



Lamb Price Reporting

- U.S. House of Representatives approved a 5-year reauthorization of Mandatory Price Reporting
- Includes ASI priorities to increase the number of firms that report (domestic & import) to help ensure reports are available every week.
- Must be done by Sept. 30, 2015
- On the President's Desk to Sign



Country of Origin Labeling of Lamb

- The U.S. House of Representatives in June approved legislation to retain the mandatory labeling of lamb at retail (COOL)
- Same legislation removes beef, pork and poultry from the law.
- ASI cut this deal in the Farm Bill and gratified Congress recognized the unified message of sheep producers that the program is important.



LRP-Lamb

Key Risk Management Tool for Sheep Industry

- Price insurance for lamb was available for sale again in May of 2015.
- The insurance product went through an extensive update beginning in 2014.
- Product is owned by ASI's Sheep Venture Company.
- www.sheepusa.org for more information and links to sales agents.



Open Export Markets

- U.S. most freely traded lamb market yet most of world will NOT accept American lamb due to 2003 BSE in cattle.
- Taiwan officials visited US lamb processors in late 2014.
- Government of Japan is now addressing resumption of American lamb



USDA Purchase of Lamb

- USDA responded to ASI's request for purchase of excess lamb by making up to \$10 million available.
- Two Buys:
 1. 480,000 pounds for \$2.7 million – Aug-Nov Delivery
 2. 600,000 pounds for \$3.13 million – Nov-Feb Delivery
- ASI cited surge of imported lamb, record levels of lamb in the cooler inventory, currency advantage of importers and back-up of slaughter lambs in feedlots.
- Program must benefit farm-gate price of lambs



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



Wool Council Meeting with Shearers

- In July, ASI Wool Council met with the U.S. Sheep Shearers Association
- Discussed Priorities / Issues facing shearers
 - Foreign Labor Issues -- Recruiting New Shearers
 - Shearing Trailers and Balers
 - Shearing Handbook and Schools
 - Wool Quality
 - Animal Welfare



H-2A Legislative Subcommittee



- US Department of Labor issued new rules for special procedures of the H-2A shepherd program in April -- Entirely rewrote the wage formula and redefined the ranches eligible to hire herders.
- Wage would triple.
- Ranches that graze within sight of fences or facilities 50% of the year would not be eligible to hire herders.

H-2A Bicameral Letter – July 2015



- Rep. Lummis (Wyo.) spearheaded letter to DOL stressing opposition to H-2A Special Procedures Proposed Rule.
- Support from 34 members of Congress.
- Will impact entire sheep industry if implemented due to lack of infrastructure.



38% of American Sheep are Herded

- H-2A herders care for a huge share of our sheep inventory. Two lamb companies estimate 60% or more of their processing is dependent on this production style.
- More than 500 comments filed by June 1, 2015, with ASI joining other groups to propose a sustainable wage formula and workable definition of livestock grazing production.
- Final rule expected before November 2015.

Domestic and Bighorn Sheep Conflict



- Region 4 Forest Service Framework
 - Agreement with Western Watersheds to avoid lawsuits
 - Identify sheep allotments and wild sheep viability
 - Governors in Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada informed that analysis of sheep grazing allotments and alternative permits will be done 2015



Domestic and Bighorn Sheep Conflict – Cont.

- Bi-Cameral letter of Congress in June 2014 to Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior addressed threat to industry
 - 37 members of Congress signed with all western states.
 - A follow up letter from these U.S. Representatives and Senators sent in April 2015



Domestic and Bighorn Sheep Conflict – Cont.

- ASI supporting language in the Interior Appropriations bill to require:
 - Offer of 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 required environmental analysis.



U.S. Sheep Experiment Station

- June 2014 – 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 have closed by November 2014



U.S. Sheep Experiment Station – Cont.

- 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 U.S.
- U.S. House Appropriations rejected USDA request in 2014
- President's budget calls for abandonment of station in November 2015 so Congress will have to step in again.



Let's Grow Funding

- ASI board approved \$500,000 to coordinate and fund programs to improve production efficiency and profitability.
- First of three year commitment funded 11 grants for more than \$250,000
- Details available on Let's Grow projects at the www.growourflock.org
- Second round of grant apps opened Sept. 1 – Due Nov. 11

www.growourflock.org



Let's Grow Committee

- Mike Corn – NM, Chair
- John Fine – OR
- Ben Lehfelt – MT
- Wes Limesand – ND
- Lesla Eidman – CA (Superior Farms)
- Dr. Stanley Poe – IN
- Rick Powers – SC/TX (Lempriere USA Wool and Rafter 7 Ranch)
- Rob Rule – IA (Producer/Feeder/Packer)
- Bill Sparrow – NC
- Dr. Dennis Stiffler – (Mountain States packer)
- Susan Shultz – Road Map Chair
- Wes Moser – IA

www.growourflock.org



Let's Grow Upcoming Webinars

- If you missed any of the 2015 Webinars, the material is available at:
www.sheepusa.org/Growourflock_Resources_EducationalWebinars
- 2015 Webinars
 - Dietary Supplements: A Necessity or Folly?
 - Using EBVs to Achieve Your Breeding Goals
 - Optimizing Reproductive Efficiency in Sheep Production with Strategic Nutritional Management
 - Farm Security and Crisis Management: Dos and Don'ts in Hiring

www.growourflock.org



Let's Grow Mentor Program

\$24,000 awarded to 24 state organizations to support mentor programs at the local level.

www.growourflock.org





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