



ASI Policy 2017



2017
American Sheep Industry
Association (ASI) Policy

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i. FOREWORD

The following are current policies of the American Sheep Industry Association, Inc. (ASI), including those adopted by the ASI Board of Directors on Jan. 28, 2016.

ASI resolutions stand as adopted for a period of five years, unless amended or deleted by action of the Board of Directors. At the end of that five-year period, resolutions are dropped unless extended for another five-year period by a vote of the Board of Directors. Directives expire after one year.

ii. KEY TO POLICY CODES

- First digit(s) (from 1-12) indicate the area under which the policy is classified;
- Next two digits indicate the number of the policy within that section (at time of passage);
- Next two digits indicate the year adopted; and
- R indicates year renewed or revised.

(Note: Policies renewed for additional years will retain the number of the original year adopted with the renewal or revision date preceded by an R.)

Example: **1-04:11:R17**

1 indicates 1st section, Animal Health/Animal Welfare

-04 indicates 4th policy adopted under that topic

:11 indicates that the policy was adopted in 2011

:R17 indicates that the policy was renewed or revised in 2017

iii. POLICY PROCESS

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is a producer-driven federation of state associations representing the U.S. sheep industry. The policy development and implementation process is also producer-driven. There are many opportunities for producers to become actively involved in discussions on issues facing the industry; policy recommendations are developed through democratic processes that, on approval of the ASI Board of Directors, set policy to guide ASI's activities and programs.

The policy process is made up of two steps: (1) Policy Development and (2) Policy Implementation. Policy Development occurs before the annual meeting during state member association conventions, and in ASI council meetings and policy forums held before or during the annual convention. These policies result in formal action by the Board of Directors during the Annual Meeting. Policy Implementation occurs following the Annual Meeting through the respective councils that put the policy into action. The following more fully explains the two above-mentioned steps.

iv. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A trade association represents the interests of the industry it serves. To do this, the policy development process must involve as many people as possible to reflect industry consensus. The policy development process

actually begins at the state member association level, where producers first become involved in association activities. During annual conventions and other meetings, individual producers can raise issues, concerns or suggestions that should be addressed by the industry. Resolutions or directives adopted by state associations are forwarded to the ASI for consideration in Policy Forums during the annual convention. Policy Forums are meetings organized by topics, which involve one voting representative from every state member association, the National Lamb Feeders (NLFA) and ASI Women at each forum. The Policy Forums consider policy resolutions from the states, recommendations from the ASI councils and from individual producers, on which they take action. Resolutions and directives that are acted upon and passed during the Policy Forums are forwarded to the Resolutions Committee.

The Resolutions Committee reviews the resolutions and directives to prevent duplication between councils and to resolve conflict with existing policy or other proposed resolutions and directives. The Resolutions Committee may not develop new resolutions or directives, stop resolutions or directives from being considered by the Board of Directors or substantially change them, but may return them to a council for the purpose of resolving conflicts.

The ASI Board of Directors then considers resolutions and directives during its Annual Meeting. Policy resolutions and directives adopted by the Board of Directors become ASI policy at the close of the Annual Meeting. Resolutions remain active with Board of Directors' renewal or revision; the Board may also repeal. If no action of any kind is taken, resolutions automatically sunset in the fifth year. Directives expire after one year.

If an issue or situation arises following the Annual Meeting that is not covered by existing policy, the Executive Board has the authority to set interim policy. When doing so, the Executive Board relies on the counsel of the appropriate council. The Board of Directors must ratify interim policy action adopted by the Executive Board at its next meeting.

v. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Policy resolutions and directives adopted by the Board of Directors are assigned to the appropriate ASI council for implementation. Policies requiring legislative action are referred to the Legislative Action Council. It is the responsibility of each council to pursue implementation of actions addressed in their policy resolutions and directives. Councils periodically report to the Board of Directors and Executive Board on the progress of policy implementation.

vi. SUMMARY

Sheep producers with policy questions are encouraged to contact their state association or the ASI office. From issue identification, to policy development, through policy implementation, sheep producers set the course for the American Sheep Industry Association.

ANIMAL HEALTH/ANIMAL WELFARE

1-01:90:R15 NAHMS

WHEREAS there are disease and national policy issues that may affect the sheep industry, and

WHEREAS the sheep industry needs information gathered by National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) on issues involving animal health, animal productivity, animal welfare, product wholesomeness, and the environment to promote and protect its industry, and

WHEREAS facts data and results from previous NAHMS studies have been beneficial to the sheep industry by providing guidance on management, production, disease prevention, and marketing,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI recommends that NAHMS work with industry and the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS), as well as state animal-health officials, on study design and implementation and that field and laboratory resources be made available by USDA for future NAHMS studies of the sheep industry and that the sheep industry continues to be included in the NAHMS projects regularly.

1-02:90:R15 Vet-Client Relationship

WHEREAS limited availability and restrictions on application of biologicals and pharmaceuticals for use by livestock producers may cause extreme hardship and financial impact to the entire livestock industry, and

WHEREAS it is critical to establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, not only to obtain biologicals and pharmaceuticals but also to stimulate an interest in and awareness of sheep health,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI recommends that sheep producers establish a working veterinarian-client-patient relationship for the continued use of pharmaceuticals and biologicals by producers to maintain the general health of the sheep population and profitability of the industry.

1-03:90:R15 Food Animal Veterinary Education and Veterinary Assistant

WHEREAS the U.S. sheep industry is in need of qualified veterinarians who have knowledge of sheep diseases and management practices, and

WHEREAS the shortage of veterinary service to the food-animal industry has reached a critical level in recent years, and

WHEREAS this shortage of veterinarians that serve the food-animal industry has been due to multiple factors, including economics and decreasing numbers of students having a food-animal background, it is difficult for veterinary practices to attract food-animal veterinarians, and

WHEREAS the growing shortage of food-animal veterinarians emphasizes the need for an official food-animal, veterinary assistant program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and veterinary medical colleges be encouraged to develop recruitment and enrollment tactics that encourage those interested in food-animal production, as well as the development of curriculum that addresses the need for rural and food-animal veterinarians.

1-04:92:R13 Quality Assurance

WHEREAS a more complete knowledge of the extent and causes of quality defects and potential residues will provide educational opportunities for sheep producers, and

WHEREAS identification of the source point of defects and residues in the production system will challenge producers to improve production systems and practices to enhance efficiency and assure quality and safety of their products,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the continued and accelerated implementation of the National Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance (SSQA) program.

1-06:91:R17 Code of Practice/Animal Husbandry

BE IT RESOLVED that the American Sheep Industry (ASI) adopts the following Industry Code of Practice:

Domestic sheep production has been a part of the human way of life for thousands of years. Responsible sheep husbandry has always included a concern for the well-being and humane treatment of the sheep, as well as a commitment toward good stewardship of the land.

Sheep operations in the United States are very diverse, owing to the adaptability of sheep to a wide range of climates and management systems. Sheep are efficient converters of renewable forage to high-quality food and fiber. In many areas of the country sheep are used to glean crop residues or utilize agricultural by-products.

Nutrition - Providing sheep with adequate nutrition insures their continued productivity and well-being. Sheep on pasture are frequently able to meet all or most of their nutritional needs from grazing. Supplementation of natural feed sources may become necessary during certain stages of production or unfavorable forage conditions.

Under more intense raising systems, the accepted National Research Council (NRC) feed requirements should be used in order to meet the sheep's nutritional needs appropriate to their stage of production.

Adequate water should always be available.

Health - It is in sheep producers' best interests to maintain their flocks in a healthy, productive state and, to the extent possible, avoid the possibility of injury or disease through good, preventative-health management.

Vaccines, anthelmintics and other health-care products should be used in accordance with approved-veterinary practices, and care should be taken to comply with any drug-withdrawal requirements.

It is usually necessary to dock lambs and castrate male lambs in order to prevent serious health consequences, such as fly strike, inbreeding, ewe-lamb pregnancy or cleanliness problems. These procedures should be done appropriately, at an early age and in such a manner as to minimize stress and not compromise the health or well-being of the animals. Common sense should be used to avoid stress due to handling lambs during unfavorable weather.

Handling and Equipment - Handling facilities and working corrals should be designed to ease handling stress and reduce the possibility of injury. Corrals, loading chutes and shearing areas should be in good repair and free of sharp edges that could cause injury to the sheep or handler.

Pen size and feeder space will be variable dependent on the size of the sheep but should be large enough to provide freedom of movement and ample access to feed and water. Good ventilation is essential when designing housing for sheep. Buildings used to house sheep should be maintained in a sanitary, clean condition.

Transporting sheep should be done in a safe manner to prevent the consequences of both under and overcrowding; this includes loading and unloading. Debilitated, non-ambulatory sheep should not be sent to market but instead they should be euthanized on the farm in a humane manner and disposed of properly.

Animals at livestock markets, sales, shows and public exhibitions should be handled in a humane manner, and sheep producers should comply with regulations and guidelines regarding showing and exposition of sheep as outlined by state, local and/or general rules of the event.

Youth programs should encourage proper management and care consistent with accepted animal-production practices and humane-handling methods, as endorsed by ASI.

Management - Sound sheep management takes into consideration many diverse factors including feed resources, environmental conditions, marketing opportunities, and climate and breed suitability.

Condition - Reasonable efforts should be made to present clean sheep and lambs for slaughter.

Predator losses have become an increasing problem in the sheep industry. Sheep are basically defenseless animals, and depredation from wild species or domestic dogs can cause great stress, suffering and death. Therefore, all available methods of predator control should be promoted to control depredation on sheep.

Besides a concern for the health and well-being of the sheep, successful management involves a commitment to preserve and utilize natural resources in such a manner that insures the sustained productivity for the production of lamb and wool.

Sheep practices are constantly changing, as new knowledge about animal behavior and health becomes available. Producers are encouraged to incorporate these improvements into their operations whenever possible.

1-08:95:R15 Over-the-Counter Drugs

WHEREAS there are relatively few medications labeled to treat sheep diseases, and

WHEREAS judicious use of antibiotics and anthelmintics is necessary to alleviate animal pain and suffering and ensure animal health and welfare, and

WHEREAS the shortage of food-animal veterinarians is a significant issue to the sheep industry, and

WHEREAS the availability of FDA-approved, over-the-counter (OTC) antibiotics and anthelmintics is necessary in order for producers to have access to these essential medications when needed, and

WHEREAS the sheep industry has developed training and information programs to demonstrate producers' responsible use and administration of medications and vaccines, including a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), and

WHEREAS eliminating OTC medications and vaccine sales would not prevent their irresponsible use or ensure their responsible use,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes eliminating or otherwise restricting OTC sales to preserve the availability of medications and vaccines that can be used for sheep, as long as they are being used within the confines of a VCPR and a quality assurance program.

1-09:95:R13 Drug-Approval Process

WHEREAS there is a lack of approved pharmaceuticals for the treatment of important sheep diseases, and

WHEREAS the current drug-approval process discourages research, development and data submission leading to new products for the treatment of sheep disease, and

WHEREAS new pharmaceuticals could significantly improve the overall health and well-being of sheep,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports legislative and regulatory efforts that will restructure and expedite the drug-approval process and provide financial incentives to sponsors, while maintaining product safety and efficacy.

