



**SHEEP BREED CLASSIFICATION
GUIDELINES FOR 2026**

Wyoming State Fair General Information and Policies

Please reference pages 19-20 in the Wyoming State Fair Premium Book for the complete Youth Livestock Show policies.

For general information regarding Youth Market Sheep, please reference the Wyoming State Fair Premium Book, pages 40-44. Youth Market Sheep policies and class numbers can be found on pages 43-44.

Policies: Classes are created to support breed registry standards that also ensure opportunity for all 4-H and FFA members to compete while using entry numbers and show trends in classes creation.

CLASS:

- Natural Color
- Hampshire
- Southdown
- Dorset
- Blackface Crosses
- Whiteface
- Speckled Face
- Any Other Registered Breed
- Market Ewe (there are no classification guidelines for ewes as they may be of any breed)

Wyoming State Fair Breed Classification Process

A classification committee comprised of three individuals will visually determine the appropriate class entry for each animal as it appears to represent a given breed, based solely on physical characteristics and breed type. Registration papers, breeder affidavits, or other factors WILL NOT be considered by committee members. Animals are not disqualified from participating as a result of the classification.

Committee members each apply their opinion to anonymously vote using colored chips. One chip color will represent “meets breed characteristics,” and another will represent “does not meet breed characteristics.” At least two chips indicating “meets breed characteristics” signify committee agreement with the breed classification entry. At least two chips indicating “does not meet breed characteristics” signify disagreement with the breed classification entry. If at least two “does not meet breed characteristics” chips are presented, the committee will convene to determine whether the animal should be moved into another breed class or the crossbred class. A second vote will then be held to determine final class entry eligibility.

Note: Classifiers are appointed by WSF to assist WSF by exercising their judgment for class placement based on animals’ appearing breed characteristics. Their decision is final with no appeals. To aid in understanding breed standards, 4-H and FFA members should review and understand breed association standards.

DORSET

3 of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Large ears and/or droopy
2. Fine textured silky hair covering
3. Dewlaps, excessive loose skin or large wrinkles and folds
4. Hooves with excessive black striping
5. Any color other than pink on the nose, septum or mouth
6. Any dark colored spots in the haired portion of sheep

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Sheep with a completely black hoof. (A hoof is defined as both toes. Area to be examined is the outside wall that is visibly exposed, not between the toes.)
2. A completely black or dark colored lining of the mouth or nose.
3. The presence of highly objectionable dark color (as defined in Highly Objectionable Traits #6) on the haired portion of two or more anatomical regions. The head (nose, face and ears) is considered one anatomical region and each individual leg is considered an anatomical region. (ie: Highly objectionable dark color on two or more legs OR on one or more legs and head will result in a disqualification.)
4. Dark colored spots in the wool.
5. Solid black fleece animals, badger, or Hereford fleece (black body with white head or legs, and belly)
6. Holstein fleece pattern (black with white spots)

HAMPSHIRE:

- **Head:** The face should be of good length, dark in color, and practically free of wool from the eyes down. An unbroken wool cap should extend from the neck over the forehead.
- **Ears:** The ears should be moderate in length, thick, covered with a coarse dark brown or black hair and free from wool.
- **Nose:** Broad muzzled, covered with a coarse dark brown or black hair. Wool feathering is acceptable and desirable. Should be open around the eyes. Small amount of “frostiness” on the nose is acceptable.
- **Legs:** Some wool is desirable below the knee. Off
- **Color:** The Hampshire should be free of white spots on jaws, legs and ears.

3 of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Broken wool cap
2. Very fine or thin hair on face or legs
3. Scurs
4. Excessive (more than 25%) white hair on jaw or legs
5. Absolute disqualifications:
6. Steep hip and genetic tendency to be double-muscled
7. Horns
8. Speckled face so that the lamb appears to be a “brockle”
9. Excessively dark or blue hide
10. Inadequate wool covering on head and legs

SOUTHDOWN:

Southdown Breed Characteristics:

1. Hair color on muzzle should be mouse colored, gray to brown
2. Nostril pigmentation may be black to purplish-gray
3. Muzzle should be broad, head of moderate length
4. Ears of moderate length, covered with short hair or wool
5. Black hoof color
6. Dark pigmentation on hide and/or birth marks are acceptable

3 of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Solid white hair color on muzzle
2. Pink nose
3. Excessive white on face, ears or legs
3. Completely slick ears
5. Pink or striped hooves
4. Black spots in the fleece
5. Open pool on the head

Absolute disqualifications:

6. Speckled face or legs
7. Horns or solid scurs
8. Solid black lambs
9. Steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled

SPECKLE FACE:

Must be a cross with evidence of a percentage white-face and percentage black-face breeding. Significant spotting must be present for at least two of the following areas: face, ears, and/or legs below knees and stifle joint. Pink in hide color.