

# Regulations and Procedures for the Registration of Australian White Sheep

Updated 3/1/26

## 1. Definition of an Australian White Fullblood

Sheep that are of Australian White descent and can be traced back to the Australian White Sheep Breeders Association in Australia are considered “Fullblood”, “100%”, and/or “Australian White”. An Australian White Sheep is the direct offspring of a 100% Australian White sire and dam. An animal registered and referred to as an Australian White means the animal is 100% fullblood. Only an Australian White ram mated with an Australian White Ewe can produce Australian White offspring.

## 2. Definition of a Purebred Australian White

- a. Only 100% Australian White rams registered with AWUSA may be used in the bred-up program
- b. Registration papers for bred-up ewes will indicate the appropriate F-Series designation (F1–F4) as Purebred Australian White Sheep Ewes. Bred-up animals are considered as percentage animals until they reach F5/ewes and F6/rams
- c. F5 will be designated as a full Purebred Australian White Ewe
- d. Only F6 rams will be considered Purebred Australian White Rams. Additional guidelines will be developed later
- e. To register a Purebred Australian White ewe (F5) and ram(F6), all dams and sires used in the pedigree must be registered with AWUSA.
- f. Examples of matings that will produce Purebred Australian White Ewes and Rams:

<u>Recorded Sire</u>		<u>Recorded Dam</u>	<u>Lamb %</u>
Australian White (100%)	x	Other sheep breed	F1 Purebred Australian White
Australian White (100%)	x	F1 Purebred Australian White	F2 Purebred Australian White

Australian White (100%)	x	F2 Purebred Australian White	F3 Purebred Australian White
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### 3. Percentage

- a. To be recorded in the AWUSA flock book as a percentage Australian White, ewes must be at least 50% Australian White.
- b. Percentage rams are not registered. **AWUSA strongly requests percentage rams be sold as “flock rams” and the seller/AWUSA member advise the buyer a percentage ram cannot be registered. And the lambs it sires cannot be registered with AWUSA.**
- c. The percentage of an animal will be listed on the registration certificate.
  - 1). Any sire or dam not recorded in the AWUSA registry will be considered 0%.
  - 2). Only offspring sired by a 100% Australian White is eligible for registration.
  - 3). Percentage animals are determined as follows:

<u>Recorded Sire</u>		<u>Recorded Dam</u>	<u>Ewe Lamb%</u>
100%	x	0%	50% (F1)
100%	x	50%	75% (F2)
100%	x	75%	87% (F3)
100%	x	87%	93% (F4)
100%	x	93%	100% (F5)

4. Purebred Australian White versus American White Sheep.

Until 2026, AWUSA termed a purebred status as **American White**. This was not a separate breed, but a way to distinguish between full blood, purebred and percentage animals within its structured bred-up program. To better align with industry expectations and members needs, **AWUSA updated registration terminology in January 2026**. The name printed on registration papers for purebred and percentage animals are currently **Purebred Australian White**. This change strengthens clarity while maintaining genetic transparency and adherence to AWUSA standards.

The **American White** name remains an important part of AWUSA's heritage. AWUSA retains all rights to be the official registry for the **American White Sheep**. AWUSA also reserves the right to re-introduce this distinction on registration certificates as it deems appropriate. Currently members may continue to use the American White designation for marketing their percentage animals for wholesale, retail and direct-to-consumer sales.

5. Multiple Sires (or Multi-Sire)

This program is designed where single sire mating is not practical, or multiple 100% Australian White rams are used in a large production/commercial setting.

- a. Specific sires cannot easily be determined
- b. Multiple sires used must all be AWUSA registered 100% Australian White
- d. DNA Parentage testing is required on all rams used in a specific breeding group
- e. The multi-sire group used for each breeding group/season must be recorded with the AWUSA on a "Multiple Sire Breeding Form". They will be assigned a Multiple Sire Breeding Group Number by AWUSA.
- f. The Multiple Sire Breeding Group Number will appear on the registration certificate of the resultant offspring of that group.

6. Registrations for Fullblood and Purebred Australian White sheep are processed by a third-party registry, Associated Registry. Registration applications can be found on the AWUSA and Associated Registry websites. The owner of the lamb at the time of birth is responsible for registering that lamb. DNA Parentage testing is required prior to any/all registration requests.

7. Transfer of Ownership

If an animal is sold, it may be transferred upon registration by the original owner to the new owner by completing the appropriate form and paying the transfer fee, if the new owner is a current AWUSA member. If the new owner is not an AWUSA member, these animals become "inactive" in the AWUSA animal database until AWUSA membership is paid.

#### 8. Semen Transfer

An A.I. Declaration Form is required from the owner of the donating sire if lambs are reared by anyone other than the owner of the donating sire.

#### 9. Embryo Transfer

An Embryo Flush Form is required from the original owner of the sire and dam if embryos are sold and used by anyone other than the owner of the donating sire and dam.

#### 10. DNA Parentage Testing

AWUSA requires DNA Parentage Testing on all animals to be registered. Testing should be done prior to registration. Flock54 is the service provider for DNA Parentage Testing that AWUSA members should use.

### **Australian White Breed Standards**

The breed standards provided by the AWUSA are:

#### **Issues that would cause a ram to not be eligible for registration:**

1. Poor testicle development. Small, uneven, or split testicles are not allowed.
2. Lambs younger than 5 months of age.
3. An animal that is any color other than white (except for a small amount of color no greater than the size of a quarter found anywhere on the body).
4. Improper identification.
5. Overbite or underbite.
6. Horns or non-vegetative scurs (scurs may not be attached to the skull, which would mean they have blood vessels and nerves).

7. Poor shedding. An animal that does not fully shed or retains hair over 10% or greater area of its body during the summer months.

**Preferred traits to be enforced in the future and contingent on the establishment of the breed.**

1. All black points and pigment
  - a. Black feet
  - b. Black nose
2. 100% shedding
3. Tail docking is not required or recommended within the USA.

**Preferred Ear tag prefix and identification**

1. Ear tags are recommended to have the following color scheme:
  - a. 50% or F1 – yellow tag with AWUSA flock prefix followed by birth year, unique ID number, and F1 suffix.
  - b. 75% or F2 – orange tag with AWUSA flock prefix followed by birth year, unique ID number, and F2 suffix.
  - c. 87% or F3 – green tag with AWUSA flock prefix followed by birth year, unique ID number, and F3 suffix.
  - d. 93% or F4 – white tag with AWUSA flock prefix followed by birth year, unique ID number, and F4 suffix.
  - e. 100% Purebred Australian White - blue tag with AWUSA flock prefix followed by birth year, unique ID number.
  - f. 100% Australian White - red tag with AWUSA flock prefix followed by birth year, ID number (and ET suffix if an ET lamb)

Example ear tag ID for a F3 lamb born in 2026 from a farm with a flock prefix EBB would be *EBB261005F3*. The tag color would be green.

2. A three-digit flock prefix (alphanumeric) is assigned to each farm that is a registered member

of the AWUSA and is unique to that ranch/farm.