



December 2nd, 2021

USDA/APHIS Finalizes Rule that would Expand Sheep Imports

BACKGROUND:

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) understands that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has forwarded a rule to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that would allow sheep genetic materials, lamb meat and other products from the United Kingdom (U.K.) and Canada as eligible for import to the United States.

American lamb is not approved for trade to the U.K., nor the European Union, nor do we have the significant tariff rate quotas on lamb trade the U.K. and the European Union employ. ASI has expressed significant concerns on behalf of the industry and urged a cautious approach on lamb meat trade. The addition of subsidized lamb meat from the U.K., and other nations to the American market could be significantly disruptive, given our market is already one of the most crowded lamb markets in the world, with over 50 percent of consumption imported. Moreover, the addition of potential live imports of sheep and goats from Mexico is of great concern regarding the impact it could have on the non-traditional market, and possible introduction of Foreign Animal Disease.

The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) rule proposed by (USDA) in the previous administration should not precede market access for American lamb to Europe.

ASK:

The American Sheep Industry Association requests Congressional support to delay the implementation of this rule until the potential costs and benefits associated with the implementation can be fully evaluated.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

[Proposed Rule: Importation of Sheep, Goats, and Certain Other Ruminants](#)

[ASI Comments to the Rule – September 7, 2016](#)

[ASI Letter to Undersecretary McKinney – May 1, 2018](#)