



ADDITIONAL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

ASI is the national organization representing the interests of 88,000 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.

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 followed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its chilling effect on price reporting. Further complicating the issue is the effect on insurance products available to the sheep industry. ASI hopes to address this issue administratively, but will look to the Farm Bill to address the issue legislatively if necessary.

H2-A Temporary Agricultural Workers – The sheep industry has a decades-long history of a reliable, consistent, and legal workforce. Sheep producers depend on the H-2A shepherd program to help care for more than one-third of ewes and lambs in the U.S. The sheep industry depends on a workable temporary foreign labor program.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – The ECP administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. The recent fires in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and New Mexico have burned more than 1.5 million acres of pasture land, forcing many farmers and ranchers to move and/or sell their livestock. The ECP provides critical financial resources to affected farmers and ranchers to rebuild fences and recover.

Scrapie Eradication – The sheep industry, working **collaboratively with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** and state partners, has nearly eliminated scrapie from the U.S. Official identification, surveillance, and traceability of both sheep and goats are critical to continuing and maintaining these efforts in order to preserve and enhance current and future export markets.

Support Federal Lands Grazing—Federal lands access for grazing is vital, without which, the sheep industry would be dramatically downsized, threatening infrastructure and the entire livestock market structure. ASI strongly urges Congress to conduct strict agency oversight and ensure that multiple use of Federal lands remains as Congress intended.



For more information, please visit the ASI website at www.sheepusa.org.
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