

National Sheep Industry
Improvement Center
1996-2025



The Sheep Center –Authorized in the 1996 Farm
Bill.

Grant funding for 10 years:

2006 - Became Private as: American Sheep and
Goat Center

Reauthorized (NSIIC) since 2008

-Strengthen and Enhance the
Production and Marketing of
Sheep and Sheep Products

-Infrastructure Development for
Resource Development and
Research

NSIIC BOARD of Directors

(appointed by Secretary of Agriculture)

Burton Pfliger
North Dakota

Leo Tammi
Virginia

Steven Clements
South Dakota

Faye F. Schalesky
South Dakota

Randy Tunby
Montana

Bob Buchholz
Texas

Patricia R. Sanville
Maryland

Barry Savage
Massachusetts

James Percival
Ohio

New Board Members starting in 2025

Stephen Clements – Philip, South Dakota
2025 – 2027 (3 years)

James Percival – Zenia, Ohio
2025 – 2027 (3 years)

Retiring Board Members

Leo Tammi – Mt Sidney, Virginia

Burton Pfliger – Bismarck, North Dakota

Significant Projects Assisted by Sheep Center



THE SHEEP & GOAT INNOVATION FUND

AN INDUSTRY FINANCING PROGRAM OF THE
NATIONAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Instrument Grading Project

– This project sought to develop and finalize instrument performance standards for lamb carcass field (cut ability) and quality grading, thus augmenting official USDA grade determination of lamb carcasses. It was also designed to produce data analysis/evaluation for benefit and effectiveness of the system to enhance the industry's return on investment.



HUDSON VALLEY AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

“BUILDING A NORTHEAST REGIONAL GOAT DAIRY SUPPLY CHAIN

The objectives of the project were as follows:

- 1) To establish a Dairy Goat Cooperative appropriately structured for producers, and evaluate alternative co-op structures.
- 2) To establish a Dairy Goat Genetics Bank (pool) that will accelerate the availability of superior milking stock genetics.
- 3) To evaluate alternative contractual arrangements with the buyer of fluid milk to identify an equitable arrangement for buyer and seller.
- 4) To develop a “whole enterprise” economic model for potential dairy goat farms.

Sheep Venture Company

This grant funded the development of a guard dog and herding dog liability policy, and preparation of the loss prevention and marketing materials necessary to sell to the livestock industry, principally the sheep and goat industry. This insurance is beneficial because most farm and ranch insurance policies exclude working dogs.

Ranching For Profit

Grant funds provided scholarships to sheep and goat producers to attend this highly praised school.

“Knowing how to raise sheep is a completely different proposition than knowing how to build and operate a business that raises sheep”.



*Colorado Lamb Inc.

New Harvesting Plant in the Western United States for American LambOnline 2021

Lamb processing facility that was created by families who have been a part of the **sheep** industry for generations

Exploring reproductive consequences of gestational heat stress in ewe lambs

1. Data synthesis, analysis, and results of gross morphometric data is completed
2. Preliminary results presented at the Rocky Mountain Reproductive Sciences Symposium

American Goat Federation

Building Organizational Capacity to Represent, Support and Grow the U.S. Goat Industry .

Membership drive and administrative updating to establish the American Goat Federation - (AGF) as the voice for the industry in public policy, research, and education.

Membership drive goal to double organizational members by the end of the project.

Lamb Board Quality Audits

Findings:

The U.S. lamb industry cannot expect improvements in prices for its products/byproducts when “quality” doesn’t warrant such increases.

“. . . an industry cannot manage its quality problems until it can measure them.”

The sheep industry must identify its quality shortfalls and their root causes.

Failure to prevent or correct quality problems in American Lamb will most likely result in opportunity losses and continued decline in demand.



Glycoscience Research Inc. Development of ovine GM1 ganglioside for **Huntington's disease**

Comparison of meat composition of lambs affected with GM1 gangliosidosis to retail lamb



