



American Lamb Council



American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.  
www.sheepusa.org



American Wool Council

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Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young  
ARS, REE, USDA  
Jamie Whitten Fed Bldg  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm 301-A  
Washington, DC 20250  
[c.jacobsyoung@ars.usda.gov](mailto:c.jacobsyoung@ars.usda.gov)

Dear Administrator Jacobs-Young:

I am writing to express the American Sheep Industry Association's (ASI) strong disappointment with the reprogramming request to close the lone USDA research station for sheep production.

ASI leaders met with you in May and specifically discussed the future of the US Sheep Experiment Station (USSES) in Dubois, Idaho. We then followed up with correspondence expressing our support for USSES and associated ARS research activities.

Yet, ARS proposed the closure of USSES and did not provide notice to ASI until several days post congressional notification. In fact, ASI learned of your action from a rancher who neighbors USSES.

On behalf of ASI's members, I am deeply disappointed with the ARS decision and associated processes. Yet, my disappointment pales in comparison to those of ASI's farm and ranch families. ARS' USSES closure and reprogramming proposal is not a satisfactory alternative to the long-standing USSES and the vital role it has played, and should continue to, in the health of America's wool and lamb producers. Particularly its unique role in replicating range conditions, a role that cannot be met in Clay Center, NE.

The USSES is nearly 100 years old with very unique datasets and capabilities that cannot be substituted for elsewhere anytime soon including: 90 years of pedigree data on major sheep breeds, 3 of which were developed at the USSES; an ongoing 90-year history on vegetation in response to fire and grazing; over 40 years of historical and ongoing data on sage grouse with regards to fire in recovering sagebrush communities.

Accordingly, I request that you provide the ASI a detailed justification for ARS' decision to close USSES. To include:

1. The threat/impact of ongoing/future lawsuits and associated costs.
2. What research functions will be continued and where.
3. What research functions will be discontinued and why.
4. The impact on the local economy.
5. Why USSES research was not deemed to be high priority.
6. If sheep related range research will be conducted upon USSES closure and where.
7. Any other relevant information you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Clint Krebs  
President

C: ASI Board of Directors