The American Sheep Industry Association
1865-2003

ASI -- Producer Communications
- Monthly ASI Sheep Industry News
- Weekly ASI Newsletter -- provided electronically to more than 2000 producers, feeders and publications
- Press releases to media on regular basis
- ASI publications used by producers to keep neighbors and FSA offices informed of sheep programs

ASI, ALB and NSIIC
Partners for the Sheep Industry
Three very separate boards of sheep producers oversee their respective programs to serve the industry.
- ASI -- American Sheep Industry Association. Wool and industry-wide legislative, regulatory, animal health, trade, and communications. Legislative funded by voluntary dues.
- ALB -- American Lamb Board. All lamb marketing, promotion and research for American Lamb. Funded by assessment on sheep sales.
- NSIIC -- National Sheep Industry Improvement Center. Federal board with revolving fund to provide loans and some grant funds to help finance business opportunities in the sheep industry. Funded by federal appropriations.

Contact Information
- American Sheep Industry Association
  9785 Maroon Circle, Suite 360 – Englewood, CO 80112
  303-771-3500 – www.sheepusa.org

- American Lamb Board
  7900 E. Union Avenue, Suite 1003 – Denver, CO 80237
  303-217-7598 – www.americanlambboard.org

- National Sheep Industry Improvement Center
  1400 Independence Ave, SW – Washington, D.C. 20250
  202-690-0632 – www.nsic.org

ASI

2003 ACTIVITIES

ASI in 2003
To fill the void in national lamb promotion, ASI led the establishment of the American Lamb Board:

- Separate Board of Directors appointed by the Secretary of USDA. They have completed first year of collections & programs.

- ASI formally donated American Lamb Council proprietary products to Lamb Board – lamb seal and slogan, recipes, nutritional data, etc.
ASI in 2003

Wool Marketing Loan Deficiency Payments:
➢ A priority of ASI and member states; implemented!
➢ 32 million pounds applied under the 2002 crop and 2003 wool sign up ends in January.
➢ The un-graded wool LDP is receiving most of the participation this year.
➢ All wool nationwide fits into this program to help stabilize revenue from wool. The program also helps manage risk from market fluctuations.

ASI in 2003

Scrapie Eradication:
➢ Funding increased FIVE FOLD this year to over $15 million.
➢ ASI carried federal funding for the program as the top priority in appropriations and succeeded with Congressional approval.
➢ Top priority for ASI again this next fiscal year to fund research, state cooperative programs and veterinary personnel.
➢ Over 50,000 sheep operations have signed up for premise ID with millions of tags distributed.

ASI in 2003

Sheep Safety & Quality Assurance:
➢ ASI is investing in the third phase of the program this year to promote education for increased quality and safety of our products.
➢ The program information is available at http://www.colostate.edu/programs/SSQA/
➢ Local and state organizations are urged to setup workshops for producers.

ASI in 2003

www.SHEEPUSA.com Website:
➢ Being revamped this year to improve navigation as well as update the design and content on this important communication tool for the industry.

Sheep Industry Development Handbook:
➢ Fully updated this year.
➢ This process has taken 18 months utilizing industry sources with experts contributing from across the nation.

ASI in 2003 – Legislative Update

Country of Origin Labeling:
➢ Authorized in 2002 Farm bill and state leaders testified at USDA listening sessions this spring. ASI commenting in support of the November 2003 proposed rule for lamb. Comments due January 5, 2004. U.S. House passed a one-year moratorium on mandatory meat labels July 14, 2003 so Appropriations bill of November may impact labeling law.

Free Trade Agreement with Australia:
➢ Lamb is already traded freely, so little Australia can take from lamb in an agreement. Tariffs do exist on wool imports and ASI has formally requested the Bush Administration to oppose elimination of the wool tariffs.

U.S. Consumption of Lamb

➢ U.S. consumption of domestic and imported lamb and mutton declined slightly from 383.0 million pounds in 1993, to 362.3 million pounds in 2002.
The tonnage of lamb imports arriving into the United States can vary as much as 6.4 million pounds from month to month.

Imports Do Not Stabilize Supply

ASI

LOOKING FORWARD

Scrapie Control & Eradication
- Although the incidence of scrapie in the U.S. is relatively low, the fact that the disease occurs makes it an impediment to the U.S. sheep industry’s global competitiveness.
- Slaughter surveillance results due shortly.
- The program is being implemented by state veterinarians throughout the United States.

Animal Identification
- Currently a Voluntary Program
- To Protect American Animal Agriculture
- Partnership with Industry, States & USDA
- Allow U.S. to Identify Animals Exposed to Disease & Stop Spread of that Disease
- Open for Public Comment in 2004
- Project Full Implementation in 2006

Canadian Border
- May 20, 2003 – Border shut down because of detection of one case of BSE in Alberta
- August 8, 2003 – Import Permit Applications for boneless beef and sheep meat
- ASI meeting with Canadian Sheep Federation this fall. USDA proposed rule allowing some live lambs to U.S. is open for comment until late December 2003.

Mexican Border
- Slow-down of sheep exports into Mexico
- Resulting in reduced prices for adult sheep
- Mexico recently issued proposed Scrapie requirements
- ASI & APHIS Working with Government Officials in Mexico regarding any new regulations
- September – ASI work with USDA indicates success in re-opening the border and trade as well as cull ewe prices have rebounded.

Risk Management / Insurance
 Identified Loss Protection Areas
   ➢ Price/Market -- Yield
   ➢ Whole Farm/Adjusted Gross Revenue
   ➢ Forage -- Health & Disease
>
> ASI actively seeking a program for sheep in following areas:
   ➢ Study / Pilot / Insurance Product

21 Long-Term Viability
   ➢ American Lamb Board
   ➢ Scapie Eradication
   ➢ ASI Wool Trust Programs and Services
   ➢ Risk Management tool for the sheep industry
   ➢ International Wool Marketing & Military
   ➢ Homeland Security -- Animal Identification
   ➢ Minor Use Minor Species
   ➢ Wool Marketing LDP & National Sheep Center