



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.

REAUTHORIZATION OF A NEW FARM BILL

- The current farm economy is in a dire state where U.S. sheep producers are dealing with record high input costs and depressed or flat markets for lamb and wool. The infrastructure a farm bill provides is paramount for the survival of the industry and continued ability to feed and clothe the U.S.
- The 2018 Farm Bill was enacted nearly seven years ago, and farm country is in desperate need of a new five-year farm bill that provides producers with a reasonable safety net that reflects current market prices and conditions, encourages rural growth, and supports the production of U.S. food and fiber.
- ASI strongly supports the reauthorization of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) with the inclusion of funding for Title XII orphan programs. Other farm bill priorities important to the sheep industry include:
 - Increase the Wool Marketing Assistance Loan rate
 - Prioritize funding for orphan programs such as the Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund, U.S. Wool Research and U.S. Pima Cotton (Agricultural Fiber Products Trust) and Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program (SPMGP)
 - Request for USDA to develop a risk management tool for the sheep industry
 - Support for animal disease prevention and management initiatives and programs
 - Support for Minor Use Minor Species (MUMS) Animal Pharmaceuticals
 - Increase funding for USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) export programs
 - Reauthorize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) Act

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.

LEVEL THE TRADE PLAYING FIELD

- In 2024, imported lamb and mutton accounted for 73% of total U.S. lamb and mutton consumption, a share that has steadily increased over the last 25 years to reach this critical point. The livelihood of America's sheep and lamb producers and sustainability of the broader industry is literally at risk.
- Australia accounts for 74% of lamb imports, followed by New Zealand at 25%, representing 99% of the imported lamb that has displaced American lamb in our own market. Imports only serve to further compound the damage our own federal and state governments regulations have on our ability to compete.
- ASI encourages Congress and the Administration to address the concerning the surge in foreign lamb imports using tariffs on Australia and New Zealand. ASI asks for your support in addressing the surge in foreign lamb and including lamb imports in the agriculture/food tariff plan expected to be announced on April 2, 2025.

For more information, please visit the ASI website at www.sheepusa.org.
Please contact Jim Richards at jrichards@cgagroup.com or (202) 448-9509 for more information.



BLACK VULTURE RELIEF

- Vultures are increasingly depredating on lambs across regions of the country further adding to the predator losses and costs sheep producers are already incurring.
- ASI strongly supports the reintroduction of H.R.1437 – the [Black Vulture Relief Act of 2023](#) which benefits the sheep industry by authorizing livestock producers and their employees to take black vultures without a permit to prevent death, injury, or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes.

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 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.

ESTATE TAX REPEAL

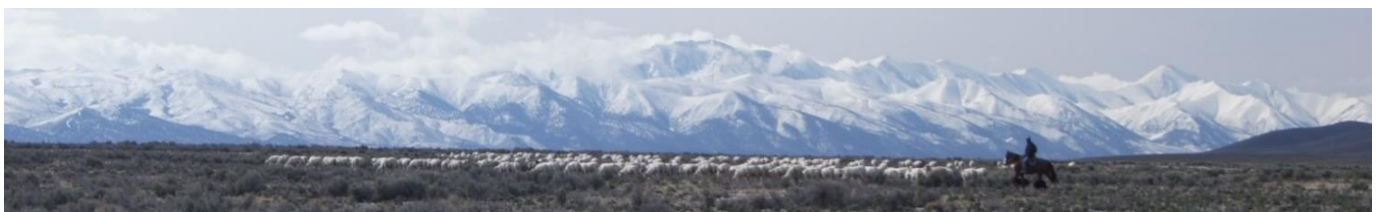
- Nearly 99% of the country's two million farms and ranches are owned and operated by individuals, family partnerships and family corporations, and the sheep industry is a prime example of traditionally being run by generational family farmers and ranchers.
- Multigenerational operations tend to be disproportionately 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.
- ASI supports the reintroduction of H.R.7035 – the [Death Tax Repeal Act](#) and tax policy that works to support the family farmers and ranchers in this country that are relied upon to grow America's food and fiber.

PROTECTING COMMODITY CHECKOFF PROGRAMS

- Since 2002, the American Lamb Checkoff has played a pivotal role in progressing national promotion and research which has resulted in invaluable return on investment for all sectors of the sheep industry.
- ASI strongly opposes any attempts to pass anti-checkoff legislation that undermines the foundation of checkoff programs and their intended purpose to benefit both producers and consumers.

FY2026 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
- U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES)
- Bighorn Sheep in Domestic Sheep Allotments
- Scrapie Eradication



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