

DUTCH SPOTTED SHEEP – THE PURE BREED OF SUPREME QUALITY

Dutch Spotted Sheep originated around 1800. During the 1950s, farmers began to make use of the specific qualities of the traditional Dutch Spotted and crossed them with other breeds, such as Texel and Zwartble to produce a sheep with greater profitability and benefits with the characteristics of a modern breed. For almost three decades DSS have not been crossed with any other breeds and are now a pure sheep in their own right. There are over 1000 breeders in Europe, the majority of whom are in Holland with registered flocks in the UK, Germany, France Spain and Eire.

WHY DUTCH SPOTTED SHEEP?

The Parkinson family farm at Thirby has been farmed with sheep and cattle for over 70 years through the Parkinson generations. They lamb 350-400 texel ewes.

Stephanie Parkinson comments.

"My daughter and her partner 'Ash Park Dutch Spotted Pedigree sheep' was how we first got into the Dutch spotted breed. They started off buying six before they came to be so popular. We were all very interested to see what the lambs would turn out like if we crossed them against my texels as I feel the texel needed length adding into their carcass which the Dutch spotted had. We first

crossed our texel shearlings three years ago to a Dutch spotted ram lamb. From this we were able to see that the lambs were quick on their feet. From our first year the lambs that produced where all white, the following year black and this year they are spotted. When lambing we have found they have plenty of milk and are very good at mothering straight away."

"We sell all our commercial lambs at Thirsk Auction market and from their supply such as Taste Tradition and Hartshead."

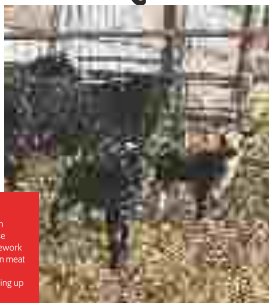
"We like to sell our lambs at 42-48 kilos. This year my daughter lambbed her commercial flock at the beginning of February and will be ready to sell August. Next year we're going to lamb a little earlier and have some ready for the Easter trade as that's where the tighter skin lambs succeed which you get from the Dutch spotted breed. Last year we averaged £125-£130 with our crossbreeds."

"This year I have kept 50 Dutch spotted cross gimmers which are due to lamb end of end of April."

"When I buy a Dutch spotted ram I'm looking for length, good shape rump and tight skin, with all these and the shape of a texel they produce the perfect carcass."

MAIN TRAITS

- Thrive on a grass-based system producing a quality meaty carcass
- Light boned with a large framework
- High killing out percentage, lean meat and a unique taste
- Easy lambing with lambs getting up quickly to suck
- High yielding with plentiful milk
- Good mouths and excellent hard feet
- Mature weight
Females 75kg - 95kg
Males 115kg - 135kg
- Easy to handle with an inquisitive nature



2021 DSSUK Sale Dates



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Chairman Keith Harriman
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- 22 May** - H&H Carlisle, Spring Sale
Pedigree Ewes and Lambs at Foot
- 27 August** - H&H Carlisle, Rams & Ewes
- 1 September** - Welshpool Livestock Auction
Rams & Ewes
- 3 September** - Beatties Livestock Auction,
Northern Ireland from 7pm
- 20 September** - NSA Bultth Wells
- 6 December** - Welshpool Ladies Day
16-lamb ewes and empty ewe lambs
- 9 December** - H&H Carlisle, Ladies Day
16-lamb ewes and empty ewe lambs

Details and entry forms will be published and distributed to members before each sale