Sheep farmers are dedicated to not only their animals but the environment in which they raise them as well. Sheep’s natural grazing skills bring many benefits to the environment in which they live.

**Have you heard through the grapevine...**

Many vineyards are using sheep to manage weeds without the use of herbicides. [Read more.]

**Prevent wildfires and manage noxious weeds**

Sheep’s natural grazing skills make them ideal for controlling weeds naturally and for preventing fires by clearing undergrowth in forests and woodland areas.

**Improve land quality**

Sheep improve pasture and rangeland quality by recycling nutrients back into the soil, minimizing erosion and encouraging native plant growth.

**Enhance wildlife habitats**

Sheep grazing is a promising tool for enhancing wildlife habitats. Sheep foraging habits help create and maintain biological diversity.

**Promote healthy forests**

In California, Oregon, Washington and Canada, sheep grazing in forest plantations can double the number of healthy trees and increase each tree’s growth by 30 percent compared with areas not grazed.

**Sheep help us reduce waste in our environment!**

Numerous waste materials contain nutrients that sheep need to thrive. Among these are crop residues, grass clippings and food processing byproducts that would otherwise be considered garbage. Some waste management experts estimate that 60 percent of landfill waste are organic substances from the yard. Feeding select wastes to sheep can help reduce the burden on the nation’s overflowing landfills while converting the refuse into products such as wool, meat, manure, lanolin and milk for cheese.

**Sheep can even help clean up oil spills!**

Wool products for oil-spill cleanups have been promoted in Europe and Australia since 1990 but have just begun to break into the U.S. market.

American Sheep Industry Association

Animal Ag Alliance