

Breeding Standards of the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society (DSSS)

Jan 2024

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 *ô nederlandse bonte schaaapö* (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.

BACK:

- Should be level with no dips

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.

UDDER SHAPE:

- Udders should be correct with no abnormalities.

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.

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.

The breed standard must be followed in conjunction with the rules of the Society.