

North Carolina State Fair

Lamb Classification Guidelines

Market lambs and non-registered ewes will be shown by breed type. Breed type will be determined by an official classification committee. The classification committee will apply breed standards to evaluate and place lambs in the proper class. Heads on White-Face, Speckle-Face, and Southdown lambs must be closely sheared for classification. The decisions of the classification committee will be final.

Division 1: All Other Breeds

- **Southdown:** Lambs must exhibit purebred characteristics of Southdown breed. Hair color should be mouse colored, grey to brown. Nostrils may be black to purple-grey, and ears should be moderate length, covered with short hair or wool.
- **White-Face:** Includes lambs exhibiting characteristics of straightbred or purebred white-face breeds and crosses of those white-face breeds (Dorset, Cheviot, Montadale, Rambouillet, Texel, etc.). Lambs should exhibit characteristics of these breeds as found in the respective breed association breed standards.
 - i. For example, Dorset lambs should be all white, with pink nose, mouth lining and lips. Wool and hair should be free of dark fiber and brown spots (exception: a black spot on the nose, septum, mouth or an ear equal to or smaller than the size of an eraser head is acceptable). Excessive dark colored spots in the wool or hair anywhere on the animal; dark/black nose, septum, or mouth; and black hooves or hooves with excessive black striping are not acceptable.
 - ii. The Southdown is not considered a white-face breed.
- **White-Face Influence:** Includes lambs exhibiting characteristics of a percentage white-face and percentage any other non-white face breeding. Evidence of significant white speckling/spotting must be present for at least two of the following areas: face, ears, and/or legs. This class may also contain any lambs which are predominantly white which do not meet the criteria for White-Face classification (ie. excessive dark coloration for white-face breeds).

Division 2: Hair Influence

- **Dorper:** Lambs must exhibit purebred characteristics and body type of Dorper hair sheep breeds (White Dorper or traditional Dorper with black head) as found in the respective breed association breed standards. Eyes must be widely spaced and the forehead must not be dished. Crossbred hair x wool breeding is not acceptable.

- **Katahdin:** Lambs must exhibit purebred characteristics and body type of Katahdin, St. Croix, or Blackbelly hair sheep breeds as found in the respective breed association breed standards. Tail must be 2 inches in length or longer. Lambs must be of straight hair sheep breeding. Crossbred hair x wool breeding is not acceptable.

Division 3: Natural Color

- **Natural Color:** Includes lambs with at least 50% natural colored fibers excluding the head and legs.

Division 4-6: Black-Face Cross

- **Black-Face Cross:** Generally includes lambs of Suffolk and Hampshire breeding and their crosses along with other black-faced breeds. Also includes all lambs that do not fit classification requirements for White-Face, White-Face Influence, Southdown, Natural Color, and Hair Influence classes.

PLEASE NOTE: As a reminder, no more than two sheep per breed classification. Lambs that do not classify will be show as Black-Face Cross. For example, if you are showing two lambs as Black-Face Cross and your third lamb does not classify as a White-Face Influence, one lamb CANNOT be shown since this would result in three lambs in the Black-Face Cross classification.

Breed Classification Examples



Southdown



White-Face Influence



White-Face



Natural Color



Dorper



Katahdin