

## **Breeding programme of the Dutch Spotted Sheep UK (DSS UK) Society**

### **Flock Book of the Society**

The Dutch Spotted Sheep (DSS UK) 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 *ônederlands bonte schaapö* (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, however, efforts should be made to maintain a colour ratio within the range of 20 to 80% of any colour combination. Black and/or white spots on all 4 legs must be clearly defined.

Black knees and feet are preferable.

#### **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.

#### **HEIGHT:**

Mature rams and ewes – average 75 cm shoulder height. A grown sheep should be sufficiently long. The sheep must be able to take in adequate roughage to themselves and have ample space for meat development.

#### **WEIGHT:**

Mature, not pregnant and none lactating ewes or rams could average 75 kg 110 kg

#### **LEGS, FEET & SHOULDERS:**

- Black and/or white spots on all 4 legs must be clearly defined.
- 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.
- The legs should be hard and tight.
- Correct posture includes straight well-placed legs, which should not be rotated inwards or outwards.
- The front legs should be sufficiently wide apart. The shoulder blades should be well connected. Hoofs should be strong and dark requiring little maintenance.

### **RIBS:**

Must be sufficiently deep leaving plenty of room for roughage intake and pregnancy.

### **HINDQUARTERS:**

Should be sufficiently wide to allow a smooth birth of lambs.

### **BACK:**

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

### **TAIL:**

- Docking is optional. All tails must cover the vulva/anus
- If undocked they must be, short of wool or clipped.

### **WOOL:**

- Wool should be short, curly and connected. The shaded part should be as close as possible to black in colour.
- Too large a variation in length between light and dark wool is not desirable.
- Efforts should be made to maintain a colour ratio within the range of 20 to 80% of any colour combination.

### **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 must not be partly or fully split.
- The scrotum of a ram should be finely haired or clipped and not woolly.

### **GAIT:**

The gait should be brisk, straight and springy.

### **TEETH:**

- It is most important that the teeth bite firmly and fully onto the pad on the upper jaw.
- 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 DSS UK breeding programme is carried out within the UK, including Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The breeding programme is extended to: Republic of Ireland, Holland, Germany, France and Belgium.

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.

There are approximately 1600 registered animals within the UK and we currently have 150 registered members. (May 2020)

### **System for Identifying Breeding Animals**

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

### **Electronic Identification or EID:**

- All animals must carry double ID tags, one of which will be electronic and the appropriate colour of the region.
- The UK number and individual ID are recorded on the chip and printed on the tag.
- 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.
- All stock destined for breeding must be identified in this way and any animal that is kept longer than one year of age. It is not necessary to buy the equipment that reads the electronic tags. Missing and replacement tags can be replaced with an identical tag. If still on the holding of birth it will be

acceptable to replace both tags with new ones and to record this in the holding register. If the animal loses both tags and cannot be identified, or if it is not on the holding of birth, the replacement tags must be red.

- All sheep to be tagged with EID in the left ear (as viewed from behind) and second tag in right ear in accordance with Government legislation.
- Members should check with the Scottish Government/DEFRA, or their equivalent Government organisation, that they also comply with current government tagging regulations.
- DSS UK requires all registered sheep to be tagged with a Year Letter, Individual unique Number and DSS UK Flock Number and logo supplied by Caisley. All sheep must be tagged before an application is made for registration.
- 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 DSS UK
- 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 printed after the date of naming.
- A ram’s name, which cannot consist of more than 21 characters including the Flock name, must start with the Year Letter.
- Ram names cannot be used more than once within a Flock.
- Ram names will not be issued by DSS UK, if thought to be inappropriate.
  
- The naming of **females** is optional at the discretion of the breeder and by following the above rules.
  
- **Flocks** will also be issued with a DSS UK number, e.g. 0001, 0002, 0003, etc. by DSS UK.

**Note:** All Pedigree and Graded sheep must be tagged using our standardised society tags available from Caisley.

### **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 DSS UK 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 DSS UK 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 DSS UK, 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 DSS UK 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.
- 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 DSS UK on a random basis. If any sheep is found not to conform to the relevant breed standard on inspection its registration may be withdrawn.
- DSS UK 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, which 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

Lambs should **not** be submitted for registration under the following circumstances:-

Abnormalities including but not restricted to:

- Over/Under shot jaws
- 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.
- Twisted feet.
- Poor conformation

#### 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 shall be registered with the DSS UK 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.
- DSS UK 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 DSS UK.
- 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.
- DSS UK reserves the right to reject an application to register lambs born by artificial insemination.

