WYOMING

Sheep Breed Classification Guidelines

A collaborative effort by the Wyoming FFA Association and Wyoming 4-H programs in partnership with the Wyoming State Fair.

2023

Wyoming State Fair General Information and Policies

Please reference pages 76-78 in the Wyoming State Fair Premium Book for the complete Youth Livestock Show policies.

For general information regarding Youth Market Sheep, please reference the Wyoming State Fair Premium Book, pages 94-98. Youth Market Sheep policies and class numbers can be found on page 97.

Policies: Classes are created to support breed registry standards that also ensure opportunity for all 4-H and FFA members to compete while using entry numbers and show trends in classes creation.
*Exhibitors will be able to choose either the breed class and compete with the wethers or the Market Ewe Lambs, but not both.

CLASS:
- Natural Color
- Suffolk
- Hampshire
- Southdown
- Dorset
- Shropshire
- Blackface
- Whiteface
- Speckled Face
- Any Other Registered Breed
- Market Ewe Lamb*

Wyoming State Fair Breed Classification Process

A classification committee comprised of three individuals, each representing WSF, FFA, or 4-H, will visually determine each appropriate class entry. Registration papers, breeder affidavits, or other factors WILL NOT be considered by committee members. Animals are not disqualified from participating as a result of the classification.

Committee members each apply their opinion to anonymously vote using colored chips. At least 2 blue colored chips indicate the committee agrees with the breed classification entry. At least 2 red colored chips indicate disagreement with the breed classification entry. If at least 2 red chips are presented, the committee will convene to determine whether the animal should be moved into another breed class or the crossbred class. A second vote will be held resulting in final class entry eligibility.

Note: Classifiers are appointed by WSF to assist WSF by exercising their judgement for class placement. Their decision is final with no appeals. To aid in understand breed standards, 4-H and FFA members should review and understand breed association standards.

Developed in 2022 by the Wyoming State Fair in partnership with the Wyoming FFA Association and the Wyoming 4-H programs.

DORSET

3 of the following will result in disqualification:
1. Large ears and/or droopy
2. Fine textured silky hair covering
3. Dewlaps, excessive loose skin or large wrinkles and folds
4. Hooves with excessive black striping
5. Any color other than pink on the nose, septum or mouth
6. Any dark colored spots in the haired portion of sheep

Absolute disqualifications:
1. Sheep with a completely black hoof. (A hoof is defined as both toes. Area to be examined is the outside wall that is visibly exposed, not between the toes.)
2. A completely black or dark colored lining of the mouth or nose.
3. The presence of highly objectionable dark color (as defined in Highly Objectionable Traits #6) on the haired portion of two or more anatomical regions. The head (nose, face and ears) is considered one anatomical region and each individual leg is considered an anatomical region. (ie: Highly objectionable dark color on two or more legs OR on one or more legs and head will result in a disqualification.)
4. Dark colored spots in the wool.
5. Solid black fleece animals, badger, or Hereford fleece (black body with white head or legs, and belly)
6. Holstein fleece pattern (black with white spots)

HAMPSHIRE:

- **Head:** The face should be of good length, dark in color, and practically free of wool from the eyes down. An unbroken wool cap should extend from the neck over the forehead.

- **Ears:** The ears should be moderate in length, thick, covered with a coarse dark brown or black hair and free from wool.

- **Nose:** Broad muzzled, covered with a coarse dark brown or black hair. Wool feathering is acceptable and desirable. Should be open around the eyes. Small amount of "frostiness" on the nose is acceptable.

- **Legs:** Some wool is desirable below the knee. Off

- **Color:** The Hampshire should be free of white spots on jaws, legs and ears.

3 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. Absolute disqualifications:
6. Steep hip and genetic tendency to be double-muscled
7. Horns
8. Speckled face so that the lamb appears to be a "brockle"
9. Excessively dark or blue hide
10. Inadequate wool covering on head and legs

SHROPSHIRE:

Classifications:
- Head: Naturally clean dark face (not jet black), gray nose not objectionable.
- No sign of horns. White wool, covering the whole poll.
- Ears: Alert and well set, thin to moderate thickness, medium length
- Color: Same as face and legs.
- Legs: Light colored wool below hock and knees (not black wool)

3 of the following will result in disqualification:
1. Coarse or long, droopy ears
2. Coarse or roman nose
3. Excessive white on face, ears or legs
4. Legs completely bare of wool below the knee and hock
5. Black arm-pits or black spots in skin or wool
6. Absolute disqualifications:
7. Horns
8. Lack of wool cap
9. Steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double-muscled

SOUTHDOWN:

Southdown Breed Characteristics:
1. Hair color on muzzle should be mouse colored, gray to brown
2. Nostril pigmentation may be black to purplish-gray
3. Muzzle should be broad, head of moderate length
4. Ears of moderate length, covered with short hair or wool
5. Black hoof color
6. Dark pigmentation on hide and/or birth marks are acceptable

3 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
3. Completely slick ears 5. Pink or striped hooves
4. Black spots in the fleece
5. Open pool on the head

Absolute disqualifications:
6. Speckled face or legs
7. Horns or solid scurs
8. Solid black lambs
9. Steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled

SUFFOLK:

Suffolk Breed Characteristics:
1. Are polled
2. Have a black open face
3. Will have black legs
4. Hard, black hoof
5. White wooled body

Absolute disqualifications:
1. Full wool cap
2. Wool below the knees
3. White coloring on head or legs
4. White stripes on the hooves
6. Black hided (silver hided is okay)
7. Steep hip and genetic tendency to be double muscled

SPECKLE FACE:

Must be a cross with evidence of a percentage white-face and percentage black-face breeding. Significant spotting must be present for at least two of the following areas: face, ears, and/or legs below knees and stifle joint. Pink in hide color.