

4-H/FFA MARKET LAMB CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

Border 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 brown or black hair (more than 25%)
5. A wool cap
6. Wool below the knees

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns or solid scurs
2. Absence of white hair (frosting) on the face and legs of black lambs
3. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled

Columbia:

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Scurs
2. Pigmented ears
3. More than 10% black or brown hair
4. Short thin ears
5. Absence of wool below the hock or knee

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns
2. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled
3. Black or brown spots in the wool that are larger than the size of a dime
4. Solid black nose
5. Open face or absence of a full wool cap. Must have wool between the ears and eyes.

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 face or legs (smaller than the size of a U.S. dime)
4. Minor deviation from the ideal conformation, or breed characteristics

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns
2. Black and/or brown spots in the wool
3. Black and/or brown spots on the face or legs that are larger than the size of a U.S. dime
4. Brown hairs in the leggings below the knees and hocks
5. Speckled faces or ears
6. Absence of black spot(s) on the nose and/or hooves
7. Solid black nose
8. All white hooves
9. Solid pink noses
10. 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

Hampshire:

Description:

1. Head - face of good length, dark, free of wool from eyes down, unbroken wool cap extend from neck over forehead
2. Ears must be moderate in length, thick, covered with coarse dark brown or black hair, free from wool
3. Legs - some wool below knee
4. Nose - broad muzzle, coarse dark brown or black hair, wool feathering desirable, open around eye, "frostiness" on nose
5. Body wool may be white, black or any combination thereof including blue fiber
6. Off color - free of white spots on jaws, legs and ears

Horned Dorset:

Characteristics must include the Polled Dorset information listed under "Dorset," plus: Horned Dorsets must exhibit horns (not scurs) with no evidence of Rambouillet or other breed influence. Both parents of Horned Dorsets must be of pure horned ancestry.

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

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns (scurs that are loose are okay)
2. Excessive dark coloration of the face and legs such that the lamb appears to be a "brockle"
3. Absence of white hair frosting on the face and legs of a black lamb
4. A steep hip and genetic tendency to be double muscled

Natural Colored:

Description:

1. At least 50% of the lamb's fleece must be made up of fibers that are a color other than white, excluding the hair on the lamb's face and legs.
2. Coloration due to injury or club lamb fungus will be excluded when determining eligibility.

North Country Cheviot:

Description:

1. The preferred color is chalk-white wool, but recessives such as black, reverse badger and badger are tolerated.
2. The head should be covered with short glossy white hair. The wool line should not come beyond the line in front of the ears on top, nor beyond the line of the eye on the cheeks.
3. Nostrils and hooves are preferably black, but pink or mottled noses and striped hooves are tolerated.
4. Animals must show a slightly Roman, to Roman nose.
5. Ear set should be erect at 45-degree angle to the head and of moderate to long length.
6. Animals should be free from wool above the knee and hock. These same animals should be covered with a short white hair below the wool line.

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

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Speckled face and/or hair
2. Horns or solid scurs
3. Lack of top-knot
4. Long, slick, droopy black ears
5. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double-muscled
6. White spots on the ear

Shropshire:

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Coarse or long, droopy ears
2. Coarse or Roman nose
3. Any white on the face, ears or legs
4. Legs completely bare of wool below the knees and hocks
5. 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
4. Excessive white on the face, ears, or legs
5. Any animal with no brown on the head

Southdown:

Description:

1. The hair on the muzzle should be gray to brown in color, not white and not approaching black

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Solid black in color
2. Speckled faces or legs
3. Total white hooves
4. A pronounced Roman nose
5. Horns
6. Inverted eyelids

Suffolk:

Description:

1. Black hair should cover the legs and head
2. Little to no wool should be on the head
3. No wool on the legs
4. Ears should be long, "bell-shaped" and covered with black hair
5. Body wool may be white, black or any combination thereof.

Texel:

Description:

1. The Texel breed is a medium sized sheep, standing on medium length of leg.
2. The body is very muscular over the top and carrying down into the leg with a solid square rump.
3. The head is broad and covered with fine white hair from the ear forward and to the jaw line. Pure white is preferred, but if there are small spots on the ear they should be a bright black color, not tan.
4. Texel sheep should not have a wool cap or wool on the jaw.
5. The wool line should stop above the hock and knee, with the legs being covered with the same fine white hair as the face.
6. The nostrils and hooves are preferred to be black in color.

Tunis:

Description:

1. Medium-sized meat-breed with a solid tan to red face and legs
2. Ears are long pendulous, drooping forward at rest, pointed forward when alert
3. Nose and tongue pink
4. Slender face, wider at muzzle
5. Dark brown or brown and beige striped hooves
6. Legs are generally free of wool

Disqualifications:

1. White blaze on face below the eye ridges
2. White or black face and/or legs
3. The head of the Tunis should not have black or gray tint or hair
4. Ewes with any horns/scurs
5. Mottling or white socks on any leg
6. Undershot or overshot of jaw
7. Spinal deformities
8. Undersized or too fine boned
9. Oversized or coarse

Whitefaced Commercial:

Description:

A whitefaced commercial market lamb must be the offspring of at least one whitefaced parent (either the sire or the dam). The lamb must show **50% or more** white hair on its head (including the ears), or show some evidence of a speckling pattern on its ears, face, jaw, flank or legs. Solid brown faced or smut faced lambs with little to no white hair on their head (including ears) and no evidence of a speckling pattern will show in the blackfaced commercial class.