

## *Breeding Sheep Terminology*

### *Growth/Frame*

#### *Desirable*

- ❖ Higher performing
- ❖ Offers more weight per day of age
- ❖ Apparent advantage in future growth
- ❖ Offers more potential outcome for future growth
- ❖ Most stylish and up-headed ewe that puts the most substance on the largest frame
- ❖ Stands taller at the shoulders and exhibits more potential outcome for future growth
- ❖ Longer bodied, heavier boned ewe that showed more elevation and skeletal extension
- ❖ Bigger ewe that definitely had more length of hindsaddle especially more length of rump and more total dimension to the leg
- ❖ Larger outlined
- ❖ More elevated in her dock
- ❖ Longer cannoned
- ❖ Growthier appearing
- ❖ Appears to have a weight per day of age advantage that I would expect to become more significant at maturity
- ❖ Stood taller at the apex of her shoulder
- ❖ More skeletally extended from end to end
- ❖ She is a typier ewe that appears to be higher performing
- ❖ More upstanding
- ❖ Larger framed, more upstanding ewe that had more evidence of future growth
- ❖ More extended in growth curve as she is the longest and most extended about head and neck
- ❖ As a result, she appears more promising from a future growth perspective
- ❖ With these advantages in mind, I see her as more promising from a future growth standpoint
- ❖ I'd expect her to continue her growth advantage and be much larger upon maturity
- ❖ I see her maturing into a bigger, more impressive yearling ewe

- ❖ She is the only female that effectively combines frame, growth, and lateness of maturity with some power and dimension (Southdown – practicality and dimension) (Suffolk, Hampshire likewise)
- ❖ ...who should have the greatest impact once put into production
- ❖ Longer from her last rib back
- ❖ Most elevated at the point of her shoulder

*Undesirable*

- ❖ Small, conventional patterned ewe that was extremely short coupled
- ❖ Small framed, short hindsaddled ewe that gives up capacity and volume
- ❖ A small, short legged ewe that simply needs more growth potential
- ❖ Small, short coupled ewe that was extremely short in the loin and hindsaddle
- ❖ Potentially lowest performing

***Volume/Thickness***

*Desirable*

- ❖ High volume
- ❖ Most size and volume
- ❖ More depth to her rib and flank
- ❖ Expressed more spring of rib and carried her volume back thru her hip
- ❖ Showed more total capacity
- ❖ Higher capacity, bolder sprung ewe
- ❖ Brood ewe candidate
- ❖ More expansive about rib cage
- ❖ A roomier middled, wider chested ewe indicating more substance and volume
- ❖ A smoother fronted ewe that blended in smoother in the shoulder, had more width through chest floor and more boldness to her rib
- ❖ Broodier appearing
- ❖ Most curvature of center body
- ❖ Bolder ribbed
- ❖ More productive thru her chest and rib
- ❖ More dimension to her upper skeleton

- ❖ Offers more capacity
- ❖ More useful in her kind
- ❖ Sheer volume and capacity
- ❖ Convenience driven
- ❖ Excels in the convenience traits of fleshing ease and structural correctness
- ❖ More dimension and shape to her leg
- ❖ More muscle volume thru her leg
- ❖ Thicker thru her hip and had more dimension of leg
- ❖ A heavier muscled ewe with an exceptional top and overall fullness of leg
- ❖ A nicer balanced, thicker made ewe with exceptional volume thru the rump and leg
- ❖ Displayed more muscling down her top, showed more flare to her rump and especially more depth and thickness to the leg
- ❖ Moved out with more stifle expression
- ❖ Wide pin placement
- ❖ Widest and stoutest from ground up
- ❖ Wider gauged
- ❖ Plus, she's more appropriate in her body depth
- ❖ More volume to her leg and width out of her dock
- ❖ Reads with most width through all portions of her hindsaddle and is the squarest out of her dock
- ❖ Maintains the same advantage from there back

#### *Undesirable*

- ❖ A tight ribbed, narrow fronted ewe that needs more volume
- ❖ A narrow chested ewe that was coarse and prominent in her shoulders
- ❖ A light muscled ewe that slopes and tapers to her dock, and stands rather narrow behind
- ❖ A poorly balanced ewe that definitely dropped in the rump and had the shallowest leg in the class
- ❖ Short in body capacity
- ❖ Least maternal oriented
- ❖ Blow him apart from a muscle mass standpoint

