

Zack Schwartz KY Representative

The next ASI Annual Convention is scheduled for January 13–16, 2027, in Charleston, South Carolina. The convention is a good opportunity for sheep producers from across the country to get together, discuss issues affecting the industry, and share ideas and information. It also gives producers a chance to hear updates on national issues and help shape the direction of the sheep industry moving forward.

ASI has appointed Mike Michener as its new Executive Director. He brings more than 35 years of experience in agriculture, trade, and public policy. His background will be valuable as ASI continues working on issues affecting American sheep producers, especially lamb imports and domestic market prices.

The Section 201 lamb import case continues to be one of the biggest issues facing the American sheep industry. ASI filed a petition in October 2025 seeking relief from the impact of increased lamb imports on U.S. producers.

ASI has raised several concerns about the impact of imports on American sheep producers. Imports increased significantly between 2020 and 2024, and by 2024, imported lamb accounted for approximately 70% of the U.S. market. ASI has also reported that imported lamb prices averaged about 10.8% below comparable American lamb, with some price differences reaching nearly 19.5%.

These price differences and the growing share of imported lamb have put pressure on the domestic market and raised concerns about profitability for American sheep producers. The goal of the Section 201 case is to address the impact of increased imports and help ensure that U.S. producers have a fair opportunity to compete in their own market.

The U.S. International Trade Commission is investigating whether increased lamb imports have caused, or threaten to cause, serious injury to the domestic industry. A public hearing on the injury question is scheduled for October 16, 2026, with a determination expected by November 13.

This case could have a major impact on the future of American lamb production. Any relief will depend on the outcome of the investigation and the federal government's subsequent decisions.