

MARKET LAMB CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

(Revised 1996)

I. Finewool Breed Characteristics

A. Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- 1. Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet or a cross between these breeds.**
- 2. Soft pelt with 64's or finer wool (22 microns or less).**
- 3. Silky, white face that is narrow and clean cut.**
- 4. Silky ears that are medium to moderate in size.**
- 5. White hooves and legs.**
- 6. Horns may be present or absent.**

B. Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- 1. Black or brown spots in the skin or wool on the body of the lamb.**
- 2. Freckles or pigmented areas of black or brown skin may be permitted on the face and ears if other breed characteristics are in order.**
- 3. Black or brown freckles above the hooves in the hairline may be permitted if other breed characteristics are in order.**
- 4. Black pigmentation in the hooves.**
- 5. Black eyelashes may be permitted if other breed characteristics are in order.**

C. Absolute Disqualifications

- 1. Coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, down the back of the hind legs, and in the flanks.**
- 2. Black lambs should be shown as medium wools.**
- 3. Steep hip or tendency to show the callipyge gene.**
- 4. Surgical alterations other than redocking.**
- 5. Harsh, coarse pelt.**

II. Finewool Cross Breed Characteristics

A. Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- 1. Must be a cross with evidence of at least 50% finewool breeding and the other percentage should be predominantly Hampshire and/or Suffolk characteristics.**
- 2. Soft pelt that is characteristic of 1/2 blood wool (60's, 62's spinning count)**
- 3. Mottling and/or some spotting on face and ears.**

4. Mottling and/or spotting of legs below the knees and stifle joint.
5. Face and ears should be soft and silky.

B. Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

1. Face, ears, and legs should not be extremely dark or solid in color.
2. Coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, ears, legs, and in the flanks.
3. Colored fiber (black or brown spots) in the wool.
4. Absence of wool on the legs below the knees and/or hocks.
5. Harsh, coarse pelt.

C. Absolute Disqualifications

1. Black lambs should be shown as medium wools.
2. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.
3. Surgical alterations other than redocking.

III. Southdown Breed Characteristics

A. Acceptable Breed Characteristics

1. Hair color on muzzle should be mouse colored, gray to brown.
2. Pigmentation of nostril may be black to purplish-gray or pink nose with black spots.
3. Muzzle should be broad with a head of moderate length.
4. Ears may be of moderate length, covered with short hair or wool. Some coloration on ears is acceptable.
5. Hoof color should be black.
6. Dark pigmentation on hide is acceptable. Birth marks are acceptable.

B. Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

1. Solid white color on muzzle.
2. Dark chocolate color on muzzle.
3. Coarse, chalky hair around eyes extending to and including the muzzle.
4. Coarse hair in flank.
5. Harsh, coarse pelt.
6. Open poll on head.
7. Striped hooves.
8. Black fiber in wool.

C. Absolute Disqualifications

- 1. Speckled face or legs.**
- 2. Horns or solid scurs.**
- 3. White hooves.**
- 4. Black lambs should be shown as medium wools.**
- 5. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.**
- 6. Surgical alterations other than redocking.**
- 7. Changing color of hair or pigmentation on head, legs or hooves.**
- 8. Total pink pigmentation of nostrils.**