Sheep Breeds

Study Guide for Livestock Expo
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• Merino
• Rambouillet

Fine-Wool Breeds
Merino

White Face with Wool on their LEGS and FACE

They are smaller than the Columbia’s.

They are developed from Spain and are a medium-sized breed. Their wool is noted for its fineness and whiteness.
Rambouillet

This breed is very large and they have wool on their HEAD and LEGS.

They can be polled or horned.

They were developed in France.

This breed is mainly used for wool purposes.
Medium-Wool Breeds

CHEVIOT
COLUMBIA
CORRIEDALE
DORESSET
HAMPSHIRE
MONTADALE
OXFORD
POLYPAY
SHROPSHIRE
SOUTHDOWN
SUFFOLK
TARGHEE
FINN
This breed was developed in Scotland and are a small-sized breed. They are WHITE faced with BARE heads and legs. This breed is hardy, long-lived and an active grazer.
This breed was developed in the United States.

It is known for its large size, and it has a WHITE-FACE, WOOL on the LEGS, and POLLED.

The Columbia is known for its size, wool-producing ability and productivity under range conditions.
CORRIEDALE

This is a WHITE-FACED breed developed in New Zealand. They have a curlier wool pattern than Dorset.

They are a Medium-sized breed. They produce heavy fleeces of high quality wool.
This breed is all white with wool on their HEAD and LEGS.

They can be POLLED or HORNED or SCURRED.

The Dorset breed originated in England and is medium-sized. It has white, strong, dense fleece and is used for meat and wool.
This is a very large breed with black legs with wool on them. Hampshire lambs are known for a fast growth rate, and ewes have a high milking ability.

They also have a large wool patch on their head. Hampshire breed was developed in England. It is a popular meat type breed.
MONTADALE

This breed is very small with frail legs and no wool on them. The Montedale breed originated in the United States.

They have no wool on their heads and have small pinned-up ears.
This is a medium to large sized breed with a dark brown or gray WOOL CAP on their heads.

They also have wool on their ears and legs.

The Oxford is an English breed. That is mainly used for meat.
This is a medium to small sized breed with a white face. It has rough curly wool. Polypay sheep have shown themselves to be adaptable to diverse operations from range flocks to farm flocks.
This breed is similar to Hampshires except they have wool patches on their ears. They stress soundness, carcass quality and breed type. Shropshire lambs are hardy, vigorous and meaty.

They have the ability to feed out to choice grade at an earlier age and with less investment in feed, thus producing greater overall profit.
THIS IS A SMALL BREED THAT IS VERY SHORT THAT ORIGINATED FROM ENGLAND. SOUTHDOWNS HAVE MEATY CARCASSES AND CAN BE USED TO SIRE CROSSBRED MARKET LAMBS.

IT IS POLLED WITH A GREY TO MOUSE COLORED FACE AND FEET. SOUTHDOWN BREED IS THE OLDEST BREED OF SHEEP, ORIGINATING FROM ENGLAND.
The Suffolk breed originated in England. It is large and has a bare, black head; black face and legs; and is polled. It has a fast growth rate, is reasonably prolific, is a good milker and produces medium wool. This breed is known for its meatiness, high carcass quality and is used as a meat-type sire.
TARGHEE

This is a large breed that is a cross between a Rambouillet and Columbia crossed with a Rambouillet and Corriedale.

They have a white face with a large wool cap and have wool all the way down their legs.
This breed is a very frail-boned sheep and is not very big. It has no wool on its legs and little to no wool on its head.

Finnsheep tails are undocked, wool-covered, with hair at tip, and 4 to 6 inches long.

These ewes are bred for the amount of lambs they can have at one time.
LONG WOOL BREEDS

Lincoln
Romney
The fleece is either white or colored. Lincolns are hearty eaters and make excellent use of an abundance of high-quality roughage or pasture.

The Lincoln is usually referred to as the world's largest breed of sheep. The fleece of the Lincoln is carried in heavy locks that are often twisted into a spiral near the end.
The Romney traces its beginning to the marshy area of Kent in England. These traits include hooves that are resistant to foot rot and fleeces that remain healthy in harsh weather.

The Romney, historically a dual purpose breed, remains so today. The fleece is lustrous; it hangs in separate locks.