

Improving Genetics, Health, and Management of Small Ruminants in Southwest VA

Transfer Payment Guidelines

Sponsored by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, the project is a partnership (or collaboration) of Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech Southwest Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Small Farm Outreach Program at the Virginia State University, Virginia Sheep Producers Association, Coalfield Sheep Association, New River Valley Sheep and Goat Club, and Southwest Virginia's small ruminant producers.

General

- The cost-share program would provide a 33% subsidy on allowable purchases and up to a \$3,000 ceiling level per small ruminant producer during the program duration.

Eligibility Criteria

- The cost-share program is open to all interested producers who is a resident and a farm owner or operator in the 14 counties and 3 cities: Bland, Bristol, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Galax, Grayson, Lee, Norton, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, Wythe.
- Producers who apply for the cost-share program are expected to be currently involved in sheep and/or goat production, or intending to become new sheep and/or goat producers and are expected to have at least 1 year of experience with small ruminant livestock production.
- Participants in the cost-share program are expected to attend or have attended previous training on the approved training list (Annex A), which would qualify them to request reimbursements for approved purchases.
- A final version of the approved training list will be determined and shared with the applicants.
- Retain ownership of facility purchases for a minimum of 5 years.
- Will be available for site-visits and/or audit by authorized project staff (Extension Agents, sponsor, etc.) to verify that conditions of the cost share guidelines are met.

Funding, Application, and Review Procedures

- There are a total of 14 counties and 3 cities covered in this grant project. Several counties are linked with a city, in this instance, it would be Washington County with Bristol City;

Wise County with Norton City; and Carroll County with Galax City. In total, there would be 14 localities, and each locality would have \$15,000 available for distribution.

- Funds would be available on a first come, first serve basis through a rolling application process. A date would be set each year, and any remaining funds that have not been distributed by that date would then be returned to the total funding pool and available for redistribution to producers in the 14 counties and 3 cities.
- In order to participate in the cost-share program, interested producers should submit a completed application either online or provide a paper copy to the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Extension Agent in their counties and/or cities.
- A disbursement oversight committee responsible for reviewing applications will be formed with volunteer representatives from participating counties and cities. All applications will go through a review process by members of the oversight committee, and applicants will be informed of their application status.

Allowable Purchases for Reimbursements

- If the producer's application is approved, then the producer would also need to submit a W-9 form to the fiscal agent.
- If selected as a participant in the cost-share program, participants are expected to submit any vendor-generated invoices with receipts for reimbursements of allowable purchases along with a completed request form. The request form would also need to be verified by the Extension Agent who will conduct site visits to verify allowable purchases.
- Participants who have received the cost-share funds will be provided with a Form-1099 if funds are at least \$600.
- A table is provided (see Annex B) to summarize allowable reimbursements for purchases. Further specifications are provided (Annex C) for the purchase of livestock and genetic/health-related evaluations. Producers can also consult with their Extension Agent prior to making any purchases.

Annex A. Approved Training List for Cost-Share Qualification

We are developing this further and will provide a final approved training list for the producers.

- Master Shepherd or Master Small Ruminants Program (can be similar programs that cover the same topics) (*note: forthcoming program to be offered*)
- Training Sessions on the following topics:
 - Health and Nutrition
 - Health and Parasite and Disease Prevention
 - Feed and Pasture Management
 - Nutrition and Health Considerations
 - Genetic Improvements, Breeding, and Reproduction
 - Genetic Improvements and Evaluation
 - Breeding and Reproduction
 - Lambing or Kidding, Management and Nutrition

Annex B. Summary of Allowable Reimbursements for Purchases

Category	Description	Allowable Items
Breeding Stock/Genetic Improvements/Health	This category includes the purchase of livestock (particularly rams and ewes) that would lead to enhancing producer profitability, lowering cost of production, and improving performance, appearance, and animal welfare. The purchase of livestock also contributes to genetic improvements, quality, and animal health. In addition to the purchase of livestock, genetic and/or health-related tests and screenings are also included for new livestock purchases and current/existing flocks and herds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock: Sheep* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rams ○ Ewes ○ Bred Ewes ○ Livestock: Goats* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bucks ○ Does ○ Bred Does ○ Artificial Insemination ○ Genetic and/or Health-related Evaluation for current or new livestock* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Breeding Soundness Exams ○ Pregnancy Exams ○ Genetic Testing <p>*Further specifications are provided in Annex C, and a final version will be shared with the producers.</p>
Facilities and Handling	This category covers facilities and handling equipment for the management of livestock and sheep/goat operations, including accommodations for shelter from elements or protection from predators, maternity wards and sheds, and equipment to track performance, health, and other important factors. These items should be specific for small ruminants, sheep and goats, and not for other livestock (e.g. cattle).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock Scales ○ Chutes/Gates/Pens ○ Flip Table ○ Fencing (for specific purposes) ○ Shed over working facilities ○ Maternity Wards (e.g. Lambing Sheds) <p>Note: Only new equipment or facilities would qualify, and should be specific for small ruminants. In addition, due to the changing economic situation and rising inflation costs, current prices may change rapidly in a few months. Market value pricing can be undertaken and verified by the Extension Agents and/or the Disbursement Oversight Committee prior to approving producers' purchasing requests.</p>

