

A U.S. TARGHEE SHEEP ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION

TARGHEE TALK



October 2026

Photo from Targhee Archives

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From My Flock to Yours

A letter from the USTSA President

Hello everyone –

Greetings from the Whack-A-Mole Sheep Ranch. At least that is what it feels like around here in the Fall. Every time we get one job done, another job (or maybe more) pops up for the next day. We have been weighing lambs, weaning lambs, hauling lambs to the market, and culling ewes. We have also been doing the same with the cattle. Our weather forecast is a temperature of 85 degrees tomorrow and a chance of snow the following night. Apparently, that is a hint that we should get the Fall work done because Winter is coming soon.

Utah, the host state for this years show and sale, is a new area for us but there may be more fine woolled white-faced sheep within 500 miles of this coming National location, than anywhere else in the country. It is time they were introduced to the Targhee breed in a big way.

This newsletter should also have an update on the Wyoming, South Dakota, National (Utah) and Montana ram sales. I am familiar with how the Montana and Wyoming sales faired. The prices were disappointing considering the lamb market. However, the lamb prices were not enough to overcome the impact of the drought over wide areas of those states, as well as neighboring states. When a person has already sold a share of their ewe and cow herds and is hoping to hold onto the rest of their livestock, feed looks like a better investment than more livestock. By the time the next newsletter comes out, some of you will have sheared and be getting ready to lamb. Those moles just keep popping up.

Sincerely,

Jack McRae

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Mark Your Calendars for 2027 Nationals!

The 2027 U.S. Targhee Sheep Association National Show and Sale will be held in Manti, Utah July 15-17! Planning is underway and further details will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Utah!

November 5th -7th , 2026 - Wyoming Wool Growers State Convention in Cody, WY

December 4th- 6th , 2026 - Montana Wool Growers State Convention in Billings, MT

Ram Sale Results

98th WWGA (Wyoming Wool Growers) Wyoming State Ram Sale - Targhee Yearlings averaged \$858 with the high seller bringing \$1500

Miles City Ram Sale - The Targhee Ram sale average was \$1,149.00 on 187 head. The high selling Targhee Ram was offered by Wacy & Jami Ortmann of Wolf Point, MT, selling for \$9,500.00 to Bob Innes of Innes Ranch in Gillette, WY.

Miles City Ewe Sale - Montana Sheep Co of Fort Shaw, MT topped the ewe sale with a consignment of 10 head of Targhee ewes selling for \$850/hd. Whitefaced ewes sold on site averaged \$593/hd.

Newell Ram Sale - Targhee ewes averaged \$766.67 on 3 head. Targhee Stud rams averaged \$833.33 on 3 head. Targhee Range rams averaged \$1,050.14 on 14 head.

National Ram Sale - Targhee Yearling Range Rams averaged \$692.00 on 39 head. Targhee Range Ram Lambs averaged \$500.00 on 9 head. Targhee Yearling Stud Rams averaged \$725.00 on 4 head. Targhee Stud Ram Lamb averaged \$350.00 on 1 head. Across all breeds, a total of 33 registered ewes were sold, averaging \$548.00 per head. Commercial ewes averaged \$445.00 on 211 head.

OFDA EXPLAINED



EXPLANATION OF ANALYSIS AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The OFDA 2000 is a portable instrument that tests wool for fiber diameter, variability of fiber diameter, comfort factor, staple length, and many other measured and calculated traits. The American Sheep Industry owns and provides the machines to four universities and a cooperative to help improve the sheep industry's wool clip within the United States. These objective measurements are a useful tool for genetic selection in breeding programs and can be used during shearing to class wool.

Average Fiber Diameter (AFD)

- This is a measurement of the wool sample's thickness measured in microns.
- A micron is another term for micrometer, which is one millionth of a meter or approximately 1/25,400 inches.
- As wool does not grow at a uniform thickness, fiber diameter varies within the staple and fibers growing next to each other grow at different rates. Even within a sample, it is not uncommon for fibers to have a difference of 15 or more microns.
- The OFDA 2000 reports this value under the abbreviation MIC AVE.

Standard Deviation (SD)

- This is a measurement of the variation of wool fiber diameter.
- Statistically speaking, 2/3 of the fibers measured fall within +/- one SD of the Average Fiber Diameter.
- For example - a sample with an AFD of 22.5 micron and a SD of 4.5 micron would have 2/3's of the fibers measured between 18 and 27 micron. The other 1/3 of the fibers would be finer than 18 micron or coarser than 27 micron.
- The smaller the SD, the closer the fibers are to the Average Fiber Diameter, resulting in less variation among the individual fiber diameters for the entire sample.
- The OFDA 2000 reports this value as SD MIC.

