

# SUCCESS in SOUTH DAKOTA

## A Comprehensive Risk Management Program Emerging SD Sheep Producers-Success in South Dakota

Project Director: Kelly Froehlich - South Dakota State University



*"We were brand new to sheep production going into the class, so it actually helped us to purchase a dozen sheep a month into the first class, so we learned hands on during the yearlong class of everything from breeding, first lambing to finishing the lambs out. We learned about our facility and what didn't work in the first year and how we are changing it going into year 2."*  
- Producer

**Situation:** There is a continuous need to provide new agricultural producers with essential information. This project addresses all five areas of risk management—production, marketing, financial, legal, and human—specifically within emerging sheep operations. Seventeen operations participated, involving 23 individuals aged 18 and older with less than 10 years of experience.

The program's goal was to establish a network and learning community for startup sheep producers. Participants had the opportunity to connect and learn from others through farm tours, an online curriculum, one-on-one mentoring with project team members, and specialized workshops. By the end of this yearlong program, participants gained the knowledge and skills needed to run more efficient and successful sheep operations.

**Outcomes:** Key successes of the Emerging Sheep Producers Program stemmed from its in-person tours and workshops, which enhanced participants' knowledge of land management, government programs, contracts, food safety, and proper sheep-handling techniques. The hands-on experience gained throughout the year-long program played a crucial role in improving the efficiency and sustainability of these new operations.

**Impacts:** The program significantly empowered emerging sheep producers by enhancing their knowledge and confidence in managing their operations. Participants gained a stronger understanding of financial management and proper sheep-handling practices, leading to more sustainable and efficient businesses. Additionally, since building networks was a key goal of the program, it was considered a success when participants reached out to the organizers and connected with fellow producers, instructors, or other participants outside of the structured workshops and field days.

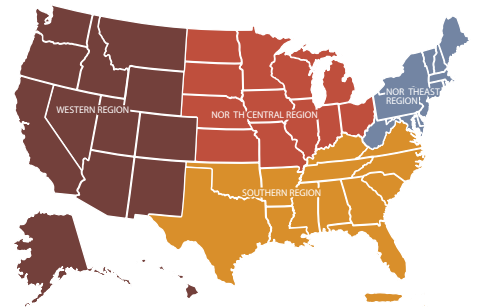
# SUCCESS in EVERY STATE

## Extension Risk Management Education

Extension Risk Management Education is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, outcomes-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted outcomes that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those outcomes.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible outcomes for producers in every state. Commitment to funding outcomes, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration allow you to view the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website: [ExtensionRME.org](http://ExtensionRME.org)



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