

Frequently Asked Questions

What's this about?

ASI has formally asked the U.S. Trade Representative to investigate lamb imports harming U.S. sheep producers. This request follows months of research and industry data showing serious injury to domestic producers. (Read the full press release here: [ASI-Trade-Case-Press-Release-FINAL.pdf](#))

Why does ASI think lamb imports are a problem?

Since 2020, U.S. lamb imports have surged nearly 45%, capturing about 70% of the domestic market. This increase has driven down prices and forced many U.S. operations to scale back or close. ASI's request asks the federal government to examine the impact of these imports on U.S. producers.

Why Now?

The situation has reached a critical point, making immediate action essential to protect U.S. sheep producers.

What is the goal of this investigation?

The goal is to determine whether increased lamb imports are a substantial cause of serious injury to U.S. lamb producers. If so, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) may recommend temporary relief measures to help restore fair competition and support industry recovery.

Who's leading this effort?

This effort is led and funded by the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), which represents 42 state associations and over 100,000 farms and ranches. ASI partners are working under ASI's direction to collect data, analyze trends, and document the impact of lamb imports.

What are Sections 201-202 of the Trade Act of 1974?

Sections 201 and 202 of the Trade Act of 1974 outline safeguard measures to protect U.S. industries from harmful import surges.

- Section 201: Allows the President to grant temporary import relief for industries seriously injured or threatened by increased imports, based on U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) findings.
- Section 202: Covers how these measures are implemented, including criteria and petition processes.

How does a safeguard investigation work?

Under Section 201:

- U.S. industries that are seriously injured or threatened by increased imports can petition the USITC for relief.
- The USITC investigates whether imports are entering in such quantities that they substantially cause serious injury or threat to the domestic industry.

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- If the USITC makes an affirmative determination, it recommends measures to the President to prevent or remedy the injury and help the industry adjust.
- The President decides whether to provide relief and in what form.

How long does the USITC investigation take?

The USITC typically issues its injury determination within 120 days of receiving the petition (or 150 days for complex cases). It then submits its report and any recommended relief to the President within 180 days of receiving the petition.

Who decides what relief is provided?

The USITC conducts the investigation and makes recommendations, but the President of the U.S. makes the final decision on whether to provide relief and what form it will take.

What types of relief could be recommended?

Relief measures may include temporary tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions on lamb imports. These actions are designed to give U.S. producers time to adjust and remain competitive, not to eliminate imports entirely.

Does this mean lamb imports will stop?

No. Safeguard measures are temporary and intended to restore fair competition, not ban imports. The goal is to create a level playing field so U.S. producers can compete effectively.

What happens if the USITC finds that lamb imports are a substantial cause of serious injury to U.S. lamb producers?

If the USITC makes this determination, it may recommend trade relief measures, such as tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions, to help U.S. lamb producers recover and remain competitive.

What happens if the USITC does NOT find serious injury?

If the USITC determines that lamb imports are not a substantial cause of serious injury, no relief will be recommended, and imports will continue under current trade conditions.

Where can I learn more about safeguard investigations?

Visit [Understanding Safeguard Investigations](#) for detailed information.

How is the investigation being funded?

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is funding the investigation through producer contributions to the [ASI Guard Dog Fund](#), including contributions specifically designated for the Section 201 Trade Case.

For ways you can support this effort, see “**What can I do to help?**” below.

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Are my lamb checkoff dollars being used for this effort?

No. The national Lamb Checkoff is a separate organization managed by the American Lamb Board (ALB), which focuses on promotion, research, and producer education. Its funds cannot be used for lobbying or policy influence.

How can I stay updated?

ASI will share updates throughout the process. Follow our official channels or visit www.sheepusa.org for the latest news and information.

What can I do to help?

Your support can make difference.

ASI will share regular updates and ways producers can support this initiative. Stay informed by visiting www.sheepusa.org or following our official channels for the latest actions you can take.

If you'd like to show your support, you can make a secure contribution through the ASI website ([HERE](#)), or call us directly at 303-771-3500.