Coefficient of Variation (CV%)

- This is another measure of variability of the fiber diameter, but is expressed as a percentage and is relative to the average fiber diameter.
- This is determined mathematically using the equation: $CV\% = SD/AFD \times 100$
- This is a useful measurement as it allows one to compare wools of different fiber diameters.
- Ideally, the CV% should be 20% or less within an individual animal sample.
- The OFDA 2000 reports this value as CV MIC.

Comfort Factor (CF%)

- This is the percentage of fibers 30 microns in diameter or less.
- It has been shown that fibers greater than 30 microns are rigid and do not bend when they come in contact with the skin, resulting in the prickly feeling of wool and/or causing skin irritation.
- Wool that is going to be made into garments should have a CF% of at least 95%.
- Wool with a comfort factor of 95% is made into garments, so they do not feel scratchy or cause skin irritations.
- The OFDA 2000 reports this value as CF %.

Staple Length (SL)

- This is a measurement of the length of the relaxed staple expressed in millimeters.
- The OFDA 2000 reports this value as SL mm.

OFDA EXPLAINED

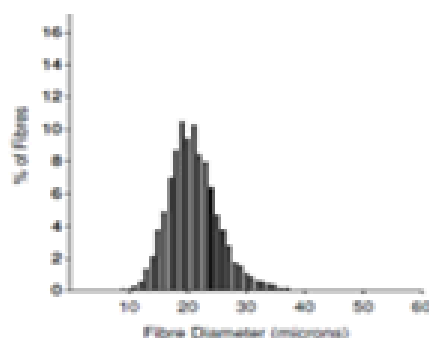
Histogram

- This is a graph that shows the individual fiber diameter measurements of a sample.
- The fiber diameter of each fiber measurement is put into “bars” on the chart, typically in one-micron groups. The higher the height of the “bar,” the more fibers have been measured in that group.
- This is a quick and easy way to view the variability of fiber diameter within a sample.
- For example, see figure 1a.

Micron Profile

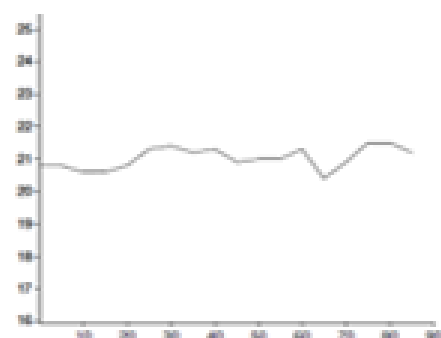
- This is a graph of the variation of fiber diameter along the staple during the growing season.
- Individual wool fibers are measured every five millimeters along the fiber.
- The left side corresponds to the fiber tip and the right side corresponds to the fiber base (closest to the skin).
- This information is useful in determining the environmental differences that affect fiber diameter during the growing season and growers can use this information to make management decisions to benefit wool growth throughout the entire year.
- A relatively flat line indicates more uniform wool grown throughout the year.
- For example, see figure 1b.

Figure 1a and 1b.



An example of a histogram.

EarTag : Example
Micron : 21.0 mic
SD : 4.3 mic
CP : 97.1 %



An example of a micron profile report.

*Please Note: The abbreviations are those used by the programmer and manufacturer of the OFDA 2000. They are not necessarily standard abbreviations.

