

October 19, 2004

Mr. Kenneth R. Payne, Chief  
Marketing Programs Branch  
Livestock and Seed Program – AMS  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 2638-S, Stop 0251  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0251

Re: Docket number LS-04-06, October 15, 2004; Federal Register – page 61159,

**“Lamb Promotion and Research Program: Procedures for the Conduct of a Referendum”**

Dear Mr. Payne:

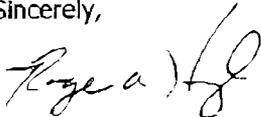
The Ohio Sheep Improvement Association (OSIA) is pleased to comment in support of the proposed procedures to conduct a referendum on continuation of the American Lamb program. The Ohio Sheep Improvement Association (OSIA) is the state sheep commodity organization that represents the 3,300 Ohio sheep producers representing nearly 146,000 sheep and lambs, as well as other allied members and affiliated groups. The Ohio Sheep Improvement Association appreciates the Agency for publishing the rules for comment in a timely manner. Hopefully this nation-wide referendum can be implemented in late January/early February.

The proposed procedures clearly provide adequate opportunity for Ohio sheep and lamb producers, feeders and first handlers to participate in the referendum. Procedures outline accurate definitions for eligibility to vote and rules for the production vote, as well as the individual vote that are required for this referendum.

The American Lamb Board aggressively promotes American lamb and has implemented a number of critical programs funded by all three sectors of our lamb industry, producers through first handlers.

We urge final publication of the referendum procedures and announcement of the referendum dates before year-end to allow our association and state affiliates to publicize the opportunity to vote.

Sincerely,



Roger A. High  
Executive Director  
Ohio Sheep Improvement Association