

Background

The Colorado Sheep & Wool checkoff has been in place for more than 20 years. The Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority Act was enacted in 1975, and revised in 1993 and 1997. The checkoff was originally collected through the county assessor's office; however, the loss of the National Wool Act and Wool Incentive Payment program necessitated a change in the checkoff collection process.

The repeal of the National Wool Act and Wool Incentive Payment program (1993) ended funding for the national promotional checkoff as well as eliminating the dollars that were allocated back to individual states for promotional purposes. Producers in our state felt that a promotion, education, research and information program was necessary for the advancement of the Colorado sheep industry. Through a series of statewide public meetings, the Board of Directors explored several options for assessment and collection. As a result of this public input process, the Board of the Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority implemented a new collection process (House Bill 1279) that is our current Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority Act.

How is the assessment determined?

- ◆ The assessment is collected on any sheep that has been fed or grazed in Colorado for at least 30 consecutive days during the preceding 12 months prior to the date of sale.
- ◆ The Board of Directors of the Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority determine the assessment rate by November 1st of each year.
- ◆ The current assessment rate is \$0.25/head; the rate cannot be lowered and it cannot be raised by more than \$0.05/year. The maximum rate is capped at \$0.50/head.

Who pays the assessment?

- ◆ The assessment is applied to all sheep marketed by Colorado producers or feeders whether they are sold in or out of the state of Colorado.
- ◆ Sheep that have been fed or grazed in Colorado for less than 30 days are not assessed.

Who collects the assessment?

- ◆ All handlers of sheep which includes feedlot operators, livestock auctions, order buyers, packing plants, slaughterhouses and individuals buying, shipping or distributing sheep shall collect the assessments by deducting it from the sale proceeds.

When is the assessment paid?

- ◆ The assessment is deducted from your sale proceeds or check at each point of sale by the person buying or handling the transfer of the sheep.

When is the assessment remitted?

- ◆ The assessments are remitted to Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority on a monthly basis.
- ◆ The assessments must be accompanied by a report that lists the names and addresses of the producers or feeders selling sheep and the number of sheep sold.
- ◆ Reports and checks must be submitted by the 10th of the month following collections of the assessments.

What happens if I sell my sheep to an out-of-state buyer?

- ◆ It is the producer/feeder's (seller) responsibility to directly remit the assessment to the Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority.

Is a refund available?

- ◆ All sheep producers and feeders that have paid the assessments may request a 75% refund of the amount paid.

How do I request a refund?

- ◆ Refunds must be requested on forms provided by the Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority.
- ◆ Refunds must be requested within 30 days after the date of sale or payment of the assessment to the Authority, whichever is later.
- ◆ Refunds must be accompanied by proof that the assessment was deducted. A settlement sheet or bill of sale showing the assessment was deducted will qualify as proof.

When will my refund request be paid?

- ◆ Refunds will be paid within 30 days of the receipt and validation of the claim.

What happens if assessments are not collected or remitted?

- ◆ Colorado state statutes provide for a fine up to \$1,000 per violation for failure to pay or collect the assessment, remit the assessment or otherwise violate the provisions of the Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority Act.

How is the checkoff money spent?

- ◆ The checkoff money can only be used for promotion, education, research and information. Checkoff money cannot be used for direct lobbying or legislative efforts. However, checkoff funds can be used to provide background information and materials to educate decision makers.
- ◆ Each year the Board of Directors sets priorities based on the needs of the sheep industry. Projects are funded that fall within the goals and objectives determined by the Board. All producers and feeders are encouraged to attend the quarterly Board meetings or contact their district representatives with ideas or suggestions.

Can refunds be donated for legislative purposes?

- ◆ The refund forms contain the option for producers and feeders to voluntarily donate their 75% refund to the Colorado Wool Growers Association for legislative purposes. The CWGA is the state association that lobbies on behalf of the sheep industry, as well as monitors state and national legislation.

Board of Directors

The Board is comprised of 12 members and 12 alternates from the following regions and industry segments:

District 1 – Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties

District 2 – Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties

District 3 – Archuleta, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Rio Grande, Saguache, and San Juan counties

District 4 – counties not listed in Districts 1-3

Lamb Feeders

Each member of the Board is appointed by the Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture from nominations received from producers or producer organizations in the district in which the member resides or has a principal place of business.

Your Checkoff Dollars At Work

◆ For over 15 years, the Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority (Colorado Lamb Council) has partnered with the *ACF Colorado Chefs Association* to promote *Colorado Lamb*. The *Colorado Chefs Association* is the leading culinary association in the Western Region of the United States for the American Culinary Federation. Partnership goals include:

1 – Increasing consumer and foodservice trade awareness of the exceptional taste of *Colorado Lamb*.
2 – Expanding the use of *Colorado Lamb* to include various cuts of lamb such as shanks, shoulders, ribs.
3 – Increasing sales of *Colorado Lamb* in foodservice and retail businesses.

4 – Producing ongoing educational programs promoting *Colorado Lamb* to Colorado culinary schools.

5 – Working with the Colorado tourism industry to make *Colorado Lamb* the “must have” meal of choice for out-of-state visitors.

◆ The Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority partnered with the Colorado Wool Growers Association to publish the *Colorado Sheep Grazing & Livestock Protection Dogs* brochure to help educate the public about the importance of guardian dogs to the sheep industry.

◆ The Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority funds the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Predator Survey to compile data on predator losses for the sheep

industry. This valuable information is used to educate the public, and various agencies and organizations about the impacts of predator losses to the sheep industry.

Colorado & Beyond !!

The Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority is proud that components of our state checkoff program benefit the American sheep industry as a whole.

◆ Increased recognition of *Colorado Lamb* ultimately helps create demand for American lamb

◆ Many chefs that are educated in Colorado and participate in the Colorado Chefs Association / Colorado Lamb partnership leave Colorado and work throughout the nation. They leave Colorado with a strong affinity for lamb that remains with them throughout their careers.

◆ Data compiled for the Livestock Protection Dog brochures and the CASS Predator Survey focuses on regional and national sheep industry issues.

2010 Sheep Industry Programs

ACF Colorado Chefs Association	20,000
CFA – Farmer & Rancher Appreciation Ball	500
CFA – Summer Institute	500
CFA – Wool & Sheep Activity Book	4,100
Craig Sheep Wagon Days	500
CSU Ag Day	1,000
CSU Wool Judging Team	1,000
CSU Extension – Jr. Sheep Day	500
Fiber Fun Fest	500
Hotchkiss Sheep Camp Stock Dog Trials	300
Livestock Protection Dog Brochures	1,100
Make It With Wool Contest	1,000
Mary’s Lamb Cook-Off	500
Producer’s Choice Award	200
Steamboat Stock Dog Challenge	750

Total **\$32,450**

Questions??

If you would like to contact your district representative, if you have questions, or would like to receive a copy of the Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority Act, please call Bonnie Brown, CSWA Executive Director at (970) 874-1433.

Fast Facts About The Colorado Sheep Checkoff



GOALS

Increase Consumption of Colorado Lamb

Increase Public Awareness of the Colorado Sheep Industry

Producer & Public Education

Increase Demand for Colorado Wool & Wool products

***Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority
Colorado Lamb Council***

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