

Overview:
American Sheep Industry Association's
Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program

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ASI, Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program

- Hoffman, T. W., D. L. Roeber, K. E. Belk, S. B. LeValley, J. A. Scanga, J. N. Sofos, and G. C. Smith. 2009. Producing Consumer Products From Sheep: The Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program. Am. Sheep Ind. Assoc., Englewood, CO.
- http://sheepindustrynews.org/sheep_safety/ (Accessed March 13, 2012)
- **Disclaimers:**
 - Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program (SSQA) information was used either verbatim or with edits to consolidate text.
 - I'm only the messenger. SSQA is not an ARS product.

ASI, Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program

- **SSQA developed to:**
 - **Ensure that U.S. sheep industry generates consumer products that are safe and of the highest quality possible;**
 - **Maximize consumer confidence in, and acceptance of, sheep products; and**
 - **Use research and education to improve management during the production of safe and high-quality sheep products.**
- **SSQA based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) philosophy and principles.**

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Three SSQA levels:

- **Level 1: SSQA Participant—Education**
 - Completion of Level 1 training identifies producers as “participants” in SSQA.
- **Level 2: SSQA Certified—Development of Site-Specific Plans**
 - Level 2 certification applies to producers who complete Level 2 training, not to their production units.

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- **Level 3: SSQA Verified—Verification**
 - Level 3 training verifies that producers have implemented SSQA and are following SSQA guidelines.
 - Onsite, independent third-party verification required.
 - Level 3 verification indicates that SSQA is in place and operating successfully in an individual production unit.
 - ASI has SSQA Trainers and Certified Reviewers.

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SSQA Guidelines for Antibiotic Use:

- Use only approved **medicated feed/water additives**, according to label directions and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Good Manufacturing Practices.
 - Use only FDA-approved, medicated feed additives in rations, according to FDA-approved labels
 - **Extra-label use of feed additives is strictly prohibited.**
 - No one has the authority to adjust the dosage of medicated feed additives.
 - Follow usage according to FDA Good Management Practices.

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- Adhere to all required **withdrawal times** to avoid violative residues.
 - Check sheep shipped for slaughter to ensure that treated animals meet or exceed label and prescription withdrawal times of all products that have been administered.
 - SSQA training material contains Sheep and Goat Withdrawal Chart.
 - A **release slip must be signed** and dated before releasing animals from the sheep operation.
 - An **SSQA-certified person** should examine processing records, feeding records, hospital records, and all other records that may apply.

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- **Verify drug withdrawal** on all sheep sold.
- If compliance with withdrawal periods is uncertain, treatment history should be compared with Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), and animals should pass a residue screening test such, as Live Animal Swab Test (LAST).
- Residue screening shall be performed under supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
- Test results will determine appropriateness of releasing an animal in question for shipment, but cannot be used to shorten the labeled withdrawal time.
- Strictly follow all FDA, USDA, and EPA guidelines for product selections.

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- Employ **extra-label drug use** only when prescribed by a veterinarian within the context of a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR).
 - Administer products to comply with label directions for all treatment regimens, unless otherwise prescribed by a veterinarian.
 - All sheep treated with extra-label medications shall comply with prescribed extended **withdrawal times**, which have been set by the veterinarian under the guidelines of a valid VCPR.
 - A sheep operation will collect **random urine samples** from animals that have received extra-label drugs for residue testing as directed by their veterinarian.

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- **Follow Judicious Antibiotic Use Guidelines.**
 - Minimize development of antimicrobial/antibiotic resistance in human and animal pathogens.
 - Currently, the best way to minimize development of antimicrobial resistance is to follow the Judicious Antibiotic Use Guidelines as outlined by the Academy of Veterinary Consultants (AVC, 1998).

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- **Judicious Guidelines (AVC, 1998)**
 - **Preventive** strategies, such as appropriate husbandry and hygiene, routine health examinations, and vaccinations, should be emphasized.
 - **Judicious** use of antimicrobials should be within a VCPR.
 - Therapeutic alternatives should be considered before antimicrobial treatment.
 - **Avoid using certain antimicrobials** that are considered important in treating refractory infections in human or veterinary medicine for initial treatment.

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- Utilize culture and susceptibility results to aid in selection of antimicrobials whenever possible.
- Confine therapeutic antimicrobial use to proven clinical indications, avoiding inappropriate uses, such as for viral infections without bacterial complication.
- Optimize regimens for therapeutic antimicrobial use with current pharmacological information and principles.
- Utilize **narrow-spectrum antimicrobials** whenever possible.
- Minimize therapeutic exposure to antimicrobials by applying treatments for the shortest period of time possible.

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- **Limit therapeutic antimicrobial treatment** to ill or at-risk animals, treating the fewest animals possible.
- **Minimize environmental antimicrobial contamination** whenever possible.
- Maintain **accurate records** of treatment and outcome to evaluate therapeutic regimens.
- **Follow label** instructions carefully.
- **Extra-label antimicrobial therapy** should be prescribed only in accordance with the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act amendments to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and its regulations.

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- **Implement biosecurity** procedures to prevent introduction and/or transmission of animal diseases.
 - Address biosecurity issues to control animal health and foodborne contamination.
 - SSQA contains discussion and list of suggested biosecurity considerations.
 - Strategy is preventative.

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- **Implement sanitation and hygiene procedures** to prevent introduction and/or transmission of foodborne pathogens.
 - Use proper sanitation practices, including disinfection of facilities.
 - Maintain an environment that fosters cleaner fleeces.
 - Reduce excessive mud because it can result in decreased performance, increased stress, and immunocompromised sheep.
 - Prevent accumulation of dirt, mud, and manure on fleeces to help avoid contaminating carcasses at harvest.

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- Use a **validated pathogen intervention** system where appropriate.
 - Vaccines
 - Probiotics
 - Prebiotics
 - Chlorate
 - Plant-derived microbiological inhibitors
 - Antibiotics
 - Bacteriophages

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- Record-Keeping
- Developing a Plan
- Verification Process
- Process Control Principles
- Example of Standard Operating Procedure
- Records and Forms
- Product Use Information

All these sections address antibiotic use to some degree.

Questions?