1-10:96:R14 Sheep Well-being and Exhibition

WHEREAS the exhibition of livestock, including sheep, is an important aspect of breed promotion, marketing and educational programs, and

WHEREAS the health, well-being and productivity of sheep is of paramount importance to the industry, including appropriate and necessary husbandry and medical practices, and

WHEREAS a wide range of educational resources exists, which are targeted toward both youth and adults,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI endorses and assists in the distribution of the *Show Animal Care and Handling Guide*, published by the Animal Industry Foundation, the *National Show Ring Code of Ethics*, published by the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, and other publications, videos and programs, which are consistent with the *Sheep Industry Code of Practice* and the *Sheep Care Guide*, both published by ASI, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ASI supports humane and necessary husbandry practices, as prescribed and/or endorsed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP).

1-12:97:R13 Scrapie Research

WHEREAS the role of premise contamination due to scrapie is not understood, and

WHEREAS the carrier status of scrapie genotypes is not yet determined, and

WHEREAS the role of vectors and fomites in scrapie transmission has not been determined, and

WHEREAS complete strain typing is yet to be accomplished,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/ARS and APHIS to continue to share information as it relates to scrapie eradication, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to continue conducting epidemiological studies and ongoing monitoring surveys of scrapie-infected flocks to help define the role of premise contamination in scrapie transmission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/ARS to continue the development of protocols for secure on-farm, bio-containment facilities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/ARS and USDA/APHIS to make appropriate requests for budgetary increases for scrapie research projects and epidemiologic studies designed to ascertain the roles of:

1. sheep genotype,
2. possible vector and fomite resources,
3. premise contamination,
4. non-classical scrapie, and
5. interactions of the above

1-13:99:R09 TSE Eradication

WHEREAS Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) are recognized globally to be a risk of animal health, human health and trade, and

WHEREAS there is no uniform regulatory policy on all types of TSEs, and

WHEREAS the origin and pathogenesis of individual TSEs are not well understood,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to propose rulemaking to reduce the risk, control and eradicate all TSEs in the United States, and that appropriate import controls be codified.

1-19:06:R16 Approval of Trace Mineral Products

WHEREAS iodine deficiencies and other mineral deficiencies in sheep can occur in large numbers and be more widespread than commonly believed, and

WHEREAS iodine supplementation through free-choice-mineral mixtures is not always effective, and no alternative methods of supplementing iodine are available in the United States, and

WHEREAS commercial, slow-release-iodine products are safe and routinely recommended by the World Health Organization for human supplementation in developing countries, and sheep producers in countries that compete with American producers use slow-release-iodine products that are available as injections and boluses,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages companies and supports their efforts to obtain FDA approval for the use of safe, slow-release-iodine preparations and other trace-mineral products for sheep.

1-20:09:R14 Biosecurity

WHEREAS the security of the U.S. food supply, the economic viability of the country and the economic welfare of agriculture producers' food and fiber is at risk from natural, accidental or intentional introduction of catastrophic diseases,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI recommends that sheep producers develop written biosecurity plans for their operations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI works with its state sheep associations and affiliates to encourage sheep producers to be active in their county Animal Issues Committees and that ASI encourage local support for state and national animal veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI support funding for research related to catastrophic livestock diseases, including research by APHIS, ARS, universities and the National Center for Foreign and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD Center).

1-21:09:R14 Regionalization/ Compartmentalization

WHEREAS USDA/APHIS/VS utilizes regionalization to create trade opportunities with other countries, while at the same time safeguarding animal health; regionalization can help facilitate the marketability of U.S. animals and products, and

WHEREAS USDA/APHIS/VS participates in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), whose guidelines help guard against introduction of animal diseases without creating unjustified trade barriers, and VS uses OIE guidelines when negotiating trade protocols, and

WHEREAS the relevance of international animal health and disease-control standards, as well as U.S. standards, are considered when regionalization is implemented, and

WHEREAS the United States is close to being able to apply for Scrapie-free status with regionalization, and

WHEREAS the concept of compartmentalization could be beneficial to the trade of U.S. sheep and sheep products if implemented in such a manner that provides verifiably secure-animal health and disease protection,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS/VS to adhere to the following parameters when considering or implementing regionalization or potential compartmentalization of areas or operations of any country for the importation of animals or animal products into the United States, and when considering regionalization or potential compartmentalization of any area or operations in the United States for animal disease control:

1. Policies and regulations must be transparent and based on sound science.
2. Policies and regulations must be based on science-based, quantitative- and qualitative-risk assessment and risk analysis.
3. Risk assessment and analyses should consider and measure added risk due to potential economic incentives to trans-ship animals or animal products from non-regionalized areas to proposed regionalized areas.
4. Policies and regulations must be fair and consistent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS/VS to require any country where regionalization is employed for the purposes of exportation of animals or animal products into the United States to adhere to the following:

1. Areas regionalized must be definitively identifiable by geographic boundaries.
2. Animal movement controls, identification requirements, and biosecurity measures must be strictly enforced.
3. Disease surveillance and control, diagnostic capabilities, and epidemiologic response capabilities must be available and adequate.
4. Notification of disease occurrence or presence must be immediate.

5. Compliance with all parameters must be verifiable by the USDA/APHIS/VS.
6. USDA/APHIS/VS must monitor compliance through required periodic (at least annual) reviews with site visits and data requests to update risk assessments as necessary and indicated by the review and verification process.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to consider and incorporate the above requirements as proposed regulations for compartmentalization and regionalization are developed.

1-24:10:R15 Antimicrobial Use in Food Animals

WHEREAS there is widespread concern and misperception regarding factors contributing to antimicrobial resistance, and

WHEREAS scientific evidence does not support the claim that prudent antimicrobial usage in food animals is a contributing factor to the development of antimicrobial resistance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages sheep producers to become trained and certified through the ASI Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance program and practice judicious and prudent use of antimicrobials in treating and preventing disease conditions in sheep.

1-26:11:R16 FootVax®

WHEREAS FootVax® vaccine for foot-rot prevention is no longer available for foot-rot prevention in the United States and

WHEREAS FootVax® has been a useful tool to some American producers, and

WHEREAS the NAHMS report ranks foot rot as the number three disease concern of U.S. sheep producers,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI work with USDA/APHIS/CVB or other appropriate agencies and vaccine manufacturers to develop and license an effective foot-rot vaccine for U.S. sheep industry use.

1-27:13:R16 Scrapie Priorities

WHEREAS Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) are recognized globally to be a risk of animal health, human health and trade, and

WHEREAS scrapie is a significant disease in sheep, and

WHEREAS the European Union (EU) has stated Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) may be present in the sheep population in Europe and has confirmed BSE in two goats. The EU has taken specific actions to protect human and animal health from this risk by enacting specified-risk-material (SRM) bans prohibiting certain tissues from sheep and goats from entering the food and feed chains of Europe. In addition, the United States is taking precautionary measures to reduce the risk of BSE occurring in this country through voluntary and regulatory action,

WHEREAS ASI in cooperation with USDA/APHIS has worked diligently over the years to eradicate scrapie through education, research, surveillance and compliance, and

WHEREAS the number of found cases of scrapie in the United States has been reduced to a very small percentage of the U.S. sheep and goat populations; the incidence of scrapie-positive sheep sampled has decreased by 95 percent since 2003 to .007 percent in 2015, thus making scrapie eradication achievable in the foreseeable future, and

WHEREAS being a "Scrapie Free" country (per OIE criteria) is essential to the sheep and goat industries to be able to export our products in a global economy, and

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI accepts the challenge of making "Scrapie Free" (per OIE criteria) its number one (#1) animal health priority, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI works with USDA/APHIS to make scrapie eradication the top animal-health priority and to continue to enhance its funding to complete the eradication process in a timely manner.

1-28:13 Screwworms

WHEREAS screwworms, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, have been eradicated from the United States due to successful USDA efforts, and

WHEREAS screwworms present not only significant animal health implications, but also wildlife and human-health implications,

BE IT RESOLVED, in order to prevent re-infestations of the United States with screwworms, ASI urges USDA to pursue and request appropriations to maintain funding for adequate fly production levels by retaining sterile screwworm fly production plants in Central America.

1-29:14:R16 Biologicals and Pharmaceutical Licensing/Approval

WHEREAS the U.S. sheep industry lacks biologicals and pharmaceuticals that are widely available outside the United States to prevent economically important diseases and enhance animal well-being,

WHEREAS these products are widely available and have been used extensively with demonstrated safety and efficacy in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom, and the non-availability of these products puts the U.S. producer at a competitive disadvantage and poses a threat to sheep welfare,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Sheep Industry Association urges USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics and FDA to open avenues for efficient licensing and importation of these biologicals and pharmaceuticals.

1-31:15 *Brucella Ovis* Testing of Rams

WHEREAS many states require a negative *Brucella ovis* Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test for rams being imported from other states and countries and many grazing associations and ram sales require a negative test, and

WHEREAS in spite of attempts to standardize the ELISA test reagents, antigens, dilutions, low-positive controls, and protocols, many laboratories continue to get *B. ovis* ELISA test results that are called "indeterminate" or may be interpreted as "positive" at one laboratory and "negative" on the same animal's sample at another laboratory. There is, at times lack of consistency or agreement between laboratories on the *B. ovis* ELISA test, and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Veterinary Services Laboratory had earlier suggested standardized test protocols, but there is still lack of consistency between laboratories on applied test protocols. These discrepancies create inconvenience and added expense for producers, lack of producer and veterinary practitioner confidence and trust in the laboratories, and leave regulatory personnel with many questions about proper disposition of test positive and "indeterminate" rams,

BE IT RESOLVED, that ASI urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Veterinary Services Laboratory and the USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to review the protocols for enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) *Brucella ovis* testing (test reagents, antigens, dilutions, low-positive control) among laboratories conducting the ELISA test and develop an explanation for the "indeterminate" and discrepant results between labs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASI urges USDA-ARS and USDA-APHIS-NVSL to develop strict, standard-testing protocols for all laboratories for the *B. ovis* ELISA test. We further urge the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and state diagnostic laboratories to adhere to these standard-testing protocols, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASI urges USDA-ARS to develop an accurate and consistent *Brucella ovis* confirmatory test for samples with "indeterminate" results to help facilitate prudent regulatory and sheep-management decisions.

1-32:15 **Animal Care and Handling**

WHEREAS farmers and ranchers who raise sheep in the United States take great pride in the care they provide for their animals and do not condone or defend mistreatment or abuse of sheep either intentionally or unintentionally, and

WHEREAS these principles hold true for all management practices, including the shearing of sheep – a necessary process that is of great benefit to the animals' own welfare, and

WHEREAS sheep that must be shorn regularly to prevent excess wool from interfering with their bodies' ability to thermo-regulate. Excessive wool coats also make the sheep more vulnerable to becoming immobilized by physical obstacles in the environment and more susceptible to predator and parasite attacks,

BE IT RESOLVED that shearers use ASI-approved, standardized-handling techniques, which are designed for the comfort and well-being of the sheep,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), along with its member farmers and ranchers, promote and encourage the training of proper sheep handling and shearing. ASI provides its members with the *Sheep Care Guide*, an educational document for proper care, handling and management of sheep as an industry standard for sheep care. ASI also sponsors training for sheep shearers and provides standardized-educational material on proper shearing techniques.

