

Breeding programme of the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society (DSSS)

Flock Book of the Society

The Dutch Spotted Sheep Society (DSSS) shall collect, verify and preserve the pedigrees of Dutch Spotted Sheep and other information relating to them.

Aims of the Breeding Programme

The aims of the Society are to improve and preserve the pedigrees of Dutch Spotted Sheep, including sheep known as *ônderlands bonte schaaop* (NLDS).

Breed Characteristics

ESSENTIAL TRAITS

Dutch Spotted sheep should have a good temperament, be easy to manage with ease of lambing. They have a good growth rate and carcass quality in both a pedigree and commercial setting.

BREED STANDARD MARKINGS:

A multi coloured (black/white/brown) appearance with no specific requirements for head or fleece markings.

HEAD:

- The head should be sharp, straight and wide between the eyes.
- The ear position must be attentive. They should be placed horizontally to erectly.
- Drooping ears are undesirable.

LEGS, FEET & SHOULDERS:

- The sheep must have good legs so that they are able to move well.
- They should be of medium to fine bone and have correct pasterns. Pasterns that are too upright or collapsed are incorrect.
- Correct posture includes straight well-placed legs, which should not be rotated inwards or outwards.

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BACK:

Should be straight, hollow dips or roach backs are undesirable.

TAIL:

Docking is optional. All tails must cover the vulva/anus as required by APHA rules

WOOL:

- Wool should be short, curly and connected. The shaded part should be as close as possible to black in colour.

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UDDER SHAPE:

Udders should have strong ligaments and a teat position that is not too far to the outside or to the rear. The teats should not be too coarse, and preferably not conical.

GENITALIA:

- The testes should be well-developed, firm and of a similar size.
- The testes must be apparent in a scrotum which must not be partly or fully split.

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TEETH:

- It is most important that the teeth bite firmly and fully onto the pad on the upper jaw.
- Sheep with overshot/undershot teeth that do not touch the pad should not be registered.

REGISTRATION INTO THE FLOCK BOOK:

Sheep with conformation defects, including but not restricted to the following, should be excluded from registration:

- Over/Under shot jaws
- Twisted feet
- Poor conformation.
- Blindness, blue, china or wall eyes, either total or partial.

Sexual defects - i.e. rams without two sufficiently developed testicles apparent in a single scrotum.

Geographical territory and breeding population

The DSSS breeding programme is carried out within the UK, including Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Sheep from the Republic of Ireland, Holland, Germany, France and Belgium are eligible to join our flock book providing they have the necessary documentation.

The Society will enter into the breeding book, animals of the same breed, line or cross that are eligible for entry under the Society's breed criteria, without discrimination on account of their country of origin so long as they are registered within that Country's Flock Book. (UK registered sheep will come from within the DSSS Flock Book)

System for Identifying Breeding Animals

Sheep put forward for registration must be uniquely identifiable under DSSS guidelines and must be identified in compliance with national legislation.

Electronic Identification or EID:

For information on tagging in UK please see link below:

[Sheep and goat keepers: how to identify your animals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

For Northern Ireland please see the link below;

[Home | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](http://daera-ni.gov.uk)

For Scotland please see the link below;

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/livestock-identification-and-traceability-guidance/pages/sheep-and-goats/>

The secondary tag should be a different colour for each year. The secondary tag will show the UK number and individual ID but will also contain management information, e.g. Flock number, logo and year letter.

The annual year letter is: 2017=A, 2018=B, 2019=C, 2020=D, 2021=E

- **Naming of Males** is Compulsory.
 - Rams can only be given a name if there is a Flock Name registered with DSSS
 - Rams can only have the Flock name of the “Breeding” Flock.
 - **Pedigree certificates** will not be changed retrospectively i.e. the Rams name will only appear on Pedigree certificates produced after the date of naming.
 - A ram’s name must start with the Year Letter. A name cannot be used with a number after a name e.g. (Filmstar 1). There can only be one animal carrying the Filmstar name.
 - Ram names cannot be used more than once within a Flock.
 - Ram names will not be issued by DSSS if thought to be inappropriate.
- The naming of Grading up **females** is optional at the discretion of the breeder and by following the above rules.

The naming of full pedigree **females** is compulsory by following the above rules for rams.

- **Flocks** will also be issued with a DSSS number, e.g. 0001, 0002, 0003, etc. by DSSS.

Note: All Pedigree and Graded sheep must be tagged using our standardised society tags available from the DSSS approved supplier.

Registration of Animals and Recording pedigrees.

