



Courtesy of Steve Stuebner

# Idaho sheep video gets 262,000 YouTube views

The 23-minute video walks viewers through a year of raising sheep

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

**W**ILDER, Idaho — A 23-minute video about Idaho sheep has generated a lot of attention on YouTube and nobody is quite sure why.

The video has been viewed more than 262,000 times since it was posted in June 2013.

It features Wilder sheep rancher Frank Shirts and some of his 28,000 ewes and lambs. Shirts speaks openly about the love he has for the job and the challenges he faces.

Shirts said though he's "tickled to death over" the video's success, he's not surprised by it because a lot of people love sheep.

"It wasn't me," he said. "The people that watched it won't even remember my name. People love seeing those baby lambs."

Most of the 58 comments below the video are positive, and it has received 568 "likes" and 33 "dislikes."

Shirts said he's most happy that the video has shed some light on



Courtesy of Steve Stuebner

**Wilder, Idaho, sheep rancher Frank Shirts speaks to a film crew while shooting footage for a video that has been viewed more than 262,000 times on YouTube.**

some of the positive aspects of the sheep industry.

"If it can help our industry, that's the main thing I'm happy to see," he said.

The video was produced by Steve Stuebner for Life on the Range, an Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission educational outreach campaign that informs people about Idaho ranchers.

Stuebner followed Shirts and his flock for an entire year as the sheep

were moved from the low country near the Snake River to higher country in the Boise and Payette national forests.

"He just walked us through the whole process of raising lambs and grazing across public and private land to the point they are ready to get shipped to market," Stuebner said.

The 262,000 views is a lot for a simple farming video, said Jake Putnam, broadcast services manager for Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

"It just shows the American people are very curious about where their food comes," he said. "They're also very curious about farmers and ranchers and they like to put names and faces to their food."

The Shirts video is one of 30 in the Life on the Range series and is by far the most popular, with second place registering 47,000 views.

Gretchen Hyde, the rangeland and resource commission's executive director, said she has no idea why the Shirts video is so popular.

She said none of the videos is scripted.

"It's really them talking from the heart, which is the most effective way to reach the public," she said. "I think that comes through really well."

The videos cover a wide variety of range-related topics, from how to get a BLM permit to photo monitoring to how ranchers are taking care of Idaho's rangelands and managing them for multiple uses.

"We're letting people know the positive stories going on on the rangeland; the diversity of ranches and rangeland issues and how people are individually handling them," Hyde said.

To view the Shirts video, search online for, "A year in the life of raising sheep in Idaho." To view the other videos, go to [www.lifeontherange.org](http://www.lifeontherange.org).



**9-1-WHAT?**  
THE BEST OF THE WORST CALLS TO ASTORIA 911 DISPATCH

## Continuous issues

**S**o what do you do when your neighbor's goat gets uppity on a Saturday night in Astoria?  
Call the cops, brah. Never try to reason with a goat. Or a neighbor ...

Follow reporter Kyle Spurr on his 9-1-What? Twitter watch, where a few of the sometimes head-scratching calls to area dispatch take center stage. The full feed is at [www.twitter.com/9\\_1\\_WHAT](http://www.twitter.com/9_1_WHAT).



{4/30 @ 11:06 p.m.} Man with a large stick hitting benches and windows in the area. #Seaside

11:06 AM - 4 May 2016



{5/2 @ 11:05 a.m.} Woman on the sidewalk acting strange, jumping in place. #Astoria

11:07 AM - 4 May 2016



{5/3 @ 4:04 p.m.} Man was being aggressive with people coming out of a building, now behind Burger King doing exercises. #Astoria

11:40 AM - 4 May 2016



{5/7 @ 7:48 p.m.} Caller requested assistance regarding continuous issues with neighbor's goat. #Astoria

8:55 AM - 9 May 2016



{5/3 @ 11:58 p.m.} Caller is upset because she is in the dark and there is a snake and lizard in her trailer. #Warrenton

11:42 AM - 4 May 2016

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