Hair Sheep
Hair Sheep

- Excellent breed for hobby farmers looking for a low maintenance animal to control weed and brush growth in their pastures.
- They are good mothers
- Good milk producers
- Seldom require assistance lambing.
- Docile
- As with most sheep and goats, Hair sheep are mainly reared in the arid and semi-arid areas
- Lifespan is 8-12 years
- sexually mature at 5-6 months.
- Gaining popularity
Hair Sheep

No Shearing Necessary

• They shed their longer hair in the spring hence, do not require shearing
• Although some wool will be present, they are predominately covered in Hair
• Decreases the stress and injury of shearing
• Cost of shearing exceeds the value of the fleece.
• Either absorb the cost or don’t shear – loss of production in heat
Hair Sheep

Parasite Resistance

• Most hair breeds have better resistance to parasites than wool breeds.
• Sheep Keds which typically hide in wool are easier for a hair sheep to rub off
• Parasites, like worms, also seem to occur less often in hair breeds.
Hair Sheep

No Docking Necessary

• woolly tails collect feces
• get in the way of breeding, attract parasites and flies.
• Hair sheep have shorter hairs on their tail, thus their tails remain clean
Hair Sheep

Smaller Frame Size

• Hair sheep breeds are generally smaller than wool breeds easier to manage, and handle.
Hair Sheep

Taste Great - Less Fat

• Most Hair Sheep lambs are raised for meat.
• Meat is leaner
• Better tasting
• Mild in flavor
• Marketable at an older age than the wool breeds (even past the "lamb" stage)
Hair Sheep

Decreased Death Loss at lambing

• By using a hair sheep ram in a cross breeding program on the larger wool breed ewes, a manager can reduce the number of problems ewes may experience when lambing.

• Smaller lambs mean fewer problems
Hair Sheep

Environmentally Adaptable

• They are very adapt in hot or cold climates, of course in extremely cold places they do well with a shelter but it does not have to be heated.

• Wool sheep (unless shorn) suffer in heat and humidity.
The *major* Hair Sheep breeds include:
Africana
Africana

• Found in Colombia and Venezuela
• Usually brown, ranging in shade from tan to brown and cherry-red to dark red.
• Polled
Barbado

• Originated in Texas
• The breed originated from Barbados Blackbelly sheep which were crossed with Rambouillet and mouflon.
• Game Ranch trophy animal due to its large horns.
• Tan, tan with a pale or black belly or pied.
• The coat varies from short hair to coarse wool with a large amount of kemp fibers.
• Males have horns, for which the breed was selected, and the females are polled.
Barbados Blackbelly

• Originated and evolved on the island of Barbados
• Coat: Complete covering of medium to thick-hair (no wool) that sheds in the spring
• Color: All shades of brown, tan or yellow, all are highlighted with contrasting black underparts Black points on the nose, forehead, and inside of the ears.
• Rams have a neckpiece of thick hair which extends down the neck to the brisket, some may cover to the shoulder.
• Horns: Both sexes of the Barbados Blackbelly are polled.
White Persian

provided by Denis Russell
Blackhead Persian

provided by Dr. Alberto Zorlani
The Blackhead Persian is a fat-tailed breed of domestic sheep from Africa. The breed is also a type of hair sheep, they do not grow wool and tolerate heat better than wooled breeds. Raised primarily for meat. Both sexes are polled. Rams weigh 150 lb and ewes 110 lb. At birth, rams and ewes weigh about 5.7 lb.
Blackhead Persian

• Many people may mistake this sheep for a goat, because it does not grow wool.
• Developed in South Africa from Somalian sheep and been successfully exported to very humid places like Brazil and the Caribbean.
• There is also a variety of a slightly different color called the Redhead Persian
• Blackhead Persian purebreds give birth occasionally to a Redhead Persian.
Blackhead Persian

• Because they do not have wool, the Blackhead Persian has been bred for meat and leather.
• In addition to storing fat in their tail, they can store fat in their dewlap
• If they were developed in Africa, then how did they get the Persian part of their name? Legend has it that, in 1868, a cargo ship carrying sheep from the Persian Gulf got stranded in South Africa by a terrible storm. The white South African farmers knew a good sheep when they saw one and traded their sheep for the sheep on board the boat, which became the foundation stock of the breed. Historians say that this legend is nonsense, but the name has stuck.
Blackhead Persian