The recording and registration of Dutch Spotted Sheep is undertaken through the Grassroots System. Grassroots, provides all the tools DSSS requires to manage the membership and registry records, allow effective communication with members and provides the reports and analysis needed by the society

Registration requirements

- Registrations may only be made by a fully paid up member of DSSS with a registered prefix.
- Applications should be made by the breeder – that is the owner of the dam at the time of the birth – of the animals to be registered.
- Where this is not possible DSSS, may at its discretion, accept an application from an owner other than the breeder so long as the breeder is a fully paid member of DSSS In such cases the owners prefix shall be used as a suffix and additional charges may be necessary.
- No two flocks will be allowed to register the same prefix.
- Registration applications shall be made on the appropriate form obtainable from the secretary or on the grassroots website
- Registered sheep should comply with the breed standards (<https://www.dutchspottedsheep.co.uk/home/breed-standard/>)
- All registered sheep may be subject to inspection by a charity trustee DSSS on a random basis. If any sheep is found not to conform to the relevant breed standard on inspection its registration may be withdrawn.
- DSSS reserves the right to undertake random DNA testing.
- If an application for registration is refused or withdrawn, the owner of the said sheep shall have the right of appeal to the charity trustees, the Society will appoint three trustees to inspect the animal and advise the remaining trustees. Any decision then made by the committee will be final.
- Registrations to be included in the current year flock book to be received before 31st December of that year.
- Both *Maedi Visna* (MV) & Non MV sheep may be registered

Embryo Transplants (ET)

- All processes connected with ET are to be performed by qualified persons and should be completed in accordance with current legislation.
- All donors and sires must be registered with the DSSS prior to entering an embryo transplant programme.
- The ET technician is to provide a signed and dated certificate of implantation to the owner of the recipient ewe with ET clearly marked upon it. Details must include those of the recipient ewe and the number and parentage of the embryos implanted, and the contact details of technician.
- Certificate of implantation is to accompany the registration forms for lambs born by this method.
- Lambs born by this method will have ET marked on their registration card and alongside their entry in the flock book.
- DSSS reserves the right to reject an application.

Artificial Insemination (AI)

- All processes connected with AI to be performed by qualified persons and to be completed in accordance with current legislation.

- Any males used for artificial insemination shall be registered with DSSS.
- Pedigree certificate of service is to accompany the registration forms for lambs born by this method.
- Lambs born by this method will have AI marked on their registration card and alongside their entry in the flock book.
- DSSS reserves the right to reject an application to register lambs born by artificial insemination if the correct rules and procedures are not followed.

Imported animals

- Animals from any country are eligible for registration if they carry the correct details required to meet our import registration procedure.
- For an imported animal, its parents as a minimum must be recorded by a bona-fide Dutch Spotted Sheep breeder and/or member of the NLBS (Nederlands Bonte Schaap) or association in their country of origin. (This may be more than one country). If the said paperwork carries the correct information, and is from a recognised breeder, the sheep shall be eligible for registration only after inspection by DSSS charity trustees and the GDPR consent has been granted or otherwise from the breeder.
- Imported animals registered into the DSSS flock book will have “(Import)” and the year of importation marked on their registration card and alongside their entry in the flock book.
- Any animals/germinal products that are imported into the UK and to be registered with DSSS, must be accompanied by the correct documentation.
- Additionally, any animal or germinal product exported from the UK that is to be registered by another recognised association, can be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate issued by the DSSS if required.

Imports of frozen embryos and semen

- All rules regarding AI and ET above must be complied with.
- Donor ewes must be registered with an appropriate breed society. (It is advised that an importer of DSS embryos or semen seeks confirmation of the ability to register any resulting offspring with the registration secretary prior to the importation.)
- Any members making an application to register offspring from imported frozen embryos or semen shall provide a copy to DSSS of all information relating to the donor animals. The pedigree must include at least parents and grandparents as per an imported live animal.
- DSSS reserves the right to reject an application if the correct rules and procedures are not followed.

Pedigree certificates

Certificates should be preserved and if the sheep named thereon is sold, the card must be returned to DSSS, accompanied by a transfer form completed by the seller and the appropriate fee. No alteration should be made to the card, other than by

DSSS. The registration card for any registered dead animals must be returned to the Registration secretary if the correct information has not been updated on Grassroots.

Selection and breeding objectives

Breeding objectives

The DSSS breeding objectives are to maintain and develop the breed as both a cross and terminal sire in the UK commercial sheep system.

Selection

Animals are selected to take part in the breeding programme by individual owners and breeders, who select on various criteria, including parentage, superior genetics and suitability to breed type and breed characteristics, in accordance with DSSS breed standards.

