. It allows the decision-maker to further refine estimates for up to two input values as uncertain numbers. This produces a more robust analysis of the proposed change and a more thorough understanding of the possible outcomes if one or more changes are implemented.



To access the *Risk Scenario Planning* course see: <http://RightRisk.org> > Courses > Risk Scenario Planning.  
To access the tool or to read the accompanying guide see: <http://RightRisk.org> > Resources > Risk Management Tools.

## NEEDS FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

### Agricultural Operations

Survey respondents indicating that they utilized either owned or leased land reported 468 acres of irrigated and non-irrigated pasture in production on average for the current year production. Further, they reported 2,054 acres of leased pasture for the current year.

In describing their cropping activities, operators reported 103 acres of alfalfa or alfalfa/mixture hay in production on average for the current year, along with 78 acres of grass/mixture hay. Livestock activities were described as 401 head of sheep and lambs, and 70 head of beef cattle in production on average for the current year.



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RightRisk News is brought to you by the RightRisk Team

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*How much risk is right for you and your operation?*

Colorado State University Extension

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