

**BBSAI Procedure for Registering American Blackbelly Sheep
under the American Blackbelly Open Registration process for an Undocumented Sheep.
Version 5.1 – ADOPTED 4-27-2022, amended 5-29-2024**

Note: Only BBSAI members in good standing may apply to register sheep, including through the American Blackbelly Open Registration (ABOR) process.

To register American Blackbelly (AB) sheep under the BBSAI ABOR for Undocumented Sheep, when either the sire or dam (but not both) are unknown or unregistered, the following items/steps are required:

1. A BBSAI American Blackbelly Open Registry Application form (available at <https://www.blackbellysheep.org/>) is completed and signed with as much information as possible concerning the candidate sheep and its sire and dam. The form must be submitted, in electronic or hardcopy format, to the BBSAI American Blackbelly Open Registry Committee (ABORC) at the address provided on the form. Do NOT combine registrations of documented sheep and undocumented sheep on the same forms. Applications may be completed and submitted on-line.
2. Candidate sheep must be at least 7 months old at the time of application. Clear photographs of the candidate sheep showing the front, rear, and each side (4 photos) demonstrating that the sheep meets the current BBSAI breed standards for American Blackbelly sheep (AB breed standards are available at <https://www.blackbellysheep.org/about-the-sheep/american-blackbelly/>). The Open Registry process requires that all of a sheep's traits be "Ideal" or "Acceptable" as listed in the AB Breed Standards. At least one photo must clearly show the animal's permanent identification tag. For information on what constitutes a good registration photograph see the BBSAI Registration page.
3. Include any known background information on the candidate sheep, its parentage, flock of origin, previous owner, relationship to other known flocks or bloodlines, etc. A Statement certifying that, to the best of your knowledge and belief, the information is accurate and that the candidate sheep is a "purebred" American Blackbelly Sheep and meets all current breed standards set by the BBSAI.
4. A check or money order in U.S. funds payable to the BBSAI for \$10.00 per sheep being registered. Payment may be made during the on-line application process using PayPal. This application fee is non-refundable and does not guarantee a favorable decision.

American Blackbelly Open Registry Committee (ABORC) - Review and Evaluation Procedures:

1. The applicant's membership status will be confirmed and the application packet (application form and photos) will be evaluated by the ABORC to determine the eligibility of the candidate sheep.

- If the candidate sheep fails the initial evaluation by the ABORC (does not meet the BBSAI breed standards for AB sheep) – the application for registration is rejected and the applicant is notified, to include the reason the candidate sheep was rejected.
- If the candidate sheep passes initial evaluation – the applicant is notified and instructed to conduct and document progeny testing.
- Progeny testing protocols are followed and documented on appropriate forms available on the BBSAI website.

2. Progeny Testing Protocol

- The candidate sheep shall be at least 7 months old at which time they must be bred to an unrelated (COI no greater than 12.5%), BBSAI REGISTERED American Blackbelly sheep. That mating must produce at least one ram lamb.
- Applicant documents progeny testing by identifying the candidate sheep, the unrelated BBSAI registered mate and ALL lambs born from the mating on the progeny testing data form. The progeny from the mating must be at least 3 months old at which time the applicant shall submit the progeny testing data and include clear photographs of the front, rear and each side (4 photos) of each lamb born. At least one photo must clearly show the animals' permanent identification tag. If registration is requested for the lamb(s) born during progeny testing, a separate regular registration application form may be completed and submitted along with the applicable registration fee(s) AFTER the parent candidate sheep has been registered. Any available information on previous mating of the candidate sheep and all offspring produced, with photos if available, may be submitted in support of the application for registration.

3. Progeny testing documentation and photographs are submitted to ABORC for review and evaluation when progeny are at least 3 months old.

The candidate sheep and all progeny will be evaluated by the ABORC for conformance with the current BBSAI AB breed standards. If progeny testing documentation is incomplete or the ABORC evaluation is inconclusive based on available information, the applicant may be contacted for additional information. Incomplete applications or progeny testing data will result in the application being rejected without prejudice and the applicant so notified.

- If the candidate sheep and ALL of its offspring from the progeny testing pass evaluation, the BBSAI Registrar will be informed and will complete the registration process and notify the applicant. The ABORC will provide all supporting documentation to the Registrar.
- If ANY animal fails to meet the AB breed standards, the Registrar will be notified that the application has been rejected by the ABORC, and the applicant so notified, including the specific reason(s) for rejection.
- The ABORC reserves the right to reject any candidate sheep which, in the sole opinion of the Committee, appears to have a characteristic or trait believed to be detrimental to the AB breed even if the specific characteristic or trait is not specifically covered by the current version of the BBSAI AB breed standard.

American Blackbelly Open Registry Committee Evaluation - Pass/Fail Policy

- The ABORC will compare the application information and photographs submitted against the published BBSAI AB breed standards for conformance. If the candidate animal, or any of its offspring, appear to display any characteristic/trait listed in the breed standard as “Discouraged” or “Not to Standard” the candidate sheep and its offspring will be denied registration, with prejudice.
- The ABORC may, at its own discretion, contact the applicant to request additional information and/or additional photographs. Failure of an applicant to submit such additional information will result in the denial of the candidate sheep, without prejudice.
- The burden of proof that a candidate is qualified for BBSAI registration, i.e., it meets all published BBSAI AB Breed Standards at a level of Ideal or Acceptable, is solely upon the applicant.

American Blackbelly Open Registry Committee - General Operating Guidelines

The ABORC will convene by telephone, teleconference, video conference or email approximately once per quarter (4 times per year) to evaluate, discuss and decide upon applications.

The ABORC may designate individual committee members for the various tasks necessary to facilitate the application review process.

A minimum of 3 of the 5 voting members participating is required to decide upon applications.

For a candidate sheep to be accepted for, or denied, BBSAI registration, a simple majority of the ABORC members participating and voting will rule.

If any ABORC member, their family, or a direct business interest is the applicant under this Open Registry process, or the member or their family may benefit monetarily, that member shall voluntarily recuse themselves or otherwise be disqualified from voting.

The ABORC shall maintain a generalized accounting of formal ABORC actions relative to the rejection or acceptance of all candidate sheep and periodically provide such record to the BBSAI Board of Directors, as requested.

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