

## U.S. MILITARY BUILDING AND DEVELOPING SHEEP DIP TANKS THROUGHOUT IRAQ'S RURAL VILLAGES

*12 to 16 Million Head of Sheep Getting Cleaned Up*

(Baghdad, Iraq) -- Farmers in Iraq have grown to depend on their sheep as a valuable source of income, meat and wool. The sheep population of Iraq is estimated at 12 to 16 million head.

U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Deanna Brown has been working in the rural villages of Iraq to help rebuild the once-thriving sheep industry. Col. Brown and her team are leading an effort to bring sheep dip tanks to every corner of the country.



"Sheep dip tanks have two key benefits. First, they help rid the animal of external parasites like ticks and lice. Second, it cleans the wool which makes a better textile product," says Brown.

There are two types of sheep dip tanks. The large trough with a pen on either end is permanent and allows the sheep to be run through the tank. The portable tanks can be taken to remote rural villages a few times each year to dip the livestock.



The U.S. military is teaching Iraqis to use better insecticides and to dip each sheep two to three times a year.



"We use Permethrin sheep insecticide which is actually made from chrysanthemums," Brown said.

The effort by the U.S. military is very effective. Col. Brown, who is a large animal veterinarian by trade, says the Iraqis are grateful for the technology which is increasing their economic opportunities. She says rural farmers have a much more positive attitude toward American soldiers because of their work.

*Story by Paul McKellips, US Department of State, Public Affairs GO Team, on assignment in Iraq.*

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