- Blackhead Persians get their name for a good reason - their entire heads and necks are black. This makes a startling contrast to their white bodies. Sometimes there may be matching black on the legs, but usually the legs are as white as the bodies. They tend to carry their heads high when they are not grazing. This stance has made some aficionados of the breed describe their expression as "regal".
- They have long, goat-like ears.
- The milk of Blackhead Persians contains 5.9% fat.
- Blackhead Persians and Redhead Persians have been used to help bolster any native sheep breeds in hot, humid countries.
- They are noted to being a very healthy breed and have the ability to put on fat in tough grazing conditions.
Brazilian Somali

Provided by Carlos Eduardo Azevedo Souza
Brazilian Somali

• The Brazilian Somali is a hair breed which originated from the Blackhead Persian crossed with local sheep.
• The breed is white with a black head. Both sexes are polled and it is small framed. They are one of the fat tail breeds.
• The breed is reported to the lowest mortality rate from birth to weaning of the breeds in Brazil.
Damara
Damara

- The name of the breed was derived from the specific region where the sheep were originally encountered (then known as Gross Damaraland).
- Damara sheep can survive in a harsh environment and under poor nutritional conditions.
- It has a fairly high resistance to most sheep diseases and also good tolerance against internal parasites.
- Wattles are sometimes found under the throat.
- The sheep has a wide range of colors which are all equally acceptable and desirable. Pigmentation in the skin is essential and is the only prescription concerning color.
Katahdin
Katahdin

• Michael Piel, of Maine, USA, set about creating a breed of sheep to use for land maintenance, to control vegetation growth around power lines.

• In 1957 he imported three young African Hair Sheep, all of whom had been triplets but were not related to each other. Two were ewes, and one was a ram. From there he set about breeding them with each other and other select breeds including the Suffolk, Hampshire, and Cheviot.
Katahdin

• He selected the sheep he kept for breeding based on "hair", fertility, meat type conformation, and flocking instinct. In the 1970's he named the new breed "Katahdin", after Mt. Katahdin, in Maine.

• A registry was established in 1986, under the name Katahdin Hair Sheep International.
Katahdin

• The hair coat of the Katahdin varies in length and texture among individuals and can be any color or color combination.

• The Katahdin can be used in crossbreeding programs. When crossed with wool sheep, the first generation offspring will in most cases have wool fleeces with hair interspersed. It usually takes at least 3 generations, to obtain offspring with a shedding hair coat and other purebred characteristics.
Red Masai
Red Masai

• Originated in East Africa
• Fat-tailed type of hair sheep
• Used for meat production
• Red-brown, occasionally pied
• Males are horned or polled
• Females are usually polled
• Known for being resistant to internal parasites
Morada Nova
Morada Nova

• Comes from northeast Brazil and is probably of African origin.
• Both sexes are polled
• The rams do not have a throat ruff
• Predominant color is red to cream, but white animals are also found
• Small with mature ewe weights of about 65 lbs
• Breed association in Brazil.
Pelibüey
Pelibüey

• Descended from the West African Dwarf and is found in Cuba, coastal areas of Mexico and other locales in the Caribbean.

• Hair color ranges from beige, brown, dark brown, red, white, black and roan with both solid and combination of colors found.

• Males do carry a throat ruff but usually do not have horns. Ewes are also usually polled.
Rabo Largo
Rabo Largo

• Rabo Largo, meaning broad tail, are found in northeastern Brazil
• White, pied or white with a colored head
• Both sexes are horned
• Individuals within the breed vary between hair and carpet wool.
Sahel-type
Sahel-type

- Found primarily in the countries of Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Chad
- Rams do not have a throat ruff or mane
- Mature ewes weigh over 75 lbs
- White, white and brown, or white and black with lop ears
- Males display a long twisting pattern to the horns and the females are usually polled
Santa Inês
Santa Inês

• Breed of American Hair sheep found in Brazil
• Red, black and white and can be spotted or solid
• Large bodies, are long-legged and have large pendulous ears
• Pollled
• Rams do not have a throat ruff.
• Mature weights of the ewes = 100 lbs and if well fed, the rams can weigh as much as 225 lbs
• The Santa Inês can serve as a terminal sire breed in a crossbreeding system
Somali
Somali

- The Somali is a hair sheep which is reared primarily for meat production
- White with a black head.
- Both sexes are polled
- The Blackhead Persian, which was developed in South Africa, originated from the Somali breed.
St. Croix
St. Croix

