

Petition to Establish a Sheep and Wool  
Market Development Council

In accordance with Section 15-15-11 of the Indiana Code, as amended, this petition is presented to the Dean of the College of Agriculture of Purdue University on behalf of a representative number of sheep and wool producers from Indiana for permission to establish a sheep and wool market development council.

The Petition

- a. The area of production shall be state wide.
- b. The purpose of the Sheep and Wool Market Development Council Program will include support for research, education, market development, publicity, sales promotion, and cooperation with other state, regional and national organizations.
- c. The fee to be collected will be one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the net market price of all sheep and/or lambs and wool.
- d. The fee imposed on all sheep and wool produced or marketed in Indiana.
- e. The fee shall be collected by the first “handler” as defined in Indiana Code 15-15-11-6, and remitted by first handler to the Dean of Agriculture of Purdue University, except that such handler may retain three percent (3%) of the total of fees collected as a handling fee.
- f. The payment of fees shall be the primary responsibility of the producer, but such responsibility shall be deemed discharged if the fees are collected or withheld by a handler other than a producer.
- g. The Council shall consist of nine (9) members, one from each of the following districts:
  - District 1. The counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, St. Joseph, Marshall, Fulton, Starke, Pulaski, Newton, and Jasper.
  - District 2. The counties of Elkhart, LaGrange, Steuben, Kosciusko, Noble, and DeKalb.
  - District 3. The counties of Miami, Wabash, Whitley, Allen, Huntington, Wells, and Adams.
  - District 4. The counties of Benton, White, Warren, Tippecanoe, Fountain, Montgomery, Vermillion, and Parke.
  - District 5. The counties of Cass, Carroll, Howard, Clinton, Boone, Tipton, Hamilton, Grant, and Madison.
  - District 6. The counties of Blackford, Jay, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, and Union.

- District 7. The counties of Marion, Hancock, Rush, Shelby, Morgan, Johnson, Hendricks, and Putman.
- District 8. The counties of Sullivan, Knox, Daviess, Marten, Gibson, Pike, Dubois, Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Clay, Vigo, Owen, Monroe, and Greene.
- District 9. The counties of Perry, Orange, Lawrence, Washington, Jackson, Harrison, Floyd, Clark, Scott, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Switzerland, Ripley, Dearborn, Franklin, Crawford, Brown, Bartholomew and Decatur.

1. **Term of office** – Each elected member shall serve three (3) years, except that in the first election three (3) members shall be elected for three (3) years, three (3) for two (2) years and three (3) for one (1) year.

2. **Composition of the Council**

- a. The council shall consist of nine (9) members. The district council members must be:
- (a) citizens of Indiana
  - (b) at least eighteen (18) years of age, and
  - (c) sheep producers (the producers must reside in the district which they represent)
- b. The Dean of the College of Agriculture at Purdue University or his/her designee and the Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture or his/her designee shall serve as ex-officio members of the council.

3. **Nominations and election of members** – Nominations for the initial nine (9) members of the council shall be made by a nominating committee consisting of five producers appointed by the Dean of the College of Agriculture of Purdue University. In addition, producers could be nominated and have their names placed on the ballot provided they present the Dean a petition signed by at least twenty (20) producers from the district they wish to represent, at least thirty (30) days prior to the election. Thereafter, the chairman of the Sheep and Wool Development Council shall appoint a nominating committee which shall provide two (2) nominees for each position to be filled. Election of council members shall be by mail ballot sent to each producer who registers for the most recent or last held referendum. A majority of the votes cast for each position will be necessary for election. Council members may be elected to serve consecutive terms except that none shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years.

4. **Council Vacancies** – When a member's office becomes vacant before the expiration of the member's term of office, such vacancy will be filled by the council to complete the original term.

5. **Mileage** – Council members in attendance at meetings called by the chairman may be reimbursed for mileage to and from the meetings at the approved Purdue University rate.

6. **Duties of Members** – The Sheep and Wool Market Development Council shall with the help of the Dean:

- a. Elect a chairperson, vice chair, and secretary.

- b. Guide the development of programs in research, education, and market development as outlined in Section 15-15-11 of the Indiana Code and to advise the Dean of the collection and expenditure of the funds collected in this program in the best interest of Indiana sheep and wool producers. The council shall have the powers provided for it in Section 15-15-11.
- c. Perform such duties as may be necessary.

7. **The referendum** – To vote in the referendum or in the election of council members, sheep and wool producers shall be required to register with the Dean of the College of Agriculture of the Purdue University. Registration forms shall be available at County Extension Offices for circulation by individual farmers or farm organizations. Registration forms may be returned by producers, personally or by mail, either to County Extension Offices in the producer's county of residence, or to the Office of the Dean. Any forms returned to the County Extension Office shall be promptly forwarded to the Office of the Dean. Registration shall be conducted during a period of not less than sixty (60) days, as determined and announced by the Dean, ending thirty (30) days before the announced date of the referendum: and registration shall be closed on the date which is thirty (30) days prior to said referendum date. Producers not registered by this time shall be ineligible to vote in the referendum or election of council members. After registration, the voting shall take place in each County Extension Office. Each producer shall be required to vote in the county of his residence. The date and time shall be announced in newspapers and farm publications. Absentee ballots shall be available from the Office of the Dean of the College of Agriculture at Purdue University.

8. **Definition of producer and eligibility to vote** – A producer is any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association engaged within this state in the business of producing for market and receiving income from the sale of sheep and/wool (Indiana Code 15-15-11-8). We believe rules governing the eligibility of a producer to vote in the referendum and for council members shall be as follows:

...any firm, corporation, partnership or unincorporated association engaged within the state production area in the business of producing for market and receiving income from sheep and/or wool is entitled to one vote. For purposes of voting, a husband and wife and any other group owning sheep and/or wool as tenants in-common or joint tenants, will be treated as a partnership. An individual producer would be entitled to one vote.

We propose the initial election of council members be carried out within sixty (60) days after the referendum. Should the amount of refunds under Indiana Code 15-15-11-18 exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount collected for a fiscal year, the Dean of Agriculture at Purdue University shall conduct a referendum on the continuation of the sheep and wool market development council.

The Sheep and Wool Market Development Program and Council, if approved by the referendum, should begin as soon as possible after June 30, 2013. The fiscal year for the Sheep and Wool Market Development Program shall be July 1 through June 30.