

CHAPTER 207
SHEEP AND WOOL PROMOTION BOARD
H.F. 677

AN ACT creating an Iowa sheep and wool promotion board, and providing a penalty.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. NEW SECTION. 182.1 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Affected producer" means a person defined as a producer who is subject to the assessment pursuant to section 182.14.
2. "Board" means the Iowa sheep and wool promotion board established pursuant to section 182.5.
3. "District" means an official crop reporting district formed by the United States department of agriculture and set out in the annual farm census published by the Iowa department of agriculture.
4. "Eligible voter" means a person who has been a producer for the three hundred sixty-five days preceding the date of a referendum conducted pursuant to section 182.4.
5. "First purchaser" means a person who resells sheep or wool purchased from a producer or offers for sale a product produced from the sheep or wool for any purpose.
6. "Producer" means a person who is actively engaged within this state in the business of producing or marketing sheep or wool and who receives income from the production of sheep or wool.
7. "Sale" or "sold" means a transaction in which the property in or to sheep or wool is transferred from the producer to a first purchaser for full or partial consideration.
8. "Secretary" means the secretary of agriculture.
9. "Sheep" means an animal of the ovine species, regardless of age, produced or marketed in this state for slaughter.
10. "Wool" means the natural fiber produced by sheep.

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 182.2 PETITION FOR ELECTION.

Upon receipt of a petition signed by at least fifty producers in each district requesting a referendum election to determine whether to establish an Iowa sheep and wool promotion board and to impose an assessment not to exceed two cents on every pound of wool produced and sold by a producer and ten cents per head on all sheep sold for slaughter by a producer, the secretary shall call a referendum to be conducted within sixty days following receipt of the petition.

Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 182.3 NOTICE OF REFERENDUM.

The secretary shall give notice of the referendum on the question of whether to establish an Iowa sheep and wool promotion board and to impose the assessment by publishing the notice for a period of not less than five days in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the state. The notice shall state the voting places, period of time for voting, and other information deemed necessary by the secretary.

A referendum shall not be commenced until five days after the last date of publication.

Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 182.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF SHEEP AND WOOL PROMOTION BOARD AND TAX.

1. Each producer who signs a statement certifying that the producer is a bona fide producer is entitled to one vote. At the close of the referendum, the secretary shall count and tabulate the ballots cast. If a majority of voters favor establishing an Iowa sheep and wool promotion board and imposing an assessment, an Iowa sheep and wool promotion board shall be established. The assessment shall be imposed commencing not more than sixty days following the referendum as determined by the Iowa sheep and wool promotion board, and shall continue until terminated by a referendum as provided in subsection 2. If a majority of the voters do not favor establishing an Iowa sheep and wool promotion board and imposing the assessment, the assessment shall not be imposed and the board shall not be established until another referendum is held under this chapter and a majority of the voters favor establishing a board and imposing the assessment. If a referendum fails, another referendum shall not be held within one hundred eighty days.

2. Upon receipt of a petition signed by at least twenty-five producers in each district requesting a referendum election to determine whether to terminate the establishment of the Iowa sheep and wool promotion board and to terminate the imposition of the assessment, the secretary shall call a referendum to be conducted within sixty days following the receipt of the petition. The petitioners shall guarantee the payment of the costs of a referendum held under this subsection. If the majority of the voters of a referendum do not favor termination, an additional referendum may be held when the secretary receives a petition signed by at least twenty-five producers in each district. However, the additional referendum shall not be held within one hundred eighty days.

Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 182.5 COMPOSITION OF BOARD.

The Iowa sheep and wool promotion board established under this chapter shall be composed of nine producers, one from each district. The dean of the college of agriculture of Iowa state university of science and technology or the dean's representative and the secretary or the secretary's designee shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the board. The board shall annually elect a chairperson from its membership.

Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 182.6 INITIAL BOARD.

Candidates for positions on the initial board are nominated by filing a petition with the secretary containing the signatures of at least twenty-five producers in the candidate's district qualified to vote on the referendum. Candidates shall be resident producers of the district from which they are nominated. The secretary shall receive the nominations, and shall call an election for members of the initial board within thirty days following passage of the question at the referendum election.

Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 182.7 ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS.

Notice of the initial election for directors of the board shall be given by the secretary by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the state at least five days prior to the date of the election and in any other reasonable manner as determined by the secretary. The notice shall set forth the period of time for voting, voting places, and other information as the secretary deems necessary.

Notice of subsequent elections for the membership position for a district shall be given by the board by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the district and in any other reasonable manner as determined by the board and shall set forth the period of time for voting, voting places, and other information as the board deems necessary.

Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 182.8 TERMS.

The term of office for members of the board shall be three years and no member shall serve more than two complete consecutive terms. The producers on the initial board shall determine their terms by lot, so that three producers shall serve a one-year term, three producers shall serve a two-year term, and three producers shall serve a three-year term.

Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 182.9 SUBSEQUENT MEMBERSHIP.

After the appointment of the initial board, the board shall administer subsequent elections for members of the board with the assistance of the secretary. Before the expiration of a member's term of office, the board shall appoint a nominating committee for the district represented by the member. The nominating committee shall consist of five producers who are residents of the district from which a member must be elected. The nominating committee shall nominate two resident producers as candidates for the membership position for which an election is to be held. Additional candidates may be nominated by a written petition of twenty-five resident producers. The board shall provide by rule and shall publish procedures governing the time and place of filing the nominations.

Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 182.10 VACANCIES.

The board shall by appointment fill an unexpired term if a vacancy occurs on the board. The appointee shall be a resident producer in the district having a vacancy.

Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 182.11 PURPOSES OF BOARD.