OFDA EXAMPLE

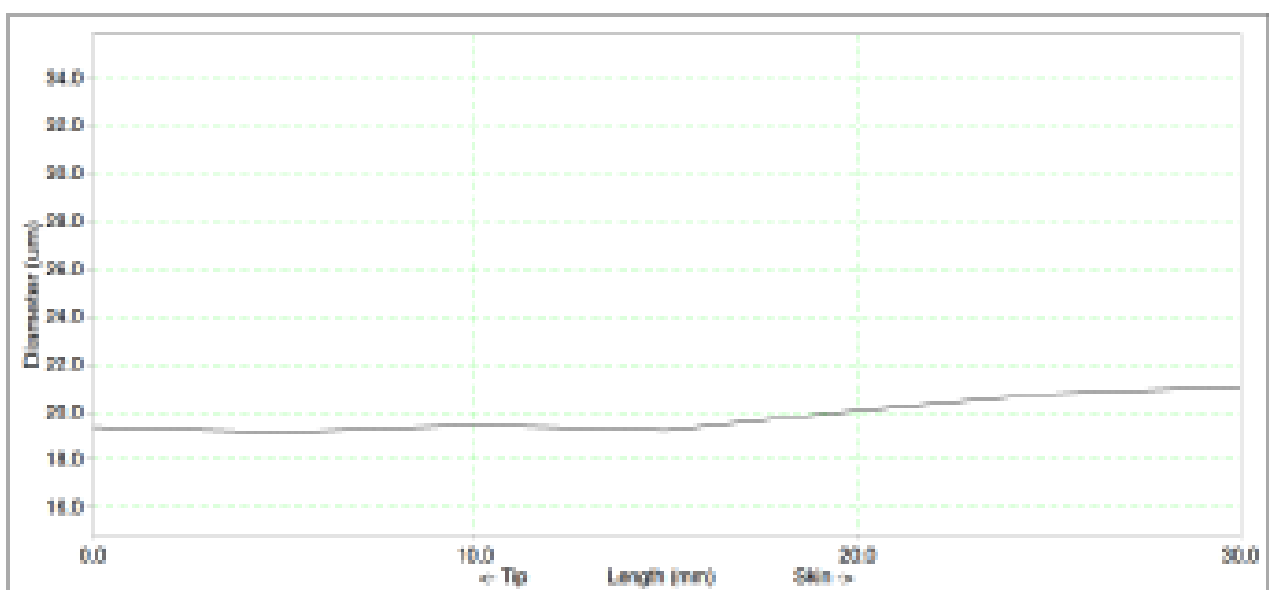
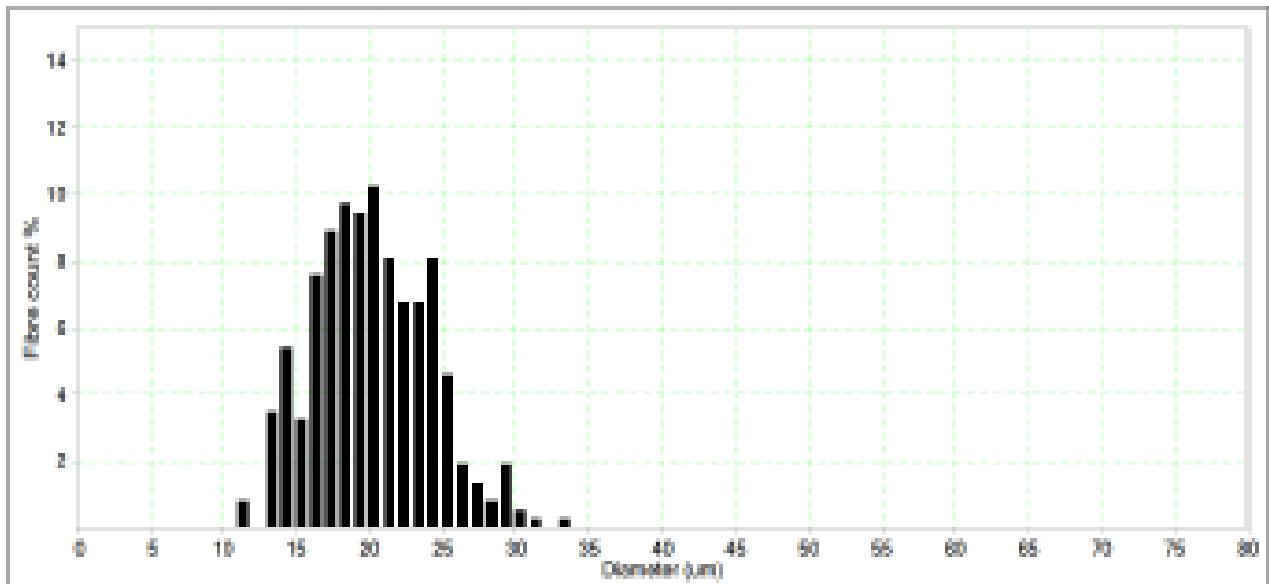
OFDA Test Report

OFDA2217 v5.078 (Gal-5.0519W-0.53), Measured: 10Sep20, File: [REDACTED]

Name : 0072
Description :
Operator : [REDACTED]
Lot/client : [REDACTED]

Diameter : 19.9 μ m
SD : 4.0 μ m
CV : 19.9 %
CE : 7.1 μ m
Comfort : 99.5 %
%<15um : 9.7 %
Spin fineness : 19.2 μ m
Curve : 92.6 deg/mm
Curve SD : 79.9 deg/mm
Num fibres : 371

