

**MARKET LAMB CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**  
**(Revised September, 2013)**

**(Will go into effect for 2014 State Fair of Texas and all 2015 major shows)**

- I. Finewool Breed Characteristics
  - A. Acceptable
    - 1. Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet, or a cross between these breeds.
    - 2. Silky, white face.
    - 3. Silky ears, medium to moderate in length.
    - 4. Soft pelt.
    - 5. Yellow to white hooves (neutral)
    - 6. Black pads on hooves and black dew claws.
    - 7. Nose should be neutral to pink in color.
    - 8. May be polled or horned.
  - B. Discriminatory
    - 1. Moderate amounts of brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool.
    - 2. Moderate freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, nose, and lips.
    - 3. Moderate amount of black streaking in the hooves.
    - 4. Black eyelashes.
    - 5. Birthmarks.
  - C. Absolute Disqualifications
    - 1. Excessively coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
    - 2. Excessive coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs.
    - 3. Excessive brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool.
    - 4. Excessive freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, nose, and lips.
    - 5. Brown or black spots in hairline above hooves.
    - 6. Solid black hooves.
    - 7. Black lambs.
    - 8. Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
    - 9. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.
- II. Finewool Cross Breed Characteristics
  - A. Acceptable
    - 1. Must be a cross with evidence of at least 50% finewool breeding (not showing evidence of Dorset breed type) and the remaining percentage exhibiting predominance of Hampshire and/or Suffolk breeding.
    - 2. Soft pelt which is characteristic of ½ blood wool (60's-62's spinning count).
    - 3. Face and ears should be soft and silky.
    - 4. Mottling and/or some spotting on the face and ears and on legs below the knees and hocks.

5. Light brown face and ears with little to no mottling.
  6. Wool must be present below the hocks on the rear legs; wool below the knees on the front legs is not necessary.
  7. Reddish, rust colored legs are acceptable.
  8. White, ring-eyed crosses are acceptable if pelt is acceptable.
  9. Birth marks are acceptable.
- B. Discriminatory
1. Excessive black or brown spotting in the skin above the knees and hocks.
  2. Moderate amount of colored fibers (black or brown) in the wool.
- C. Absolute Disqualifications
1. Excessive black or solid, dark chocolate brown color on face, ears, and legs (including wool).
  2. Excessively coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
  3. Excessive coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs.
  4. Total absence of wool on rear legs.
  5. Black lambs.
  6. Evidence of Dorset breed type (head and ear shape of Dorset)
  7. Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
  8. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.

### III. Southdown Breed Characteristics

- A. Acceptable
1. Hair color on muzzle should be mouse colored, gray to brown.
  2. Nostril pigmentation may be black to purplish-gray.
  3. Moderate spots or speckling on skin of body.
  4. Muzzle should be broad.
  5. Head of moderate length and in proportion to body.
  6. Ears of moderate length, in proportion to body, and covered with short hair or wool.
  7. Reddish, rust colored legs are acceptable.
  8. Black hooves.
  9. Birth marks are acceptable.
- B. Discriminatory
1. Solid white color or dark chocolate color on muzzle.
  2. Coarse, chalky, white hair around eyes, extending to and including muzzle.
  3. Coarse hair in flank.
  4. Coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
  5. Predominately pink nose with few black spots.
  6. Long, narrow nose.
  7. Excessive coloration on ears.
  8. Excessive ear length.
  9. Predominately slick ears.
  10. Scurs.
  11. Open poll on head.

12. Striped hooves.
13. Black fiber in wool.
- C. Absolute Disqualifications
  1. Speckled face, ears, or legs.
  2. Horns.
  3. White hooves.
  4. Intentional alteration of hair color or skin pigmentation.
  5. Total pink pigmentation of nostrils.
  6. Black lambs.
  7. Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
  8. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.

#### IV. Dorper Breed Standards

- A. Acceptable
  1. Must be a Dorper, White Dorper, or a cross among these two breeds.
  2. Conformation - long, deep, wide body with well sprung ribs and excellent muscling. Relationship between body depth and hip height should be in equal proportion. Avoid extremely leggy, shallow bodied lambs.
  3. Head should be strong, bold, with a deep jaw.
  4. Polled or small horns or scurs.
  5. Must have at least 1/3 hair primarily on belly, forearm, and britch. Lambs should be shorn with blades that leave enough stubble to be able to distinguish hair and/or wool. Classifiers have the authority to disqualify lambs that have been clipped too close to make this distinction.
  6. Moderate size ear with no wool covering.
  7. No wool below the knees and hocks.
  8. Solid brown, red, rust colored head.
  9. No wool forward of poll.
  10. Color: Dorper - white sheep with black head or black head and neck.  
White Dorper - white sheep.
- B. Discriminatory
  1. Tall, leggy, shallow bodied, narrow, light muscled lambs.
  2. Excessive wool covering more than 2/3 of body (belly, forearm, and britch).
  3. Heavy horns.
  4. Long, pendulous ears.
  5. Long, narrow muzzle.
  6. Wool forward of poll.
  7. Excessive coloring on the body (paints).
  8. Excessive speckling in the fleece or on the body.
- C. Absolute Disqualifications
  1. All wool or very little evidence of hair on belly, forearm, or britch.
  2. Wool below the knees or hocks
  3. Wool on the ears.
  4. Lambs with predominately solid black bodies.
  5. Lambs with significant speckling on face, ears, or legs.

6. Strong breed characteristics of breeds other than Dorper or White Dorper.
7. Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
8. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.

V. Medium Wool Breed Characteristics - this class generally includes the Suffolk and Hampshire breeds, plus all lambs that do not fit into the Finewool, Finewool Cross, Southdown, or Dorper breed classes.