



Fine Fleece Shetland Sheep Association

Membership Form and Rules

FFSSA Mission: *To produce, preserve, and promote fine fleece Shetland sheep that adhere to the 1927 Shetland breed standard as clarified by the SSS Appendix A.*

FFSSA is composed of serious breeders who are striving hard to preserve, protect, promote, and breed Shetland sheep that adhere to the 1927 Shetland sheep breed standard as clarified by the SSS Appendix A and in accordance with the below FFSSA Grading chart. Benefits of joining FFSSA for Senior members include promotion by advertising, breeder's listings on the FFSSA website, inclusion of qualified sheep in the FFSSA database, general advertising by FFSSA in various publications, and the education of Fine Fleece Shetland sheep characteristics. Benefits for Junior members include inclusion of qualified sheep in the FFSSA database, education of Fine Fleece Shetland sheep characteristics, and mentoring. Benefits for Associate members include education of Fine Fleece Shetland sheep characteristics and mentoring.

Potential members must agree to and sign the membership application, submit any required information, and allow the inspection/s of their flocks by any appointed FFSSA representative to be considered for senior membership or for any sheep of theirs to be included in the FFSSA database. This database is for the tracking of fine fleece Shetland sheep in the US and Canada, and any AI importation that pass the criteria of FFSSA, so that FFSSA members may breed the best possible fine fleeced Shetland sheep.

To have sheep within the FFSSA database, full mid-side micron data must be submitted to the database, unless the sheep have been visually inspected by FFSSA inspectors. Only Shetland sheep that meet the criteria listed in the FFSSA grading chart are allowed in the FFSSA database. Untested sheep, but passed by FFSSA inspection, will be graded no better than grade 2. Only sheep that are micron tested may be included in grade 1 category.

FFSSA Shetland Grading Chart for Sheep Acceptability

FFSSA Grade	O. Henry's Grading	Typical Crimps/”	AFD Range	Avg AFD	CV	Fleece Description	Qualified FFSSA database Shetland sheep
1	Superfine	8 or more	20-25.0	23.0	< or = 24%	<i>Uniform quality (fineness and staple length), consistent crimp, very silky, soft handle</i>	Must meet grade for AFD and CV.
2	Fine	6 or more	25.01-30.0	27.5	< or = 26%	<i>As above but may be lacking in uniformity, has a good handle but may lack the silky soft handle of grade 1</i>	Must meet grade for AFD and CV with these further restrictions: All lambs are on a provisional status until 18 months of age. Ram lambs/yearling rams up to 27.5 AFD and an SD of 7.0 or lower, Adult Rams with an SD of 7.0 or lower. Ewe lambs/yearlings must be no higher than grade 2. Dual peaks or very broad peaks on histograms may be restricted as well at the discretion of FFSSA.
3	Good	4 or more	30.01-32.0	31	< or = 30%	<i>Bulkier fleece, may lack uniformity</i>	Adult Ewes only. Rams not qualified to be higher than grade 2. Adult ewes must meet criteria for AFD and CV. Dual peaks or very broad peaks on histograms may be restricted as well at the discretion of FFSSA.
4	Heavy				>30%	<i>Longer outer coat on sides and back (dual coated), handle can still be soft, may have finer undercoat</i>	Not acceptable for FFSSA database inclusion. Based on CV data, dual peaks or very broad peaks on histograms and/or FFSSA inspection and the presence of dual coat.
5	Rough		>32		>30%	<i>Coarse fiber with strong guard hair presence (dual coated), may still have a soft handle, undercoat can be soft</i>	Not acceptable for FFSSA database inclusion. Based on AFD and/or CV data, dual peaks or very broad peaks on histograms and/or FFSSA inspection and the presence of dual coat.

(Note: Please see the detailed FFSSA chart for more information regarding in depth fleece descriptions and further refinements.)

Fine Fleece Shetland Sheep Association

www.finefleece-shetland-sheep.org

Definitive FFSSA Shetland Sheep Criteria:

Rams: Adult breeding rams must grade out in grades 1-2 to be considered qualified to use for FFSSA breeding and database inclusion. See the chart for further specifications. In addition, breeding rams may be required to have front, rear, and side photos submitted to FFSSA. Fleece sample submissions may be required as well. Breeding rams should have good conformation and either have good horns or be polled. Scurred rams may necessitate the submission of close head photos. Ram lambs/yearling rams under 18 months may micron up to 27.5 AFD and have an SD of 7.0 or lower. Ram lambs/yearlings that are higher than this are not allowed in the FFSSA database. In addition, for a ram lamb/yearling to stay in the database, adult micron data (22 mo. and older data) must be submitted to FFSSA.

Ewes: Adult ewes (22 mo. and older) must grade out in grades 1-3 to be included in FFSSA. Ewe lambs or yearling ewes must grade out in grades 1 or 2. Check the chart for further specifications. Photo and fleece submissions may be required. Ewes are encouraged to have good conformation. Adult ewes may be evaluated by FFSSA representative inspection alone but will grade no lower than 2.

Non-FFSSA sheep: Any sheep with mid-side fleece above 32.01 microns or with a CV over 30% is not allowed in the FFSSA database.