1-33:16 **Bighorn/Domestic Sheep**

Research background information

WHEREAS the current regulatory precedent that separation of domestic sheep and bighorn sheep populations will protect populations of bighorn sheep from morbidity and mortality due to respiratory disease is flawed, as the precedent is based upon limited scope of published research and doesn't consider the multiple factors that other animal populations contribute to the development of fatal respiratory disease. Therefore the current regulatory approach is based primarily on case law using these limited data, without consideration that population-based problems can result from multiple factors influencing interactions between the host, infectious agents and the environment, and

WHEREAS the evidence upon which the claims of disease transmission risk from domestic sheep to bighorn sheep is inconclusive, a thorough survey of existing wild bighorn sheep populations to characterize the differences in thriving populations and those that have experienced 'die-offs' is necessary. This research should be conducted by researchers with expertise in population-based surveys, and the following factors need to be statistically characterized as follows: host genetics; nutrient availability and content (water, protein, energy and trace elements); pathogen virulence not limited to respiratory agents; and interaction with other domestic and wildlife species and environmental influences, and

WHEREAS other ruminant species both wild and domestic, may carry pathogenic microorganisms which could be transmitted to existing susceptible bighorn sheep populations, it must be acknowledged that multiple species have bacterial and viral flora in common that may play a role in bighorn sheep disease, but that some bighorn populations already possess immunity or resistance to respiratory pathogens, and

WHEREAS there is limited published, generally accepted, and truly "peer reviewed" scientific research that clearly defines the risk of disease transmission between domestic sheep grazing under range conditions and bighorn sheep nearby,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that since it is imperative that the concept of species separation is validated by research, that ASI pursues efforts to cause the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state and federal wildlife and land management agencies, USDA/APHIS, and USDA/ARS to cooperate with state universities and producers in devising appropriate scientific studies to help determine the influence of domestic sheep on the health of bighorn sheep. These agencies, universities and producers must also rigorously explore through well-designed epidemiological studies, methods to provide population immunity to bighorn populations, and consider the multi-causal nature of disease and death in bighorn sheep, such as range conditions, transplant policy, nutrition-mineral deficiency, predation, stress factors, observed-density-dependent decrease in reproduction and increase in mortality and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI seeks funding for appropriate scientific studies by independent scientists to determine the compatibility with and the influence of domestic sheep on the population sustainability of bighorn sheep, including the aforementioned necessary research.

1-34:16 **Scrapie Eradication**

WHEREAS there is no uniform, regulatory policy on all types of TSEs, and

WHEREAS scrapie is a significant disease in sheep, the European Union has stated Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) may be present in the sheep population in Europe, and the United States is taking precautionary measures to reduce the risk of BSE occurring in this country through voluntary and regulatory action, and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has regulations restricting interstate movement of sheep and goats, and

WHEREAS ASI strongly supports scrapie eradication in the United States, and

WHEREAS compliance with animal-identification requirements in the scrapie-eradication program to enable traceability of infected animals to breeding flocks is essential to the scrapie-eradication effort,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to continue to develop and enforce appropriate sheep and embryo import-control measures to prevent the introduction of BSE or new strains of scrapie into the United States. APHIS should also conduct country-by-country risk assessments as a basis for importation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to propose and finalize rulemaking designed to reduce the risk, control and eradicate in the United States, all TSEs for which effective-control measures exist and to codify the appropriate import controls, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to propose and finalize amendments to the 9 CFR that are consistent with current science and APHIS Universal Methods & Rules (UM&R) guidelines, as well as to address enhanced methods for achieving higher compliance with animal traceability, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to conduct surveillance in sheep and goat populations at a level sufficient to support the rapid eradication of scrapie from the United States and to determine the current prevalence rates.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA to continue to take a science based approach in flocks where a diagnosis of Nor98-like scrapie has been made.

1-35:17 Scrapie Compliance, Surveillance, and Enforcement

WHEREAS ASI strongly supports scrapie eradication in the United States, and

WHEREAS an animal-identification program and traceability is the most important component of a disease-eradication program, and

WHEREAS compliance with animal-identification requirements under the current scrapie program is inadequate in some locations, and

WHEREAS APHIS is currently able to trace about 80 percent of scrapie-infected sheep found through slaughter surveillance to their flock of origin, and

WHEREAS slaughter surveillance is essential to the success of scrapie eradication, and

WHEREAS the ability to trace infected animals to breeding flocks of origin is essential to the scrapie-eradication effort,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS and State Veterinarians to enact and strictly enforce all of the appropriate laws and regulations required for states to meet and maintain "consistent state" status and that any state not in compliance be removed from the consistent-state list, thus subjecting the animals leaving these states to substantial restrictions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to strictly enforce the current scrapie-ID requirements under the 9 CFR, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI urges USDA/APHIS to maintain sheep-slaughter, scrapie-surveillance sampling and to increase goat-slaughter, scrapie-surveillance sampling.

1-36:17 National Scrapie Eradication Program Funding

WHEREAS official identification is critical to the success of the National Scrapie Eradication Program, and

WHEREAS compliance with the scrapie-identification requirement is critical to disease traceability and epidemiology, and

WHEREAS both metal and plastic tags have historically been provided free of charge to producers, and

WHEREAS the plastic tags are more readily visible and readable and are preferred by the majority of sheep and goat producers, and

WHEREAS metal tags have been implicated in shearer-safety issues and also in causing infected ears, and

WHEREAS funding for the National Scrapie Eradication Program has been reduced over the years to a level where it is not sufficient to effectively finalize the goals of the program without additional funding,

BE IT RESOLVED that the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) urges United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) to provide only the plastic ear tags to producers free of charge, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASI urges the Secretary of Agriculture and APHIS to request, and Congress to fund, an increase of at least \$3 million annually in the budget for the National Scrapie Eradication Program to maintain the program's effectiveness.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

2-01:90:R15 Grizzly Bear Delisting

WHEREAS the total predetermined population of the grizzly bear in the northern continental divide and Yellowstone ecosystem has been reached,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports removal of the grizzly bear from the threatened and endangered species list.

2-02:92:R13 Wolf/Dog Hybrids

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports prohibiting the ownership, breeding or sale of wolf/dog and/or coyote/dog hybrids in the United States.

2-04:95:R15 Management of Natural Resources/Ecosystems

WHEREAS management of natural resources and ecosystems are critical to ASI,

BE IT RESOLVED that federal management of natural resources include:

1. Protection of property rights and the constitutional rights of U.S. citizens,
2. Multiple usage options for federal land,
3. Consideration of local community needs,
4. The role domesticated livestock play for a healthy environment,
5. Emphasis on incentives rather than regulations,
6. Inclusion of private-property owner, state, county and local governments into federal decision processes,
7. Scientifically and technologically based decisions, and
8. Recognition of human and economic health.

2-10:03:R13 Environmental Treaties

WHEREAS according to the Constitution of the United States, all powers not expressly granted to the federal government are reserved to the states and the people, and

WHEREAS the federal government is entering into global treaties, which exceed the powers granted federal government under the Constitution, and

WHEREAS these treaties are adversely affecting the rights reserved to the states and the people according to the Constitution, including rights of private property,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges the U.S. Congress to forego consideration of any treaty until impacts of such treaties on the rights of the states and the people have been determined by economic, political, cultural and social analysis at the local and state level, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if it is determined that the impacts of a treaty are adverse, ASI urges that the treaty in question be dropped from consideration or that ASI supports the defeat of the ratification of such treaty by the U.S. Senate.

2-11:03:R14 Wolves' Reintroduction and Delisting

WHEREAS the wolf population in North America is expanding with little chance of becoming endangered within the foreseeable future, and

WHEREAS efforts to reintroduce wolves into other regions of the United States does little to further enhance recovery efforts of the species as a whole, but does have the potential to impact the continued viability of the sheep industry in those regions proposed for introduction,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes any wolf introduction or reintroduction program that restricts the use of private property or the utilization of federal or state land by the private sector, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI requests that the agencies responsible for wolf management collar a minimum of one wolf per pack before, during and after delisting, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI supports the delisting of the wolf from the Endangered Species Act.

2-14:08:R13 Endangered Species Act

WHEREAS ASI believes that, to a large extent, the intent of Congress in enacting the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 has been subverted,

WHEREAS it appears the listing of species by federal agencies is being used as a tool to advance political and philosophical agendas as opposed to the true intent of the act, and

WHEREAS numerous populations of species, which are not isolated or threatened as a whole, are being listed as evolutionary significant units or variety of species, and

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports efforts to have the Congress of the United States re-evaluate the original intent of this legislation,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED ASI strongly urges the following concerns be addressed:

1. The listing of any species that is not truly threatened throughout its entire range and is being listed with the intent of limiting multiple-use, including sheep grazing, and the use of private property should be prohibited.
2. Critical habitat must be identified at the time of a species being proposed for listing.
3. Population criteria of delisting must be clearly identified at the time of proposed listing, and once those delisting criteria are met, delisting should automatically occur.
4. That Environmental and Economic Impact Statements that include potential for regulatory takings be conducted, and that provisions be provided within the ESA for the just compensation for property taken for public use, either directly or through "regulatory takings".
5. That initial review of the listing petition, inventory of species numbers, inventory of critical habitat of the species and scientific evidence of decline be made available for public review, and that private and commercial data and evidence be considered in the listing process.
6. That the empirical evidence supporting the listing of a species as threatened and endangered be "clear and convincing" and subject to independent scientific peer review.
7. That local and state governments be invited and allowed to participate in the gathering and review of data for listing, development of recovery plans and the designation of critical habitat, and those meetings to be open to the public, and that notices of such meetings be widely publicized.

8. That listing, research and all species recovery expenses be identified and published on an annual basis, and federal agencies are held accountable for those costs.
9. The establishment of migratory corridors for broad ranging species, such as the wolf and grizzly bear, for the purposes of land-use control rather than the stabilization and recovery of the species, be prohibited.

2-15:08:R13 Management and Delisting of Wolf Populations

WHEREAS science-based recovery goals for a stable and genetically diverse population of wolves for the Greater Yellowstone/Idaho region have long been met,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports immediate delisting of wolves under terms and conditions deemed acceptable to the individual states, by those states, without further demands or stipulations placed upon them by the USF & WS, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI supports any and all efforts to restrict wolves to areas as small as possible in order to limit their expansion into adjoining states, while maintaining minimally viable populations to assure any attempts to re-list wolves fail, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI requests federal funds be available to adequately cover the states' costs for wolf management and that any future indemnification programs be designed to cover costs borne by livestock producers.

2-16:11:R16 Sage Grouse Recovery

WHEREAS sage grouse management is vital to the sheep industry's interests, and

WHEREAS there are multiple efforts by permittees and landowners in developing sage grouse conservation practices, and

WHEREAS federal agencies are developing their own plans for management that could include cutting currently available public land grazing where other options may have a greater effect for management,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourage state and federal agencies to work with all permittees and landowners when developing management plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASI oppose any action on sage-grouse protection that negatively affects grazing management on private and public lands, including reducing AUMs available to permittees.

ENVIRONMENT

3-01:94:R14 Wild and Scenic Rivers

WHEREAS ASI is opposed to proposals which necessitate the taking of scenic easements or fee title to privately owned land by eminent domain, or that unnecessarily involve federal responsibility for a river, which is being adequately managed by a state,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes adding more rivers and adjoining lands to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and urges re-evaluation of all existing Wild and Scenic Rivers. (All land so acquired by the federal government should be returned to the original owners), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any land designated for Wild and Scenic Rivers be subject to local ordinances and police jurisdiction.

3-02:91:R16 Environmental Legislation

WHEREAS ASI is committed to maintaining a viable sheep industry, and production includes sound environmental practices,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI researches and identifies language in existing laws that impact the U.S. sheep industry and take an active role in affecting that language in the renewal of environmental legislation.

3-04:92:R17 Private Property Rights Protection

WHEREAS the United States is founded on the principle of private property ownership recognizing that the long-term productive capabilities and stewardship of the country are best served by private ownership,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI press for legislation that protects the principle of private property ownership.

