TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

June 30, 2010

The Honorable Francisco Javier Mayorga Castañeda
Secretario de Agricultura
Avenida Municipio Libre 377, Col. Santa Cruz Atoyac,
Benito Juárez, Distrito Federal, México, C.P. 3310

Dear Secretary Mayorga:

In a letter written to you in January, I expressed the need to allow the transport of breeding sheep and goats between Mexico and the United States. As of today, I have not heard from your office acknowledging that request, nor has there been any action regarding the export protocols for this livestock. It is critical to establish a dialogue on this important matter so that both of our countries can reap the benefits of breeding sheep and goat trade.

As you know, trade valued at more than $300 billion occurs across the United States and Mexico border every year. This prosperous trade relationship is possible because of free trade policies that allow for the economic exchange of services and goods, including agricultural products and live animals.

To continue growing this strong partnership, it is imperative we base all of our trade policies on sound science. There is no science-based reason to prohibit breeding sheep and goat trade between our two countries. I respectfully request you reopen Mexico's border to breeding sheep and goats for the benefit of both our countries.

Our countries should not disregard this opportunity to expand trade for producers on both sides of the border. The economic benefit of this trade opportunity will be felt not only by our producers, but also by related industries such as the clothing and food sectors, resulting in a positive effect on the economies of both Mexico and the United States.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter from January and hope to hear from you soon regarding this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Todd Staples

Todd Staples

TS/AL/aa

Enclosure

P.O. Box 12847 Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-7476 Fax: (888) 223-8861
For the Hearing Impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)
www.tda.state.tx.us