

Project Information:

Project Title: Commercialization of Research Lab

Recipient Organization Name: Sheep Venture Company (A wholly owned subsidiary of the American Sheep Industry Association)

Recipient's Project Contact

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Project Report

Annual Report Type: 2nd annual
Reporting Period Start Date: October 1, 2020 End Date: October 1, 2021

Performance Narrative:

Activities Performed

Accomplishments

Estimate the Total Percentage (%) of work Completed on the Project.....95%....

#	Accomplishment/Activity	Relevance to Objective
	Sheep Venture Company (SVC) set an agreement with a manufacturer of the equipment to meet international testing standards.	Commercial testing equipment is required for the research lab to perform the objective measurement tests to facilitate domestic and international wool trade.
	SVC negotiated a usage agreement with Texas A&M Agri-life to ensure the proper setup, operation and maintenance of the equipment. Rates were negotiated that are appropriate for the wool industry.	SVC due diligence required to ensure proper use of the equipment.
	A manager has been hired and started at the laboratory in April of 2021. The manager has overseen the equipment shipping and install. Manager calibrate the equipment and train the technicians to properly operate the equipment.	

The manager has completed 3 days of virtual training with the NZ Wool Testing Authority. Soap trials were completed in November and a formula has been selected. 300 samples of wool are being run through the equipment (as provided from NZWTA of US wools in order to calibrate tests).	Manager will have equipment ready to perform and train technicians to provide commercial tests to the US wool industry beginning in January 2022.
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Challenges and Developments

#	Challenge or Development	Corrective Action or Project Change
	Covid pandemic slowed manufacturing and transport to the United States by several months. With August arrival the commercial test start has been moved to January 2022	Moved the international transport to the Houston Tx port. SVC took responsibility for ground transport from the port to the lab in Texas.
	Commercial testing equipment manufacturing was shifted from the NZWTA to Australian Wool Testing Authority due to the pandemic. That shift doubled the manufacturing expense.	SVC and industry increased their share of the start up expense.

Outcome and Indicator Results to Date

#	Outcome/Indicator	Quantifiable Results
	Commercialization of wool testing in the United States is 95% complete.	Training complete on use of equipment and scouring has been accomplished. Calibration of tests using the same samples tested in NZ and at the US lab will be final step

Upcoming Activities

#	Activities	Anticipated Completion
	Complete the calibration of wool samples	January 2022
	Perform commercial wool tests on the new wool clip and provide results to US customers	January 2022

