



May 1st, 2020

The Honorable Greg Ibach
Under Secretary
Marketing and Regulatory Programs
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 228-W
Washington, DC 20250

Re: USDA Purchase of American Lamb under Trade Mitigation Authority

Dear Under Secretary Ibach,

The American Sheep Industry Association, our state affiliates and the National Lamb Feeders Association are writing to request your consideration in issuing a solicitation for American Lamb through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's authority for distribution to various food nutrition assistance programs. We have greatly appreciated Secretary Perdue's leadership throughout this pandemic in responding to the needs of agriculture.

In July 2019, the Secretary issued an announcement for Trade Mitigation to purchase Lamb Products up to \$17 million. Since that time, as you are aware, the American Sheep Industry has been hit hard by the loss of Foodservice sales and consumer demand. This crisis has resulted in losses at the farm level of at least \$125 million and a total estimated economic impact to the American Sheep Industry of \$353 million in 2020, at minimum.

We believe that at this critical time the issuance of a purchase solicitation for \$17 million for lamb products would be valuable as market lambs are backing up weekly in the lots and prices are decreasing weekly. We hope that solicitations can be made regularly for the proper mix of lamb products to accomplish the full \$17 million authorized yet in 2020.

Thank you for your consideration and if there is anything further we can provide in support, please contact Peter Orwick at: peter@sheepusa.org or by phone at: 303-771-3500 x 103.

Sincerely,

American Sheep Industry Association
National Lamb Feeders Association
Alabama Meat Goat & Sheep Producers
Arizona Wool Producers Association
Arkansas State Sheep Council
California Wool Growers Association
Colorado Wool Growers Association

Connecticut Sheep Breeders, Inc
Meat Sheep Alliance of Florida, Inc
Georgia Sheep & Wool Growers'
Association
Hawaii Sheep & Goat Association
Idaho Wool Growers Association
The Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers

Indiana Sheep Association
Iowa Sheep Industry Association
Kansas Sheep Association
Kentucky Sheep & Wool Producers
Association
Maine Sheep Breeders Association
Maryland Sheep Breeders Association
Massachusetts Federation of Sheep
Associations
Michigan Sheep Producers Association
Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers
Missouri Sheep Producers, Inc.
Montana Wool Growers Association
Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers
Association
Nevada Woolgrower Association
New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Growers
Garden State Sheep Breeders (NJ)
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.
Empire Sheep Producers Cooperative (NY)

North Carolina Sheep Producers Association
North Dakota Lamb & Wool Producers
Association
Ohio Sheep Improvement Association
Oregon Sheep Growers Association
Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers
Association
Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative
South Carolina Sheep Industries Association
South Dakota Sheep Growers Association
Tennessee Sheep Producers Association
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association
Utah Wool Growers Association
Vermont Sheep & Goat Association
Virginia Sheep Producers Association
Washington State Sheep Producers
West Virginia Shepherds Federation
Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative
Wyoming Wool Growers Association