**American Polypay Sheep Association**

**Starter Flock Grant Program**

**2026**

**Purpose:**

To promote the growth and usefulness of the Polypay Breed, and to encourage youth involvement and education in the breed.

**Who may apply?**

Any American Citizen ages 13-18 whose family does not raise Polypay Sheep.

**The starter flock Grant will consist of:**

A one-time $2000 grant from APSA to be used for the purchase of registered Polypay ewes or ewe lambs from a current APSA member of their choice. A purchase agreement between the APSA member and the grant recipient must be submitted to the APSA board of directors for approval by June 1, 2025. Funds will be distributed to the owner of the flock that is chosen upon transfer of registration.

**Promotion:**

The APSA Starter Flock Program will be listed on the APSA website and advertised in various magazines and outlets. Promotion by current members will be strongly encouraged.

**Policy and protocol:**

1. A completed application with supporting materials must be submitted to the APSA by April 1, 2026.

 a.  **Essay:** The applicant must write a short paper on why they think they should be awarded the grant.

 b. **Video / Pictures:** The applicant must show video or pictures that show basic facilities and feed sources that will be provided for the starter flock.

 c. **Signed Letters:** The applicant will need to provide two signed letters:

* + - * 1. A letter from the applicant’s parents stating their approval of the application and their responsibilities.
				2. A signed letter of recommendation from a 4H or FFA adviser or from a current APSA member.
1. Completed applications with other materials needed will be reviewed by the APSA board of directors and the top 3 applicants will be chosen.
2. Of the top three applicants, one winner will be chosen by the board of directors and notified by the current president of the APSA.
3. The winning applicant will be notified by July 1, 2026. And will be awarded the starter flock at the annual APSA meeting in Spencer, Iowa.
4. **Attendance at the annual meeting will be mandatory.**
5. The winner will be given a one-year membership to the APSA.
6. The grant recipient will be assigned an APSA member mentor in close proximity. The mentor will provide advice and support to the recipient and will be required to check on the animal’s welfare.
7. Basic needs of the animals must be always provided. If the basic needs of the animals are not met as determined by the mentor, the recipient must return all the animals to the original flock owner at the cost of the recipient.

**American Polypay Sheep Association**

**2026 Starter Flock Grant**

**Application**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardians Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

If awarded the flock you must attend the 2025 APSA Annual Meeting at Spencer, Iowa, can you be there?

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

* + 1. A short paper on why you think you should be awarded the flock.
		2. A video or pictures that show your facilities and feed sources that will be used to take care of the flock.
		3. A signed letter of recommendation from a 4H or FFA adviser or from a current APSA member.
		4. A signed letter from your parents or guardian stating their approval of your application and acknowledging all the responsibilities that will be required of you if awarded the grant.

Mail or email completed application to:

American Polypay Sheep Association

Nicole Jessen, Treasurer

17146 377th Ave.

Redfield, SD 57569

Phone (605)460-1932

Nljessen87@gmail.com

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicants Signature Parent / Guardians Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**APSA Starter Flock Grant application questions.**

1. What kind of experience do you have in the livestock industry if any?

1. What do you know about the Polypay Breed?

1. What are your plans or goals that you want to accomplish with a starter flock of Polypay Sheep?

 A. Short term goals?

 B. Long term goals?

1. What do you know about the National Sheep Improvement Program?
2. Describe the facilities and feed sources that you will be using to care for your sheep?
3. Are you involved in any organizations such as 4H or FFA?
4. What are some of the advantages of raising Polypay Sheep and describe their unique qualities that sets them apart from other breeds?
5. What or how will you contribute to or give back to the APSA?