MARKET LAMB CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS (Revised May, 2007)

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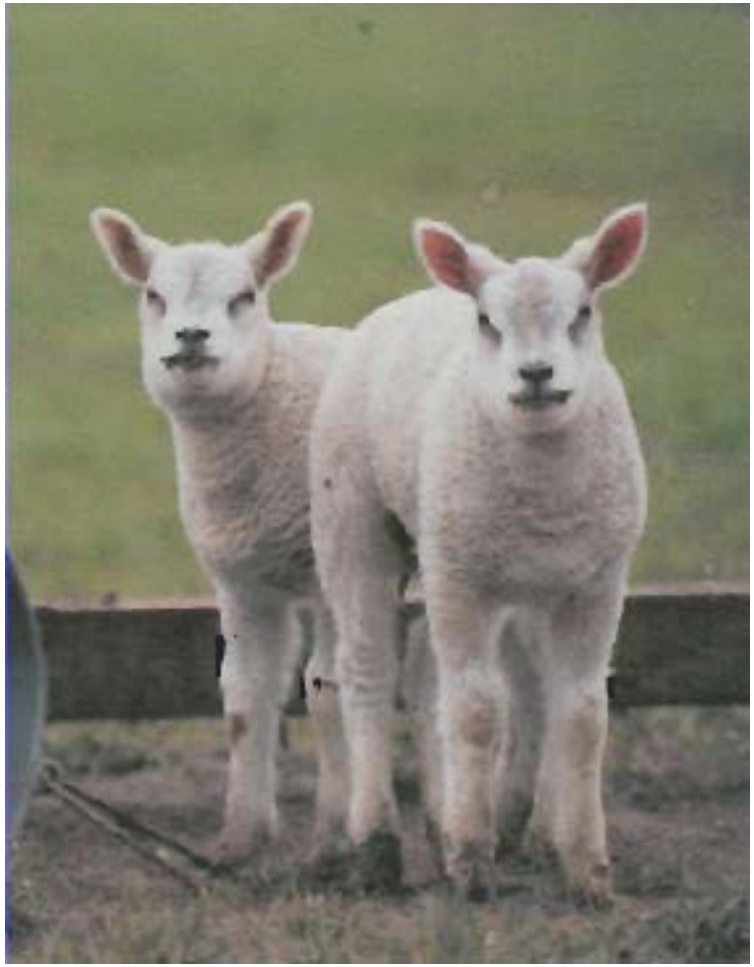
CLASSIFICATION?????



WHY STANDARDS?

- Consistency and fairness to all involved – exhibitors, breeders, and shows
- Consistency among classifiers – should accept standards and not use personal opinion
- Although bred according to standards and show rules (typical), there will be outliers (non-typical)

HISTORY

- Prior to 1992 – One man classification system
- 11/26/1991 – Classification Workshop, Junction, Texas
- July, 1992 – Belt Buckle Bonanza, Austin
  3 man classifying system; Stultz, Faris, Craddock
- 1998 – Revised standards; went into effect May 1, 1999
- August, 2006 – Revised standards; will go into effect May, 2007
  TLBA & AI Committee

FINEWOOL

ACCEPTABLE FW CHARACTERISTICS

- Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet, or a cross between these breeds
- Silky, white face
- Silky ears, medium to moderate in size
- Soft pelt
- Yellow to white hooves (neutral)
- Black pads on hooves
- Nose should be neutral to pink in color
- May be polled or horned

DISCRIMINATORY FW CHARACTERISTICS

- Moderate amounts of brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool
- Moderate freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, & lips
- Black streaking in the hooves
- Black eyelashes
- Birthmarks

ABSOLUTE FW DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Excessively coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
- Excessive coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs
- Excessive brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool
- Excessive freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, & lips

ABSOLUTE FW DISQUALIFICATIONS (cont.)

