



## FLORIDA BORN MARKET WETHER FUTURITY

Starting in early 2021 in preparation for the 2021-2022 season, the Junior Sheep Association of Florida (JSAF) is proud to present our inaugural futurity program, the Florida Born Market Wether Program, with a goal of showcasing the best wether lambs produced in Florida.

This program will consist of a “points series” similar to programs that are present in many other states, where lambs taking part within the program are “tracked” for separate awards at the end of the season, just for Florida born lambs.

Participation is easy, and requires a few steps. A wether lamb taking part within the program must be born to a breeder who is a member of the JSAF, and the lamb must be nominated by the breeder and identified by the JSAF before the lamb is weaned. Youth who wish to take part in the program can purchase a “nominated” lamb, become a JSAF member, and then register the lamb as participating in the program as the buyer.

Points will be earned by the highest placing Florida born in existing classes. At this time, there will not be classes exclusively for Florida born lambs, but upon the success of this program, is an option that we may include in the future.

### HOW IT WORKS

1. Interested breeders located in Florida who would like their lambs to participate in the program must join the JSAF as a breeder member and pay the applicable fees. Membership applications and information will be available on our website.

Adult Breeder – 10 or Fewer Lambs/Season	\$50.00
Adult Breeder – 11 or More Lambs/Season (*Includes listing in JSAF Breeders Directory)	\$100.00
Youth Member – Registering/Showing Lambs from Own Farm	Free
Youth Member – Registering Lambs from Own Farm and Selling to Other Members	\$25.00 (Up to Four Lambs)
Listing in JSAF Breeders Directory	\$50.00 (If Not Already Included)

2. After lambing, the breeder chooses which of their lambs they would like to nominate at a cost of \$10.00 per lamb, and notifies the JSAF they would like them to be nominated for the program, in the spring. Lambs must still be on the ewe to be eligible.
3. Once a month, members of the JSAF Board of Directors will make plans to travel to the farms of breeders who have lambs they would like nominated. Specific dates and times will be provided to all breeder members.
  - The farm visit will include the implant of a microchip and insertion of a special futurity program ear tag for each lamb nominated for the program, along with information over how the breeder can promote their nominated lambs to members. Lambs must still visibly be on the ewe in order to be eligible.
  - The microchip serves as the primary identifier for our records, and the tags make it easy to quickly identify participating lambs by breeders and the promote visibility of the program in the sheep community.
4. When weaned, breeders sell their nominated lambs to members. The member can then register the lamb in the futurity program for \$15.00 per lamb. The lamb will still need to be verified, as with each other animal shown in the series, at the first show of the season that a member wishes to receive points for it at.
5. The JSAF will keep track of each lamb within the program that is shown at points-eligible shows. There are no additional entry fees to show lambs within the program. Lambs will be shown regular in market lamb classes against non-program animals.
6. In points tabulations by the JSAF, lambs within the program will have special points awarded for competition against other lambs in the program, in addition to those awarded within the regular market lamb division.
7. The points are calculated based on the lamb, not the exhibitor. If the lamb is sold to another exhibitor at any point in the season, it may be shown in the futurity, however, points previously earned by one exhibitor do not transfer to another.
8. Lambs may be scanned at any time to verify microchips. Any tampering observed to microchips or tags may result in dismissal of the lamb from the program.
9. Awards will be presented at the end of season awards banquet to top placing lambs in the program. Lambs in the program will also still be eligible to traditional market lamb awards as well, if they accumulate enough points.

Please Note –

The JSAF is made up of many members, and we realize that not all of them show in the market division. For the upcoming season, however, for the reasons listed below, market lambs will be the only division that is included.

- a. We as an organization starting a program like this want to do it “right,” and we know starting small and working out the kinks is the best way to achieve that.
- b. Awards for this program will be specifically funded by breeder fees, nomination fees, registration fees from lambs, and limited sponsorship funds. We want the awards offered to be worth the time, effort and funds spent by members to participate, and dividing initial resources will severely limit the value of those awards.
- c. As they are terminal projects, “ownership” of market lambs is typically the simplest of all ownership arrangements as youth “raise” the animal. Ewe and ram ownership is not often as clear cut, and as “breeding” animals, they may be “leased” and verifying true “ownership” is virtually impossible.

At least for its inaugural season in 2021-2022, this program is called the Florida Born Futurity Program, vs. the Florida Bred Futurity Program. While other definitions and titles were considered, today, many breeders use artificial insemination, or may purchase bred ewes. We believe that if ewes are managed through pregnancy and raises a lamb strong enough to survive until weaning, that is an accomplishment.

It is our thought that if the ewe is managed through a pregnancy and raises a lamb to survive long enough to wean, that counts as an accomplishment, however, there is no true way to verify breeding location or method that is reliable, leading to “born” rather than “bred.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROGRAM, CONTACT

Faith Hughes, DVM – 352-843-0323 or fehughes@aol.com

Rex Lawson/Doreen Kisacky – 321-689-0517 or dkisacky@gmail.com