

**SHEEP
CLASSIFICATION
STANDARDS**

FINE WOOL BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet or a cross between these breeds
- Silky ears, medium to moderate in size
- Yellow to white hooves (neutral)
- Black pads on hooves
- Silky, white face
- Soft pelt
- Nose should be neutral to pink in color
- May be polled or horned

FINE WOOL BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Moderate amounts of brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool
- Moderate freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, and lips
- Black streaking in the hooves
- Black eyelashes
- Birthmarks

FINE WOOL BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Absolute Disqualifications

- Excessively coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
- Excessive coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs
- Excessive brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool
- Excessive freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, and lips

FINE WOOL BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Absolute Disqualifications *(cont.)*

- Brown or black spots in hairline above hooves
- Solid black hooves
- Black lambs
- Surgical alterations other than re-docking
- Steep hip or tendency to show the callipyge gene

FINE WOOL CROSS BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must be a cross with evidence of at least 50 % finewool breeding and the remaining percentage exhibiting predominance of medium wool breeding (Hampshire and/or Suffolk)
- Soft pelt that which characteristic of 1/2 blood wool (60's-62's spinning count)
- Face and ears should be soft and silky
- Mottling and/or some spotting on face and ears and legs below the knees and hocks
- Wool must be present below the hocks on the rear legs; wool below the knees on the front legs is not necessary
- White, ring-eyed crosses are acceptable if pelt is acceptable
- Birth marks are acceptable

FINE WOOL CROSS BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Solid brown face and ears with little to no mottling
- Excessive black or brown spotting in the skin above the knees and hocks
- Moderate amounts of colored fibers (black or brown) in the wool

FINE WOOL CROSS BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Absolute Disqualifications

- Excessive black or solid dark chocolate brown color on face, ears, and legs (including wool)
- Excessive coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
- Excessive coarse, chalky, white hair on face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs
- Total absence of wool on rear legs
- Black lambs
- Surgical alterations other than re-docking
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene

SOUTHDOWN BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Hair color on muzzle should be mouse colored, gray to brown
- Nostril pigmentation may be black to purplish-gray
- Muzzle should be broad; head of moderate length
- Ears should be of moderate length, covered with short hair or wool
- Black hoof color
- Birth marks are acceptable

SOUTHDOWN BREED

CHARACTERISTICS

- **Discriminatory Breed Characteristics**
- Solid white color or dark chocolate on muzzle
- Coarse, chalky, white hair around eyes extending to and including the muzzle
- Coarse hair in the flank
- Coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
- Predominately pink nose with few black spots
- Long, narrow nose
- Excessive coloration on ears
- Excessive ear length
- Predominantly slick ears
- Scurs
- Open poll on head
- Striped hooves
- Black fibers in wool

SOUTHDOWN BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Absolute Disqualification

- Speckled face or legs
- Horns
- White hooves
- Intentional alteration of hair color or skin pigmentation
- Total pink pigmentation of nostrils
- Black lambs
- Surgical alterations other than re-docking
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene

MEDIUM WOOL BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- This class generally includes the Suffolk and Hampshire breeds, plus all lambs that do not fit in Finewool, Finewool Cross or Southdown breed divisions. This includes all other breeds of animals not listed above.