Staple length : 35.9 mm
Finest from tip : 5.9 mm
Mean diam ends : 20.2 μ m
Skin diam : 21.1 μ m
Min diam : 19.1 μ m
Max diam : 21.1 μ m
SD Along : 0.8 μ m
SD Across : 4.0 μ m



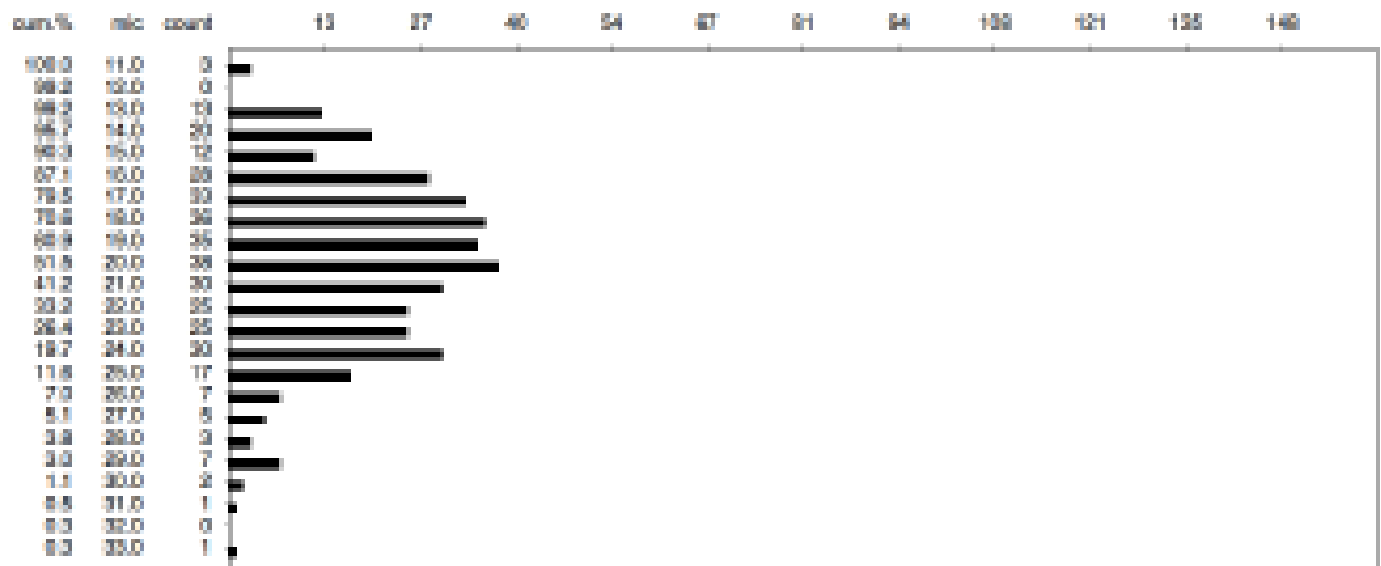
OFDA EXAMPLE

: Diameter Histogram

Date :
 Sample ID : 8772
 Description :
 Lot/Client :
 Operator :

Diam = 19.9[4.6] μ m
 CV = 19.9 %
 GEM = 7.1 μ m
 CF = 99.5 %
 Spin thickness = 19.17
 Sample size = 371
 Curve = 92.6[79.0] degrees

OFDA22175.378 Cal: D = 5.0515*WH -0.53
 Filename:



U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Secretary/Treasurer Job Opening

U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Secretary/Treasurer

Job Description: Secretary – Treasurer – United States Targhee Sheep Association

Position: Secretary – Treasurer: United States Targhee Sheep Association

Location: Remote (Must attend the National Show and Sale)

Compensation:

- Total Compensation = \$4,000
 - Quarterly Payments = \$1,000/ Quarter (April, July, October, and December)
- Travel stipend for National Show and Sale = TBD
- Time Requirement –
 - Duties vary throughout the year.
 - June, July, and August require most time commitment.
 - ~ 12 Hours/ Month required to be successful in this placement.

Summary: The principal purpose of this position is to support the USTSA mission statement as stated in the bylaws: "The general purpose is to promote and develop the Targhee breed of sheep in particular and the sheep industry in general". The Secretary/ Treasurer will conduct business on behalf of the association under the direction of the USTSA Board of Directors. The ideal candidate will have a passion for agriculture and Targhee sheep.