- The Virgin Island White breed is found in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands in the Caribbean.
- Most of these sheep are white with some solid tan, brown, black or white with brown or black spots.
- Both sexes are polled.
- Rams have a large throat ruff.
- Mature Virgin Island White ewes and rams weigh 75 and 100 lbs, respectively.
- Easy to handle, and are active and vigorous but show no tendency to be wild.
St. Croix

- Generally more resistant to internal parasites than conventional sheep
- St. Croix ewe's lambs show high fertility at 6-7 months of age
- The ewes can breed back after one month after lambing
- Ewes can produce two lamb crops per year.
- Twenty-five Virgin Island White sheep, 22 ewes and 3 rams, were selected in St. Croix and imported into the U.S. by Dr. W. C. Foote of Utah State University in 1975. There were no records available on the animals. The criteria for selection were white color, lack of wool and average or better body size and conformation. These sheep were the basis of the present St. Croix breed in the U.S. The size of the ewes in the U.S. averages 119 pounds, while the rams average 163 pounds.
Touabire
Touabire

- African
- Used for both dairy and meat production
- Usually white with lop ears but pied individuals are also seen.
- Males are horned and the females polled.
Uda
• Found in northern Nigeria, southern Niger, central Chad, northern Cameroon and western Sudan
• Meat breed with distinctive markings. The front half of the body is black or brown and the back half is white.
• Rams are horned and the ewes are usually polled.
West African Dwarf
West African Dwarf

• The West African Dwarf is the predominant breed of the humid tropics from southern west Africa through central Africa
• Generally black piebald on white. Tan piebald on white, predominately colored (tan or black) and the blackbelly pattern are also found
• Adult males weight approximately 37 kg
• They have a well-developed throat ruff and are horned
• Ewes have mature weights of 25 kg. and are usually polled.
• At less than 100 g per day under good feed conditions, their growth rate is low and lamb mortality is high. This breed is also trypanotolerant. *(genetic resistance to infectious diseases)*
Wiltshire Horn
Wiltshire Horn

- Ancient British breed from the Chalk Downs region of England
- A small flock of Wiltshires was exported to the Piel Farm in Canada where they were used to create the modern Katahdin breed. All the Wiltshire in the U.S. came from the Piel flock
- Both rams and ewes are horned.
- Both sexes are white, with occasional dime-sized black spots in the undercoat
- These lambs don't mature as quickly as some newer breeds, taking almost a year to reach 100-125 lbs. slaughter weight on mostly grass. The meat is very desirable, with little fat and a dressing percentage of about 60%
Karakul
Karakul

• The Karakul sheep is a type of fat-tailed sheep, very common to the African and Asian continents, but considered a rare breed in the US and Canada.
• Has a dominant black gene, so a very high percentage of these sheep are born black.
• The pelts of the Karakul lambs are historically referred to as "Persian lamb" or "Broadtail".
• often known as the "Fur Sheep".
Fat-tail Sheep

- Known for their distinctive large tails and hindquarters
- Fat-tailed sheep breeds comprise approximately 25% of the world sheep population,[^1]
- Commonly found in northern parts of Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan, North India, Western China and Mongolia.
- The only fat-tailed breed seen frequently in the US is the Karakul
- Fat-tailed sheep are hardy and adaptable, able to withstand the tough challenges of desert life.
- Stores fat in its tail for nourishment in lean times
- The fat can account for as much as 10 lbs of the weight on a 60 lb carcass
Fat-tail Sheep

• The earliest record of this sheep variety is found in ancient Uruk (3000 BC)
• Another early reference is found in the Bible (Leviticus 3:9), where a sacrificial offering is described which includes the tail fat of sheep.
• The tail fat is still used in modern cookery, though there has been a reported decline, with other types of fat and oils having increased in popularity.
• The carcass quality of these sheep is quite good, with most of the fat concentrated in the tail area.
• There is a growing market for sheep of this type as the ethnic market is the fastest growing sector of lamb consumption in North America.
Fat-tail Sheep
Fat-tail Sheep
Fat-tail Sheep
• The Dorper is a South African breed of domestic sheep developed by crossing Dorset Horn and the Blackhead Persian sheep around the 1930s. The breed was created through the efforts of the South African Department of Agriculture to breed a meat sheep suitable to the more arid regions of the country.

