

ASI'S PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES

ASI is the national organization representing the interests of the 100,000 sheep producers located throughout the United States. From East to West, farm flocks to range operations, ASI works to represent the interests of all producers.

NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

- Continued access to key technologies through the animal drugs for minor uses and minor species provision in the NADPRP is critical for the sheep industry.
- ASI STRONGLY supports an annual allocation to USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture for critical minor uses and minor species R&D through the former National Research Support Project No. 7 (NRSP-7).

ELECTRONIC LOGGING MANDATE AND HOURS OF SERVICE

- The Sheep Industry relies on the safe and efficient transportation of livestock every day of the year.
- ASI supports reasonable statutory and regulatory exemptions to ensure both the safety of our nation's highways and the welfare of the livestock being hauled.

H2-A TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

- Sheep farmers and ranchers depend on a workable temporary foreign labor program to help care for more one-third of ewes and lambs in the U.S. and, for over 50 years, have used and helped craft the current provisions of the H2A program.
- Any guest worker program MUST maintain special procedures for sheep producers and give our members a fighting chance to compete in an increasingly difficult financial environment, while protecting both domestic and foreign ag workers.
- ASI secured sheep specific language in the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. 5038), but the "Limited Allocation for Certain Special Procedures Industries" must not be less than 2,500 and codify special procedures in final legislation.

MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING

- The reauthorization of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 has been disappointing for sheep producers, due to the implementation of current confidentiality rules followed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its chilling effect on price reporting.
- ASI urges the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to continue to work with the industry to ensure access to vital price reports despite continued market consolidation.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE PRIORITIES

- ASI urges extreme caution in trade negotiations with the European Union and United Kingdom as their sheep production is heavily subsidized and, like China, does not provide access for American lamb to their markets.
- ASI thanks USDA for opening Japan and Taiwan for American lamb exports in the last two years.

CHINA

- The effects of retaliatory tariffs from Oct. 2018 to date are significant with total value off 85% for wool and 67% percent for sheepskins, China is the largest market for both.
- ASI submitted these trade impacts in May 2019 and again in Jan. 2020 to USDA regarding trade assistance.
- In July 2019, the USDA announced assistance for wool and sheepskin impacts would be met almost entirely with \$17 million in lamb meat purchases.
- ASI asked USDA and the USTR to provide direct payments to wool and sheepskin producers as no lamb purchases has impacted revenues to U.S. sheep producers.

For more information, please visit the ASI website at www.sheepusa.org.
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