3-05:93:R13 Corporate Average Fuel Economy

WHEREAS efforts have been made recently in Congress to impose drastic, government-mandated increases in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards on the automotive industry for cars and light trucks, calling for a 40-percent increase, and

WHEREAS unrealistic standards would seriously reduce the availability of full-size and mid-size vans and pickup trucks, and

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI calls upon Congress to reject any effort to impose unrealistic standards on the automobile and farm equipment industries, which thereby impact agriculture.

3-06:93:R13 Environmental Stewardship Statement

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI adopts the following Environmental Stewardship Statement:

Sheep are earth-friendly animals. They are efficient converters of renewable forage to high-quality food and fiber. In many areas of the country, sheep are used to graze leftover stalks and seed after crops have been harvested. Sheep also help control weeds on stream banks, croplands, pastures and rangelands, reducing the need for chemical herbicides.

In range operations sheep have been successful in suppressing brush for wildfire control. They also are effective in weed and brush control on new forest plantings.

Following well-planned range and pasture management, sheep safely and naturally revive lands and benefit wildlife in the process.

Sheep harvest the land, recycle vital nutrients back to the soil and provide mankind with nourishment, clothing, and shelter.

3-07:95:R15 Environmental Benefits of Sheep

WHEREAS targeted grazing has been demonstrated to be an effective vegetation-management tool for restoring landscapes, managing invasive and noxious plant species, managing fire-fuel loads, improving wildlife habitat, and generally enhancing ecosystems,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI will promote the use of targeted grazing for public- and private-sector land managers, grazing contractors, and to the general public by educating them on the environmental benefits of targeted grazing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI will continue to provide leadership to support research, develop educational tools, and enable networking between grazers, land managers, policy makers, and the public, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI will encourage public-land-management agencies, such as BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and NRCS to institutionalize the use of targeted-grazing tools in their respective organizations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI pursue efforts to include targeted grazing in agency policy and funding opportunities, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI collaborate with and provide leadership for targeted-grazing activities within private, state, Federal, academic organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGO), such as Society for Range Management (SRM), Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC), etc.

3-08:96:R16 Impaired Streams/Watersheds

WHEREAS various streams and watersheds in the United States have been listed by the Environmental Protection Agency as "impaired streams," and

WHEREAS this has had a dramatic impact on private-property rights and economic factors,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes the Environmental Protection Agency's and the various state agencies' general listing of impaired streams and watersheds without quantifiable and scientific data, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI opposes the expanded definition of navigable streams proposed by the EPA.

3-10:00:R15 Federal Access to Private Property

WHEREAS Private property rights are protected by the U.S. Constitution,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes federal or state agency entrance on private property without expressed written permission, easement or legal probable cause.

3-11:03:R13 Clean Water Act and Water Rights

WHEREAS there are many sections of the Clean Water Act and other federal laws that diminish state water rights; confuse federal responsibilities over management of water with those responsibilities of states, Indian nations and individuals; are used as land-use controls; expand the definition of navigability; and serve to federalize water rights,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI strongly supports protection of state and individual water rights.

3-12:03:R13 Voluntary Technical Assistance and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI strongly supports voluntary technical assistance on privately owned grazing lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI endorses the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative voluntary technical-assistance program to managers of privately owned grazing lands and actively pursues congressional appropriations to fund this initiative.

3-13:06:R16 Wilderness Area Rights

WHEREAS Section 4 of the Wilderness Act of 1964 states that "the grazing of livestock, where established prior to effective date of this Act, shall be permitted subject to such reasonable regulation as are deemed necessary," and

WHEREAS the Act also protects valid, existing rights to livestock trails, reservoirs and private property, and "nothing in the Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from State water laws,"

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the protection of valid, existing rights of its members and member states within designated wilderness areas.

3-14:08:R13 FSA Office Closures

WHEREAS FSA Offices provide invaluable programs that are designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry and to help farmers adjust production to meet demand,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages the FSA to work towards minimizing the closing and consolidation of their offices in a manner that is reflective of the need of the area rather than a constraint of the budget.

3-15:10:R15 Categorical Exclusions (CE)

WHEREAS a Categorical Exclusion (CE) is a category of action which does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency in implementation of these regulations and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, and

WHEREAS Federal land-management agencies utilize CEs to mitigate time and resources to issue grazing permits for public-land users in an efficient, evidence-based manner,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges federal land-management agencies to utilize CEs in all appropriate situations.

3-16:11:R16 Humane Horse Slaughter

WHEREAS horses are an important component of the sheep industry, and

WHEREAS the U.S. sheep industry supports the humane treatment and management of all animals, including horses, and

WHEREAS it is economically important for horse owners to be allowed to sell horses for the highest market value, and

WHEREAS barring humane horse slaughter does not offer an alternative for horses to which humane slaughter is no longer available; there are no mandatory care standards established for horse rescue facilities to ensure the humane treatment of horses; the number of unwanted horses presently sent for humane slaughter will overwhelm the ability of the current network of

horse-protection facilities to care for them; and euthanasia and carcass disposal are very expensive, which may cause people to abandon horses, and

WHEREAS in 2006 approximately 55,000 horses were slaughtered at U.S. facilities, and according to the American Association of Equine Practitioners, subsistence care for these horses would cost approximately \$1,825 per horse per year or \$100 million annually; and costs will escalate as more horses are added to this category every year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI is opposed to any regulation or legislation that would inhibit or prohibit the sale or transportation of horses for humane slaughter.

3-17:11:R16 Wild-Horse- and Burro-Herd Reduction

WHEREAS, the population growth of wild horses and burros in the western United States continues to outpace natural death loss and adoption rates, and

WHEREAS, this overpopulation greatly contributes to range degradation, reducing the biodiversity and productivity for wildlife and livestock, and

WHEREAS, long-term, feedlot-type management is not economically sustainable,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ASI favors a comprehensive program, including fertility control, sex ratios, and other humane means of wild-horse- and burro-herd reduction.

3-19:13 Second Amendment Rights

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the right to keep and bear arms to protect lives, property and livestock.

LAMB MARKETING

4-01:90:R14 Country-of-Origin Labeling

WHEREAS ASI is concerned with consumers' confusion between foreign and domestic lamb,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI pursue legislation, and all other avenues, to require country-of-origin including positive identification of lamb at the retail and wholesale level.

4-02:90:R15 Meat-Inspection Fees

WHEREAS ASI believes the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) meat inspection service provides an invaluable service in protecting and ensuring the consuming public of meat's safety, and

WHEREAS ASI believes if the government charges processors a user fee for inspection services, the price of meat will rise significantly and meat safety might be compromised,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes federally mandated user fees for meat-inspection services.

4-03:91:R13 Export Enhancement Programs

WHEREAS greater participation in the global marketplace could be beneficial to the U.S. sheep industry,
BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges the U.S. government to continue to recognize that the export of U.S. agricultural products will help to reduce the U.S. trade deficit, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges the U.S. government to include sheep products in export enhancement programs.

4-04:91:R14 Inspection Practices

WHEREAS all meats, poultry and fish products are not currently required to meet the same criteria for labeling and inspection,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI works to ensure that all meats, poultry and fish are required to meet the same stringent standards for inspection and labeling.

4-12:94:R14 Case-Ready Products

WHEREAS the case-ready-retail business model provides tremendous opportunity to grow the sales of lamb and lamb products,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges the American Lamb Board to work with meat retailers to address retail issues concerning the case-ready business model and aggressively work to pull through case-ready products.

4-13:04:R14 BSE Trade Impact

WHEREAS the diagnosis of a cow infected with BSE has been made in the United States, and

WHEREAS this finding may adversely impact the level of consumer confidence in our nation's food supply and result in subsequent impacts to our nation's livestock industries, and

WHEREAS appropriate regulatory programs exist and continue to be enhanced to ensure a safe and adequate food supply,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI and the National Lamb Feeders Association (NLFA) coordinate efforts with affiliated interests, including the USDA, to ensure BSE does not unreasonably or unnecessarily impact the movement of sheep and sheep products on a domestic or export basis.

4-14:05:R15 Control Processor Costs

WHEREAS lamb processing in the United States faces challenges, including waste disposal and rendering issues, labor and overall operating costs and food-safety regulations, and

WHEREAS a viable lamb- and sheep-processing sector is essential to the economic health and viability of the U.S. sheep industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages State Departments of Agriculture, USDA and the U.S. Congress to aggressively support processors and to examine existing legislation and regulations for possible revision and development of new approaches, as needed, in order to assure the continued viability of the lamb- and sheep-processing sector, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following issues should specifically be addressed:

1. assistance with meat processing waste issues (rendering),
2. USDA/FSIS Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) regulations, and
3. high-operating costs driven by labor issues, Worker's Compensation and other governmental regulations.

4-16:07:R17 Instrument Grading

WHEREAS the American sheep industry utilizes official USDA grade determinations and certification-program requirements to segregate dissimilar carcasses based on grading attributes, and

WHEREAS the state of current instrument-technology evaluation and prediction has progressed to a point where it is now repeatable, accurate and precise, and

WHEREAS value determinations using technology can be based on smaller, more precise incremental stratifications of the lamb carcass grades, than current grading practices,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to conduct the necessary research and develop the appropriate testing protocols and requirements, in conjunction with all interested parties, to allow for instrument technologies to be utilized in evaluations of lamb carcasses for the classification of those carcasses based on published criteria that reflect attribute differentiation that can be utilized for value determinations.

4-17:08:R13 Mutton Promotion

WHEREAS ewe and ram depreciation is one of the largest cost factors in sheep production,

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASI encourages the American Lamb Board to invest in improving the value of cull breeding stock through promotion and merchandising activities geared toward mutton.

4-23:17 USDA Frozen Stocks Reporting

WHEREAS ASI believes the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provides an invaluable service in collecting and publishing data that is driven by the needs and demands of an industry, and

WHEREAS imported lamb accounts for more than half of the total available supply of lamb in the United States therefore the impacts of imported lamb on the domestic market have become more significant,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI believes the monthly frozen stocks data reported for lamb is vital information for the lamb industry and there is a need for more transparent information on the supply of imported lamb product in U.S. cold storage facilities, as the impact of imported lamb on the marketplace continues to strengthen, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI pursues all efforts to allow for the reporting of monthly frozen-stock data for lamb to include, but not be limited to, the following categories: domestic lamb, imported lamb, domestic shoulder, domestic rack, domestic loin, domestic leg, domestic ground lamb, imported shoulder, imported rack, imported loin, imported leg, and imported ground lamb.

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

5-01:90:R15 Predator Loss Data

WHEREAS predator-loss data is essential to the American sheep industry for assessing the impact of predation,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports continued funding for Wildlife Services (WS) and NASS to accurately collect total, predator-loss data.

5-03:96:R16 Management of Predator Protected Species

WHEREAS Congressional earmarks and the introduction of predator species listed as threatened or endangered places an increased burden on USDA/Wildlife Services' (WS) limited budget and resources,

BE IT RESOLVED that states or federal authorities cover the costs of any protected-predator species currently being controlled by WS, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future efforts to shift existing WS funds or personnel to the increased management or control of protected-predatory species be accomplished with increased funding.

5-05:94:R14 Compliance with USFS and BLM Regulations

WHEREAS livestock grazing is a legitimate use and a necessary natural resource management tool in federally managed lands, and an effective animal-damage-control program is needed to control livestock, as well as wildlife losses,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports a requirement for the establishment of multi-year WS work plans by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) so that animal damage control can be effectively accomplished, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI supports the notification of all agency personnel that they must comply with current USFS and BLM regulations regarding animal damage control.

