

November 23, 2015

The MSU Sheep Advisory Committee met with members of the sheep industry and MSU November 6th at the Montana Wool Lab. Among the topics discussed was the need for a new lab building. Such discussions were started several years ago between FWP, the wool lab, and the diagnostic lab. A lack of business plans from the various participants ended the discussions.

The Advisory Committee has asked me to bring to the Board a proposal to renew discussions for the construction of a "lab complex" which would house the wool lab, seed lab, diagnostic lab, milk lab, and possibly the FWP lab. The new building would include federal security requirements. Each lab entity would be asked to submit the following with a "state of the art" lab in mind:

- 5 year business plan
- a long range financial plan
- physical requirements for each individual lab, i.e. square footage, water, electric, air conditioning, ventilation, refrigeration/freezer, IT wiring, gas, etc.
- physical requirements needed now and at least 10 years into the future

At this time the Montana Seed Lab and Montana Wool Lab have or are about to complete their 5 year business plans. The Wool Lab is now working on projections for physical requirements for their lab. In addition, the Advisory Committee has been working with various entities for securing funding for the building project.

Representatives of the Advisory Committee, MSU, and other interested parties will be meeting in Billings during the Montana Wool Growers convention December 4, 2015.

Nina Baucus