



May \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

The Honorable Greg Ibach  
Under Secretary  
Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 228-W  
Washington, DC 20250

Re: USDA Purchase of American Lamb under Trade Mitigation Authority

Dear Under Secretary Ibach,

The American Sheep Industry Association, our state affiliates and the National Lamb Feeders Association are writing to request your consideration in issuing a solicitation for American Lamb through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's authority for distribution to various food nutrition assistance programs. We have greatly appreciated Secretary Perdue's leadership throughout this pandemic in responding to the needs of agriculture.

In July 2019, the Secretary issued an announcement for Trade Mitigation to purchase Lamb Products up to \$17 million. Since that time, as you are aware, the American Sheep Industry has been hit hard by the loss of Foodservice sales and consumer demand. This crisis has resulted in losses at the farm level of at least \$125 million and a total estimated economic impact to the American Sheep Industry of \$353 million in 2020, at minimum.

We believe that at this critical time the issuance of a purchase solicitation for \$17 million for lamb products would be valuable as market lambs are backing up weekly in the lots and prices are decreasing weekly. We hope that solicitations can be made regularly for the proper mix of lamb products to accomplish the full \$17 million authorized yet in 2020.

Thank you for your consideration and if there is anything further we can provide in support, please contact Peter Orwick at: [peter@sheepusa.org](mailto:peter@sheepusa.org) or by phone at: 303-771-3500 x 103.

Sincerely,

American Sheep Industry Association  
National Lamb Feeders Association  
Alabama Meat Goat & Sheep Producers  
Arizona Wool Producers Association  
Arkansas State Sheep Council  
California Wool Growers Association  
Colorado Wool Growers Association

Connecticut Sheep Breeders, Inc  
Meat Sheep Alliance of Florida, Inc  
Georgia Sheep & Wool Growers'  
Association  
Hawaii Sheep & Goat Association  
Idaho Wool Growers Association  
The Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers

Indiana Sheep Association  
Iowa Sheep Industry Association  
Kansas Sheep Association  
Kentucky Sheep & Wool Producers  
Association  
Maine Sheep Breeders Association  
Maryland Sheep Breeders Association  
Massachusetts Federation of Sheep  
Associations  
Michigan Sheep Producers Association  
Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers  
Missouri Sheep Producers, Inc.  
Montana Wool Growers Association  
Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers  
Association  
Nevada Woolgrower Association  
New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Growers  
Garden State Sheep Breeders (NJ)  
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.  
Empire Sheep Producers Cooperative (NY)

North Carolina Sheep Producers Association  
North Dakota Lamb & Wool Producers  
Association  
Ohio Sheep Improvement Association  
Oregon Sheep Growers Association  
Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers  
Association  
Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative  
South Carolina Sheep Industries Association  
South Dakota Sheep Growers Association  
Tennessee Sheep Producers Association  
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association  
Utah Wool Growers Association  
Vermont Sheep & Goat Association  
Virginia Sheep Producers Association  
Washington State Sheep Producers  
West Virginia Shepherds Federation  
Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association