- Brown or black spots in hairline above hooves
- Solid black hooves
- Black lambs
- Surgical alterations other than redocking
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene

SPOTS ON NOSE

SPOTS ON EAR

CHALK AROUND EYE

BLACK AROUND EYES

SPOT ON LIP

CHALKY FACE

BLACK PAD / DEW CLAW

BLACK IN HOOVES

EXCESSIVE SPOTS IN HAIRLINE ABOVE HOOVES

FINEWOOL CROSS

ACCEPTABLE FWX CHARACTERISTICS

- Must be a cross with evidence of at least 50% finewool breeding & the remaining percentage exhibiting predominance of medium wool breeding (Hampshire and/or Suffolk)
- Soft pelt which is characteristic of ½ blood wool (60’s-62’s spinning count)
- Face and ears should be soft and silky

ACCEPTABLE FWX CHARACTERISTICS (cont.)

- Mottling and/or some spotting on face & ears & on legs below the knees & hocks
- Wool must be present below the hocks on the rear legs; wool below the knees on the front legs is not necessary
- White, ring-eyed crosses are acceptable if pelt is acceptable
- Birth marks are acceptable

DISCRIMINATORY FWX CHARACTERISTICS

- Solid brown face & ears with little to no mottling
- Excessive black or brown spotting in the skin above the knees and hocks
- Moderate amounts of colored fibers (black or brown) in the wool

ABSOLUTE FWX DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Excessive black or solid dark chocolate brown color on face, ears, & legs (including wool)
- Excessively coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
- Excessive coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs
- Total absence of wool on rear legs
- Black lambs
- Surgical alterations other than redocking
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene

EXTREMELY DARK

CHALKY HAIR ON FACE

CHALKY FACE

RED LEGS

RING-EYED CROSS

BARE LEGGED / EXTREMELY DARK

SOUTHDOWN

ACCEPTABLE SD CHARACTERISTICS

- Hair color on muzzle should be mouse colored, gray to brown
- Nostril pigmentation may be black to purplish-gray
- Muzzle should be broad; head of moderate length
- Ears of moderate length, covered with short hair or wool
- Black hoof color
- Birth marks are acceptable

DISCRIMINATORY SD CHARACTERISTICS

- Solid white color or dark chocolate color on muzzle
- Coarse, chalky, white hair around eyes extending to & including the muzzle
- Coarse hair in flank
- Coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
- Predominately pink nose with few black spots
- Long, narrow nose

DISCRIMINATORY SD CHARACTERISTICS (cont.)

- Excessive coloration on ears
- Excessive ear length
- Predominately slick ears
- Scurs
- Open poll on head
- Striped hooves
- Black fibers in wool

ABSOLUTE SD DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Speckled face or legs
- Horns
- White hooves
- Intentional alteration of hair color or skin pigmentation
- Total pink pigmentation of nostrils
- Black lambs
- Surgical alterations other than redocking
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene

EAR COLOR

COARSE, CHALKY HAIR AROUND EYES AND MUZZLE

OPEN POLL

HAIR SHEEP

ACCEPTABLE HS CHARACTERISTICS

- Must be a Barbado, St. Croix, Dorper, White Dorper, Katahdin or a cross among these breeds
- No wool below knees & hocks
- No wool forward of poll
- Predominately to all hair covering on body

DISCRIMINATORY HS CHARACTERISTICS

- Excessive wool covering
- Strong breed characteristics of breeds other then the five breeds listed above
- Solid black lambs

ABSOLUTE HS DISQUALIFICATIONS

- No evidence of hair on britch, belly, or forearm
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene

MEDIUM WOOL

MW CHARACTERISTICS

This class generally includes the Suffolk and Hampshire breeds, plus all lambs that do not fit in the finewool, finewool cross, Southdown, or hair sheep breed classes

REACHING OUR GOALS

- Address ethics within the process – exhibitors, classifiers, breeders
- Educating all involved
- Continuation and growth of program