

## MCLA Breed Classification Guidelines

### **Dorset**

A Dorset head should be covered with wool and present an open face with pink pigmentation on the mouth, nose, and ears. Ears should be medium in length and covered in white hair. The body should be covered completely in white wool, with wool extending below the knee and hock. Hooves should be a yellow color and free of any dark pigmentation. Dorset may be either horned or polled.

*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 lambs

### **Hampshire**

Hampshires should be black on the face and legs with a white body free of any dark fiber. Hampshires should possess a wool cap extending from the neck over the forehead. The legs should have some wool below the knee. The ear should be of medium size, covered with coarse dark hair.

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

### **Shropshire**

Shropshires have a dark face, a wool cap, a straight nose, a straight ear of medium length and wool on the legs.

*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

## **Southdown**

Southdowns are characterized by their short stocky bodies and their grayish-brown coloring on their face and legs. Their ears should be medium length and covered in wool, though short hair is accepted. The nose should be a solid black or purplish color. Their body should be covered entirely by a uniform white fleece; dark spots are discriminated against. Because Southdowns are a meat producing breed, muscling should be the top priority when selecting with emphasis put on the rack, loin, and leg.

*Three of the following will result in disqualification:*

1. White hairs on muzzle

*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**

Suffolks are a polled breed that should possess a larger, bell-shaped ear and roman nose. They should possess a deep, wide body that is covered with white wool, free of black fiber, with no wool extending below the knee or hock.

*Three of the following will result in disqualification:*

1. Little to no wool should be on the head
2. Wool below the knee or hock
3. Short, erect, wooly ears
4. Significant (>25%) black or grey wool fiber or any combination thereof

## **Natural Color**

Natural Color lambs must at least 25% 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.

## **White Face Crossbred**

**White Face Crossbreds must have white on two of three areas: face, ears and legs with white hair covering 1/4 of the two areas. The face will include the top of the poll down to the nose and jaw. Leg wool and wool caps are not considered part of the 1/3 coloring; hair color only is considered. 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 Black Face Crossbred class.**

## **Black Face Crossbreds**

Black Face Crossbreds are a cross between two black face breeds. A variety of wool, ear, head, and body structure characteristics are acceptable.