### 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 DSS UK charity trustees and the GDPR consent has been granted or otherwise from the breeder.
- Imported animals registered into the DSS UK 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 DSS UK, must be accompanied by a valid zootechnical certificate.
- Additionally, any animal or germinal product exported from the UK that is to be registered by another recognised association, must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate issued by the DSS UK.

### 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 secretary prior to the importation.)
- Any members making an application to register offspring from imported frozen embryos or semen shall provide a copy to DSS UK of all information relating to the donor animals. The pedigree must include at least parents and grandparents as per an imported live animal.
- DSS UK reserves the right to reject an application.

### Pedigree certificates

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

by DSS UK. The registration card for any registered dead animals must be returned to the secretary.

## **Selection and breeding objectives**

### **Breeding objectives**

The DSS UK 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 DSS UK 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 DSS UK. The DSS UK 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.

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

The following will be admitted to the main section of the DSS UK 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 DSS UK.
- b) DSS with a pedigree history from the NLBS or an equivalent breeding association and after inspection by the charity trustees. The pedigree history should be included on the importing zootechnical certificate.
- 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 bona-fide 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 paperwork carries the correct information, and the sheep is from a recognised breeder, the sheep shall be eligible for registration only after inspection by the DSS UK 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 will be registered as 50% or grade 4. (see Supplementary Section)
- 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 charity 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) DSS UK 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 DSS UK, 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 DSS UK, owners will be issued with 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 DSS UK 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 DSS UK’s charity 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 will be registered as 50% or grade 4.



- i) The registration grade of the sheep will be at the full discretion of DSS UK charity 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 charity trustees. Any decision then made by the charity 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 DSS UK flock book, along with support and updates.

### **Rules of procedure**

If a dispute arises between members of DSS UK 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.

DSS UK 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 DSS UK at The Secretary, Strathearn, Ruthwell, Dumfries, DG1 4NN or [office@dutchspottedsheep.co.uk](mailto:office@dutchspottedsheep.co.uk)

Written acknowledgement of receipt of the dispute shall be sent by return.

Confirmation in writing of how the dispute will be dealt with shall be sent within 15 working days. Written confirmation of the outcome of the dispute and any appeal procedures, shall be sent within 15 working days of the outcome.

*The Scottish Government reserves the right to review and undertake an audit if a complaint is received.*

- a) Any complaint against a member or other person for having failed to observe any of the rules or regulations of the DSS UK, or for being guilty of discreditable conduct may be investigated by the charity trustees.
- b) Such complaint must be made in writing by a member and due notice of its nature must be given to each charity trustee and a copy of the complaint posted to the person against whom the complaint is made, at least seven days before the same is heard by the charity trustees.
- c) The persons concerned shall be informed of the date and about the time when the complaint will be considered, and they shall have the right of

being present with any witnesses or representation should they desire, otherwise any evidence they wish to place before the committee must be submitted in writing.

- d) The committees' decision in the matter shall be final.
- e) Every such complaint, unless made by an official of the association, having no personal interest in the matter, must be accompanied by a deposit of two hundred and fifty pounds, which shall be liable to forfeiture should the committee consider the complaint to be a frivolous one or one which should not have been made.
- f) The committee shall be empowered, should the complaint be upheld, to suspend the person whom the complaint is made from exhibiting at, or taking part in, any show held under the rules and regulations of DSS UK for such a reasonable period as they decide, and no entries for the herd book, or advertisements in the "newsletter" or "for sale list" or other publications shall be accepted from anyone suspended during the period of suspension.
- g) In the event of a complaint against a member of the association being upheld, such member shall cease to enjoy any privileges as a member from the date of and during the period of suspensions, and may be removed from the association by a resolution passed by a majority of the committee present, not less than seven days' notice of such intended action having been given to the member and to each member of the committee.
- h) A member removed from the association under this rule shall have no claim to the return of his or her subscription or any part thereof, or to the return of any money or monies paid to the association.
- i) The committee shall be empowered to cancel or reduce the period of any suspension.