5-06:00:R15 State-Managed Predator Programs

WHEREAS ASI believes in local collaboration for decision making on predator management,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages states, when appropriate, to establish coalitions with livestock, sportsmen, and wildlife organizations to work cooperatively with state wildlife agencies to coordinate and implement effective predator-management programs for the benefit of wildlife populations and the livestock industry.

5-07:03:R13 Predator-Management Methods

WHEREAS ASI recognizes that wildlife is a valuable public resource; it also recognizes that wildlife must be managed in a responsible and legal manner to reduce and minimize damage to agriculture and private property and to reduce risks to public health and safety,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports traditional methods of predator control, including leg-hold traps, snares and aerial gunning, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI supports continued use of devices, such as the livestock protection collar, M-44s and the compounds contained within, by urging Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) re-registration of these products, through the maintenance of reasonable re-registration fees, and by seeking measures that remove excessive regulation and impediments, which make use of these devices impractical, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI supports research and data collection conducted by the National Wildlife Research Center and supporting the EPA registration of the above-mentioned and other predator toxicants, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI supports the research and development of new technologies, including biological and alternative controls to reduce predation, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI supports both corrective- and preventative-control methods as essential to an effective Integrated Predator Management Program.

5-09:03:R14 Wildlife Services (WS) Funding

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges Congress to maintain sufficient funding for an effective Wildlife Services Program, including infrastructure, research, up-to-date equipment and aviation needs and programming costs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as demand to manage sheep depredation surfaces in other regions of the nation, that ASI supports efforts to secure funding for predator management within these areas without impacting existing programs for funding allocations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI opposes efforts by Congress and the Administration to direct or require any specific levels of cost-sharing for WS activities, as fixed levels of cooperative funding could seriously hamper the program's cooperative relationships and unfairly penalize the cooperative partners who experience temporary funding shortages, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI opposes the diversion of existing funds to non-lethal programs, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that, in interest of the program, ASI recommends that WS bear only those APHIS overhead costs directly associated with the actual Wildlife Services Program.

5-10:08:R13 Animal Damage Control (ADC) Act of 1931

WHEREAS the Wildlife Services Program has worked hand in hand with agriculture since the passage of the ADC Act of 1931 to achieve environmental balance between agriculture and the environment,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the ADC Act of 1931, as currently amended, and any other legislation and regulation that provides effective predator management tools for landowners, predator specialists and agents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI supports legislation and regulation improving the effectiveness of predator management, including support for the modification of statutes and regulations to streamlining and facilitating the lawful take of some migratory bird species, which are causing depredation losses and spreading human diseases, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the ASI opposes any efforts to repeal the ADC Act of 1931, or amendments that weaken Congress' original intent in passing the Act, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI opposes any legislation and/or initiative that restricts control and management of depredating animals.

PUBLIC LANDS

6-01:91:R16 Wildlife Population Plans

WHEREAS western wildlife-population numbers and trends are set at the discretion of the state, and

WHEREAS the state depends upon private landowners and federal land-management agencies to provide forage, critical-winter range, water and open space for this wildlife, and

WHEREAS State Wildlife and Fisheries Comprehensive Plans and Resource Management Plans, based on sound-resource information, commensurate habitat and the analysis of wildlife-management capabilities, are used to bridge the split-state authority over wildlife and federal and private authority over wildlife habitat,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges states and federal land managers to maintain wildlife numbers within the limits of existing plans and to bring any populations numbers (i.e. elk), which have exceeded plan limits, back into compliance.

6-02:91:R13 Community Coalitions

WHEREAS ASI has long supported the multiple-use concept presently used on federal and state lands,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports efforts to build community coalitions advocating continued multiple-use activities.

6-03:91:R13 Public Lands Council

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI work closely on all matters of concern and with the necessary agencies and organizations on all issues concerning range-management problems on state, federal and private lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI work closely with the Public Lands Council (PLC) and any other organization on matters relating to the livestock management of federal and state lands and recognize PLC as the lead organization on public lands issues.

6-04:92:R13 Federal Grazing Fees

WHEREAS federal lands grazing is critical not only to the western sheep industry but also to the infrastructure of the industry as a whole, and

WHEREAS long-term stabilization in pricing of federal range forage greatly benefits the stewardship of the resources and the long-range planning for livestock producers and lending institutions,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports a formula-based federal grazing fee, which is fair and equitable to the U.S. sheep industry and provides for long-term stabilization of pricing for federal forage and rural communities.

6-05:94:R13 AUM Ratio (7:1)

WHEREAS the assessment of AUMs (Animal Unit Months) at a ratio of seven sheep to one cow would more accurately reflect the relationship of the species in practice rather than the currently used five-to-one ratio, and

WHEREAS the federal government will actually lose grazing-fee revenue due to sheep permits being converted or vacated and potential increases in grazing fees, and

WHEREAS changing the ratio to seven-to-one, for assessment purposes only, would assist sheep permittees to remain in the sheep business and ultimately mean increased revenues to the government,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI develops and supports legislation that would change the federal grazing AUM ratio of sheep to cattle to seven-to-one, for assessment purposes only.

6-06:96:R16 Range-Improvement Funds

WHEREAS large portions of range-improvement projects completed by the livestock industry enhance the habitat for game animals, as well as the domestic animals, and

WHEREAS the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have asked that a large percentage of 8100 range-improvement funds be earmarked for wildlife and wildlife biologists (which would be a violation of Congressional intent),

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASI asks Congress and the agencies to return livestock funds that were earmarked for range improvement and range betterment but not used for that purpose.

6-07:99:R14 Biological Data Collection

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI monitors the collection methods of biological data by federal agencies to ensure private-property rights are protected.

6-08:00:R13 Management of National Grasslands

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the following objectives in the preferred alternatives of all Environmental Impact Statements involving National Grasslands Management:

1. No wilderness or roadless recommendations for the grasslands;
2. No management objectives for extirpated species;
3. Maintenance and encouragement of range-improvements and grazing;
4. Provisions for maintaining or improving local existing economies;
5. An open-travel management policy;
6. Maintenance and control of existing prairie dog populations;
7. Provisions for in-stream flow water rights only when unappropriated water is available and in accordance with state law; and
8. Provisions for oil, gas energy and mineral development with surface occupancy.

6-09:00:R15 Range Conservationists' Training

WHEREAS many federal agencies are employing individuals who are not qualified to serve as range managers and conservationists,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI recommends the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other federal agencies retain and hire range conservationists, who are adequately educated and trained in range management, as outlined by the Society for Range Management's Certification Program for Range Managers.

6-10:01:R16 Grazing Allotments

WHEREAS legislative and regulatory provisions exist mandating the completion of numerous reviews, reports and surveys for all grazing allotments,

BE IT RESOLVED that appropriate regulatory agencies complete necessary documentation sufficient to allow continued multiple-use of our federal lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USFS and BLM keep permittees informed and work cooperatively with permittees in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI supports the legal and historical definition of "No Action" in NEPA analysis as being "status quo" as opposed to an interpretation of "no grazing" or "no use."

6-11:03:R13 Grazing Preference

WHEREAS a preference status for current permittees on federal lands is desirable and necessary for continued operation of ranch business,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges the USFS and BLM to give first preference for permits and leases to present permittees rather than entities that have no land- or water-base property or year-around operations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI recommends that the BLM and USFS re-issue grazing preferences on allotments that have been surrendered or otherwise left vacant to qualified grazers.

6-13:03:R13 Rangeland Monitoring

WHEREAS pursuant to the direction of U.S. Congress it is critical to determine and document the current trend and condition of America's rangelands, and

WHEREAS knowledge of biological and physical rangeland functions is critical to the design and evaluation of alternative-management programs, thus determining the ecological well-being of the land and the economic viability of livestock and wildlife/range production systems, and

WHEREAS monitoring data that is gathered in a practical, feasible and economic manner is interpreted and used in agency and ranch decision-making and on-the-ground management of range resources,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports USFS and BLM range-monitoring standards that are scientifically based, peer-reviewed and are consistent with applicable law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges U.S. Congressional direction of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to develop new, sound, effective and scientific methods of assessing and monitoring rangeland health over time and space, using uniform, quantifiable parameters to express condition and trends, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that industry users be encouraged to take an active role in the development, interpretation and implementation of the above-mentioned procedures.

6-17:03:R13 Protection of State Sovereignty and Individual Property Rights

WHEREAS past administrations and federal agencies have encroached on constitutionally protected property rights and the sovereignty of the state through various federal actions,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI calls on Congress to restore their constitutional role in the protection of such property rights and sovereignty, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI calls on the Administration to fully involve state and local governments, whose economies are dependent on the outputs of natural resources found on federal lands, in resource planning processes through measures such as NEPA and other legislative means, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI calls on the Administration to enforce Executive Order #12630 requiring federal agencies to conduct Takings Implication Assessments (TIA) if a federal action is likely to encroach or infringe on personal property rights, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI call on Congress and the Administration to halt and correct Executive actions and initiatives, such as the Clean Water Action Plan and American Heritage Rivers Initiative that have served in the past to muddy the distinctions between state and federal responsibilities and have infringed upon individual and state property rights.

6-18:04:R14 Transplantation and Movement of Bison

WHEREAS bison are known carriers of brucellosis and tuberculosis, which can spread to domestic livestock,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes legislation that prevents the killing of bison leaving Yellowstone Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI opposes state or federal efforts that would result in the implementation of grazing systems of wild bison outside of the park and the transplantation of bison to areas outside of the park.

6-19:04:R14 Grazing Buyout

WHEREAS federal-land livestock grazing is important to the economic structures of western counties and states and wholesale cancellation of grazing permits and leases would devastate these counties and states, and

WHEREAS government policy has caused the partial or total loss of value of federal grazing permits,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports compensating livestock growers for their loss of permit value, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI opposes any and all government buyout programs to purchase and permanently eliminate grazing permits.

6-20:04:R14 Travel Management

BE IT RESOLVED that the travel management plans for federally managed lands must include language to provide those who hold grazing permits and leases guaranteed exemptions for management and maintenance purposes.

6-22:07:R17 Recreation Campaign

WHEREAS conflicts on federal land between motorized recreation and grazing are increasing across the West, and

WHEREAS federal land permittees are responsible for the grazing conditions of their allotment, permittees will not be held responsible for other user's impacts to the allotment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ASI supports the promotion of a campaign to decrease recreation conflicts on federal lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this campaign will partner with motorized recreation associations, other affected users' associations and the federal agencies to execute the following:

1. Educate permittees, recreation users, law enforcement officials to:
 - a. Promote awareness of multiple uses, differing impacts by seasons of use, use of trails for recreation, involvement in agency planning,
 - b. Develop educational materials,
 - c. Train spokespeople,
 - d. Develop sign system to post on federal lands, and
 - e. Contribute to livestock and recreation trade publications.

2. Support local law enforcement solutions to user conflicts.
3. Involvement in recreation and travel planning.

6-24:08:R13 Private Land Acquisition

WHEREAS ASI believes that the best steward of our nation's most basic productive resources is the person with a vested interest in its future,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes legislation that establishes long-term funding sources for the purpose of private-property acquisition, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI opposes public acquisition of private property except in cases of mutual agreement between parties.

6-25:08:R16 Reservations of Public Lands

WHEREAS BLM and USFS lands are not just an integral part of the range livestock industry, but provide a variety of benefits and uses to the American public, and

WHEREAS continued reservations of these lands as wilderness, wilderness study areas, "wildlands", roadless areas, national monuments, wild and scenic rivers, national conservation areas and other designations not only causes multiple-use to be displaced from these regions, but also restricts management options available to ensure the sustainability of natural resources,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI calls on Congress to further restore its constitutional role in managing lands belonging to the United States, rather than allowing Federal Government and non-elected personnel the power to reserve federal lands through de facto designations of roadless areas, wilderness study areas and other measures, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the ASI supports the continuation of grazing and other traditional uses that occurred prior to federal reservation of public lands and grandfathered into such designations because Congress found them not to be in conflict.

