

DAMARA

The Damara Sheep Breed Standards

General

- The Damara sheep must be a functional, efficient animal. The ewes must appear delicate and feminine, whereas the rams should appear lively and masculine.
- The Damara sheep were bred under harsh conditions and can survive under very poor nutritional conditions. Therefore, it is possible to farm with Damara sheep where water, grazing and shelter are fairly restricted.
- The Damara sheep has a fairly high tolerance against most sheep diseases as well as against internal parasites.
- The Damara sheep can cover vast distances with ease, which also contributes to its profitability. The meat of the Damara sheep is juicy, tasty, flavorsome and not mottled with fat. External fat is mainly located in the tail.
- The Damara sheep has a varied diet. It feeds on grass, bush and shrubs.
- Generally speaking the Damara sheep is an animal which adapts readily to the conditions in which it finds itself.

It can tolerate a great deal of stress under unfavorable natural conditions.

Breed Characteristics

Long tail, which gradually tapers down to a thin end - very much like that of an Antbear. Has a short comfortable gait; the tail, ears, and skin are very mobile; lively appearance; teeth hard and strong; it happens that two front teeth of young sheep as well as those which have shed their milk teeth are large; strong flocking instincts long productive lifetime; strong mothering ability and very fertile.

Head

Nose long and strong, inclined to be slightly Roman in females and prominently Roman in rams. Eyes large and bright; brownish in colour; well developed eyebrow-ridges and mobile eye-lids. The Damara sheep is predominantly a horned sheep; polls do occur, though more in ewes than in rams. The rams have well developed spiral horns which stand well away from the head. Behind the head is a well developed cushion. Rams show this development more than ewes. Ears are reasonably large and mobile. Bells under the throat are permissible. Ewes have a small dewlap from the rear jaw to the throat. Rams often have dewlaps right down to brisket.

Size

The Damara sheep is a fairly large, symmetrically built sheep. The body is long, oval and fairly deep; the top line over the head is concave drops down in the neck hollow, rises above the shoulder point, descends towards the centre of the back and rises over well developed loins, with a goose-rump. The legs are long and dry, but strong and well placed, having strong well shaped hooves. The hamstrings are well developed. The sheep should not be straight in the heel. The pastern-joint is fairly long, sloping and springy. Except for the rump and tail, there should be no visible lumps of fat.

DAMARA

Colour and Hair Cover

Colour varies from white, brown, black and white roan, spotted, doberman and even black. There are no restrictions about colour, except that some dark pigmentation is essential. The hair is mostly short. There is a tendency for a fine layer of woolliness to form under the hair during the winter. Young sheep have longish hair with more woolliness. They shed this when they get older. Glossy hair is the desired type. The hide should be loose and mobile. Rams often have long hair at the bottom of the neck up to the brisket, which stand up straight.

Tail

The tail is wedge-shaped, narrow and long, stretching to below the hock. With the rams, the tail is heavier and broader, tapering down along the hind legs. A slight kink of bends is permissible, though discriminated against. A twist, a bad bend and a tail which is twisted such that bare shin shows, are disqualifications.

Fertility and Growing Ability

The breed is known for its high fertility, rapid growing ability and strong mother instincts. Twins do occur and their mothers are capable of rearing them. The breed is sexually mature at an early age and by selection this can be improved upon. Ewes can give birth at any time of the year.

Breeding Organs

Normal, well developed testicles in one short scrotum are essential in rams. The ewe must have a well developed udder with two teats.

Discriminations

Unevenness in the tail called cheeks; longer woolly hair in grown sheep. Weak cushion behind head.

Culls

Round or cylindrical body;
Tail too short;
Tail too large and broad;
Mouse ears;
Cow hocks;
Pastern-joint weak and bent down backwards;
Abnormally small testicles;
Too long a scrotum;
Overrated goose-rump;
Very small hindquarters;
Very hollow back;
Straight top line;
Horns growing towards head;
Short and long (uneven) jaws;
Ears that are too immobile, lying flat against the cheeks;
Too small for age, or pony type;
No pigmentation;
Too woolly;
Woolly legs;
Head too narrow and short;
Absence of cushion behind head.

DAMARA APPENDIX FLOCKS

Category 1

- i. Objective. To allow for the inclusion of unregistered pure bred Damara sheep in to the Flock book
- ii. Rules. For Damara sheep where registration has not been maintained but perusal of records shows that records, purity and pedigrees have been maintained. These Damara sheep may be eligible for inclusion in the flock book subject to inspection.

Category 2

- i. Objective To allow the upgrading of non-purebred Damara sheep to purebred status.
- ii. Rules. Sheep to be considered for registration must have a recorded history of 4 generations and a pedigree which comprises 93.75 % (15/16) Damara blood.
Sheep Phenotype must confirm to the Damara breed description.
Sheep to be registered must be inspected, pedigrees must be available.
Until these sheep reach full pure bred status they are to be recorded in an appendix flock under the owners registered flock number.
All appendix ewes are to be recorded on annual return.
The grading up code is as follows.
Base X 100% Damara = D = ½ bred
D X 100% Damara = C = ¾ bred
C X 100% Damara = B = 7/8 bred
B X 100% Damara = A = 15/16 bred or pure.

A.B.F.

SIL No. 4969

WHEELER, DANIEL
P.O.Box 95, Kaiapoi 7630

Flock No. A1
(Registered 2010)

Prefix, Wheeler Damara
Telephone (03) 313 2204
Mobile (027) 436 5167
email danielwheeler@xtra.co.nz

Appendix Flock

Founded in 2010 by Daniel Wheeler on 9 crossbred Damara ewes, bred by Daniel Wheeler and 12 crossbred Finnsheep ewes, bred by Daniel Wheeler (F.A8)

Sires used have been bred by B. Harricks; and Owner.

Ewes kept in flock not put to ram 2013, 4.

Ewes retained from previous year	<u>8</u>
Total	<u>8</u>

Sire used in 2014 -

'Homefarm Murphy 13/13' (12) (FS 3-3), bred by D.Kelly (N/M).

DAMARA

A.B.F.

WILLIS, M.H.& S.D.
60 Hussey Road, Harewood, Christchurch 8051

Flock No. A2
(Registered 2010)

Prefix, Willowbank
Telephone (03) 318 1536
Fax (03) 318 1526
Mobile (027) 273 8500
email mike@willowbank.co.nz

Appendix Flock

Founded in 2008 by M.H. & S.D. Willis on 3 ewes, bred by K. Crossland and Wiltshire and Wiltshire Marsh ewes.

Sires used have been bred by K. Crossland; B. Harricks; and Owners.
No Return - 2014

A.B.F.

AVONSTOUR PARTNERSHIP
1170 Makuri Road, R.D.25, Stratford 4395

Flock No. A3
(Registered 2010)

Prefix, Avonstour
Telephone (06) 762 7992
email rarebreeds@paradise.net.nz
website rarebreeds.co.nz/avonstour.html

Appendix Flock

Founded in 2009 by Avonstour Partnership on 40 Damara/Wiltshire cross, Damara, Wiltshire Horn, Dorset Horn and White Dorper ewes, mated with Damara rams.

Sires used have been bred by Owners
No Return - 2014