



National Sheep Association

NSA policy position on UK levy funds and the sheep sector

- The levy on the UK sheep sector is at a suitable level and there is very little scope to increase it.
- Given that the current distribution of levy funds between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is not viewed by all to be a perfect system, it is vital the four levy bodies continue to take steps to minimise duplication between themselves and with other organisations and work collaboratively on UK wide matters.
- Increased centralisation of activity that has equal relevance to all nations of the UK should be considered and, for example, NSA supports recent activity to make use of a joint fund of money to be used for the greater good of lamb market development for all parts of the UK. NSA supports this activity as a way to overcome levy distribution challenges while allowing levy money to still be collected in the same way, which is an efficient and cost effective method.
- Trade, market development and product development should account for the highest percentage of spend for all levy bodies, particularly at the current time with the effect of Brexit on the export of lamb from the UK. A minimum of levy money should be used to lever down other research and development funds, so this activity can be continued while allowing levy money to be invested in market opportunity work.
- Levy money is collected from all sheepmeat producers and the activity of levy bodies must reflect this. For example, it should not focus entirely on the production of R4L lambs for the supermarket trade and ignore various exports markets and niche products.
- Branded products such as Scotch Lamb, Welsh Lamb and the Quality Standard Mark need sufficient funding, and spending should reflect the value of those products to the economy of that nation.
- The governance and structure of levy bodies should represent industry interests and there should be a place for properly constituted and democratic organisations, such as NSA, to have a formal role within these structures.
- Administration costs for all levy bodies must be streamlined and cost efficient.

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