

DORSET ADVANTAGE STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

(A Guide For Selection and Judging)

“SUPPORTING PUREBRED DORSET GENETICS”

Overview

Dorset Advantage is a hybrid vigor enhanced sheep where at least one of their parents is a purebred registered Dorset and hence they carry the positive attributes of the Dorset breed in general. The versatility of the Dorset Advantage is most readily apparent in their ability to serve both maternal and terminal aspects of sheep production.

General Appearance

Dorset Advantage are sheep that have good body length and exceptional muscle. A variety of frame sizes and mature body weights are acceptable within the breed due to the various genetic makeup of the non-purebred registered Dorset parent. Hair color on the face and legs may also be variable due to the genetic make-up of the non-Dorset parent. Dorset Advantage sheep are to be shown slick shorn meaning the sheep are to carry a uniform length of wool growth that was shorn 7 days prior to show, with the only exceptions being on the poll, front legs below the knees and rear legs below the hocks.

Score Card

Neck-Shoulder-Chest 20 points

A Dorset Advantage's neck should be moderate in length, trim and well set with head erect and alert. Rams should show masculinity with a good crest. **The neck should be free of wrinkles and or dewlaps.** Any dewlaps, wrinkles, and or skin folds should be heavily discriminated against and are considered highly objectionable traits. **(A Dewlap is a pendulous fold of skin under the throat of an animal.)** Shoulders should be smooth, oblique, and well laid into the ribs. The chest should be deep ribbed, well sprung, and with width to the chest floor.

Back-Loin-Rump-Leg 45 points

The back should be strong, straight, level and it should carry out to the dock with the tail head fairly high set. The loin should be long, wide, and deep. The rump should be long, wide, level and very **well muscled**. The leg should be thick through the center extending well into the stifle area and carrying low towards the hock. Emphasis should be placed on total body length in relationship to height at the shoulder. Dorset Advantage should be as long or longer than they are tall. The loin, rump, and leg are three important parts of the sheep. Dorset Advantage must excel in these areas having at least 50% of their length in their hind saddle.

Feet-Legs-Pasterns 30 points

Legs should be well set under the corners. They should be straight, strong, and of **ample bone**. The forearm area as well as the rear leg should show good expression of muscling. The feet should point

straight ahead and not turn out at an angle. Sheep should have short, strong pasterns. All these skeletal parts should move with strength and correctness when the animal is on the move.

Skin 5 points

The skin should be free of any large wrinkles and loose folds. Skin should be soft and attractive.

Serious Defects

The following defects are very undesirable. They should be discriminated against in shows and sales, and in the flock selection process. **(After each defect the section(s) of the scorecard in which that defect is found and the total points assigned to that section are listed.)**

1. Inverted eyelids
2. Abnormally large tear ducts
3. Lack of muscling (***Back-Loin-Rump-Leg 45 pts***)
4. Weak pasterns (***Feet-Legs-Pasterns 30 pts***)
5. Post legged (***Feet-Legs-Pasterns 30 pts***)
6. Sickie hocked (***Feet-Legs-Pasterns 30 pts***)
7. Cow hocked (***Feet-Legs-Pasterns 30 pts***)
8. Splayed footed (Badly turned out front feet) (***Feet-Legs-Pasterns 30 pts***)

Highly Objectionable Traits

The following traits are highly objectionable and affect the basic functionality of the breeding animal. These traits will be vigorously discriminated against in shows and sales. In addition, the CDC Board of Directors strongly encourages you to display a high level of integrity when selecting animals in your flock for registry in the Continental Dorset Club displaying any of these traits. **(After each trait the section(s) of the scorecard in which that trait is found and the total points assigned to that section are listed.)**

1. Dewlaps, excessive loose skin or large wrinkles and folds. (Dewlap is a pendulous fold of skin under the throat.) (***Neck-Shoulder-Chest 20 pts***)
2. Incisor teeth slightly missing dental pads
3. Abnormal testes:
 - A. Scrotal circumferences less than 30 centimeters for one year and under and 32 centimeters for yearlings and older. (Reference: S.I.D. Sheep Production Handbook, pg. 936)
 - B. Testicles unequal in size.

Disqualifications

Any animal having any of the following characteristics will be disqualified from shows and sales, and are ineligible for registry in the Continental Dorset Club.

1. Spilt scrotum exceeding more than ½ inch in split length
2. Obvious parrot mouth (overshot upper jaw) or monkey jaw (undershot upper jaw)
3. Cryptorchidism (rams lacking two or one testicles)
4. Any signs of surgical alterations or any mechanical alterations (other than tail docking, and horn and/or scur care to protect the health of the animal or for management purposes).

****Violators will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Continental Dorset Club Constitution and Bylaws.***