

September 6, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

We hope this finds you well! We would like to share with you an opportunity to help educate youth in Eastern North Carolina about a growing segment of agriculture, lamb production! We all know, there is nothing better than a hands-on experience. Many youth that participate in these livestock projects continue to be involved in agriculture in their future endeavors. It is very challenging for new families to have the funding to buy animals, feed, and the equipment needed to get started raising livestock for the show ring. To help them with this hurdle, the inaugural "Leap into Sheep" program was held in 2022 with tremendous success. Not only did we have great participation from the youth that received a lamb, but through the mentor program we were able to see young people give back to the industry that they so thoroughly enjoy.

Through the leadership of NC State Youth Livestock Advisor Brent Jennings, we are planning to provide 10 youth a lamb for a spring project again. Here are the upcoming details:

- Soon, applications will be accepted from 4-H and FFA youth.
- Once 10 participants are chosen, they will pay a \$50 registration fee and will be matched up with a senior lamb showman to help guide their experience, serving as a mentor and assisting with preparing their lamb for two spring shows.
- Participants will attend a Sheep 101 zoom session facilitated by NC State Small Ruminant Professor Andrew Weaver as an introduction to what to expect with raising a lamb.
- Lambs, a blanket, a bag of feed and a halter will be sent home with the selected youth mid-January. After raising the lamb, youth will show them at the East Coast Extravaganza in March & their local spring show & sale.

Now, how we need your help. A generous donor has contributed the supplies listed above. But lamb prices are currently high, and we will need \$350 for each lamb purchased, a total of \$3,500 to buy the 10 lambs. If you would like to help give a child the opportunity to raise a lamb, please see details on our sponsor form below.

Thank you for considering helping us spread the good news of agriculture! We will be sure to get you pictures of your funds being used to make a lamb project possible for new young people.

Sincerely,

Leap into Sheep Committee



Brent J. Jennings



Dr. Andrew Weaver



Charmae Kendall

## Feedback from 2022 Participants

- “Such a great program!! I am so happy Daniel was able to participate.” Barney Grady
- “Brinley is very thankful for the opportunity that Leap into Sheep provided! It was a great experience and she has made memories to last a lifetime! Thank you to everyone for their help and for providing such a wonderful program. We look forward to more livestock projects in the future.” Lacy Raynor
- “Thank you for a fantastic program. Malik had such a great time and learned so much.” Jennifer Toutah

## Leap Into Sheep Program Sponsor Form

**Please check one of the following: All of the sponsors will be recognized at the East Coast Extravaganza .**

### Platinum Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

This level is \$1750 and will purchase 5 lambs. Sponsors logo will appear on all program advertisements and banners for the East Coast Extravaganza.

### Gold Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

This level will be \$700 and will purchase 2 lambs.

### Silver Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

This level will be \$350 and will purchase 1 lamb.

### Bronze Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

This level will be \$175 and will purchase half of a lamb.

If you need an invoice, contact [charmae\\_kendall@ncsu.edu](mailto:charmae_kendall@ncsu.edu) or 910-271-0897.

Duplin County Cooperative Extension  
PO Box 949  
Kenansville, NC 28349, Check to: Duplin County 4-H  
Memo line “Leap into Sheep”

