

2014 Farm Bill

- Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program
  (to fund the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center)
- Livestock Indemnity Program
  - Includes cost-share for sheep killed by federally re-introduced or regulated predators
- Wool Fabric Provision Extended 5 years
- Country-of-Origin-Labeling for Lamb
- Disaster Programs High Priority

Open Export Markets

- U.S. freely traded lamb market yet most of world wont accept American lamb
- Markets closed in 2003 because of cattle BSE
- Requesting significant export market open prior to TPP
- Lamb companies show interest in Japan, China, Taiwan, Russia and European Union
U.S. Sheep Experiment Station

- June 17 – Secretary Vilsack recommended to House Appropriations to reprogram sheep station funds
  - Claiming lack of budget, however, the real reason is harassing lawsuits of Western Watersheds
  - Only sheep research station in America would close by November

USDA refused to alert state or federal officials or industry
- Letters of support for station from ASI, congressional delegations of ID, MT, OR and WA, PLC and Idaho Governor, County Commissioners, University officials
- Station unique in location and ability to do research on rangelands similar to 70% of sheep production in US
- US House Appropriations rejected USDA request in July
- 2 Listening Sessions in August by USDA. Next industry will have to set plans for future of USSES and research

Domestic and Bighorn Sheep Conflict

- Region 4 Forest Service Framework
  - Agreement with Western Watersheds to avoid lawsuits
  - Identify sheep allotments and wild sheep viability
  - Will announce grazing decisions by Feb. 15 for sheep ranchers in Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada
### Domestic and Bighorn Sheep Conflict – Cont.
- Maps in 15 states show bighorn distribution overlain with domestic sheep allotments on public lands
- Occupied habitat then 10% of sheep allotments on FS / 3% of sheep allotments on BLM
- If potential habitat then impact is 23% of industry

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### Domestic and Bighorn Sheep Conflict – Cont.
- Bi-Cameral letter of Congress in June to Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior addressing threat to industry
- 37 members of Congress signed with all western states.
- Requesting clarification of Forest Service/BLM Plans
- Need to factually and transparently analyze risk of contact between domestic and bighorn sheep on federal lands

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### Domestic and Bighorn Sheep Conflict – Cont.
- Letter Recommends Framework change to:
  - Offer alternative allotments similar in forage amounts and types, capacity, water, ease of access, season of use and proximity
  - Place alternative allotment on rescissions schedule to fulfill NEPA requirements
  - No swap to alternative allotments until NEPA analysis fulfilled

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Governors of Idaho, Wyoming and Utah
• Supports the requests of Congress and included requirement that alternative grazing be presented prior to risk analysis, otherwise the Framework provides a list for Western Watersheds suits.
• Also requires State agency role in the Forest Service Framework -- No swap to alternative allotments until NEPA analysis fulfilled
• Administration yet to respond

Sheep Genome Mapped
• International Team of Scientist completed mapping of sheep genome
  • Dr. Noelle Cockett, Utah, contributed
• Will accelerate research on sheep traits:
  • Reproduction
  • Lamb growth
  • Wool quality
  • Milk yield
  • Disease resistance

Lamb Price Reporting
• Lamb program is entirely by regulation so USDA can implement updates without Congressional changes to the law.
  • Confidentiality
  • Imported lamb
  • Carcass trade
• ASI asked USDA to publish several changes for comment
**LRP-Lamb**

- 2012 sales periods were not always available due to lack of pelt reports some weeks and “circuit breakers” kicking in some weeks.
- 2013 policy sales nearly non-existent as insured levels below a dollar per pound.

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**Legislative Action Council**

- In July 2013, Orwick contracted Jim Richards of Cornerstone Government Affairs as Washington, DC lobbyist.
- Jim worked for Joe Skeen (NM), Henry Bonilla of (TX) and covered sheep issues in House for a decade.
- Also contracted Northwest Natural Resources for strategy & mapping on wild sheep controversy.
Legislative Action Council

- In May, ASI added lobby contract exclusively for legislative action on Bighorn issue
- All dues paid to ASI are used for lobbying in D.C.

