

2025 John Sponaugle/ Young Shepard Award Application

In remembrance of John Sponaugle, the West Virginia Sheep and Goat Breeders Association has established funds to assist youth in becoming future Shepherds. John was a longtime member and supporter of the WVPSBA. Anyone that knew John, knew that he was an advocate for youth in agriculture. The intent of this award is to assist in the development of a starter flock or help advance an existing flock, develop breeding skills and increase involvement in their abilities of raising breeding sheep.

The West Virginia Sheep and Goat Breeders Association with the support of The West Virginia Department of Agriculture have established funds to assist youth in becoming future West Virginia Shepherds. The intent is to develop starter flocks, develop breeding skills and increase involvement in their abilities of raising breeding sheep and goats.

There will be four (4) applicants chosen for the Young Shepard's award and one (1) applicant for the John Sponaugle award. Each award given will be in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Interested applicants should meet the requirements below and submit the completed application by March 28th. Good luck to all young agriculturalists in your endeavors.

Award Requirements:

- Applicants must be youth between the ages of 9 and 21.
- Applicants applying for the Young Shepard's award must reside in WV, but applicants applying for the John Sponaugle award can be from WV or other states.
- Applicant must appoint a designated mentor either a (parent, relative, neighbor, FFA and/or 4-H leader, or a fellow sheep breeder).
- Applicant must consider breeding animals from the West Virginia Sheep and Goat Breeders sponsored sales. The intent being to start or extend the applicants own flock.
- The award must be used within two years of the presentation.

Application Process:

- Complete the attached application.
- The Youth Committee of the WVPSBA will review the applications and select the winner.
- Winners of the award will be notified several weeks prior to the annual show and sale, and will publicly be recognized prior to the West Virginia Sheep and Goat Sale on Saturday, April 26, 2025.
- Attach one letter of recommendation from a 4-H or FFA leader testifying to your ability to build a sheep flock or goat herd.

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Submit completed application forms to the address below or e-mail

GrantCountyExtension@mail.wvu.edu All applications need to be **postmarked no later than March 28th, 2025.**

Brad Smith
WVU Grant County Extension
114 North Grove Street
Petersburg, WV 26847

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(Please fill out all blanks)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Date of Birth: _____ County: _____

Mentor: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____ Years of 4-H and FFA Experience _____

School Currently Attending: _____

Year of HS Graduation: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents Signature : _____ (If under 18)

Mentors Signature: _____

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Please answer the following questions completely. Add additional pages as needed for questions.

1.) Begin by letting us know why you are interested in raising sheep or goats? **(20 points)**

2.) Tell us about the experiences you have learned from working with livestock and include your 4-H and FFA projects. **(20 points)**

3.) If you receive this award What type of sheep do you want to purchase and why you have chosen this breed? (Females, Male, Purebred, Commercial, Wether Sires/Dams, yearlings, lambs, meat goats, or kids?) **(20 points)**

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4.) What are your educational plans and career goals? (15 points)

5.) Pick **ONE** of the two following topics to write about and explain in 100-300 words . (25 points)

(5-1) Looking towards the future explain and describe how you might be involved in the sheep/goat industry.

(5-2) What values will owning your sheep/goats instill in you?