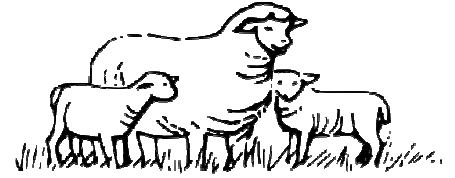


**Rockbridge County Sheep and Wool Growers Association, Inc.
P.O. Drawer 897
Lexington, VA 24450**

July, 2015

Rockbridge Starter Flock ‘Sheep Chain’



The Rockbridge Starter Flock ‘Sheep Chain’ is a program for young people who have some acres of pasture where they could keep sheep. The Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers Association will provide three (3) breeding-age ewes to the winning applicant and help them learn how to care for and raise sheep for fun and profit.

The Association will assign the winning applicant an experienced mentor who will visit the flock regularly and provide guidance in the care of the sheep. The Association will also provide a ram for a period long enough to breed the ewes once the applicant has determined when they want the ewes to lamb.

Applicants need to read the guidelines provided, prepare their application, and have the full participation and support of a parent or guardian. **Applications must be received by Monday, September 28, 2015. Sheep will be delivered to the applicant in January, 2016 depending on what is best for the winning applicant.**

If you wish to apply or have questions, call Tom Stanley at his office: 540-463-4734 or his cell phone: 540-588-0241 or contact him by e-mail at milkbarnmeadow@gmail.com.

The Rockbridge Sheep Starter Flock ‘Sheep Chain’ is made possible in part by a grant from:



Rockbridge Starter Flock ‘Sheep Chain’ Program Guidelines

Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers Association

1. An application and all supporting materials (listed below) must be submitted to the Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers Association (RSWGA) by **Monday, September 28, 2015**. The target age range for award recipients is 8 to 14 years of age but is not limited to these ages.

a. An essay (not to exceed 500 words) must be completed and included with the application. The essay should detail the applicant’s interest in sheep and any other sheep or livestock experience they or their family has (none is required). The applicant should describe the land and facilities available for raising the sheep. It is expected the applicant demonstrate they are able to provide or will commit to install specified improvements:

- **Adequate water, shelter, and fencing (tight enclosure. Woven wire preferred) situated on a minimum of 3 acres of pasture.**
- A facility lay-out that allows the sheep to be easily corralled in a small pen to allow handling and close examination of the sheep.
- Full participation by parent (or legal guardian) and landowner.
- Sheep pasture must be within an easy distance of the young person’s primary residence that allows daily participation in the care of the sheep.
- Neither the applicant nor the applicant’s parents may already have breeding sheep nor can the starter flock be incorporated into an existing flock.

b. A signed letter from parent(s) or guardian(s) stating their approval of the Application and acceptance of all the responsibilities (feed, facilities, finances, time, etc.) that go along with the possible receipt of the award in addition to this application form.

2. Complete applications with supporting material will be reviewed by a RSWGGA committee. **Applicants should be prepared to host a site visit and interview by the selection committee. Participants are encouraged to utilize continuing education programs such as those offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension, webinars, and on-line resources.**

3. **The winning applicant will be notified in writing by Monday, October 12, 2015, with placement of the starter flock in January, 2016. Applicants will receive 3 ewes: 2 ewe lambs and 1 mature ewe as well as supporting materials:**

- **A copy of Storey’s Guide to Sheep**
- **An up-to-date current resource sheet/handbook**
- **One year membership in the American Sheep Industry Association**

The Rockbridge Sheep Starter Flock ‘Sheep Chain’ is made possible in part by a grant from:



Starter Flock 'Sheep Chain' Guidelines contd.

4. The recipient will be assigned a "mentor" by the RSWGGA. The "mentor" will provide knowledge, advice, and non-monetary support to the winner, and regularly check on the welfare of the awarded animals.
5. 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 members or representatives of the RSWGGA) will result in immediate surrender of the animals to the RSWGGA with no reimbursement for production expenses.
6. The recipient is encouraged to participate in 4-H and/or FFA and exhibit their lambs at the Rockbridge County Livestock Show.
7. The recipient is required to donate 3 ewes back to the RSWGGA Sheep Chain within the first three years of receiving their sheep. Ewe lambs are preferred but good quality mature ewes may be accepted at the discretion of RSWGGA.
8. This is a one-time award – previous recipients may not apply.
9. **The participant must understand** that farming activities have inherent physical and financial risks. The participant takes ownership of the awarded sheep and accepts full responsibility for the care of the sheep. The recipient acknowledges their responsibility to adhere to the "Sheep Chain Program Guidelines". By participating in the 'Sheep Chain' the participant grants permission to members or representatives of the Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers Association to enter their property at any time for the purpose of inspecting or otherwise accessing the sheep and allow said members or representatives to access the property with livestock transport vehicles should removal of the sheep become necessary. **It is understood by the Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers Association that there are inherent risks in all livestock production enterprises. The 'Sheep Chain' participant will not be financially obligated to RSWGGA in the event some or all the flock dies and the participant has made all reasonable efforts to properly meet the needs of the sheep. Appointed representatives of the RSWGGA will determine if the participant took appropriate and reasonable steps to care-for and protect the sheep from loss. The RSWGGA is the governing authority for this program and if the participant is found to be negligent in their stewardship of the flock, they can be held financially responsible.**

The Rockbridge Sheep Starter Flock 'Sheep Chain' is made possible in part by a grant from:



Rockbridge Starter Flock 'Sheep Chain' Program Participant Application

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City / State / Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Parent / Guardian Name(s): _____

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

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

1. An essay written by the applicant (not to exceed 500 words) which details your interest in sheep and 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 (see 'Sheep Chain Program Guidelines'). Applicants are encouraged to include photos of their pasture and facilities and to be thorough and creative in the compilation of their application
2. 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.

Mail or email this completed application to:

Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers Association
PO Drawer 897
Lexington, VA 24450
milkbarnmeadow@gmail.com

Questions may be directed to Tom Stanley at 540-588-0241 (cell) or 540-463-4734 (office) or e-mailed to milkbarnmeadow@gmail.com

Statement of assumed risk for the participant their parent/guardian: We the undersigned understand that farming activities have inherent physical and financial risks. We accept full responsibility for the care of these sheep and acknowledge our responsibility to adhere to the "Sheep Chain Program Guidelines". We agree to compensate the Association with sheep or with appropriate cash payment as described in the "Sheep Chain Program Guidelines". By participating in the 'Sheep Chain' we grant permission to members or representatives of the Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers Association to enter the property at any time for the purpose of inspecting or otherwise accessing the sheep and allow said members or representatives to access the property with livestock transport vehicles should removal of the sheep become necessary.

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Terms and Conditions: It is understood by the Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers Association that there are inherent risks in all livestock production enterprises. The ‘Sheep Chain’ participant will not be financially obligated to RSWG in the event some or all the flock dies and the participant has made all reasonable efforts to properly meet the needs of the sheep. Appointed representatives of the RSWGGA will determine that the participant took appropriate and reasonable steps to care-for and protect the sheep from loss. The RSWGGA is the governing authority for this program and if the participant is found to be negligent in their stewardship of the flock, they can be held financially responsible.

By signing below, we affirm that we have read the “Starter Flock ‘Sheep Chain’ Program Guidelines” and this Application with its Statement of Assumed Risk and the Terms and Conditions for the winning applicant, and we agree to abide by them if chosen to be the recipient of sheep through the Rockbridge Sheep and Wool Growers ‘Sheep Chain’ Program.

Applicant Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date.

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