



March 13, 2023

Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS,
Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118,
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238
Docket No., APHIS-2022-0077

Comments submitted electronically via Federal eRulemaking Portal

The American Sheep Industry supports the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to conduct the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) 2024 Sheep Study. The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is a federation of forty-five state sheep associations representing a diverse industry. Since 1865, ASI has been the national trade organization representing the interests of the over 90,000 sheep producers located throughout the country who produce America's lamb and wool. We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for the NAHMS 2024 Sheep Study.

We believe this study, like previous ones, will provide data that will be used to improve veterinary and producer education, animal management, care, and biosecurity practices. We support the objectives of the study, including the collection of information regarding antimicrobial stewardship and producer practices used to control internal parasites and reduce anthelmintic resistance. Biologic sampling is also a key component to the study. This information will contribute to efforts to improve sheep health.

The ongoing collection of this data will help give a greater picture of industry practices and animal health needs and will help producers, veterinary health professionals, state and federal health officials, and extension educators gain a better understanding of current and emerging sheep health and production trends, which in turn will help them address the needs and gaps in the industry.

We look forward to working with USDA APHIS on the completion of the study. If further information is needed, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Orwick".

Peter Orwick
Executive Director

po/awh