Animal Rights still after Wildlife Services

- ASI led a letter to Congress with 169 county, state government, local and national agriculture and sportsmen groups to oppose any efforts to cut or eliminate USDA Wildlife Services.
- ASI led defeat of the Humane Society of U.S. sponsored amendment in June 2011 to gut Wildlife Services for any livestock protection. Vote was overwhelming at 284 – 132.
- 5 Airline and Airport organizations joined

Undercover Video by PETA on Shearing

- NBC online contacted sheep and wool industry July 3rd. Indicated video of abuse of sheep during shearing in CO, UT and WY.
- ASI coordinated the crisis plan with those states and the support of Animal Ag Alliance in DC
- Press statement prepared and media coverage handled in CO and WY. Law enforcement actively involved in both states.
- One contractor/One shearer
**H-2A Legislative Subcommittee**

- ASI, WRA and MPAS coordinating on 113th Congress immigration reform legislation
- Codify the three year contract and annual visa with range livestock and range housing
- Codify special procedures
- Senate package includes special procedures industries which would be first time appearing in law.

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**Wool Superwash**

- Huge success story for industry.
- A shrink-resist treatment line that makes wool products machine washable and dryable without shrinking meeting Total Easy Care standards.
- Use in commercial and military products.
- This line exceeded its production projections by more than 40% in the first year
- ASI and Sheep Venture Co. making loan payments

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**Let’s Grow Efforts**

- Focus on management efficiency.
- 3 Webinars presented with great participation.
- “We need to maximize efficiency of lambs born and lambs/wool shipped every year to be profitable much less grow production.”

  [www.growourflock.org](http://www.growourflock.org)
Let’s Grow Efforts – New Loan Program

- ASI and NLPA Sheep Loan Fund offering new load program for flock expansion
- $50,000 minimum loan – fixed rate and fixed at five years
- Must be used to purchase breeding animals

Call -- 800-237-7193

Young Entrepreneurs & Grow Our Flock

- Both new programs of ASI funded with wool money.
- 3 Webinars presented with great participation.
- “We need to maximize efficiency of lambs born and lambs/wool shipped every year to be profitable much less grow production.”

www.growourflock.org

Grants for Projects and State Mentors

- Over $20,000 in grants to assist states with new sheep producers.
- Several multi-year grants funded such as sheepSD and 3 state ethnic lamb production (OH, MD, ME)
- ASI to fund $500,000 in fiscal year 2015 for Grow Our Flock and research initiatives to support the American Lamb Board industry roadmap.

www.growourflock.org
ASI Website Update

- Responsive
- Drop Down Menus
- Includes SIN
- Shop Online
- Photo Gallery

www.sheepusa.org

Your One Stop for Industry Information...
- Access to educational materials
- Up-to-date information on current issues
- Digital version of the Sheep Industry News
- Market Reports
- Industry Contacts

ASI Market App

- Provides wool and lamb markets
- All reports come from USDA
  - 7 Auction Reports
  - National Reports
- Designed for iPhones & Androids
- Download from Apple's App Store or the Android Store
- More than 1,600 downloads to date
150th Anniversary in 2015

- ASI dates back to 1865
- Successor to the National Wool Growers Association
- Oldest National Livestock Association in the United States
Sheep Heritage Foundation Fundraiser...
Call ASI office to order your family Heirloom

Donation...
$750 – Blanket
$1,000 – Blanket with 2 Pillows
$175 – 1 Pillow
$300 – 2 Pillows

100% American Wool
176 of this Numbered Limited Edition Series
• Design implies the geography of the nation by the cut-out peaks, valleys, plateaus and hills in the horizontal strips
• Intertwined strands represent weaving of wool

2015 ASI Convention
January 28-31
Reno
Celebrating Our History

Questions