Annex C. Specifications for the Purchase of Livestock

Genetic Requirements for Small Ruminants

Provided by Lee Wright, Dr. Scott Greiner, Mandy Fletcher, and Brad Mullins.

**** 33% Maximum reimbursement up to \$3,000.00 per producer (Livestock purchases can be combined with other purchases).**

Eligible Items - Goats

1. Bucks (Registered) - \$500 maximum allowable cost share per buck
2. Bucks (Registered, NSIP, or Sold through a certified performance test program) - \$600 maximum allowable cost share per buck
3. Does less than 2 years of age (Non-Registered) - \$150 maximum allowable cost share per doe
4. Does less than 2 years of age (Registered and/or NSIP) - \$200 maximum allowable cost share per doe
5. Bred Does (Non-Registered) - \$250 maximum allowable cost share per doe
6. Bred Does (Registered and/or NSIP) - \$300 maximum allowable cost share per doe
7. Artificial Insemination (AI)
 - a. Semen – AI qualified bucks with semen code
 - b. New semen tanks, liquid nitrogen fills, synchronization cost, AI supplies & equipment
 - c. AI technician fees
8. Breeding soundness exam (BSE) or pregnancy exam – by licensed veterinarian
9. Genetic testing (Up to 100 animals) – Parentage, Scrapie, OPP, Spider, Johne's, and other recognized genetic tests performed at a certified laboratory. Cost share values below include the cost of the test and supplies need for submission.
 - a. Any single trait \$4 per animal

Requirements – Goats

1. All males must pass Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE) performed by a licensed veterinarian within 90 days of purchase or reimbursement. Documentation Required.
2. Pregnant females must have pregnancy diagnosed confirmed by a licensed veterinarian within 60 days of purchase or reimbursement. Documentation Required.
3. Official Identification which conforms to state and federal regulations, i.e. Certified Scrapie tag
4. Registered Animals – Official registration paper required, and animal must be identifiable with corresponding ear tag or tattoo.

Eligible Items - Sheep

1. Rams (Registered) - \$500 maximum allowable cost share per ram
2. Rams (Registered, NSIP, or Sold through a certified performance test program) \$600 maximum allowable cost share per ram
3. Ewes less than 2 years of age (Non-Registered) - \$150 maximum allowable cost share per ewe
4. Ewes less than 2 years of age (Registered and/or NSIP) - \$200 maximum allowable cost share per ewe
5. Bred Ewes (Non-Registered) - \$250 maximum allowable cost share per ewe
6. Bred Ewes (Registered and/or NSIP) - \$300 maximum allowable cost share per ewe
7. AI
 - a. Semen – AI qualified rams with semen code
 - b. New semen tanks, liquid nitrogen fills, synchronization cost, AI supplies & equipment
 - c. AI technician fees
8. Breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) or pregnancy exam – by licensed veterinarian
9. Genetic testing (Up to 100 animals) – Parentage, Scrapie, OPP, Spider, Johne's, and other recognized genetic tests performed at a certified laboratory. Cost share values below include the cost of the test and supplies need for submission.

- a. Any single trait \$4 per animal
- b. NEOGEN GGP Ovine 50K (\$26 total) - \$8 per animal cost share
- c. NEOGEN TSU for NSIP Flocks (\$35 total) - \$11 per animal cost share
- d. Flock 54 (\$21 total) - \$7 per animal cost share

Requirements – Sheep

1. All rams and bucks must pass Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE) performed by a licensed veterinarian within 90 days of purchase or reimbursement. Documentation required.
2. Pregnant females must have pregnancy diagnosed confirmed by a licensed veterinarian within 60 days of purchase or reimbursement. Documentation required.
3. Official Identification which conforms to state and federal regulations, i.e. Certified Scrapie tag
4. Register Animals – Official registration paper required, and animal must be identifiable with corresponding ear tag or tattoo.
5. Genotype test results – All sheep must test RR or QR at codon 171 for Scrapie Resistance. Documentation required.