

Trip Report
April 12 – May 25
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
Liba Brent

Between April 12 and May 25, 2004 I traveled to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to work on the following project activities:

1. Survey of sheep farmers in three pilot regions (Dzhambul, Aksuiskii and Rainbeksii regions).
2. Collection of wool samples from live animals at 10 farms in each region.
3. Testing of wool samples in the laboratory of the Kyrgyz Sheep Breeders Association in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
4. Distribution of wool-testing results to farmers and wool-buyers.

1. Collection of Wool Samples and Survey Data on Farms.

I traveled to the Dzhambul, Aksuiskii and Rainbeksii regions to interview farmers and collect wool samples from live sheep. I visited 10 farms in each region and helped to collect samples from 10% of sheep at each farm. The farms were selected according to size: small farms: 100-500 sheep, medium farms: 500-1,000 sheep and large farms: 1,000+ sheep. Approximately 3,000 samples were collected in the three regions. Farmers who participated in the project were interviewed and basic information about each farm was collected, including GPS coordinates.

2. Testing of Wool Samples in Kyrgyzstan.

After the collection of samples, I traveled to Kyrgyzstan to arrange for the analysis of the samples at the Kyrgyz Sheep Breeders' Association (KSBA) using OFDA 2000. During my visit, KSBA completed testing samples from the Dzhambul region which I brought to Kyrgyzstan.

3. Distribution of test results in the Dzhambul region.

I distributed the wool sample test results to farmers in the Dzhambul region in May 2004. The test results of samples from the other three regions will be distributed to farmers in September 2004. The test results will also be given to Kazakh wool-buyers and entered into a GIS database.