Foundation Stock and AI: In addition, all foundation sheep must be NASSA registered to be included in the database, unless it is an AI import ram. Any newly imported AI rams must be of a grade 1 or 2 category as deemed by FFSSA.

FFSSA Membership Tier

Senior Member (voting) - for members who have proven to be following the mission and purpose of the association by doing the following:

1. Have a majority of purebred registered Shetland sheep in their flock that meet the criteria in the FFSSA grading chart.
2. All breeding rams used by the breeder must micron according to grades 1 or 2 as described by the chart, as deemed by submission of micron data to FFSSA and/or one flock inspection by one or more of the FFSSA representatives, unless there is an exception allowed by FFSSA. Micron testing at this membership level is done on sheep through 3 years of age.
3. Be actively breeding pure Shetland sheep that meet the criteria of FFSSA grades 1-3.

Active senior membership is required to vote in an FFSSA election or hold office in FFSSA. In addition, Senior members have the privilege of being listed on the FFSSA breeder's directory listing and the use of the FFSSA logo and Traditional 1927 CM on their sheep and wool products according to the appropriate grade. Must be 18 years old or older and must pass the above qualifications by the FFSSA board and/or an FFSSA appointed representative before being admitted to Senior membership. *

Junior member (non-voting) - for members who are less than 18 years of age that have Shetlands and are following the Senior member qualifications. Junior members may not vote or hold an FFSSA office (unless 16 or older and appointed to a junior office). Junior members have the privilege of using the FFSSA logo and Traditional 1927 CM on their sheep and wool products, according to the appropriate grade. *

Associate member (non-voting) - members who are interested in the goals of the organization but do not have sheep or do not have enough sheep (a majority and all breeding rams) to qualify for senior or junior membership. Associate members may not vote or hold an FFSSA office, nor are they allowed FFSSA website breeder directory privileges or the use of the FFSSA logo or Traditional 1927 CM on any sheep or wool products. **May submit fees to have registry privileges** with sheep being micron tested through 5 years old at this membership level. May be upgraded to Senior with additional dues and passing qualifications in any given year.*

* - exceptions for pure breeding are allowed in special cases, please discuss with your regional FFSSA representative.

Non-Renewal Conditions:

A member may be denied renewal if they fail to comply with the above terms or may have their membership changed to associate member within a given year. In addition, the following would be reason for non-renewal:

- Misrepresenting the grade levels of Shetlands in their flock
- Using the logo and/or collective mark on fleeces and products that do not qualify for grades 1-3
- Providing inaccurate information to the organization
- Behaving in a manner that reflects negatively on the organization
- Failing to pay dues in a timely manner

FFSSA does not compile data on sheep in grades 4 or 5, nor does it prevent the crossbreeding of Shetland sheep for any purpose.

Please note: Memberships are valid for one year only. Annual renewal is required.

Fees (Due by January 31 of the current year): Senior - \$25. Upgrade to Senior - \$10. Junior - \$15. Associate - \$15. Associate with Registration Privileges - \$25

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FFSSA Membership Application

Please check the type of membership you are applying for:

Senior (\$25) ____ Upgrade to Senior (\$10) ____ Junior (\$15) ____

Associate (\$15) ____ Associate with Registry Privileges (\$25) ____

Please fill out in entirety, *= include on website for breeder's listing for Senior members, unless otherwise requested

*Name/s: _____ If Jr. Member, Date of Birth: _____

*Farm Name/Flock Name: _____

*Address: _____ *City: _____

*State/Province: _____ *Zip+4: _____

*Daytime phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Other phone: _____

Email Address: *#1: _____ #2: _____

Website address: *#1: _____ #2: _____

NASSA Flock #: _____ Date flock established: _____

FFSSA Flock #: (will be assigned to you once you join; renewing members, please fill in): _____

VSP #: _____ Other: _____ Census of Shetland Flock: Rams: _____ Ewes: _____

Senior Members Only:

Include my information in the FFSSA website breeder's directory.

Do NOT include my information in the FFSSA website breeder's directory.

Breeder's listing special notes - please list any other information you would like included on the website such as flock colors/patterns, or items your farm has for sale:

By submitting this Membership Application to FFSSA, I/we hereby state that I/we will strive to the best of our ability to preserve, protect, and promote 1927 Shetland breed standard sheep as clarified by Appendix A and the criteria listed in the FFSSA chart for FFSSA Grades 1-3 and to follow the FFSSA criteria listed in this application and the FFSSA by-laws. I understand that the FFSSA may deny my membership application for any reason that it deems appropriate.

Signature of applicant/s: _____ Date: _____

Signature of applicant/s: _____ Date: _____

JUNIOR MEMBERS - Signature of parent: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Please submit hard or electronic scanned copies of micron data labeled with sheep's name on all registered or registerable Shetland rams and ewes with your application. FFSSA flock inspections may be required before application is accepted.

Application and micron data to:

FFSSA/GLM Registry, 19508 Tiller Trail Hwy, Days Creek, OR 97429 - (541-825-8580)

Or email scanned copies to: FFSSA@glmregistry.com

When membership is approved, mail dues to:

FFSSA/GLM Registry, 19508 Tiller Trail Hwy, Days Creek, OR 97429 - (541-825-8580) email: FFSSA@glmregistry.com

Or use the PayPal button at www.finefleeceshetlandsheep.org