

Alberta Lamb Producers has been representing producers and providing service to the Alberta sheep industry since 1972. This organisation is directed by a board of producers for the benefit of the industry; all members are invited to provide input and to serve as directors. ALP provides a united voice for all industry members to government, the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency and other industry groups. It is funded by a service charge (check-off) per sheep/lamb on all animals produced in Alberta.

We are very disappointed that the Alberta government has chosen to mandate that check off should be refundable for four commissions in Bill 43, without industry consultation. Alberta Lamb Producers has demonstrated good governance; developed a new business plan closely aligned with ALMA and enabled the creation of many producer resources and research projects for the benefit of the whole industry. The Bill 43 changes do not make sense at a time when governments are facing severe budgetary constraints and are looking to industry to provide more funding for activities as well as implementation of mandatory programs. Industry ownership is critical to ensure the success of these programs.

Check-off dollars are very important to a producer group, especially to this relatively small but expanding and profitable livestock sector. Check-off maintains the infrastructure of Alberta Lamb Producers and also leverages substantial external funding to enable development of the sheep industry. If passed, check off will become refundable to sheep producers from 1st September, 2010.

The introduction of Bill 43, mandating that check off is refundable, could challenge Alberta Lamb Producers' financial stability and infrastructure. If check off revenue is reduced, the amount of both industry and external funding that is available will severely limit the progress of this expanding industry. As a democratic organization run by producers, for producers, Alberta Lamb Producers already provides every member with an opportunity to have a positive influence on the organisation.

We look forward to ensuring our producers are positioned to grow and capitalize on expanding market demands and opportunities. To accomplish that, Alberta Lamb Producers must remain a strong and viable organization

For all the reasons outlined above; because of our track record and the opportunities the industry has, we are trusting sheep producers in Alberta will continue to invest in their industry through continued participation and membership of Alberta Lamb Producers.

For further information please contact:

Norine Moore, Alberta Lamb Producers Chair – 403 549 2464 wnsheep@xplornet.com.

For more industry information go to: www.ablamb.ca