6-26:10:R15 Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)

WHEREAS The Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) provides for the award of attorney fees and other expenses to eligible individuals and small entities that are parties to litigation involving the Federal government, and

WHEREAS the Congressional intent of EAJA was to overcome the inability of many American individuals and small business owners to combat the vast resources of the Federal government in administrative adjudications and to redress the balance between the government acting in its discretionary capacity and the individual, and

WHEREAS non-profit environmental groups have filed several hundred lawsuits, and in turn, the Federal government has paid out several millions in taxpayer dollars in settlements and legal fees in cases against the U.S. government, and

WHEREAS this redirection of agency and program funding to pay for EAJA awards is negatively impacting BLM and Forest Service ability to manage lands for multiple use, and

WHEREAS a database of EAJA awards is not available to determine the extent of awards, and recent research indicates that organizations worth millions of dollars are collecting most of the awards, which indicates the Congressional intent of the Act is not being met and that EAJA is actually financing litigation intended by anti-livestock organizations to disrupt or eliminate multiple-use, including livestock-production on Federal lands,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the following actions:

1. stringent oversight of the EAJA award process to prevent reimbursement of inflated attorney and consultant fees,
2. a detailed accounting of EAJA awards as a mandatory component of the public record, and
3. a fair distribution of EAJA funds to eliminate the disproportionate payouts to special interest NGOs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED ASI urges the Federal Government to halt the abuse of EAJA's original intent of ensuring all citizens get access to the court system.

6-27:11:R16 States' Authority to Manage Wildlife

WHEREAS, individual states have ownership of and management authority over the wildlife within their borders, and

WHEREAS, over time, federal-land-management agencies have attempted to usurp state-management authority of wildlife on federally managed lands, and

WHEREAS, federal-land-management agencies should be restricted from interfering with state-wildlife management, and

WHEREAS, federal-land-management agencies are responsible for managing federal lands to meet multiple-use objectives, as opposed to managing the wildlife on the land,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI strongly urges Congress to clearly direct federal-land-management agencies to defer to states' authority to manage wildlife, including species specifically listed as federally threatened or endangered.

6-28:11:R16 No Net Loss of Animal Unit Months (AUMs)

WHEREAS, continued access to federal-lands grazing is extremely important to the continuation and expansion of an economically viable and sustainable U.S. sheep industry, and

WHEREAS, federal AUMs have an economic value to federal-lands permittees and their financial lenders to such an extent that the value of AUMs is taxed by the IRS, and the AUMs are considered by financial lenders as an asset to livestock operations, and

WHEREAS, federal-land-management agencies have shown little interest in maintaining a sufficient number of active AUMs to sustain an economically viable livestock industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI fully supports a "no net loss" policy in regards to livestock grazing AUMs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI is opposed to the transference or liquidation of livestock AUMs for the purpose of creating wild-horse preserves or wildlife sanctuaries.

6-29:11:R16 Alternative Allotments

WHEREAS, wildlife-mitigation programs have caused active sheep allotments on federal lands to be closed, and

WHEREAS, these closures have caused extreme hardships to western-range-sheep operators, and

WHEREAS, numerous productive allotments over the years have been retired and made unavailable to producers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI call on the USFS, BLM, and Congress to actively pursue returning productive and viable allotments, together with access to use by the U.S. domestic-sheep industry.

6-30:12:R17 U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES)

WHEREAS, the USSES and the Animal Disease Research Unit (ADRU) research stations work in partnership, have a history of careful use of taxpayers' monies to solve numerous sheep industry related challenges, and work to counter the flawed science and information propagated by those who wish to eliminate grazing and multiple use across our Federal Lands, and

WHEREAS, the unique research provided by USSES and ADRU is vital to our industry in not only food-animal research and animal health but also rangeland systems, and

WHEREAS, Administrative action to limit the scope of USSES threatens the viability of this resource and USSES's unparalleled historic sage grouse range data, unless range and animal science programs continue to be fully implemented,

BE IT RESOLVED that the American Sheep Industry expresses our strong support for the research conducted through USSES and ADRU, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USDA maintain and continue all rangeland resources representing multiple ecosystems available to the USSES, so that it can fulfill its mission to serve the industry, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that USDA support the merger of USSES and ADRU to sustain and grow their roles in food-animal science (NP-101), rangeland systems (NP-215) and Animal Health (NP-103) programs.

6-31:16 Occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

WHEREAS the events at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge unfold in Eastern Oregon, the nation's livestock industry, in particular those in the sheep community who are dependent upon the public lands, are being portrayed in a negative way across all media outlets, including social media.

WHEREAS despite challenges by those who utilize public lands in regards to the restrictions imposed by federal/state agencies, the sheep industry continues to benefit from grazing on public lands, while at the same time developing positive relationships with conservation and more ecosystem-focused groups to forge mutually beneficial results from such grazing practices.

WHEREAS the majority of the livestock and sheep producers who graze on public lands are responsible, caring, and trustworthy tenants of the public's property, for the sheep industry not to address the developments at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Southern Oregon, will only allow for a growing misperception by the general public that all livestock and sheep producers who utilize public lands are of the same character.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ASI makes it known that grazing on public lands is a partnership between the sheep community and the federal/state government and to create a clear, succinct message which reiterates the sheep industry's commitment to positive outcomes on the public lands.

PRODUCTION, EDUCATION and RESEARCH

7-02:90:R15 Predator-Management Research

WHEREAS research is necessary to explore the avenues for more effective and discriminate predator management,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports funding of predator-management research.

7-09:90:R14 Livestock in Education Materials

WHEREAS less than 2 percent of this nation's population is engaged in the actual production of food and fiber, and

WHEREAS it is imperative that our society understands the issues confronting our industry as well as understand the general mechanics of the production process, and

WHEREAS the proper education of our youth in regards to agriculture is a significant and important first step in this understanding, and

WHEREAS many youth are being taught that predators are not a danger to livestock resources and that our industry's animal-damage-control programs are detrimental to all wildlife,

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASI supports the accurate representation and presentation of information on livestock production and management, public land use, predator problems and controls in school textbooks and other educational materials.

7-12:07:R17 Microbial Contamination

WHEREAS recent outbreaks of microbial-caused ailments in humans have triggered public outcry about food safety, and

WHEREAS some outbreaks have been traced to crops directly consumed by humans, and

WHEREAS the exact source for these microbes is unknown, but human and non-human animals are suspected as a likely cause, along with human sanitation, and

WHEREAS grazing-crop residue and grazing adjacent to cropping areas is a significant economic component of the sheep industry, and

WHEREAS there is a lack of valid scientifically based information regarding the degree to which sheep may contribute problematic strains of microbes to the food web, to what degree the microbes from sheep may persist in the environment, and in what ways the organisms can move in the environment onto or into human food crops once leaving the sheep,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the necessary review of the literature pertaining to these issues, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI vigorously supports and encourages research efforts to develop the necessary scientific information that will better inform managers of animals relative to food safety, as well as provide research-based, peer-reviewed science for developing policy for both public and private land.

7-19:16 Research & Education Funding

WHEREAS the United States sheep industry relies heavily on expertise in the University Land Grant system for

- research development and educational support in implementation of technology to improve their profitability and competitiveness of the sheep industry in an environmentally sustainable manner

- the education of undergraduate and graduate students who will either be our future producers, industry leaders or the allied industry support group, and

WHEREAS these programs are a key component of the sheep industry's infrastructure and have been rapidly being reduced or eliminated,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages the retention and expansion of a sheep-focused, research and educational program that addresses the relevant technological needs of the sheep industry. The retention and expansion of university teaching, research, and extension programs directed at expertise in sheep and their products (meat, wool and milk) is critical to the sustainability of the sheep industry. This may involve regionalization of the sheep infrastructure at land grants and include working with the ARS-research stations to improve the effectiveness of both research and education. Furthermore ASI encourages research and education efforts funded by public funds be focused on issues that are relevant to the sheep industry.

SEEDSTOCK

8-03:91:R13 Seedstock Export/ Import Programs

WHEREAS ASI is the national trade association for the U.S. sheep industry and is engaged in programs designed to enhance the profitability and sustainability of the sheep industry, and

WHEREAS ASI encourages domestic and international programs to market lamb, wool and pelt products, as well as by-products of the sheep industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI continues to seek to expand producer-marketing opportunities by developing and supporting programs aimed at exporting/ importing seedstock and genetic material.

WHEREAS genetic improvement is integral to the advancement and profitability of sheep production, and ultimately the growth of the U.S. sheep industry, and

WHEREAS the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) provides predictable, economically important, genetic-evaluation information to the American sheep industry by converting performance records into relevant decision-making tools, and

WHEREAS the industry roadmap has identified the increased adoption of NSIP as critical to the sustainability of the U.S. sheep industry

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI strongly encourages all sectors of the U.S. sheep industry, including but not limited to breed associations, universities, federal research units and producers, to actively participate and/or cooperate in the continued development and increased utilization of NSIP tools for the genetic evaluation of sheep. Current major goals include:

1. Encourage the development of an education program that will assist producers in implementing NSIP tools within their individual production system. This includes increased participation in NSIP by seed-stock producers and increased use of EBVs by commercial producers, when purchasing breeding stock.
2. Encourage the infrastructure support of genetic improvement via ultrasound-certified technicians, wool-fiber-testing labs and diagnostic labs for fecal-egg counts as necessary tools for genetic improvement of muscle, fiber and parasite resilience.
3. Encourage NSIP EBVs be available for buyers at ram sales and other points of breeding stock commerce.
4. Encourage increased USDA and ARS funding and resources to support the development and implementation of new or improved EBVs or selection indexes and genomic-breeding values within NSIP for economically important traits in the major breeds of U.S. sheep.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI supports the continued development and implementation of NSIP by producers, industry leadership and the research and education community.

WOOL MARKETING

9-02:90:R14 Textile Imports

WHEREAS the domestic textile industry is a primary consumer of American wool and that industry is continually threatened by imports of fabric and apparel,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports measures to regulate the growth of these imports to reduce the threat to the domestic textile market.

9-03:90:R15 Wool-Content Labeling

WHEREAS widespread mislabeling of wool fabric and garments causes a loss to consumers of millions of dollars each year and damages all sectors of the wool industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports increased government action, particularly by the Federal Trade Commission and Customs Department, to police the labeling of wool content on fabric and garments in the domestic market.

9-04:90:R15 “Buy American” Requirements

WHEREAS ASI, together with the textile industry, recognizes the importance of maintaining a sound, domestic-textile industry, and

WHEREAS increased import of textiles is detrimental to the U.S. textile industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages the U.S. Congress to maintain its support for Department of Defense “Buy American” requirements (Berry/Hefner Amendment) and urges the Department of Defense to confine its entire textile purchases to domestically produced products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI encourages the U.S. Congress to support the purchase of domestically produced products by Homeland Security and TSA.

9-05:91:R16 Wool-Research Funding

WHEREAS major companies and entities have been successful in winning Department of Defense contracts by assisting in research and development of new products, and

WHEREAS research and development of new and better military apparel is still critical for protection of our armed forces,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI seek research dollars that will assist in research programs aimed at finding and establishing criteria that will aid such development facilities as the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories and others that ultimately will lead to greater usage of domestic wool in military apparel applications.

