

ASI'S PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES

ASI is the national organization representing the interests of 88,000 sheep producers located throughout the United States. From East to West, farm flocks to range operations, ASI works to represent the interests of all producers.

NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

- Continued access to key technologies through the animal drugs for minor uses and minor species provision in the NADPRP is critical for the sheep industry.
- The Farm Bill provides up to \$5 million per year for animal health technologies development and ASI STRONGLY supports an annual allocation to USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture for critical minor uses and minor species R&D through the former National Research Support Project No. 7 (NRSP-7).

ELECTRONIC LOGGING MANDATE AND HOURS OF SERVICE

- The Sheep Industry relies on the safe and efficient transportation of livestock every day of the year.
- ASI supports reasonable statutory and regulatory exemptions to ensure both the safety of our nation's highways and the welfare of the livestock being hauled.

H2-A TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

- Sheep farmers and ranchers depend on a workable temporary foreign labor program to help care for more one-third of ewes and lambs in the U.S. and, for over 50 years, have used and helped craft the current provisions of the H2A program.
- Any guest worker program MUST maintain special procedures for sheep producers and give our members a fighting chance to compete in an increasingly difficult financial environment, while protecting both domestic and foreign ag workers.

MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING

- The reauthorization of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 has been disappointing for sheep producers, due to the implementation of current confidentiality rules followed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its chilling effect on price reporting.
- ASI urges the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to continue to work with the industry to ensure access to vital price reports despite continued market consolidation.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE PRIORITIES

- The American Sheep Industry Association support the approval of the US Mexico Canada Agreement. Our North American neighbors are a top export destination for both American lamb and wool.
- ASI urges extreme caution in trade negotiations with the European Union and United Kingdom as their sheep production is heavily subsidized and, like China, does not provide access for American lamb to their markets.
- ASI thanks USDA for opening Japan and Taiwan for American lamb exports in the last two years.

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



AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES MEXICO CANADA AGREEMENT (USMCA)

FEBRUARY 2019

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is the national trade association representing the 88,000 family farm and ranch operations producing lamb and wool. Our association is the cooperater with the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service for international wool marketing and the leading advocate for market access for American lamb.

Our association urges prompt approval of the USMCA given the importance of trade with our next door neighbors. Half of the American wool clip is exported every year and Mexico is the second largest destination. Canada is often a top ten export market for American wool and continuation of our favorable tariff treatment is important under the USMCA.

Shipments of American lamb to Mexico represent the number one global export market for our lamb business. Canada again this year is the fourth largest export destination for American lamb.

Both lamb and wool trade with Mexico and Canada receive beneficial tariff treatment and we have not found any issues associated with meat, textile or live animals in the proposed agreement that outweigh the favorable tariff benefits.

Our association shares our support of USMCA with the 116th Congress and the Administration.

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