



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington D.C. 20250

May 6, 2020

Mr. Peter Orwick
Executive Director
American Sheep Industry Association

Sent via email: Peter@sheepusa.org

Dear Mr. Orwick:

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 2020, notifying the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of an opportunity to assist the American Sheep Industry Association, state affiliates, and the National Lamb Feeders Association.

The USDA Foods in Schools program supports domestic nutrition programs and American agricultural producers through purchases of 100 percent American-grown and produced foods for use by schools and institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. AMS considers a variety of factors when determining which USDA foods to procure for domestic food assistance programs, such as the National School Lunch Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following: recipient needs; current market conditions; existing market assistance measures; and the availability of funds to determine whether Section 32 purchases are warranted, as mentioned in your incoming correspondence.

On May 5, 2020, AMS issued a solicitation for the Trade Mitigation purchase of lamb products with deliveries to be made between July 1 and September 30, 2020. Solicitation offers are due by May 12, 2020.

Again, thank you for your letter. We appreciate your support and partnership in bringing healthy and high quality American produced foods to the USDA Foods in Schools program. Also, we recognize the importance of domestic lamb to the economic health of our nation and of the demand for high-quality, nutritious products for feeding assistance programs. Please share this letter with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Ibach", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Greg Ibach
Under Secretary
Marketing and Regulatory Programs