9-06:92:R15 Genetic Programs for Wool Quality

WHEREAS wool-quality improvement has been identified as a priority by the American sheep industry, and

WHEREAS improving genetics is integral in making permanent advancement of the domestic wool clip, and

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports genetic programs encouraging wool quality.

9-07:93:R15 Wool Clip Contamination

WHEREAS non-wool fiber contamination costs the U.S. wool textile industry millions of dollars per year, and

WHEREAS these types of contamination damage the reputation of the U.S. wool clip both domestically and internationally, and

WHEREAS the primary complaints concerning the U.S. wool clip are polypropylene, non-scourable paint/markers, hair, medullated and colored fiber contamination, and

WHEREAS this problem will not be solved without a significant, long-term, coordinated effort by all affected parties,

BE IT RESOLVED that the American sheep industry desires the highest quality in its wool and fully supports the American textile industry's request and need for delivery of a contaminant-free U.S. wool clip, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI seeks a solution to the problem, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI supports emphasis on the Certified Quality Programs, including both the producer and shearer components, with a view towards improving the value and quality of the U.S. clip.

9-09:95:R14 Wool Quality

WHEREAS ASI supports the application of international standards to improve the quality, marketability and price of our wool clip, and

WHEREAS the U.S. wool trade has gathered information, and through consensus, developed a *Code of Practice* for the preparation of wool clips in the United States to apply these standards and support wool preparation, and

WHEREAS the *Code of Practice* ensures that U.S. wool prepared, packaged, sampled, tested and reported to standards acceptable by the international and domestic trade,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the continued education and adoption of these standards by all segments of the U.S. wool industry to improve wool preparation and to enhance marketing and future sales of U.S. wool worldwide.

9-10:90:R15 Shearing School Programs

WHEREAS ASI is very concerned with the production of a quality wool clip and supports efforts to improve the ability of producers to prepare such a clip, and

WHEREAS the shearing school training programs train shearers in the preparation of sheep for shearing, as well as the packaging of a product in which sheep producers can take pride,

WHEREAS improper handling and care of sheep is not condoned by ASI or the sheep/wool industry,

WHEREAS sheep shearing schools should properly train animal welfare and handling,

WHEREAS ASI has provided educational print and a standardized curriculum for animal care and welfare, **BE IT RESOLVED** that ASI supports all recognized shearing school programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI urges Animal handling and care be added to all shearing school curriculums, as well as the minimum standards in those schools.

9-11:96:R16 Wool Pools

WHEREAS wool pools provide a fair-market value for producers through skirting, classing and sorting,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the efforts of wool pools to help ensure fair-market value for producers' products.

9-13:96:R16 Wool Technology Research

WHEREAS wool and wool genetics research is important to the health of the U.S. sheep industry, and

WHEREAS funding for wool research entities is uncertain, and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS) wool-research program addresses the addition of value to the domestic wool clip,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI seeks research funding for universities and government research centers, which will aid in the development of new wool technologies.

9-15:99:R16 Niche Marketing

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports and encourages niche marketing for both wool and lamb. We encourage our members to find additional markets for their products.

9-17:01:R15 USDA Market News

WHEREAS U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Market News* provides vital market reporting services for the U.S. wool and pelt markets, and

WHEREAS the world wool market reports wool on a clean-wool basis, which provides complete information and an accurate description of wool and a standard for world comparison, and

WHEREAS a percentage of the U.S. wool clip is now exported in raw, scoured or top form and that international currency exchange rates greatly affect wool prices, and international buyers prefer being quoted clean-wool based prices,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and other entities to report wool sales on a clean basis, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI encourages AMS/*Market News* to report currency exchange rates and other market information, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASI supports retention of the *Market News* personnel in Colorado to continue this important service for the American wool and pelt industries.

9-18:03:R15 Removal of Tariffs on Woolpacks and Covers

WHEREAS nylon woolpacks are widely used in the U.S. wool industry, however, are not manufactured domestically and must be imported,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI actively seek inclusion of nylon woolpacks in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) 6307.90.9989, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI aggressively seek to extend the duty suspension on nylon packs.

9-19:05:R15 Grants for Sheep Shearing

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI seeks available grants for specialized training, such as shearing and classing.

9-21:08:R13 Dye-Resistant Fibers (Hair and Kemp) Contamination

WHEREAS Dye-Resistant-Fiber contamination costs the wool-textile industry millions of dollars per year, and

WHEREAS this type of contamination is detrimental to the reputation of the U.S. wool clip domestically and internationally, and

WHEREAS an increasing complaint of U.S. wool is dye-resistant fibers, including hair and kemp contamination, and

WHEREAS this problem will not be resolved without a significant, long-term, coordinated effort by all affected parties,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI seeks solutions to the problem of dye-resistant fibers, including coordinated efforts involving the sheep and wool industries.

9-22:12:R17 Classing Labor

WHEREAS quality wools are important to the success and competitiveness of the U.S. sheep industry, and

WHEREAS sorting and classing are key steps to improving the quality of wool in the U.S. sheep industry, and

WHEREAS the U.S. sheep industry depends on trained classers, both U.S. citizens, and properly documented, legal, foreign labor,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages the sorting and/or classing of all wools and supports the use of trained classers, both U.S. and foreign, for handling all wools in the United States.

9-23:15 Objective Measurement of Wool

WHEREAS wool processes more efficiently, economically and produces superior products when it is uniform, clean and meets the standards necessary by first-stage processors and mills,

WHEREAS the value of wool is based on quality including, micron, yield, length, strength and lack of contamination, such as poly, colored-fibers, and hair,

WHEREAS objective measurement is the only way in which wool can be accurately specified, and

WHEREAS wool is sold domestically and internationally based on internationally standards,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the use, development and exploration of equipment to measure wool and new technology.

9-24:15 Maintaining Our Wool Labs

WHEREAS wool production is an important component of the sheep industry in the United States,

WHEREAS the sheep- and wool-industry infrastructure is slowly eroding, and it is necessary to maintain critical fiber-testing facilities,

WHEREAS wool production has shifted to the central and northern plains and requires a more collaborative wool-educational effort with surrounding states,

WHEREAS only two university supported facilities remain that provide affordable wool-testing services and wool-quality research, teaching, and outreach, and

WHEREAS the Montana Wool Lab in Bozeman, Mont. and the Bill Sims Wool and Mohair Laboratory in San Angelo, Texas provide valuable services that allow for research and the continued improvement of genetic resources and wool-quality traits that impact the profitability of the sheep industry across the United States,

BE IT RESOLVED that the American Sheep Industry encourages Montana State University and Texas A&M AgriLife Research to maintain the priority of improving the wool industry through fully functional wool labs that are so critical to the future of sheep producers within their borders and surrounding states.

9-26:16 Scrapie Ear Tag

WHEREAS in the United States when it is mandatory to tag an animal with a scrapie ear tag, which is available in both metal and plastic versions free of charge to the producer;

WHEREAS metal ear tags are dangerous to shearers due to risk of injury to both the shearer and the sheep if the tag is caught in the comb and cutter from a lock-up;

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASI Wool Council and the U.S. shearers request that all metal scrapie ear tags be removed from the supply in the United States and producers use the plastic tags, some of which are free of charge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plastic tag should be placed towards the outside edge of the left ear, approximately half way between the base and tip, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all new animals are recommended to be tagged with the plastic tags.

GENERAL

Taxation and Accounting

10-02:90:R13 Federal Tax Policy

WHEREAS current federal tax policy fails to address situations involving sellers of farm and ranch property, assets and livestock and encourages short-term consumption rather than savings and investment, and to agricultural businesses that have large fluctuations in income from year to year,

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASI favors legislation to:

1. give more favorable treatment of capital gains;
2. make income averaging permanent;
3. support favorable depreciation schedules; and
4. support passage of estate and gift tax legislation, which will eliminate or significantly reduce the burden of estate and gift taxes on family farms, ranches, and small businesses now and on a permanent basis.

10-03:91:R16 Capital Gains

WHEREAS favorable treatment of Capital Gains is very important to the viability of the industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI goes on record as supporting favorable treatment to capital gains.

10-07:93:R13 Federal Taxes

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASI seeks federal legislation that exempts officers of family farm corporations and all other forms of farm and ranch ownership, such as partnerships, from the requirements of the federal Unemployment Tax laws.

10-09:93:R13 Health Premium Deduction

BE IT RESOLVED the ASI supports 100-percent deductibility of health-insurance premiums for the self-employed.

10-10:93:R13 Farm-Licensed Vehicle Exemptions

BE IT RESOLVED that farm-licensed trucks be exempt from the special federal Highway Use Tax and farm trailers be exempt from federal Excise Tax, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI supports exemption from the tax on non-highway use of farm-licensed vehicles.

10-11:93:R13 Cash-basis Accounting

WHEREAS cash-basis accounting is utilized by many farmers and ranchers as a simple, effective, cost-efficient method of recordkeeping, and

WHEREAS due to the volatility of market prices, weather and levels of farm income, in addition to the cyclical nature of agricultural financing, cash accounting is a vital and necessary management tool for farmers and producers,

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASI opposes any legislation, ruling, regulation or proposal that restricts the availability of cash accounting based on the type of business structure or any type of arbitrary cap based on gross receipts.

10-12:93:R13 Section 179 Deduction (expensing depreciable assets)

WHEREAS the sheep industry is a large and integral part of agriculture in the United States, and

WHEREAS every effort should be made to support Section 179 Deductions for agriculture and the sheep business,

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASI supports efforts to continue or to increase Section 179 Deductions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Section 179 Deduction continues to apply to machinery, equipment, buildings, and breeding livestock for sheep producers participating in the sheep business.

10-33:05:R15 Promote Development of Pharmaceuticals for Sheep

WHEREAS there is a severe shortage of approved, new animal drugs for use in minor species, including sheep, and

WHEREAS because of the small market shares, low-profit margins involved, and the capital investment required, it is generally not economically feasible for new animal drug sponsors to pursue approvals for minor species, and

WHEREAS because the populations for which such new animal drugs are intended may be small and conditions of animal management may vary widely, it is often difficult to design and conduct studies to establish drug safety and effectiveness under traditional new animal drug-approval processes, and

WHEREAS it is in the public interest and in the interest of animal welfare to provide for special procedures to allow the lawful use and marketing of certain new animal drugs for minor species and minor use that take into account the special circumstances and ensure that such drugs do not endanger animal or public health, and

WHEREAS the U.S. Congress recognized these circumstances exist and unanimously approved The Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2004 during the 108th Congress and said act was immediately signed into law (Public-Law 108-282) by the President, and

WHEREAS it is widely agreed that tax credits for clinical testing expenses have helped encourage the development and labeling of "orphan drugs" for human use, and comparable incentives should encourage the development and labeling of new animal drugs for minor species (including sheep) and minor uses,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports legislative efforts to amend the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2004 to include language that would provide federal tax incentives for the development and labeling of much needed pharmaceuticals for minor species and minor uses.

Trade

10-15:98:R15 International Trade

WHEREAS the Doha round of World Trade Organization trade negotiations continue and the United States continues to enter into trade agreements with other nations, and

WHEREAS other nations maintain high subsidies for its sheep production, strict quotas on lamb imports, high tariffs and high volumes of import sensitive and specialty products, and

WHEREAS this unfair trade situation puts more pressure on the United States and the domestic sheep industry to the advantage of our competitor nations' sheep producers,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI urges the U.S. government to establish a fair and equitable system for U.S. producers in trade negotiations.