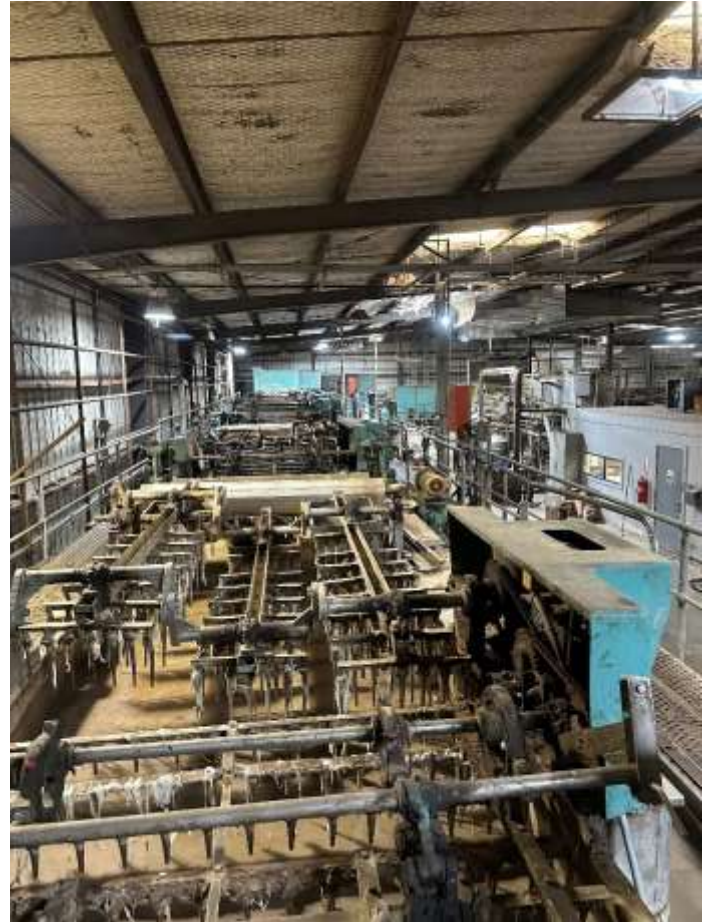
Texas A & M Research Improving and expanding the use of livestock guard dogs for small ruminant predation control



Bollman Industries

Purchase new scouring train feeders to increase efficiency and decrease the leading cause of down time

- **The objective of this project is to keep a key market for American wool and American wool growers in the US.**
- Having a scouring company in the US is imperative to serve the US with American wool.
- Without the scouring plant this entire sector of the US wool industry will go overseas, eliminating a key market for growers.
- The new feeders will be able to feed wool more consistently into the scouring line, which allows for better service to the industry.





Targeted Grazing Guidebook

The objective of this project is to complete the “Targeted Grazing Guidebook” publication process and support targeted grazing by providing needed information and resources for service providers, educators, producers, and land managers.



Improving accuracy and efficiency of genetic selection for the U.S. sheep industry



1. Update the NSIP searchable database to display data graphically as well as the current numeric format.
 2. Develop and implement a simplified “5-star” rating system for the various trait types to simplify genetic selection.
 3. Update the reporting of extended pedigrees to allow users to view the full history of an animal.
 4. Develop and deliver updated educational materials and programming so the revised database can be implemented throughout the U.S. sheep industry.
- Meeting these objectives will improve access to genetic data for producers throughout the country leading to improved accuracy of genetic selection and increased profitability for all producers.



www.nsip.org

Do your terminal rams Stand Out from the Crowd?

Breed Performance Tested Rams to Ensure Top Quality

scientifically proven. industry tested.



The NSIP uses on-farm data and proven technology to calculate Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs). Based on generations of progeny performance for numerous traits, EBVs are the most accurate tool available in the U.S. for breeding decisions that will improve your flock and your bottom line.

NATIONAL SHEEP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Pelletizing Wool



The correct machine is needed to chop and grind wool into a material that flows easily, to work through the pelletizer. By putting the wool into pellet form, we are creating a new market for our lower quality wools. Wool has a nutritional value of 9 (nitrogen), 0 (phosphorous) and 2 (potash). This adds nutrition to the soil, where as other organic materials need nitrogen to break them down. Also, wool retains more water, causing a 30% less use of water.



Enhancing the Impact of Sire-Progeny Testing Dorper Sheep

1. Include tenderness, marbling, juiciness and flavor profiling as a component of the Dorper Sire Progeny Test being conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife.
2. Enroll six new Dorper/White Dorper seedstock flocks into the National Sheep Improvement Program.
3. Enhance the genetic linkage between NSIP-enrolled Dorper/White Dorper flocks.
4. Provide technical assistance to new NSIP member flocks in order to support their continued participation in the program beyond the granting term.



Portable Shearing stations/catch pens

Completion of 7 portable shearing stations/catch pens.

will be used in shearing schools in different locations in California and provide work experience for past students.



Novel Approach to Linkage of Genomic and Phenotypic data for the U.S. Sheep Industry

Connect/link two currently in use platforms,
Flock54SM and DigitalOvine

- make a single web-based platform
- support genetic data flow of flocks and individual animals.

Provide a foundation for all producers and breed associations to:

Analyze and identify

- desirable (i.e. economically important)
- undesirable (i.e. disease) biological processes,
- traits that are not easily observed or quantified.

This data portal will enable producers to easily and accurately track animals in their flock and make informed decisions regarding health and husbandry.





Wool Education and Research



Development of Predator Mitigation GPS Collars

Trace mineral concentrations in common
Wyoming plants on sheep winter range

Certified Product Labeling

Small scouring train purchase

*Missouri Sheep
and Goat Conference*

Non-lethal tools to reduce
depredation to
sheep and goats

Genetic Selection Tools and Techniques to Benefit Texas Range Sheep Producers



THANK YOU ASI!

*Your support
is needed and appreciated*



National Sheep Industry Improvement Center

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