

# 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.

## MINOR USE MINOR SPECIES ANIMAL PHARMACEUTICALS

- Continued access to key technologies through the animal drugs for minor uses and minor species 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).
- ASI requests an appropriation of \$1 million for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program to fund R&D to support the approval of new animal drugs for the U.S. sheep industry, specifically antiparasitic drugs.

## H2-A TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

- Sheep farmers and ranchers depend on a workable temporary foreign labor program to help care for more than one-third of the 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.
- The "Limited Allocation for Certain Special Procedures Industries" in any final legislation must include not less than 2,500 annual visas and a codification of key special procedures.

## 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 and its chilling effect on price reporting.
- ASI urges the USDA to continue working with the industry to ensure access to vital price reports, despite continued market consolidation.
- The 3/70/20 guideline to protect confidentiality hinders the price reporting available to sheep producers and should be reviewed to ensure consistent reporting of market data.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE PRIORITIES

- On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, USDA finalized the TSE rule which would allow sheep genetic materials, lamb meat and other products from the United Kingdom, Canada, and other nations to be eligible for import to the United States
- ASI members have significant concerns on the impact the finalization of this rule will have on the domestic lamb market and the health and safety of our domestic flocks
- ASI believes export opportunities for U.S. sheep and wool producers should be prioritized before additional import pressure is allowed to move forward
- ASI is therefore requesting this rule be fully evaluated and the industry provided a report before this rule is allowed to move forward
- **ASI asks support for H.R.6232/S.3354 - A Bill to delay the implementation of a rule relating to the importation of sheep and goats and products derived from sheep and goats, and for other purposes.**

For more information, please visit the ASI website at [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org).  
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