

# **2026 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 10 to 15 as of January 1, 2026, whose immediate family does not raise registered Targhee sheep.

**What Comprises the Starter Flock?** The winner will be awarded a Starter Flock of three (3) ewes, consisting of at least one (1) ewe lamb donated by members of the USTSA. The donors from the USTSA will have quality sheep that meet Targhee breed standards. In order to achieve this, the donated ewes will go through the sifting process at the show and sale. Each animal will be a USTSA registered animal, with a side micron less than 24.94 and must have a QR scrapie codon 171 genotype.

**Promotion** The program will be featured on the USTSA website, and advertisements will be advertised on social media and in youth organizations as declared by the Starter Flock committee. Promotion by current members at shows and sales is strongly recommended.

**Award** The winning applicant will be notified by May 1, 2026, and will be awarded the starter flock at the 2026 USTSA National Show and Sale, held July 16-18th, 2026, in Huron, South Dakota. **Attendance at the National Show & Sale is mandatory.**

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- a. The recipient will be eligible and encouraged to participate in the showmanship competition at the 2026 USTSA National Junior Show.
- b. A buyer credit of a minimum of \$500 will be donated by the USTSA for the intended use of purchasing sheep at the 2026 National Show & Sale.

Complete applications with supporting material will be reviewed by the USTSA Starter Flock Committee. The chosen applicants will complete a primary interview via Zoom on a device with camera access, and a possible farm visit from members of the USTSA.

**U.S. Targhee Sheep Association**  
**2026 Starter Flock Program Application**  
**Applications are due March 1st, 2026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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If chosen, you must be able to attend the 2025 USTSA National Show and Sale, held July 16-18th, 2026 in Huron, South Dakota. Will you be able to attend? Y/N? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the means to transport your sheep from the National Show and Sale? Y/N? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide videos and pictures via email adequately showing facilities and basic necessities for the awarded sheep.** To help provide guidance to the Starter Flock winner, a USTSA member will be available for support and to check on the welfare of the awarded animals.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

*Please feel free to use an extra sheet of paper if needed.*

1 How did you hear of the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Starter Flock program?

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2) Do you currently own sheep? If yes, how many years of experience do you have involving sheep? (4-H, FFA, or Junior Show Involvement)

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3) What facilities do you have available to house and care for sheep?

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4) Describe your knowledge/experience of the Targhee breed? Including both, encouraging and challenging moments.

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5) Part of the program is to be an active member in the U.S. Junior Targhee Sheep Association and the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association. How do you see yourself contributing and giving back to the Association?

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6) What do you know about the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP)?

*If you have no knowledge of the NSIP program, please leave it blank.*

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7) Please tell us about your short and long term goals within raising registered Targhee Sheep?

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## **References:**

Please provide a letter of recommendation from an 4-H or FFA leader along with an email address and phone number.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Veterinarian Contact:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

The 2026 U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Starter Flock winner will be notified no later than May 1st, 2026.

Applications can be sent to [ustargheesheep@gmail.com](mailto:ustargheesheep@gmail.com) or mailed to Jonalyn Beastrom at 20344 293rd Ave. Pierre, SD 57501

If you have any questions about this application, please feel free to call Jonalyn Beastrom at 605-280-8182 or Scott Kilber at 605-380-5262

## Policies:

- The starter flock winner will be required to donate a Registered Targhee Ewe that meets breed standards back to the program within three (3) years. In the first five (5) years if the recipient finds it necessary to liquidate their Targhee Flock or cannot maintain them, he/she/they **MUST** notify the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association. The donated sheep will be returned to their original donors.
- Only USTSA registered Targhee rams may be used for breeding.
- Basic needs (feed, water, shelter, vaccinations, etc.) to grow and maintain the sheep in good health must be provided at all times. If failure to do so, mentors will visit and evaluate the accommodations to decide if the sheep need to be surrendered to the USTSA at the cost of the recipient.
- The recipient will be required to exhibit at least one (1) of the awarded animals in a local, county, state or national show within one year (July 2026) of being awarded. Results will be posted on the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association and the U.S. Junior Targhee Sheep Association Facebook pages, Targhee Talk and our website.
- This is a one-time award, previous awarded recipients may not reapply.
- Your parents and or guardian must understand the responsibility and approve of this application.
- The donated ewe lamb shall be transferred early into the recipient's name to be eligible to show in the USTSA Junior Show as well as meeting deadlines for local, county and state fairs.

*By signing this agreement, I have read the above policies and assume the responsibility of any and all that is required with the awarded sheep from the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Starter Flock program. A signature from a USTSA member indicates that they agree to be your mentor for the duration of the applicant owning Targhee sheep.*

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Applicant

Parent or Guardian

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*USTSA Member/Mentor (If directed you to application)*