

Harold Harper and Mike Harper

Harper Feedlot

A present day father and son partnership that was formed by two unique visions and is thriving and persevering because of the diversity each man brings to the business. Harper Feedlot primarily focuses on feeder lambs, approximately 180,000 annually. In 2006 a 3500 capacity cattle feedlot was added on to the South feedlot. In addition, hay and corn are produced on the feedlot's acreage to help supplement feeding operations. The original feedlot began in 1979 with the North lot and had a capacity of 19,000 head of lambs at one time. In 1996 the South lot was added and brought the capacity up to approximately 65,000. The continued investment and diversification into the business has created a strong business foundation that has withstood the challenges of the past and has created a strong vision for future that lies ahead.

Harold Harper traveled from a small town in Indiana and set up deep roots in Eaton, Colorado. Harold began his feeding career in 1974. His past employment with Wilson Packing Company gave him the experience he needed to accomplish this endeavor. Throughout the years Harold has been involved in all aspects of lamb business. From procurement to the fabricated product, Harold has been involved in one way or another. His entrepreneurial spirit has propelled him to invest in these endeavors. In addition, he has been a strong supporter and advocate of the sheep industry. His involvement and dedication to such organizations as AGR, Colorado Woolgrowers, National Lamb Feeders Association and the American Sheep Industry Organization, has helped the industry grow and tackle difficult issues throughout the years. Harold has always given his heart and soul to the sheep industry. The industry has given Harold a long and rewarding career that continues to this very day.

Mike Harper joined his father in operating the feedlot in 1988. Prior to joining the feedlot in a managerial capacity, Mike had embraced his entrepreneurial spirit by feeding lambs on a personal basis and gaining invaluable experience in the day to day operations of his father's feedlot. Stepping into this new role gave Mike the opportunity to start implementing his own visions for the future of the feedlot. He has followed in his father's footsteps of supporting the industry that provides for his career. He is a past president of the Colorado Woolgrowers and currently an active member, and he presently holds positions on the National Lamb Feeders and the American Sheep Industry Organizations. In 2006 Mike and Harold created Harper Feedlot and cemented the present day partnership and future longevity of this family business.

Harold and his wife Judy have two daughters in addition to Mike. Jackie and husband Jeff reside in Denver and have two children, Andy and Caroline. Diane Grossenbacher, who has also embraced the entrepreneurial spirit of the family and recently purchased a flower and gift shop. She resides in Eaton with her two sons, Eli and Peter. Mike and his wife Mary Ann live near the feedlot with their three daughters, Catherine, Emily, and Madeline.