

AMERICAN *sheep* PRODUCTION
FSI



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

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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

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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



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U.S. Sheep Experiment Station

- 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

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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

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Domestic and Bighorn Sheep Conflict – Cont.



- Maps in 15 states show bighorn distribution overlap 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

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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





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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



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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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LRP-Lamb


- In February, sales suspended by Federal Crop Insurance Corp.
- ASI's Sheep Venture Company submitted a new proposal to change and improve the plan of insurance.
- USDA/FCIC conducted formal review in June
- FCIC to possibly consider approval by end of summer. Notice will need to be given to companies before sales resume (60 days?)



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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



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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.



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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

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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

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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

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Let's Grow Efforts – New Loan Program

- ASI and NLP Sheep Loan Fund offering new loan 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 

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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

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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



PEI  AMERICAN *sheep* PRODUCTION 



151 AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION 
865-- **150 YEARS** --2015--

PEI  AMERICAN *sheep* PRODUCTION 

**OVER-WIDTH, OVER-HEIGHT, OVER-LENGTH,
OVER-WEIGHT, UNRESTRAINED & NO
BRAKES...**




THE GOOD 'OL DAYS

PEI  AMERICAN *sheep* PRODUCTION 

150th Anniversary in 2015

- ASI dates back to 1865
- Successor to the National Wool Growers Association
- Oldest National Livestock Association in the United States



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**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 stripe
- Interwoven strands represent weaving of wool

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**2015 ASI Convention
January 28-31
Reno
Celebrating Our History**

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