

2023 U.S. Targhee Sheep Association (USTSA) Starter Flock Program

Purpose?

To promote growth and visibility of the Targhee breed, and to promote youth involvement and education within the breed.

Who is eligible?

Any youth, age 9 to 17 as of January 1, 2023, whose immediate family does not raise Targhee sheep.

What comprises the starter flock?

The winner will be awarded one (1) ewe lamb, one (1) yearling ewe, and one (1) brood ewe donated by members of the USTSA. Each animal will be a USTSA registered animal, and at least QR in scrapie codon 171 genotype.

Promotion?

The program will be featured on the USTSA website, and advertisements will be placed in various trade journals as determined by the USTSA. Promotion by current members at shows and sales is strongly recommended.

Policy and Procedures:

1. A completed application in addition to the supporting materials (listed below) must be submitted (postmarked or emailed) to the USTSA Secretary by April 1, 2023.
 - a. **Essay:** The essay should detail the interest in the Targhee breed, any other sheep or livestock experience, facilities available for raising the sheep and intentions for the sheep.
 - b. **Video/Pictures:** The video or pictures adequately showcase facilities and basic necessities for sheep that will be utilized for raising the awarded sheep.
 - c. **Signed Letters:** There will need to be two signed letters that are required for the application to be considered.
 - i. A signed letter from parent(s) or guardian(s) stating their approval of the application and all the responsibilities (feed, finances, time, etc.) that go along with the possible receipt of the award.
 - ii. A signed letter of recommendation from a 4-H/FFA leader, **or** from a current USTSA member.
2. Receipt of application by the USTSA Secretary will be provided to the applicant via email or written letter.

3. Complete applications with supporting material will be reviewed by a USTSA committee, and the top five (5) finalists will be chosen per USTSA policy. Those five (5) finalists will be notified by mail or email of their selection.
4. The 5 finalists will complete an interview with the starter flock finalist committee to determine a winner and an alternate from the 5 applicants. The interview will be conducted via Zoom or some other video conferencing platform that is applicable to the committee members and the applicant.
5. The winning applicant will be notified in writing by June 1st, and will be awarded the starter flock at the 2023 USTSA National Show and Sale, held July 13-15, 2023, in Little Falls, Minnesota. **Attendance at the National Show & Sale is mandatory.**
 - a. The recipient will be eligible and encouraged to participate in the showmanship competition at the 2023 USTSA National Junior Show.
 - b. The recipient will also be given a \$150.00 buyers credit by the USTSA for use at the 2023 National Show & Sale.
 - c. The other four (4) finalists will be invited and encouraged to attend the 2023 USTSA National Show & Sale.
6. The recipient will be assigned a “mentor” by the USTSA who will be located as close to their residence as possible. The “mentor” will provide knowledge, advice, and support to the winner, and will also occasionally check on the welfare of the awarded animals.
7. Basic necessities (feed, water, shelter, etc) to grow and maintain the sheep in good health must be provided at all times. Failure to maintain the health and welfare of the animals (as determined by the mentor) will result in immediate surrender of the animals to the USTSA at the cost of the recipient.
8. Only a USTSA registered Targhee ram may be used for breeding.
9. The recipient will be required to exhibit at least one of the award animals at a local, county, state or national show by the end of the 2024 calendar year. A brief letter, including a picture, detailing the show must be submitted to the USTSA Secretary by November 1st of either year for publication in *Targhee Talk* and/or posting on the USTSA website.
10. The recipient will also be strongly encouraged to donate animals back to the Starter Flock Program once their flock is established.
11. This is a one-time award – previous recipients may not apply.

U.S. Targhee Sheep Association 2023 Starter Flock Program Application

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Parent / Guardian Name(s): _____

Does your family currently raise livestock? _____ If yes, what species/breed? _____

If chosen, you must be able to attend the 2023 USTSA National Show and Sale, held July 13-15, 2023 in Little Falls, Minnesota. Will you be able to attend? _____

Obtain all signatures required below, and attach the following to this application:

1. An essay written by the applicant which details your interest in the Targhee breed, any other sheep or livestock experience you or your family may have, the facilities you have available for raising the sheep, and your intentions for the sheep.
2. A video or pictures that adequately showcase facilities and basic necessities for sheep that will be utilized for raising the awarded sheep.
3. A signed letter from your parent(s) or guardian(s) stating their approval of your application and all the responsibilities (feed, finances, time, etc.) that go along with possible receipt of this award
4. A signed letter of recommendation from a 4-H/FFA leader, **or** from a current USTSA member
- 5.

Mail or email this completed application to:

U.S. Targhee Sheep Association
Attn: Starter Flock Program
PO Box 955
Chinook, MT 59523
ustargheesheep@gmail.com

By signing below, we affirm that we have read all policies and procedures and agree to abide by them if chosen to be the recipient of the USTSA Starter Flock Program:

Applicant Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____