It is now farmed in other areas as well, and is the second most common sheep breed in South Africa.

A Dorper is a fast growing meat producing sheep. The Dorper is an easy care animal that produces a short light coat of wool and hair that is shed in late spring and summer.

The Dorper Sheep Breeders Society of South Africa was founded in 1950. Other breeds such as the Van Rooy are also believed to have contributed to the development of the breed. The name 'Dorper' is a coupling of the first syllables of the parent breeds...
Blackhead Dorper

![Image of Blackhead Dorper sheep](image_url)
Blackhead Dorper
Blackhead Dorper
White Dorper
Dorper

• The Dorper breed originated in South Africa in the 1930's by crossing the Black Headed Persian ewe (female sheep) with the Dorset Horn ram.

• This cross resulted in the birth of both the Blackhead and White Dorper. The difference in color is therefore merely a matter of preference for each breeder. Black-headed breeders constitute about 85% of the members of the Dorper Sheep Breeders' Society of South Africa.

• The Dorper breed is now numerically the second largest breed in South Africa (Merino #1) and has spread to many countries throughout the world, including the United States in 1995.
Dorper

- Most Dorpers are 100% self shedding, although this may not become apparent until the sheep has reached its second season of shedding. The shedding is done by rubbing on trees, building and fences.
- They are also less prone to fly-strike due to being bare breeched and without wool under their belly or legs.
- Rams reach a live weight of 200-260 lbs
- Ewes 110-175lb.
Dorper

- Skin is thick and protects the sheep under harsh climatic conditions
- Most sought after sheepskin in the world and is marketed under the name of Cape Grovers
- The skin comprises a high percentage of the income (20%) of the total carcass value
Dorper

• Low susceptibility to internal and external parasites
• The Dorper are an economical breed because of their excellent feed utilization and conversion
• Known for their ability to thrive in harsh conditions both Arid and semi-tropical areas
• They don't need shearing, crutching and mulesing, and they are disease resistant
Mulesing

• Mulesing is a skilled surgical task that involves the removal of strips of wool-bearing skin from around the breech (buttocks) of a sheep to prevent flystrike in regions where it is common. Common practice in Australia as a way to reduce the incidence of flystrike on Merino sheep
Mulesing
The Dorper is **polyoestrus** (can breed continually, with no defined season). Their breeding intervals can be as short as 8 months or 3 times in 2 years. Running rams with ewes continuously is one option that may stimulate reproduction, however it is also likely that ewes will adjust their fertility according to conditions.
Dorper

• Strong mothering and protective instincts
• Lambing percentages in excess of 150% (2.25 lambs per annum) are possible
• Excellent milk production throughout ewe’s lifetime
• Small vigorous lambs at birth = easy lambing
Dorper

- Excellent demand for Dorper rams as terminal sires
- Rams high in libido - High fertility and fecundity (*the potential reproductive capacity of an individual or population*)
Dorper

• Excellent carcass with a dressing percentage of 50%+
• They are non-selective grazers, they prefer fiber to grains
• Purebred lambs will start to graze in the first few days after birth. F1 lambs after about two weeks.
Dorper

• They can be advantageously incorporated into under-utilized pastures of lesser quality
• Average daily gain (ADG) from .2 lbs in harsh conditions to .35 lbs in optimal conditions
• Early maturing lambs that can be ready for market at 12 weeks at around 85 lbs
Dorper Breed Standards
Dorper Breed Standards

- **Standard of Excellence**
- The purpose of a Standard of Excellence is to indicate the degree of excellence of the animal by means of a description and a score by points according to visual appearance and performance. These values must be recorded in such a way as to give a true reflection of the excellence or deficiencies of the sheep. For descriptive and comparative purposes sheep may be compared with each other according to a score card, and the following points are allotted, corresponding to the respective terms of the main sections of the standard of excellence.
Dorper Breed Standards

Very good 5 points
Above average 4 points
Average 3 points
Poor or below average 2 points
Very poor with cull points 1 point
Dorper Breed Standards

The following comprises the Standard of Excellence:

- **Confirmation**: Represented by the Symbol \( B \)
- **Size Or Growth Rate**: Represented By The Symbol \( G \)
- **Distribution Of Fat**: Represented By The Symbol \( D \)
- **Colour Pattern**: Represented By The Symbol \( P \)
- **Cover Or Fleece**: Represented By The Symbol \( H \)
- **Type**: Represented By The Symbol \( T \).
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

