



## Awards given by NSA

### NSA George Hedley Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to the UK sheep sector

- **History.** NSA has presented the George Hedley Memorial Award annually since 1960 to recognise outstanding individual contributions to the UK sheep sector. It is given to honour the memory of George Hedley, a highly respected farmer from the Scottish borders who was involved with the NSA (then the National Sheep Breeders Association) for many years. It was while he was NSBA Chairman, travelling to a Council meeting in London on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1960, that he was tragically killed in a car accident. His great love was South Cheviot Sheep, hence the form of the award given.
- **Selection criteria.** NSA annually considers nominations from within and outside the NSA network for the award. Nominations are written citations of up to 200 words describing an individual's long-standing involvement in or association with the UK sheep sector and their significant impact to drive the industry forward and/or raise its profile. The award is typically seen as a lifetime achievement-type honour to a highly esteemed person within sheep farming who has made a sustained or momentous contribution. The list includes but is not limited to influencers involved in sheep-focused research/development, provision of out-of-the-ordinary services, industry promotion/profile raising, charity work, training/education or facilitation of best practice.
- **Nomination process.** Between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> September each year, individual NSA members, NSA regional / ram sale / event committees, major agricultural organisations, farming unions, research / educational institutions, NSA-affiliated sheep breed societies and (from 2025 onwards) NSA Corporate Supporters are invited to make nominations as a 200-word written citation. Nominations from individual NSA members must state a proposer and seconder, but this is not required for nominations from a committee or other group. NSA Trustees and NSA Vice Presidents can make nominations, as individual NSA members. Submissions outside the nomination window are not accepted.
- **Selection process.** All citations are circulated to the NSA Vice Presidents, NSA Chairman and NSA Chief Executive, who meet in October to discuss nominations and put forward a shortlist of two or more nominees to the NSA Trustees, who will make a final decision at the November Board meeting. As ruled by NSA on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1987, canvassing for support of a candidate will result in automatic disqualification of that candidate for the current year. Unsuccessful candidates may be re-nominated in future years.
- **The winner.** The winner is announced each December and receives an Honorary Life Membership of NSA. A physical award - a specially sculptured statuette of a South Country Cheviot sheep mounted on a plinth carrying the name of the recipient and the words 'For outstanding service to the sheep industry' - is presented at an NSA or other appropriate industry event in the following calendar year.

### NSA Bob Payne Memorial Award for Unsung Hero

- **History.** NSA has presented an Unsung Hero award since 2008, initially on an intermittent basis, but moving it to an annual award from 2022. It is exclusively for NSA officeholders, committee members, volunteers, supporters and staff members who go above and beyond for the good of

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National Sheep Association is an organisation which represents the views and interests of sheep producers throughout the UK.  
NSA is funded by its membership of sheep farmers and its activities involve it in every aspect of the sheep industry.

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NSA. It was renamed the NSA Bob Payne Memorial Award in 2016, to honour the memory of Bob Payne, an NSA Trustee from Stocksbridge, South Yorkshire, who lost his battle with cancer in August 2015. Bob was himself a recipient of the award (in 2014, pictured), as an exceptional individual in NSA Central Region who, with his wife Anne, demonstrated incredible loyalty and tireless service to NSA.

- **Selection criteria.** NSA annually considers nominations from within the association for the award. Nominations are written citations of up to 200 words describing an individual's involvement with NSA, the contribution they make and why it deserves a line shining upon it. Nominees must be an NSA member or staff member who does essential but often unseen work.
- **Nomination process.** Between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> September each year, NSA regional / ram sale / event committees are invited to make nominations as a 200-word written citation. Submissions outside the nomination window are not accepted.
- **Selection process.** All citations are considered by the NSA Chair and NSA Chief Executive and a decision put to the November Board meeting for NSA Trustees to approve. As ruled by NSA on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1987 for the George Hedley Memorial Award, canvassing for support of a candidate will result in automatic disqualification of that candidate for the current year. Unsuccessful candidates may be re-nominated in future years.
- **The winner.** The winner is announced each December. A physical award - typically a piece of cut glass engraved with the name of the award - is presented at an NSA or other appropriate industry event in the following calendar year.

### NSA Samuel Wharry Memorial Award for the Next Generation

- **History.** NSA has presented the NSA Samuel Wharry Memorial Award since 2019, to support young people (under 35 years old) in an overseas trip to learn more about the global sheep industry and, preferably, the application of science in sheep production. It is given to honour the memory of Samuel Wharry of Carnlough, County Antrim, who was NSA Chairman when he died suddenly on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 aged just 56. Samuel was an advocate of science and technology, particularly relating to genetics, during his many years breeding Blackface sheep.
- **Selection criteria.** The selection criteria and award presentation is managed as part of the NSA Next Generation programme.