



FY 2016 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES

ASI is the national organization representing the interests of more than 79,500 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.

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

- USDA, APHIS, Scrapie Eradication—As one of the three remaining disease eradication programs being conducted, APHIS projects that scrapie can be eradicated from the U.S. by 2017 if the effort is appropriately funded. While the national prevalence rate has decreased significantly, additional funding is needed for continued eradication and robust surveillance in sheep and enhanced surveillance in goats. ASI requests ***NOT LESS THAN \$19 million*** be provided for small ruminants in APHIS' Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health line.
- USDA, Wildlife Services Funding—The Administration proposed a \$9.44 million cut to Wildlife Damage Management. ASI supports ***NOT LESS THAN the FY 2015 appropriation*** for Wildlife Damage Management and level funding for Wildlife Services Methods Development.
- USDA, Agriculture Research Service—ARS provides critically important research-based information and technologies to the U.S. sheep industry via four important ARS locations with sheep and wool research as part of their program: The U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, ID, The Animal Disease Research Unit at Pullman, WA, the Eastern Regional Research Center in Wyndmoor, PA (wool chemistry/bio-based products), and the Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, NE.
 - **Oppose** proposed closure of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station.
 - **Increase** grazing related sheep research.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

- USDA and Department of Interior—ASI strongly supports bill and report language requiring suitable alternative allotments for those sheep operators whose permits in bighorn habitat are subject to being reduced and the use of sound science in the decision criteria. Alternative allotments require completion of an environmental analysis and other clearances, and this can take some time. Therefore, again as a matter of equity, ASI requests that no translocations of domestic sheep to alternative allotments be mandated until NEPA is complete and all challenges to the use of those allotments by domestic sheep are resolved.



Appropriations Bill

Agriculture

AgencyAnimal and Plant Health
Inspection Service**Account**

Animal Health

ProgramThe Equine, Cervid, and Small
Ruminant Health Program**Requested Amount/Language**Language stating no less than \$19
million for the Small Ruminants
Health line**Description**

The Equine, Cervid, and Small Ruminant Health program protects the health and improves the quality, productivity, and economic viability of the equine, cervid, sheep, and goat industries. APHIS activities include monitoring and surveillance, investigation and response, and disease prevention and preparedness actions taken when health issues are identified. APHIS' monitoring and surveillance activities detect foreign, emerging, zoonotic, and domestic diseases that could substantially impact the economy. APHIS works with international and domestic trading partners to facilitate safe trade and establish minimum standards to allow safe trade in equine, cervids, and small ruminants and their products. The ECSRH program conducts disease surveillance and/or monitoring for contagious equine metritis, chronic wasting disease, Eastern equine encephalitis and Western equine encephalitis, equine herpes virus myeloencephalopathy, equine piroplasmiasis, equine infectious anemia, scrapie, tuberculosis, vesicular stomatitis virus, and West Nile virus.

Authorization

7 U.S.C. 8301-8317

President's FY 2016 Budget**Request**

\$19,531

Appropriations Bill

Agriculture

AgencyAnimal and Plant Health
Inspection Service**Account**

Wildlife Services

ProgramWildlife Services Methods
Development**Requested Amount**

\$18,970

Description

The Wildlife Services Methods Development (WSMD) program works with cooperators to conduct research and develop socially responsible methods to prevent and mitigate damage caused by wildlife and invasive species on agricultural productions, and to detect and prevent wildlife diseases that may impact animal health and agricultural biosecurity. This program provides scientific information to support the development and implementation of socially acceptable methods for managing wildlife damage. These methods enable APHIS, cooperators, and individuals to protect crops, livestock, natural resources, property, and public health and safety. The WSMD program tests between 14 and 16 new methods each year.

The WSMD program serves as an international leader in non-lethal research to reduce wildlife damage. In FY 2014, the program conducted 329 studies and published 83 scientific studies in 47 different professional scientific journals and book chapters.

Authorization7 U.S.C 426-426d (Control of
predatory and other wild animals)**President's FY 2016 Budget****Request**

\$18,906

Appropriations Bill

Agriculture

AgencyAnimal and Plant Health
Inspection Service**Account**

Wildlife Services

Program

Wildlife Damage Management

Requested Amount

\$89,988

Description

The Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program resolves human/wildlife conflicts and protects agriculture, human health and safety, personal property, and natural resources from wildlife damage and wildlife-borne diseases in the United States. This program protects agriculture by protecting livestock from predators, managing invasive species such as feral swine and beaver damage, conducting a national rabies management program, and managing wildlife species and diseases.

Livestock losses attributed to predators cost producers more than \$138 million annually, according to the most recent surveys by National Agriculture Statistics Service. Cost-benefit analyses have shown that for each dollar spent on livestock protection, APHIS saves producers between \$2 and \$7 in losses. APHIS prevents and reduces livestock predation through education, technical assistance to producers, and management programs. In FY 2014, APHIS' WDM program helped more than 11,000 producers in the western United States with livestock valued at more than \$2.3 billion.

Authorization7 U.S.C 426-426d (Control of
predatory and other wild animals)**President's FY 2016 Budget****Request**

\$80,511

For more information, please visit the ASI website at www.sheepusa.org.

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