



AMERICAN LAMB BOARD

LAMB PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND INFORMATION

November 3, 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 American Lamb Board (ALB) is an industry initiated program created to promote American Lamb and to strengthen the U.S. sheep industry as a whole. The ALB is funded with sheep industry assessments collected from the industry’s producers, feeders, and first handlers. It is NOT funded by assessments on imported lamb or through import quotas. It is also NOT funded by taxpayer dollars.

The ALB asked USDA to schedule the referendum in early 2005, prior to the start of the lambing season, in order allow for strong industry participation. We have been pleased that you have put into motion a process that makes the requested timeframe possible.

The FSA plays a critical role along with AMS in conducting this referendum. Keeping the requirements clear and easy to understand by those responsible for managing the process will help the industry hold a meaningful vote in an efficient manner. The American Lamb Board encourages you to ensure that the rules regarding eligibility are clear and concise. This will reduce confusion for FSA staff when industry members seek to cast their votes.

Sincerely,

Spence Rule, Chairman

Rec'd 11/4/04

