

The Leicester Longwool Sheepbreeders Association

The Leicester Longwool Sheepbreeders Association (LLSBA) was first set up in 1893 to preserve this Leicester Longwool breed of sheep.

The LLSBA is dedicated to maintaining the existing bloodlines to keep the breed pure and to promoting these wonderful animals, meat and fleeces.

The Leicester Longwool is currently listed as 'vulnerable' on the Rare Breeds Survival List. We are working hard to increase their numbers and we would welcome your support.

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Notes



*The Leicester Longwool
"A sheep breed with an historic past and
an exciting future"*



www.llsba.co.uk

About the Breed

The Leicester Longwool is a large, polled and attractive sheep. There are now two permitted colours, White and Black. The breed characteristics are the same for both colours; the only difference is that each colour has a separate "Flock Book". The Black Leicester was admitted to registration in 1986. Since then they have become very popular with smaller breeders and those interested in wool.

The head is bold and strong on a short thick neck. The crown is well covered with wool, and the face covered in white (black) hair. The ears are blue (on white sheep), fine and fairly long. The muzzle is strong with even jaws, and nostrils dark in colour. The body is deep and of considerable length with full flanks. The back is broad and level, the ribs being well sprung. The legs are of medium length with good bone, well set up on the pasterns on dark feet. The legs are covered in white (black) hair, the back legs usually being covered in wool.

Mature rams can weigh 150 kg and a mature ewe up to 100kg. The high quality lustrous fleece, demonstrates evenness in length and diameter and has a staple of around 40cm on an unshorn shearling, less on an adult sheep after re-growth from shearing. The length of staple does vary depending on the area in which it lives, sheep further north tend to have longer wool. The total fleece weight on average is 5.5 – 8kgs but weights have been recorded up to 15kgs.



YESTERDAY

Leicester Longwools can trace their heritage back, over 150 years to sheep breeder and agricultural pioneer Robert Bakewell (1725-1795). Developed at Dishley Grange in Leicestershire to produce a big framed animal to supply large amounts of meat and wool to the workforce at the start of the Agricultural revolution. This made it a very important breed of its day.



TODAY.

With less than 500 registered ewes, Leicester Longwools are one of the rarest native breeds in England, however the 'Black' and 'White' flocks are attracting renewed interest.



TOMMOROW

The Leicester Longwools lustrous fleece is finding favour with modern day spinners and weavers.



Providing a plentiful natural supply of even length staple.

As the cost and environmental impact of man made fibres rises, the versatility of wool is again in demand.