AMERICAN LAMB BOARD

Lamb Industry NextGen Program Application

Honoring Our Heritage. Shaping Our Future.

APPLICATION DEADLINE	**December 31, 2026**
PROGRAM TERM	**2027–2028**

Program Overview

The American Lamb Board (ALB) Lamb Industry NextGen Program is a two-year leadership development experience and professional network for emerging lamb industry producers. Twelve participants will be selected through a competitive application process to broaden their understanding of the full lamb value chain and strengthen their ability to lead, innovate and contribute to the future of the U.S. lamb industry.

The program combines industry education, travel, hands-on learning, leadership development, mentorship, networking, virtual meetings and small-group projects. Graduates will join a long-term network of informed and engaged leaders committed to strengthening the American lamb industry.

Program Experience

☐ 2027: Lamb Summit; Western Industry Tour and Leadership Workshop; virtual meetings; and small-group projects.

☐ 2028: Annual industry convention; NLFA Leadership School; Eastern Industry Tour and Leadership Workshop; virtual meetings; and small-group projects.

☐ Global opportunity: Two participants will be selected through a separate interview and selection process to participate in LambEx/Global Tour and share international insights with the U.S. industry.

☐ Beyond the cohort: Continued professional connections, mentorship and learning opportunities through the Lamb Industry NextGen network.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet all final eligibility requirements established by ALB. The following criteria are proposed for the application process and should be confirmed before release:

☐ Be actively involved in the U.S. sheep and lamb industry as a producer, employee, entrepreneur, student, educator or allied-industry professional, with preference given to individuals engaged in production.

☐ Be at least 25 years old.

☐ Demonstrate a commitment to continued involvement and leadership in the U.S. lamb industry.

☐ Be available to participate in required in-person and virtual program activities during 2027 and 2028.

☐ Be able to travel within the United States and, if selected for the global opportunity, meet all passport and international travel requirements.

☐ Receive employer, family or business support necessary to fulfill the time commitment.

Participant Expectations

☐ Attend and actively participate in required program events, tours, workshops and virtual meetings.

☐ Complete assigned preparation, follow-up work and small-group projects by established deadlines.

☐ Engage respectfully with producers, businesses, organizations, speakers, mentors and fellow participants.

☐ Share knowledge gained through a presentation, article, producer meeting or other ALB-approved outreach activity.

☐ Represent ALB and the U.S. lamb industry professionally during all program activities.

☐ Notify ALB promptly of conflicts and understand that repeated absences or failure to meet program expectations may result in removal from the cohort.

Program Costs and Travel

ALB will cover travel expenses and registration for all program events. Participants are responsible for obtaining any required approvals and submitting documentation/receipts by ALB deadlines.

Application Instructions

Submit a complete application and all required supporting materials to rae@americanlamb.com by December 31,2026. Applications received after the deadline or missing required materials may not be considered.

Please answer all questions completely.

1. Applicant Information

Full legal name: _____

Preferred name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Mailing address: _____

City / State / ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Current employer, operation, school or organization: _____

Current title or role: _____

Years involved in the sheep/lamb industry: _____

Primary state(s) of involvement: _____

2. Industry Involvement

Check all that apply:

☐ Commercial producer

☐ Seedstock producer

☐ Feeder/backgrounder

☐ Direct marketer

☐ Processor/packer

☐ Retail/foodservice

☐ Student

☐ Educator/researcher

☐ Veterinarian/animal health

☐ Allied industry/service provider

☐ Association or nonprofit

☐ Other: _____

Briefly describe your current role and responsibilities in the sheep and lamb industry. *Recommended maximum: 250 words*

Describe your sheep operation or industry involvement, including size, production system, market channel, business focus or other relevant context. *Recommended maximum: 250 words*

3. Leadership and Program Interest

Why do you want to participate in the Lamb Industry NextGen Program, and what do you hope to gain? *Recommended maximum: 400 words*

Describe a leadership experience, challenge or accomplishment that has shaped you. *Recommended maximum: 350 words*

What do you believe is one of the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the U.S. lamb industry? How would you help address it? *Recommended maximum: 400 words*

What perspective, experience or strengths would you contribute to the NextGen program? *Recommended maximum: 300 words*

How will you apply and share what you learn with your operation, organization, community or the broader industry? *Recommended maximum: 300 words*

4. Innovation and Professional Growth

Describe a best management practice, technology or innovation you have adopted, evaluated or would like to explore. *Recommended maximum: 350 words*

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Identify two professional or leadership skills you want to strengthen during the two-year program. *Recommended maximum: 250 words*

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Where do you see yourself contributing to the lamb industry five years from now? *Recommended maximum: 250 words*

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5. Participation and Availability

Initial each statement:

_____ I am available to participate throughout the 2027–2028 program term.

_____ I understand that in-person travel, virtual meetings, preparation and small-group work are required.

_____ I will make every reasonable effort to attend the Lamb Summit, Western Industry Tour and Leadership Workshop, annual industry convention, NLFA Leadership School, and Eastern Industry Tour and Leadership Workshop.

_____ If selected for the global opportunity, I am willing and able to complete international travel requirements.

_____ I have discussed the time commitment with the people who may be affected by my participation.

6. References

Provide two professional or industry references who can speak to your character, leadership potential and commitment to the lamb industry. References should not be immediate family members.

Reference 1

Name: _____

Title / organization: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Reference 2

Name: _____

Title / organization: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

7. Required Attachments

☐ Current résumé or brief professional biography (maximum two pages).

☐ One letter of recommendation addressing leadership potential and commitment to the U.S. lamb industry.

☐ Optional: supporting material demonstrating leadership, innovation, service or industry involvement.

8. Applicant Certification and Release

By signing below, I certify that the information in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that selection is competitive and that submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance. If selected, I agree to fulfill the participation expectations, comply with ALB policies and represent the program professionally.

I authorize ALB to contact the references listed in this application. I understand that ALB may use my name, biography, photograph and program-related images or recordings for reasonable program communications and promotion, subject to any separate release required by ALB. I understand that final participation is contingent upon completing any additional agreements, waivers or travel documentation required by ALB.

Applicant signature: _____

Date: _____