

SHEEP BREEDS OF NEW ZEALAND



Borderdale
SOUTH ISLAND

- High fertility
- Easy care lambing and high growth weight
- Excellent mothering ability
- Good fleece weights
- Wool type—strong



Border Leicester
BOTH ISLANDS

- High fertility
- Crossed with romney/corriedale/merino for crossbred commercial ewes
- Prime lamb production
- Longevity
- Wool type—strong



Cheviot
BOTH ISLANDS

- Compact, hardy, free moving sheep used for crossbreeding and as a terminal sire
- Bulky, low lustre wool of 28-33 microns
- Lamb production (120-130%)
- Wool type—strong



Coopworth
BOTH ISLANDS

- High fertility
- Wool type—strong
- Strong mothering ability
- Easy care lambing
- Breeding selection based on meat and wool production



Corriedale
BOTH ISLANDS

- Quality meat producers
- High quality mid micron (26-31) wool production
- Bred for longevity
- Increasingly fertile breed
- Wool type—medium



Dorper
BOTH ISLANDS

- A self shedding meat breed
- Capable of lambing 3 times in 2 years
- Used mostly as a terminal sire for crossing into ewe flocks
- Two types—the White And Black Headed Dorper



Dorset Down
BOTH ISLANDS

- Early maturity
- High yielding
- Heavyweight carcass
- Excellent grading
- Wool type—down



Dorset Horn
SOUTH ISLAND

- White woolled
- Out of season breeding
- High milking ability
- Meaty lean sheep



Drysdale
BOTH ISLANDS

- Specialty fibre for wool carpets
- Premium paid for wool
- High yielding premium grading carcass
- Uniquely New Zealand
- Wool type—strong



East Friesian
BOTH ISLANDS

- High milkers
- High lambers
- Fast growth rates
- Good cross breeders
- Wool type—strong



English Leicester
BOTH ISLANDS

- Sound constitution and vigorous
- Excellent mothers
- Easy lambing and early maturing
- Lustrous free flowing heavy fleeces
- Wool type—strong



Finnsheep
BOTH ISLANDS

- Highest fecundity
- Highly intelligent
- Crossed successfully with all New Zealand sheep breeds and long living breed
- Wool type—fine



Hampshire
BOTH ISLANDS

- Early maturing lean carcass
- Top meat yielding
- High natural fertility
- Very maternal with strong hybrid vigour
- Wool type—down



Lincoln
BOTH ISLANDS

- Top fleece weights
- Highest micron wool
- Greatest tensile wool strength
- Super longevity
- Wool type—strong



Merino
SOUTH ISLAND

- Hardy constitution
- High quality fine wool 12-24 microns
- Long breeding
- Fine texture tasty meat season



Oxford
BOTH ISLANDS

- Quick growth, matures early
- Good yielding
- Crosses well with all breeds
- Good grading and grows more wool than other down breeds
- Wool type—fine/medium



Perendale
BOTH ISLANDS

- Medium to large active sheep
- Easycare hill country sheep
- High bulk, low lustre
- Lamb production (100-170%) wool of 31-37 microns
- Wool type—medium



Poll Dorset
BOTH ISLANDS

- High growth rate, well muscled, low fat
- High fertility
- Milking and mothering ability
- White wool Wool type—fine



Polwarth
MAINLY SOUTH ISLANDS

- Big upstanding sheep with good frames and barrel
- High fertility 120-50%
- Wool type—fine, heavy weights 5.5 kg+
- Ultra white wool of 21-25 microns



Romney
BOTH ISLANDS

- Good constitution—adapting well to varying terrains and climates
- Good fertility (120-200%)
- Good producer of both meat and strong wool
- Good mothering and survivability



Ryeland
BOTH ISLANDS

- Maternal
- Docile
- Thrifty
- White-faced
- Wool type—medium



Shropshire
BOTH ISLANDS

- Good sire crossbred lambs
- Hardy
- Wool type—medium, hard wearing



Southdown
BOTH ISLANDS

- Terminal crossing sire
- Mousey coloured face and legs with a lengthy well muscled body
- Fast growing high meat yielding lambs
- Fine, short wool used for quality bedding



South Dorset
BOTH ISLANDS

- Early maturing breed
- Perform under extreme drought conditions
- Good temperament
- Fertility well above
- Wool type—down average



South Suffolk
BOTH ISLANDS

- Produces lambs which show vigour at birth, are fast growing and mature early
- Will reach heavy weights without excess fat
- Are efficient converters of grass to meat
- Wool type—down



Suffolk
BOTH ISLANDS

- Rapid weight gains
- Draft at any time without excessive fat
- Easily identified
- Most common prime lamb sires in New Zealand
- Wool type—down



Texel
BOTH ISLANDS

- Dual purpose meat breed
- Hardiness
- Exceptional muscling
- Wool type—medium/high bulk



Wiltshire Horn
MAINLY NORTH ISLANDS

- No shearing, crutching, dagging or flystrike
- High lambing percentage (150-180%)
- Hardy, good feet, high immunity and survivability
- Strong hybrid vigour and no wool on legs, belly, crutch in first cross