The purposes of the board shall be to:

1. Enter into contracts or agreements with or make grants to recognized and qualified agencies, individuals, or organizations for the development and carrying out of research and education programs directed toward better and more efficient production, marketing, and utilization of sheep and wool and their products.
2. Provide methods and means, including, but not limited to, public relations and other promotion techniques for the maintenance of present markets.
3. Assist in development of new or larger markets, both domestic and foreign, for sheep and wool and their products.

Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 182.12 POWERS AND DUTIES.

The board may:

1. Administer and enforce this chapter and perform acts reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.
2. Employ and discharge assistants and professional counsel as necessary, prescribe their duties and powers, and fix their compensation.
3. Establish offices, incur expenses, and enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.
4. Adopt, rescind, and amend all proper and necessary rules for the exercise of its powers and duties.
5. Enter into arrangements for collection of the assessment on sheep and wool.
6. Formulate and execute assessment procedures and methods of collection.
7. Receive and investigate complaints and violations of this chapter and take necessary action.
8. Confer and cooperate with legally constituted authorities of other states and the United States.
9. Establish accounts in adequately protected financial institutions to receive, hold, and disburse board moneys.

Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. 182.13 COMPENSATION.

Members of the board may receive payment for their actual expenses and travel in performing official board functions. Payment shall be made from amounts collected from the assessment. No member of the board shall be a salaried employee of the board or any organization or agency receiving funds from the board. The board shall meet at least once every three months, and at other times it deems necessary.

Sec. 14. NEW SECTION. 182.14 ASSESSMENT.

If approved by a majority of voters at a referendum, an assessment to be set by the board at not more than two cents for each pound of wool produced and sold by a producer and not more than ten cents per head on sheep sold for slaughter by a producer shall be imposed on the producer at the time of delivery to the first purchaser who will deduct the assessment from the price paid to the producer at the time of sale. If the producer sells, ships, or otherwise disposes of wool or sheep for slaughter to a first purchaser or other person outside the state of Iowa, the producer shall deduct the assessment from the amount received from the sale and shall forward the amount deducted to the board within thirty days following each calendar quarter. If the producer and the first purchaser are the same person, then that person shall pay the assessment to the board within thirty days following each calendar quarter.

Sec. 15. NEW SECTION. 182.15 INVOICE REQUIRED.

At the time of sale, the first purchaser shall sign and deliver to the producer separate invoices for each purchase. The invoices shall show:

1. The name and address of the producer and the seller, if different from the producer.
2. The name and address of the first purchaser.
3. The pounds of wool or head of sheep for slaughter sold.
4. The date of the purchase.
5. The rate of withholding and the total amount of the assessment withheld.

Invoices shall be legibly written and shall not be altered.

Sec. 16. NEW SECTION. 182.16 FUNDS.

Subject to section 182.14, the assessment imposed by this chapter shall be remitted by the purchaser to the Iowa sheep and wool promotion board not later than thirty days following each calendar quarter during which the assessment was collected. Amounts collected from the assessment shall be deposited in an account established pursuant to section 182.12, subsection 9. Expenses and disbursements incurred and made pursuant to this chapter shall be made by voucher, draft, or check bearing the signature of a person designated by majority vote of the board.

Sec. 17. NEW SECTION. 182.17 REFUNDS.

A producer who has paid the assessment may, by application in writing to the board, secure a refund of all or part of the amount paid. The refund shall be payable only when the application has been made to the board within sixty days after the deduction has been made by the producer or within sixty days after the remittance has been made by the first purchaser. Each application for refund by a producer shall have attached proof that the assessment was paid. The proof of the assessment paid may be in the form of a duplicate or certified copy of the purchase invoice by the purchaser.

Sec. 18. NEW SECTION. 182.18 USE OF MONEYS.

Moneys collected under this chapter are subject to audit by the auditor of state and shall be used by the Iowa sheep and wool promotion board first for the payment of collection and refund expenses, second for payment of the costs and expenses arising in connection with conducting referendums, and third for the purposes identified in section 182.11. Moneys of the board remaining after a referendum is held at which a majority of the voters favor termination of the board and the assessment shall continue to be expended in accordance with this chapter until exhausted.

The board shall not engage in any political activity, and it shall be a condition of any allocation of funds that any organization receiving funds shall not expend the funds on political activity or on any attempt to influence legislation.

Sec. 19. NEW SECTION. 182.19 BOND REQUIRED.

All persons holding positions of trust under this chapter shall give bond in the amount required by the board. The premiums for bond costs shall be paid from the moneys of the board.

Sec. 20. NEW SECTION. 182.20 EXAMINATION OF RECORDS.

Persons subject to this chapter shall furnish on forms provided by the board information needed to enable the board to effectuate the policies of this chapter. For the purpose of ascertaining the correctness of a report made to the board under this chapter, the secretary may examine books, papers, records, copies of tax returns not confidential by law, and accounts, which are in the control of any person. The secretary may hold hearings, take testimony, administer oaths, subpoena witnesses, and issue subpoenas in connection with the administration of this chapter.

Sec. 21. NEW SECTION. 182.21 PENALTY.

A person who willfully violates a provision of this chapter, willfully gives a false report, statement, or record required by the board, or willfully fails to furnish or render a report, statement or record required by the secretary is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

Sec. 22. NEW SECTION. 182.22 PURCHASERS OUTSIDE IOWA.

The secretary may enter into arrangements with first purchasers from outside Iowa for payment of the assessment.

Sec. 23. NEW SECTION. 182.23 REPORT.

During the period of collection of the assessment, the board in cooperation with the auditor of state shall make an annual report which shall show all income, expenses and other relevant information.

Approved May 28, 1985