

Breed Classification Standards for TJLE – Sheep Expo

Aaron E. Fisher

Department of Animal Science, University of Tennessee

Market lambs and commercial ewes must meet their respective breed/type standards in order to be eligible for that particular breed. This is accomplished through a breed classification/sift during check-in of the show in which a qualified breed sifter evaluates the sheep on how they follow the below breed standards. Any market lamb or commercial ewe determined to not meet breed standards will be moved to the respective Blackface Crossbred division. The decisions made by the breed classifier are considered final.

If you have an interest in showing a market lamb or commercial ewe in a particular breed class, it is very important to know and understand the below breed standards so you will know what to expect when you arrive at the show.

Market Lambs

Cheviot

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Solid pink nose
2. White hooves
3. Long ears and/or extremely long neck
4. Excessive (more than 25%) brown or black hair
5. Wool cap
6. Wool below the knees
7. Absence of white hair on face and legs of black lambs

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns or solid scurs
2. Steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled

Columbia

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Scurs
2. Solid black nose or pigmented ears
3. More than 25% black or brown hair
4. Short thin ears
5. Absence of wool below the hock or knee

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns

2. Open face or absence of a full wool cap. Must have wool between the ears and eyes.
3. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled

Corriedale

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Scurs
2. Brown spots on ears
3. Brown or black spots (in the hair) on the head or legs
4. Minor deviation from the ideal conformation, or breed characteristics

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns
2. Black and/or brown spots in the wool
3. Solid black nose and all white hooves
4. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double-muscled

Dorset

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Any dark colored spots in the hair or wool
2. Large drooping ears
3. Fine textured, silky hair covering
4. Absence of hair covering in typical areas
5. Dark colored septum - dividing the tissue between the nostrils
6. Dark colored lining of the nose or mouth

Absolute disqualification:

1. All-black, colored or spotted (Holstein type) lambs

Hair Breeds

1. Lambs with any evidence of hair sheep breeding will show in the Hair Breeds Division.

Hampshire

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Broken wool cap
2. Very fine or thin hair on face or legs
3. Scurs
4. Excessive (more than 25%) white hair on jaw or legs
5. Excessively dark or blue hide
6. Inadequate wool covering head and legs
7. Speckled face so that the lamb appears to be a "brockle"

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns
2. Lack of a wool cap
3. Steep hip and genetic tendency to be double muscled

Montadale

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Solid pink nose
2. Completely white hooves
3. Excessive wool cap
4. Heavy wool covering below the hock and knee
5. Excessive brown or black hair (more than 25%) on the face or legs
6. Excessive dark coloration of the face and legs (appears to be a "brockle")
7. Absence of white hair frosting on the face and legs of a black lamb

Absolute disqualification:

1. Horns (scurs that are loose are okay)
2. A steep hip and genetic tendency to be double muscled

Natural Color

1. Must have fleece with at least 50% of fibers that are a color other than white, excluding the hair on the lamb's face and legs.

Oxford

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Long droopy black ears
2. Bare face
3. Black spots in wool or hair
4. Inverted eyelids
5. Specked face and/or hair
6. White spots on the ear

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns or solid scurs
2. Lack of top-knot
3. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double-muscled

Romney

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Head that is not white
2. No wool cap

3. Excessively small or large ears
4. Fleece that is not predominately solid white

Absolute disqualification:

1. Horns

Shropshire

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Broken wool cap
2. Coarse or long, droopy ears
3. Coarse or Roman nose
4. Any white on the face, ears or legs
5. Legs completely bare of wool below the knees and hocks
6. Black arm-pits or black spots in the skin or wool

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns
2. Lack of a wool cap
3. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double-muscled

Southdown

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Solid white hair color on muzzle
2. Pink nose
3. Excessive white on face, ears or legs
4. Completely slick ears
5. Pink or striped hooves
6. Black spots in the fleece, not hide
7. Open pool on the head
8. Speckled face or legs

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Solid black in color
2. Horns or solid scurs
3. Double Muscled

Suffolk

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Non-black hair on head, ears or legs
2. Wool on the head

3. Wool below the hock and knee
4. Ears that are short or otherwise not “bell-shaped”

Absolute disqualification:

1. Horns

Tunis

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. White blaze on face below the eye ridges
2. White or black face and/or legs
3. Mottling or white socks on any leg
4. Non pink nose or tongue
5. Wool with colored fiber

Absolute disqualification:

1. Horns or scurs

Whiteface Crossbred

1. Must be the offspring of at least one whiteface parent (either the sire or the dam) or of a whiteface cross ram and a whiteface cross ewe
2. Must have predominantly white hair on its head and ears (approximately 50% white) and should have visible speckling on ears, face, jaw, flank, and/or legs or piebald marking

Commercial Ewes

Whiteface Crossbred

1. Must be the offspring of at least one whiteface parent (either the sire or the dam) or of a whiteface cross ram and a whiteface cross ewe
2. Must have predominantly white hair on its head and ears (approximately 50% white) and should have visible speckling on ears, face, jaw, flank, and/or legs or piebald marking

Crossbred Hair

1. Ewes with any evidence of hair sheep breeding will show in the Crossbred Hair Division