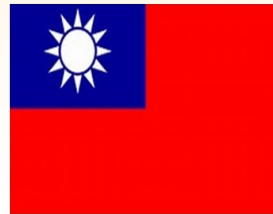


Flock Management

A fully mature Katahdin ram should only be allowed to run with a maximum of 30 ewes at a time per breeding season. This will allow for increase efficiency of the ram. Rams should only be introduced to the females when its time for mating.

This practice allows for better record keeping and good management. After lambing the ewe should be identified with lamb and separated. Data collection should be taken at this time e.i birth weight, number of lambs etc.



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Katahdin



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KATAHDIN SHEEP

Introduction

The Katahdin sheep is a breed of domestic sheep from United States. It was developed in Maine, United States and named after Mount Katahdin (the highest peak in Maine).

The Katahdin sheep are medium to large animals, and they were the first in the United States to reach sheep industry standards of carcass quality. They naturally shed their winter coat, and so do not need to be sheared. Their hair can come in any color, as the emphasis of the breed is on production rather than look or appearance. Today, the Katahdin sheep is raised mainly as a meat sheep breed.

The breed is also ideal for pasture lambing and grass/forage based management systems. The Katahdin sheep have demonstrated wide adaptability, and good for many different areas. They can tolerate heat and humidity well. They are also significantly tolerant of internal and external parasites. They require only minimal parasite treatment, if managed carefully. They are docile in terms of temperament and are easily handled, and their flocking instinct is moderate.

Characteristics

General Appearance: A medium Sized sheep with a hair coat and an alert appearance; head erect and legs squarely placed. Rams are distinctly masculine and well-muscled; ewes strong and feminine.

Head: Variety in facial characteristics is expected. Polled-ness is preferred, but horns and scurs are acceptable. Eyes are wide set, and ear carriage is horizontal. Lower teeth meet the dental pad evenly.

Neck: Strong, of medium length: extends straight into the shoulder. A ram's neck may be covered by a mane of hair.

Shoulders: Blend smoothly into the neck and back; shoulder blades have good width between and are level with or slightly higher than the back. Well-developed upper arm muscle in rams.

Chest: Wide and deep enough to provide ample room for good heart and lung capacity. Slightly less width than hindquarters in females.

Back: Strong, smooth, and broad; loin long, wide, deep and well fleshed.

Characteristics

Ribs: Well sprung, wide and deep.

Abdomen: Large capacity for consuming forage and carrying lambs (bottom or side line should not necessarily be straight).

Rump: Wide and well fleshed; rounded appearance; deep in twist.

Tail: Length is variable; preferably undocked, except for market lambs.

Legs: Medium length and bone in proportion to size. Sound leg structure: properly angled at hock, front legs straight, strong pasterns, straight feet free of defect. Muscles of the thigh are thick, with obvious muscularity on the inner and outer thigh, carried down to the shank.

Scrotum, Udder: Two large, well-developed and balanced testicles in rams. Two teats on well-developed, well-balanced udder with good attachment in ewes.

Hair Coat: No discrimination is made as to color on any part of the body. The coat shall preferably consist of hair rather than woolly fibers, though hair texture will vary.