10-17:00:R15 Anti-dumping Laws

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI oppose any efforts to weaken anti-dumping laws.

10-25:02:R17 Lamb Imports

WHEREAS the American sheep industry effectively utilizes renewable resources on public and private lands and crop aftermath to produce domestic food and fiber that feeds and clothes, not only our own people but people around the world, and

WHEREAS the American sheep industry has embarked on an aggressive program to increase sheep numbers in the United States, and

WHEREAS the importation of lamb could have a negative impact on profitability and ASI's growth efforts, and

WHEREAS federal regulations continue to impede our ability to grow the flock, and

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI encourages Congress and the Administration to address issues that would be counterproductive to ASI's goals to increase sheep numbers and profitability to meet market demand in the United States.

10-29:03:R13 Free Trade Agreements

BE IT RESOLVED that foreign governments and their constituents not be allowed access to U.S. markets through trade agreements unless such trade is equitable, legal and not detrimental to U.S. sheep and goats producers of like products.

10-30:01:R14 Congressional Appropriations, FAS

WHEREAS exports of American wool have grown with the support of American Wool Council programs, and,

WHEREAS the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service is a critical partner with international programs of Market Access Program (MAP), of Foreign Market Development (FMD) and of Quality Samples Program (QSP),

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI actively supports congressional appropriations to fund the Foreign Agricultural Service and QSP, MAP, FMD and other FAS programs.

10-49:14 Exports

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI aggressively seek access to international markets for the export of American sheep, lamb and related products.

Labor

10-47:13 H-2A Program

WHEREAS the American sheep industry is dependent on a legal, well trained, and highly skilled labor force, and

WHEREAS that labor force comes from many countries around the world, who are allowed to work in the United States under H-2A work visas, and

WHEREAS the loss of this labor force would be catastrophic to the U.S. sheep industry, and

WHEREAS ASI is proactive in the areas of continuing fair pay and treatment during a worker's tenure in the United States,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI takes necessary action to insure the continuance of the H-2A Program or similar programs.

10-51:15 H-2A Guest Worker Program Enforcement

WHEREAS The U.S. sheep industry has successfully utilized a federal non-immigrant shepherd program since the 1950s for providing a mutually beneficial relationship between shepherders and shearers from other countries and U.S. sheep industry, and

WHEREAS there is a constant need to enforce and audit the program to maintain the integrity of the program and for the safety and security of our nation,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports monitoring and enforcement mechanisms within the H-2A program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI will continue to collaborate with Mountain Plains Agricultural Service, Western Range Association, and H-2A employers to advocate on behalf of the industry when issues arise that threaten the effectiveness of the existing program. Specific areas of concern may include but are not limited to:

1. Development of an objective, uniform, feasible, and effective audit system to maintain the integrity of the program.
2. Enforcement of Department of Labor and Department of Homeland Security's employer and employee regulatory obligations.
3. Stewardship of existing Special Procedures for occupations involved in sheepherding.

10-52:15 Guest Worker Program

WHEREAS despite industry recruiting efforts, a reliable domestic labor supply of sheepherders, sheep shearers and livestock workers does not exist in some areas of the country,

WHEREAS Congress enacted the H-2A guest worker legislation that established a mutually beneficial program that provides non-immigrant sheepherders, sheep shearers, and livestock workers to the U.S. sheep industry which provides job opportunities to individuals from other countries who desire to build a better life for themselves and their families,

WHEREAS H-2A and its accompanying Special Procedures regulations provide the continuity to the sheep industry with trained employees, which results in proper animal care, more efficient livestock production, and stewardship of natural resources,

WHEREAS experience and continuity are keys to successful sheepherding because of the large expanse of grazing lands that comprise many sheep ranches and the necessity to care for the animals themselves, and

WHEREAS the H-2A program is an integral and indispensable component of the U.S. sheep industry, and the program has served the purpose of providing a reliable labor supply in areas of need while creating additional U.S. jobs and economic development, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI recommends that Congress codify the H-2A Special Procedures and use the H-2A program as a model for other guest worker programs when reforming immigration policy.

Other

10-13:94:R14 Alternate Research/ Promotion

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI develop alternate research, promotion and operational funding sources in addition to funding provided by the American Wool Trust.

10-14:94:R14 Farm Service Agency

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports the preservation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture local committee system of locally elected producers, including conservation districts, for natural resource programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI opposes the transfer of USDA programs to other departments.

10-16:98:R13 DOT Regulations

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes federal Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations that inhibit normal daily farm and ranch activity including crop planting and harvesting procedures.

10-18:00:R15 Safety-Net Program

WHEREAS the U.S. lamb and wool industries have experienced severe volatility in markets, and

WHEREAS the sheep industry is an important part of agricultural production in the United States, and

WHEREAS ASI successfully lobbied for inclusion of a marketing-loan program for wool in the Farm Bill to help stabilize income in a volatile wool market,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI carry a priority of its legislative efforts and limited funds to maintain and enhance the wool-marketing-loan program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI seeks an additional safety net for sheep producers through livestock risk-management options.

10-22:01:R16 Freedom of Information Act

WHEREAS various entities are using the Freedom of Information Act to obtain information from federal agencies that is personal in nature or deals with the private affairs of business, and

WHEREAS this information is being used to negatively impact business enterprises and individuals and potentially jeopardizes the recipients of sheep-program funding,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI work with other agricultural organizations toward legislation and regulatory measures that protect personal- and private-business information of the agriculture industry and entities from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.

10-27:03:R13 Regulatory Impact

WHEREAS local, state and federal regulations continue to be created that impact agriculture,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes regulations that are not science-based and encourages efforts to keep livestock production as a viable part of the agricultural industry.

10-31:94:R14 Unfunded Federal Mandates

WHEREAS unfunded mandates on state and local governments, such as those found under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and Clear Air Act have increased significantly in recent years, and

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports Congressional action that will bring about an end to federal unfunded mandates.

10-32:04:R14 Risk-Management Tools

WHEREAS price volatility for both market prices of production and production inputs can vary greatly in the sheep industry, and

WHEREAS producers also deal with extremes in weather and variability of available forage and water, and

WHEREAS LRP-Lamb, as developed by ASI, has proven to be a useful risk-management tool for the industry and the only price-risk management tool currently available in the United States for sheep,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI continue to actively support LRP-Lamb and implement additional risk-management tools for sheep production and marketing.

10-35:06:R16 ASI Correspondence on Behalf of Member States

WHEREAS ASI sends numerous letters during the year to governmental entities backing programs that are important to the American Sheep Industry, and

WHEREAS the member states are individually listed on these letters giving their support to the concept, and

WHEREAS it is often difficult for ASI to individually contact all states and receive their permission to use their names on these letters,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that when ASI initiates correspondence on behalf of its member states, that such correspondence will be reviewed by the individual states and, if no objection is received by ASI as to a specific state's name being used, then ASI may proceed in mailing such correspondence with member states being listed.

10-37:09:R14 Renewable Fuels

WHEREAS ASI supports our nation's commitment to reduce dependence on foreign energy and supports efforts to develop forms of renewable energy, and

WHEREAS this commitment is creating opportunities and challenges for our nation's agricultural producers, and

WHEREAS ASI believes in a market-based economy but there is concern about the influence of renewable-energy policy on the availability and price of feedgrains and other feedstuffs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASI supports transition to a market-based approach for the production and usage of ethanol produced from livestock feedstuffs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASI supports research and development of renewable fuels that may provide additional benefits for the livestock industry.

10-42:10:R15 Climate Change

WHEREAS the federal government is pursuing climate change policy to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS anti-livestock organizations are portraying livestock incorrectly as major contributors to harmful emissions, and

WHEREAS sheep grazing, as well as lamb and wool production, have comparatively low, carbon footprints and add great value environmentally to forage improvement and wildlife habitat and open space;

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI opposes legislation or regulation that would be detrimental to sheep production in the United States, including methane regulation of livestock under the Clean Air Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as a part of any national climate change policy, sheep producers shall be compensated for any management practices which reduce or offset emissions.

10-48:13 Air Quality Standards

WHEREAS efforts are being made to establish Air Quality Standards for many industries, including agriculture, and

WHEREAS proposed standards would have far reaching, negative effects in agricultural production,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI calls on Congress to reject any effort to impose standards that create an undue burden on agriculture.

10-55:16 Packers and Stockyards Act

WHEREAS the Packers and Stockyards Act (P & S Act) and law dates to 1921, and the underlying rules of the U.S. Department of Agriculture governing livestock transaction are in need of update, and

WHEREAS topics of particular interest to the sheep industry include consistent application of prompt payment rules and effectiveness of bonds, and

WHEREAS modernization of U.S. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) authority in P & S needs careful consideration,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI works with the national livestock organizations and the Livestock Marketing Association towards necessary and appropriate updates to the P & S Act and/or regulations for sheep buyers, sellers and auction houses.

PELTS

11-01:00:R15 Ked Control

WHEREAS the United States and international pelt markets demand quality, cockle-free pelts for use in various products, and

WHEREAS quality, cockle-free pelts are of higher value and substantially increase pelt prices and producer profitability, and

WHEREAS the total value of a market lamb is impacted by pelt quality,

BE IT RESOLVED that ASI strongly supports aggressive efforts by U.S. producers and lamb feeders to reduce and eliminate keds and other external parasites on U.S. sheep to produce consistent quality pelts

DIRECTIVES

1-37:17 Proper Animal Care and Handling

WHEREAS the American sheep industry is committed to continued proper animal care and handling, and

WHEREAS the U.S. sheep industry has a valuable story to share and a responsibility to build consumer confidence in American wool, and

WHEREAS ASI recognizes a growing consumer interest for the humane production of wool,

BE IT DIRECTED that ASI continue to explore various research and educational opportunities to demonstrate responsible wool production to the wool industry and its consumers.

6-32:17 U.S. Forest Service Relocation

WHEREAS the new administration is considering many changes to our federal agencies, and

WHEREAS one potential change may be to move the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) from the USDA to the Department of Interior (DOI), and

WHEREAS USFS policies and actions have a direct impact on livestock producers and our rural communities near National Forests, and

WHEREAS the USDA's mission is to "Enhance the quality of life for the American people by supporting production agriculture; ensuring a safe, affordable, nutritious, and accessible food supply; caring for agricultural forest and range lands; supporting sound development of rural communities; providing economic opportunities for farm and rural residents..."

THEREFORE BE IT DIRECTED that ASI opposes any efforts to move the USFS to the DOI.

10-59:17 H-2A Legislation,

BE IT DIRECTED that ASI, together with Western Range Association and Mountain Plains Agricultural Service, form a collaborative of like-minded agricultural groups to work together to encourage congress to pass legislation that improves and enhances the "guest worker programs" that help provide the sheep industry with a knowledgeable and legal work force.

BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED that ASI, together with Western Range Association and Mountain Plains Agricultural Service, work with the Department of Labor and the Department of Immigration to improve the weaknesses in the current H-2A program.

10-60:17 Legislative Priorities

BE IT DIRECTED that the 2017 Legislative priorities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- U.S. Sheep Experiment Station Funding and Protection
- Scrapie Eradication Program Funding
- NRSP-7 Funding
- Bighorn Sheep Directive Language
- Wildlife Services Funding and Protection
- Defense of H2-A Program
- LDP
- Wool Trust
- FMD Vaccine Bank
- Sheep Center
- Federal Land Policy and ESA Reform
- MPR

Provided, that the details contained in the respective Councils' policy and directive recommendations serve as the guidance for the detailed development of the respective Federal priorities and requests.



American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.

9785 Maroon Circle, Suite 360

Englewood, CO 80112-2692