



Wiltshire Horn Standard

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Type & Appearance

Big framed, lean, well muscled, generally later maturing, horned shedding breed of meat sheep, whose purpose is to produce progeny for optimal prime lamb production, often with lambs more suited to export specifications. Both rams and ewes proud and stately with a certain grandeur of carriage. Rams over 100kg, ewes over 80kg.

Head Horns

Males and females horned. Horn falling back and outwards with uniform graceful curve clear of the head. In the males stronger horn with a second curve, the first part of the first curve should not be rubbing the neck behind the ears, and the inside point of the first curve should not be cutting the face. Ram horns that form a tight first circle obstructing the forward vision should also be penalised. Rams may not be shown with horns cut.

Face

Pure white in colour, usually with some black spotting, notably on the broad ears. Eyes big and bright and fearless. Nose 'Roman' in profile. Wide nostril with the flesh part of the nose preferably dark.

Teeth

Strong and set into a good strong lower jaw, free from any sign of weakness, and positioned for optimal bite.

Neck

Medium length. In rams wide at the poll and back of ears and gradually enlarging in all lines to a strong full junction at the shoulder as seen from the sides or the bottom. Ewe neck slimmer and more feminine.

Chest, Ribs & Shoulder

Deep chest with well filled brisket. Ribs well sprung with a full heart girth. Shoulders wide and oblique, should not rise above the level of the back in ewes, and not excessively above in rams.

Back & Loin

Back long and level, well covered with flesh, well-muscled rumps, and good depth of muscle between hind legs. Tail broad and well set up, cut or uncut. If tail is cut it is to have no less than two joints remaining.

Legs

Fore legs straight and wide apart with no wool. Hind legs full of meat to a well angled hock with good flat bone, with strong pasterns and sound feet with some black pigment. No wool below hock.

Skin & Wool

Skin pink, with a hairy coat, covered for part of year with short wool. Wool of no commercial value, and quality (ranges from fine to coarse) not assessed in show ring. Sheep over one year old shown in Summer to have no wool covering. In Spring sheep may have some wool but be in the process of shedding. In Autumn and Winter sheep have wool on chest, back and sides, but wool does not present on belly, underside of chest, head, front legs, lower half of hind legs, or crutch. Sheep under one year may at any time have wool present but not excessive in length or coverage, and there must be some sign of shedding in the summer months. Wiltshires may not be exhibited for show competition subsequent to being shorn. Spotting permitted on head, body and legs, but not be excessive in either numbers or size of spots. Young sheep less spotted than older ones.



Wiltshire Sheep

of New Zealand

A Good Wiltshire Horn Sheep

- Male & Female Horned
- The only native pure breed to shed its coat

Stand back and have a good look at the sheep from a distance. Get a general impression of the ram or ewe you may be interested in buying, appearance, poise, etc. Pay close attention to how it walks.

Remember: to handle animals at the key points:

The sheep needs to be healthy with length, width and depth of body; she needs to lamb un-aided, eat, walk and feed two lambs. So the order of checking is:

- 1) **Teeth** – eating is essential
- 2) **Feet** – need to be able to walk to find food
- 3) **Udder** – to rear two lambs
- 4) **Testes** – in a breeding ram