Key Responsibilities:

General:

- Be a positive representative of the Targhee breed and its breeders.
- Be available to members for questions and support as needed.

Membership:

- Maintain an up-to-date membership list, ensuring accurate records of all members.
- Actively recruit new breeders to join the association and increase membership.
- Serve as a liaison for members to our registry contractor.

Meetings:

- Keep accurate meeting minutes during all Board Meetings and Committee Meetings.
- Collaborate with the President to construct meeting agendas.
- Send out meeting packets to all Board members prior to meetings to ensure effective communication and preparation.

U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Secretary/Treasurer Job Opening

Promotion:

- Targhee Talk. Create and distribute at least 5 Targhee newsletters.
- Website. Keep the website up to date with current Targhee Talks, Board of Directors and other pertinent information such as:
 - Post the updated breeder list
 - Correct Forms When Available (Registration Forms, Entry Forms, Applications, etc.)
- Social Media.
 - Creation of original material routinely that activates social media audiences.
 - Education of the Targhee Breed.
- National Show and Sale.
 - Work closely with the Sale Committee Chair prior to the show and sale to create a catalog, publish and promote sale order (after the conclusion of the National Open Show) and advertising.
 - Send out press releases to various media prior to and at the conclusion of the National Show and Sale.
 - Responsible for maintaining nationwide press files and sending out news releases when newsworthy items occur.

Office Management:

- Operate the USTSA business office.

Financial Oversight:

- Manage all accounting tasks for the USTSA, including making payments, tracking income and expenses, and filing necessary documents with IRS and other government agencies.
- Provide detailed financial reports to the Board quarterly and annually.
- Prepare a Biannual financial summary to be presented to the USTSA members.
- Balance books with cash deposits and monthly payouts.
- Provide USTSA President with a copy of the USTSA checking register, reconciliation reports, bank statements, and compensation received by Secretary/Treasurer.
- Close out the National Sale and make payouts within 30 days of the sale. Clear buyer checks before making payouts.
- File annual report with Montana Secretary of State every year by April 1st.
- File all local, state, and federal tax papers as necessary (Form 990 N by May 15th).

U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Secretary/Treasurer Job Opening

Job Requirements:

- **Experience:** 2+ years of experience in business or agri-business management, or a bachelor's degree in a related field. Special consideration given to candidates with prior experience in sale management, promotion, and livestock registry.
- **Skills:** Strong organizational and project management skills, with the ability to prioritize and oversee multiple tasks. Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- **Technical Skills:** Proficient in Microsoft Office, Quick Books, and Canva. Ability to learn and adapt to modern technology systems.
- **Customer Service:** A customer-oriented approach to member relations, providing efficient and friendly support.

How to Apply:

Interested parties should email a cover letter, resume and references to Jackie McMartin via email at ustargheesheep@gmail.com by 11/15/26. For questions, please contact Jackie at (805)553-3331.

Tentative start date January 2027.

Starter Flock Application

2027 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, 2027, 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. 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, 2027, and will be awarded the starter flock at the 2027 USTSA National Show and Sale, held July 15-17th, 2027, in Manti, Utah. Attendance at the National Show & Sale is mandatory.

- a. The recipient will be eligible and encouraged to participate in the showmanship competition at the 2027 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 2027 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
2027 Starter Flock Program Application
Applications are due March 1st, 2027

Starter Flock Application

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____
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 2027 USTSA National Show and Sale, held July 15-17th, 2025 in Manti, Utah. 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 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) Do you currently own sheep? If yes, how many years of experience do you have involving sheep? (4-H, FFA, or Junior Show Involvement)

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

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

Starter Flock Application

4) 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?

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

6) What do you know about the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP)?
If you have no knowledge of the NSIP program, please leave blank.

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

Starter Flock Application

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 2027 U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Starter Flock winner will be notified no later than May 1st, 2027.

Applications can be sent to ustargheesheep@gmail.com or mailed to Logan Johnson 39880 214th st Huron, SD 57350

If you have any questions about this application, please feel free to call Logan Johnson (605)350-5923 Or Randell Von Krosigk (605)681-3360

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.

Starter Flock Application

- 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 2027) 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 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.

Applicant

Parent or Guardian

Name: _____ Signature: _____

USTSA Member/Mentor (If directed you to application)



U.S. Targhee Sheep Association

Stay current with us using www.targheesheepus.com
and follow us on Facebook @ US Targhee Sheep
Association