

MISSION

To assist the US Sheep and Goat Industries by strengthening and enhancing the production and marketing of sheep, goats, and their products in the United States.

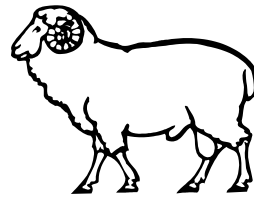
OVERVIEW

The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) was established by Congress to provide financial assistance for the enhancement and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States with an emphasis on infrastructure development. The NSIIC has a unique organizational structure that works within the framework of the government but has many elements of a private organization.

One of the unique private elements is the management that is vested in a Board of Directors that is appointed by, and reports to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board of Directors consists of 9 members that include 7 voting members who are chosen from the sheep and goat industries.

NSIIC began delivering programs to the sheep and goat industries in 1999 through a variety of grant mechanisms and a low interest loan program.

Visit us at www.nsiic.org



National Sheep Industry Improvement Center

P.O. Box 23483
Washington DC 20026

or
Room 2117
1400 Independence Ave S.W.

Washington DC 20250

Phone: 202-690-0632

Phone: 207-236-6567

Fax: 202-720-1053

Email: info@nsiic.org

www.nsiic.org



National Sheep Industry Improvement Center



*Working with the American
Sheep and Goat Industries.*

NLPA LOW INTEREST LOANS

The NSIIC has established an intermediary relending arrangement with the National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) to process and service low interest direct loans. The agreement created a \$14 million revolving fund with a loan oversight management team known as the Sheep and Goat Fund Committee. The members of the Committee have both livestock lending and grass roots industry experience.

NSIIC has an ongoing oversight role to help insure that these monies are properly used.

This revolving fund has been operational since 2000 and the application and loan cycle are conducted on an ongoing basis. The interest rate fluctuates based on what is commercially available and is consistently lower than the rate available through a traditional bank or credit unions. This makes this an attractive program for businesses that would otherwise have difficulty financing through a traditional lender.

To date this program has had an excellent success rate, with very few defaulted loans. Even with some loans that are riskier than a commercial lender might be willing to finance. This success rate has made the Sheep and Goat fund self-financing as the original \$14 million grows to help support additional industry related business operations.

The low interest loans have funded a variety of large and small projects across the nation including financing the only modern wool scouring facility in the U.S. This was a unique project and the company involved was considering building their new wool scouring facility in Mexico rather than in the US. This financing convinced them to remain in the US. For more details go to loans section at www.nsiic.org or visit NLPA directly at www.nlpa.org.



SHEEP AND GOAT GRANT INITIATIVE (SGIGI)

SGIGI is a competitive grant process that began in 2002. The program funds industry generated projects that are designed to benefit the U.S. sheep or goat industries at a regional, national or international level. The grants fund a diversity of projects targeting various industry segments, situations, geographic areas, or subjects. A broad overview of projects funded to date shows the diversity of grants funding:

- Product Development
- Vertical Integration
- Product Marketing
- Research
- Genetic Improvement
- Producer and Youth Education
- Management Improvement
- Marketing Research
- Price Stabilization Mechanisms



These projects also vary greatly in size from very small projects, like a small producer education seminar in New England and a goat marketing research project in the deep south to large projects like the development of a price assurance program for the entire lamb industry and the updating of the Nutrient Requirements of small ruminants that includes both sheep and goats. This program is administered directly by the NSIIC and more information on detailed projects can be found in the grant section at www.nsiic.org.

Other specialty grants included the NSIIC partial funding for the addition of a Food Safety and Product Development Laboratory to an existing agricultural research complex at Angelo State University. The lab is the only one in the US that dedicates over 75% of their agenda to sheep and goat issues. This contrasts with other research facilities where sheep and goat issues are a small fraction of their overall programs.

Lamb Marketing and Promotion, ITC 201 package

NSIIC's involvement with the domestic Lamb Meat Adjustment Program (LMAP) grew out of an International Trade Commission (USITC) case where domestic petitioners alleged damage to their markets. The USITC agreed and LMAP was initiated to help the domestic lamb industry through an adjustment period. NSIIC provided \$5 million for lamb meat marketing and promotion through a program that they contracted with Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to administer.



The program funded to 23 industry projects over a three year period in areas that included: National Food Marketing, Food Services, Retail Promotions, Supply Side Marketing, New Product Development and International Marketing.

One of the many projects completed as a result of these projects was the development of the consumer research, design and testing of the new lamb logo.

