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
US Department of Labor issued new rules for special procedures of the H-2A sheepherder 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 Legislative Subcommittee

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- 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

Let’s Grow Committee

- Mike Corn – NM, Chair
- John Fine – OR
- Ben Lehfeldt – MT
- Wes Limesand – ND
- Lesa 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

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

Let’s Grow Mentor Program

- $24,000 awarded to 24 state organizations to support mentor programs at the local level.
2016 Virginia Shepherds' Symposium

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![Image of sheep and rearview mirror reflecting sheep]