



Wiltshire (Polled)

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Wiltpoll Sheep Breeders Association Inc Australia.*

Polled

They are fully polled with a depression in the bone of the skull at the horn site. A Keratin scur or bony knob, no more than 5mm above skull profile, may be evident however no scur is preferred.

Shedding

An easy-care breed and are fully, clean shedding which means no crutching, no shearing and reduced need for external parasite treatment. Adult (two tooth and over) must shed their fleece fully from late winter to early summer (timing is influenced by seasonal conditions, nutrition and geographic location). Lambs should be fully shed, by early summer, the year following their birth.

Large Frame

A large frame meat sheep breed and rams have vigour and good stature to service ewes. Ewes will produce large frame offspring with high potential for quick weight gain. They have large pelvises for easy lambing. The ewe size enables more resources for nurturing their lambs in poor conditions.

Cleanskin

The skin is pink and ticking may become evident as animals age. No ticking is preferred.

Head

Large and broad, during breeding season rams will likely display a chevron pattern of skin wrinkles on the forehead. Butting scars on mid forehead are normal and not to be considered a fault and are due to the normal behaviour of rams paddocked together.

Nose

Slight roman profile is typical.

Dark facial pigments

Dark pigmentation on the nose and around the eyes preferred and can reduce the risks of skin cancers/skin damage

Ears

Long and broad and not carried erect. Some minor black spotting is typical.

Neck

Medium length, strong, flexible and well set. Rams should not display a beard.

Shoulders

Well set and oblique. The width of shoulders to be less than width at rear. Narrower at shoulder than rump facilitates easier lambing.

Chest

Deep and wide with well sprung ribs. Shoulder and chest length to be no more than two thirds of the body length measured from where the neck meets the shoulder to the dock. Meat value is in the rear one third of the sheep i.e., rump and loin. A sound chest cavity is essential for a robust sheep that can handle all climatic conditions.



Wiltshire Sheep

of New Zealand

Back and loin

Well filled and muscled, strong level back (may be slightly raised to the rear). Ram Lamb with straight strong back

Hindquarter

Large, well-muscled with a wide pelvic area and back level or slightly raised to the rear with well filled and muscled loin and hindquarter. Lambs being relatively small at birth combined with a large pelvis in ewes, reduces birthing issues.

Pasterns

Well angled hock and strong pasterns. Weak pasterns and incorrectly angled pasterns result in uneven hoof wear and an increased need for foot paring

Legs

Strong and set well apart with an alert well balanced stance, front legs well balanced and not knock-kneed. Rear legs set well apart with a well filled twist. Well-muscled legs and good stance are essential for breeding.

Feet

Excellent feet suitable for all paddock conditions. Black hooves are preferred but older sheep will tend to stripe or white without detriment. Hooves should not be overgrown or folded under. Well-formed and self-wearing hooves minimise trimming and other hoof care procedures.