Division of Flock Book

The purpose of the flock book is to record and register the pedigrees of male and female DSS owned by members of the DSSS. The DSSS Flock Book is comprised of a main section and one supplementary section.

A certificate of registration will be made available to the new owner for each animal accepted so long as the owner is a fully paid up member

The registration grade of the sheep will be at the full discretion of DSSS trustees.

The following will be admitted to the main section of the DSSS Flock Book:

- a) DSS sired by a fully registered DSS ram out a fully registered DSS ewe and has been bred by a fully registered member of DSSS.
- b) DSS with a pedigree history from the NLBS or an equivalent breeding association and after inspection by the Society trustees. The pedigree history should be included on the appropriate documentation.
- c) DSS 'Grade 0' males and females (see Supplementary Section) after inspection by the charity trustees.
- d) For an imported animal, its parents as a minimum must be recorded by a bonafide Dutch Spotted Sheep breeder and member of the NLBS or recognised breeding association in their country of origin. (This may be more than 1 country). If the said documentation carries the correct information, and the sheep is from a recognised breeder, the sheep shall be eligible for registration only after inspection by the DSSS charity trustees. If the said paperwork doesn't carry all the correct

information, the sheep may only be eligible (after inspection) for registration at 75% or grade 3 at the trustees' discretion.

The following will be discussed with the trustees:

- a) Where no paperwork or pedigree exists and the breeder is not a member of the NLBS or an equivalent breeding association in their country of origin – then the animal cannot be registered
- b) If an application for registration is refused or withdrawn, the owner of the said sheep shall have the right of appeal to the charity trustees, which will appoint three charity trustees to inspect the animal again and advise the remaining charity trustees. Any decision then made by the Society trustees will be final.

Supplementary Section

Supplementary Section and Grading up Register

The society will maintain a grading up register to record the grading of females. A certificate of registration will be issued along with a grade number and percentage for every female entered into the plan.

Grades of DSS are defined as follows:

Grade 0 – over 96.875% DSS genes

Grade 1 – over 93.75% DSS genes

Grade 2 – over 87.5% DSS genes

Grade 3 – over 75% DSS genes

Grade 4 – 50% DSS genes

- a) The grade and percentage will be shown on the registration certificate.
- b) DSSS may, at its discretion, upgrade to 100% those female Grade 0 DSS with over 96.875% DSS genes into the “Pure” flock book.
- c) All percentage female DSS are eligible for registration within the grading up register.
- d) Only Male DSS that are 96.875% or over (grade “0”) are eligible for registration and at the discretion of DSSS, upgrade to 100% DSS and entry into the “Pure” flock book. **Offspring of upgraded animal will be registered/entered in the main section.**
- e) On acceptance of a registration by DSSS, owners will have access to a pedigree certificate for each DSS showing its registered number and indicating the grade and percentage.
- f) All Grade 0 DSS will be subject to inspection by a charity trustee of DSSS relevant breed standard on inspection its registration may be changed or withdrawn.
- g) For an imported animal, its parents as a minimum must be recorded by a bona-fide Dutch Spotted Sheep breeder and member of the NLBS or an equivalent breeding association. If the said paperwork carries the correct

information, and the sheep is from a registered breeder, the sheep shall be eligible for registration only after inspection by DSSS's trustees. If the said paperwork does not carry all the correct information, the sheep may only be eligible (after inspection) for registration at 75% or grade 3.

- h) Where no paperwork or pedigree exists and the breeder is not a member of the NLBS or an equivalent breeding association the animal cannot be registered.
- i) The registration grade of the sheep will be at the full discretion of DSSS trustees.
- j) If an application for registration is refused or withdrawn, the owner of the said sheep shall have the right of appeal to the charity trustees, which will appoint three charity trustees to inspect the animal again and advise the remaining Society trustees. Any decision then made by the Society trustees will be final.

Technical Activities

Flock book Database will be sourced from Grassroots Pedigree Software Solutions, Richmond House, 48 Bromyard Rd, St. Johns, Worcester, WR2 5BT, and include:

- i. The maintenance of a database containing the DSSS flock book, along with support and updates.

Rules of procedure

If a dispute arises between members of DSSS about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members under this constitution, the following process shall occur if the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement.

DSSS ensures the equal treatment of breeders participating in their breeding programme, without prejudice to the country of origin.

The parties relating to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation, before resorting to litigation.

The dispute should be advised in writing to the current Chairman or Secretary of DSSS at The Secretary, Redbrae, Wigtown, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, DG8 9DJ or secretary@dutchspottedsheep.co.uk