

## 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**

- U.S. sheep producers have limited means to protect and prevent disease in their animals which is critical for ensuring a socially responsible and sustainable U.S. sheep industry and the safety of the national food supply.
- The current Food and Drug Administration (FDA) animal drug-approval process in its current form is unworkable for the sheep industry. It is prohibitively expensive, discouraging research, development, and data submission that could lead to new products for the prevention and treatment of sheep diseases.
- ASI requests a study by the General Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the effectiveness of The Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2004 (MUMS Act) for the U.S. sheep industry.

### **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 must be accomplished to avoid a break in data. While supportive of the program, we ask USDA and the U.S. Congress to address our disappointments due to the implementation of current confidentiality rules and its chilling effect on price reporting.
- ASI urges 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.

### **BLACK VULTURE RELIEF**

- Strongly support approval of H.R.1437 - To authorize livestock producers and their employees to take black vultures to prevent death, injury, or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes.
- Introduced by U.S. Rep. John Rose (R-TN), Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL), introduced the [Black Vulture Relief Act of 2023](#). The bipartisan bill allows livestock producers to take black vultures without a permit if they believe the vulture will cause death or injury to their livestock.
- Vultures are increasingly depredating on lambs across regions of the country further adding to the predator losses and costs sheep producers are already incurring.

### **DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT**

- Nearly 99% of the country's two million farms and ranches are owned and operated by individuals, family partnerships and family corporations, and the sheep industry is a prime example of traditionally being run by generational family farmers and ranchers.
- Multigenerational operations tend to be disproportionately impacted by the death tax and repealing the current estate tax code helps protect the integrity and extend the life of family-owned farms and ranches in this country that are relied upon to grow America's food and fiber.
- ASI supports the [Death Tax Repeal Act](#) and tax policy that works to support family farmers and ranchers.

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