## ***Balance/Eye Appeal***

### *Desirable*

- ❖ Nicer balanced
- ❖ Extremely stylish ewe that exhibits smoothness and quality
- ❖ Feminine headed
- ❖ Trimmer thru her front 1/3
- ❖ More upheaded and/or alert appearing
- ❖ More attractive profiling
- ❖ More stylish
- ❖ More correctly patterned
- ❖ More elevated in her dock set
- ❖ Leveler in her hip construction
- ❖ Constructed leveler out of her hip
- ❖ Blends neater into her shoulder
- ❖ Cleaner chested
- ❖ She ties a longer, thinner neck higher into the top of her shoulder
- ❖ Leveler from shoulder to dock
- ❖ More attractive profiling ewe who maintained more front to rear balance
- ❖ More stylish and eye appealing from the side
- ❖ Cleaner, trimmer fronted
- ❖ Excels in quality
- ❖ Correct in her lines
- ❖ She's the nicer patterned ewe
- ❖ More pleasing/striking from the profile
- ❖ From the side, she's just got more balance
- ❖ She's the most upheaded ewe with the most ring presence
- ❖ She strikes me as the kind of female that should have tremendous success in the ring
- ❖ More upstanding and attractive fronted ewe that blends a longer, thinner neck into a flatter, neater shoulder

### *Undesirable*

- ❖ Rather plain, off type ewe
- ❖ Short necked with excessive skin folds
- ❖ A plain ewe that was coarse about her features
- ❖ Tapers over her rump
- ❖ Deeper chested

### ***Structural Correctness and Soundness***

#### *Desirable*

- ❖ Stronger pasterned
- ❖ Sets down truer and more accurate from hock to ground
- ❖ Stands squarer and truer up front
- ❖ Sets down a more confident hind leg
- ❖ Stands down squarer and truer at her corners
- ❖ More correct in the set and travel to her hind legs
- ❖ A heavier boned, straighter legged, squarer standing ewe
- ❖ More functional appearing ewe that had more flex to her hock
- ❖ Leveler and squarer dock
- ❖ Squarer from hip to dock
- ❖ Walked out on a longer, more accurate stride
- ❖ Moves out with more authority on both ends
- ❖ Comes fuller and leveler to dock
- ❖ More correct in her neck to shoulder attachment
- ❖ Finally, she is more correct in her feet and leg structure
- ❖ I view her as more functional in her feet and leg structure
- ❖ From the rear view she stands and travels squarer and truer from hock to ground
- ❖ Covers the ring with more ease of movement
- ❖ Has more angle to her shoulder

### *Undesirable*

- ❖ Short legged ewe with a narrow set to her rear legs and was especially weak on her pasterns
- ❖ More open and rounded in shoulder design
- ❖ Tends to bow out
- ❖ Steep docked
- ❖ Off in dock
- ❖ Also, I see feet and legs to be a major factor
- ❖ More rigid in her pastern

### ***Performance Phraseology***

#### *Desirable*

- ❖ The direct growth spread she offers between her 90 and 120 day weights suggests that her offspring should experience more post-weaning gain
- ❖ Her genetic indicators for growth indicate her sons should be more marketable as commercial rams
- ❖ She clearly puts the most substance on to the most attractive profile and thus is the best suited for the production of elite show stock
- ❖ If she holds true to her genetic indicators, her sons could be more marketable to producers wishing to enhance growth
- ❖ She is more growth oriented both visually and on paper
- ❖ If he breeds true to both his genetics and structural advantages, his sons should be more profitable to range operations
- ❖ Most value as potential flock sire
- ❖ Larger framed and could potentially inject the added frame size needed in the Hampshire breed
- ❖ Add most performance to progeny
- ❖ Highest genetic value for this scenario
- ❖ Greatest birth to yearling spread
- ❖ Whose QR type will force management to be more selective in their breeding/marketing decisions

- ❖ This, plus her RR type will clearly offer more mating versatility while increasing marketing options for her progeny
- ❖ But more importantly, her type and clean DNA give her the potential to have the greatest impact
- ❖ Finally, her kind and clean DNA type make her the most valuable breeding tool whose progeny should generate the most income
- ❖ She should deliver more flock building genetics
- ❖ As they return her to the stock show in future years
- ❖ Of my initial three scrapie resistant ewes, she's the....

### ***Breed Character/Fleece***

- ❖ Blacker/darker about her points
- ❖ More complete in her wool cap
- ❖ Open faced
- ❖ More open faced and was darker at her points with more Hampshire breed type and character
- ❖ Less wool extension on face/legs (Suffolk)
- ❖ Longer, bell-shaped ears (Suffolk)
- ❖ Cleaner eye channel (Hamp and Dorset)
- ❖ Shorter, thicker ears (Hamp and Dorset)
- ❖ She is truer in her character as.....
- ❖ More correct in her breed character as.....
- ❖ More evidence of belly wool
- ❖ More yellow and yolky about face
- ❖ Finally, I like her breed type as she is....
- ❖ Darker at her nose and hooves
- ❖ More fully pigmented in her nose and hooves
- ❖ More moderate/traditional in the length of her head and ear
- ❖ Her breed type is more in line with Dorset character
- ❖ Finally, I appreciate that her breed type falls directly in line with the Southdown Standards of Excellence
- ❖ From a breeder's perspective, I appreciate that her type more/most closely parallels the breed standard
- ❖ Finally, as a breeder I appreciate that her breed type most closely resembles the ideals set forth in our association's Standard of Excellence Program
- ❖ Freer of skin at the base of her neck/below her jawline
- ❖ Tighter fleece
- ❖ Ewe with vulva pigment