

8. New ideas...next steps

Dialogue with the Vermont departments of Agriculture and of Health should continue, and producers seek means of underwriting program(s) which serve individuals on both sides of the sales fence.

In order for a mobile (or other) slaughter facility to work, individuals within the ethnic communities must be made aware of the service and convinced that the service can meet their needs. Several sheep producers have contacts within the ethnic community which may be strong enough to gain support for such a facility. It is worth investigating the costs of such a facility and weighing them against the anticipated profits. Follow up with several out-of-state operations would seem a good place to begin: have their efforts been successful? What problems have they encountered?

9. Continuation of practice investigated.

Certainly it is worthwhile to continue to survey ethnic needs and to inform producers of same. Certainly it is worthwhile to maintain dialogue with State officials re producer needs in this niche market and to seek monies to develop such market.

10. What do I tell other producers about this project and its results?

Other producers have been very interested in the profile of ethnic populations I have developed by talking with people of other heritages. Certainly I have acted as a conduit of information regarding what people from other heritages were needing, looking for, at any particular time, and what producers in other states were doing to get ethnic business.

One of the outcomes of the project was a profile of Vermont's sheep breeder. I have attempted to disseminate this information in the VSBA newsletter and at various meetings where I have been asked to speak, so that this organization (and others) might better know its membership needs.

11. Outreach

Ongoing. Articles have been submitted to the VSBA newsletter and one has been published. I have provided information to other researchers on topics related to this project. I have connected producers with other producers, relative to the ethnic markets and need dates and how we might all get our lambs profitably into same. I was instrumental in starting a dialogue with the Department of Agriculture and have continued to work with others to continue the dialogue. I have visited the Islamic Center in Colchester on many occasions to assess ethnic interests, and I continue to seek out folks from the Bosnian community, in particular, to keep that relationship going – perhaps one day we will have a means of meeting their needs.