Head:

• Strong and long
• large eyes, widely spaced and protectively placed
• Strong nose, strong well-shaped mouth with well-fitted deep jaws.
• The forehead must not be dished.
• The size of the ears must be in relation to the head.
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

Head:
• A developed horn base or small horns are the ideal.
• Heavy horns are undesirable but permissible.
• The head must be covered with short, dullish black hair in the Dorper and dull, white hair in the White Dorper.
• The head must be dry i.e. without indications of fat localization.
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

Fore-Quarter And Neck:
• The neck should be of medium length
• well-fleshed and broad and well-coupled to the forequarters.
• Shoulders should be firm, broad and strong.
• A moderate protrusion of the brisket beyond the shoulders, moderate width and good depth are the ideal.
• Forelegs must be strong, straight and well-placed with strong pasterns and hoofs not too widely split.
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

Fore-Quarter And Neck:

• Weak pasterns and X legs must be discriminated against according to degree.

• Shoulders which appear loose, a brisket which slants up too sharply with no projection beyond the shoulders, crooked legs and weak walking ability, are faulty.
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

Barrel:

• The ideal is a long, deep wide body, ribs well sprung, loin broad and full. The sheep must have a long straight back and not a "devil's grip". A slight dip behind the shoulders is permissible.
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

Hind-Quarter:

• A long and wide rump is the ideal.
• The inner and outer twist to be well fleshe and deep in adult animals.
• The hind legs must be strong and well-placed, with sturdy feet and strong pasterns.
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

Hind-Quarter:

• Faulty pasterns must be discriminated against according to degree.

• The hocks must be strong without a tendency to turn in or out.

• Sickle, bandy or perpendicular hocks are culling faults.
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

Udder And Sex Organs:

• A well-developed udder and sex organs are essential in the ewe.

• The scrotum of the ram should not be too long and the testicles should be of equal size and not too small.

• A split scrotum is undesirable.
Dorper Breed Standards

Confirmation: Represented by the Symbol B

General Appearance:

• The sheep should be symmetrical and well-proportioned.

• A calm temperament with a vigorous appearance is the ideal.
Dorper Breed Standards

Size Or Growth Rate: Represented By The Symbol $G$

• A sheep with a good weight for its age is the ideal.

• Discrimination against extremely small or extremely big animals must be exercised.
## Dorper Breed Standards

**Size Or Growth Rate: Represented By The Symbol \(G\)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Rams and Ram Lambs</th>
<th>Ewes and Ewe Lambs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Teeth +</td>
<td>230 lb</td>
<td>210 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Teeth</td>
<td>225 lb</td>
<td>185 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Teeth</td>
<td>205 lb</td>
<td>150 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 months</td>
<td>175 lb</td>
<td>145 lb</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Months</td>
<td>150 lb</td>
<td>120 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>120 lb</td>
<td>105 lb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dorper Breed Standards

Distribution Of Fat: Represented By The Symbol D

• Too much localization of fat on any part of the body is undesirable.
• An even distribution of a thin layer of fat over the carcass and between the muscle-fibers is the ideal.
• The sheep must be firm and muscular when handled.
Dorper Breed Standards

Colour Pattern: Represented By The Symbol P

Dorper

• A white sheep with black confined to the head and neck is the ideal.

• Black spots, to a limited extent on the body and legs are permissible, but an entirely white sheep or a sheep predominantly black is undesirable.

• Brown hair around the eyes, white teats, white under the tail and white hoofs are undesirable.
Dorper Breed Standards

Colour Pattern: Represented By The Symbol P

White Dorpers:

• A white sheep, fully pigmented around the eyes, under the tail, on the udder and the teats is the ideal.

• A limited number of other coloured spots is permissible on the ears and underline.
Dorper Breed Standards

Cover Or Fleece: Represented By The Symbol H

• The ideal is a short, loose, light covering of hair and wool with wool predominating on fore quarter and with a natural clean kemp underline.
• Too much wool or hair is undesirable.
• Exclusively wool or hair is a fault.
• Manes are a disqualifier.
Dorper Breed Standards

Type: Represented By The Symbol T.

• Type is judged according to the degree to which the sheep conforms to the general requirements of the breed.

• Emphasis is placed on conformation.

• Size and fat distribution when determining type, while colour and covering are of secondary importance.