

**26 AUGUST 2005**

**Farm Bill Listening Sessions Continue**

This week, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced additional farm bill listening sessions as he makes his way across the nation.

"I'm learning a great deal from the people participating in the Farm Bill Forums," said Johanns. "These forums present a tremendous opportunity for the citizens we serve to have a voice in the development of a new farm bill."

The following forums are scheduled: Aug. 26, 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Las Cruces, N.M.; Aug. 31, 4:00-7:00 p.m. in Louisville, Ky.; and Sept. 1, 1:00-4:00 p.m. in Decatur, Ill.

"Sheep industry comments were presented at the Pennsylvania listening session and leaders are encouraged to participate in a forum in their area of the country," commented Paul Frischknecht, president of the American Sheep Industry Association. "Briefing papers on sheep industry priorities for the new Farm Bill are available from the ASI office."

*Staff contact: Peter Orwick, ext. 33*