

POINTS TO AVOID IN THE DEVON CLOSEWOOL

- Ears neither long nor thin and no black spots
- Eyelids should not be pink
- No smuttiness or black hairs above the nose
- Nostrils should not be pink
- Teeth should not protrude forward
- Teeth should be neither long nor gappy
- Chest neither too narrow nor too wide
- Wool should not be yellow or coarse
- Skin should show no black spots
- Front legs should not be bent
- No brown (rusty) hairs on the legs
- Ribs should not be flat or narrow
- Feet should not be white
- Pasterns should not be low or too long
- Legs should not be too short or too long
- Testicles should not be uneven or have grey skin
- Udder should not be uneven or hard
- Hind legs should not be straight
- Tail not too wide or fatty nor too narrow
- Loin neither too narrow nor fallen in
- Topline neither uneven or short
- Body should not be shallow
- Neck neither too long or too short
- If you can manage all of those, you are very lucky!



DEVON CLOSEWOOL SHEEP HISTORY

The Devon Closewool was created around the late 1800's when Exmoor Horn sheep were crossed with the Devon Longwool to produce a medium-sized sheep which proved very popular and expanded rapidly in numbers. The Devon Closewool Sheep Breeders' Society was formed in 1923 to establish and maintain the purity of the breed and to encourage its improvement and expansion. By 1950, there were around 229,000 Devon Closewool sheep, almost all of them located in Devon making them the most numerous breed of sheep in the county at that time, the original home being Exmoor and its borders. The breed fell in to a rapid decline in the 60's and 70's with the introduction of synthetic fibres and also the push towards intensive, indoor lambing which did not suit the Devon Closewool at all. Thankfully, numbers are on the rise again as flock masters recognise the importance of more sustainable, regenerative farming methods.

BREED QUALITIES

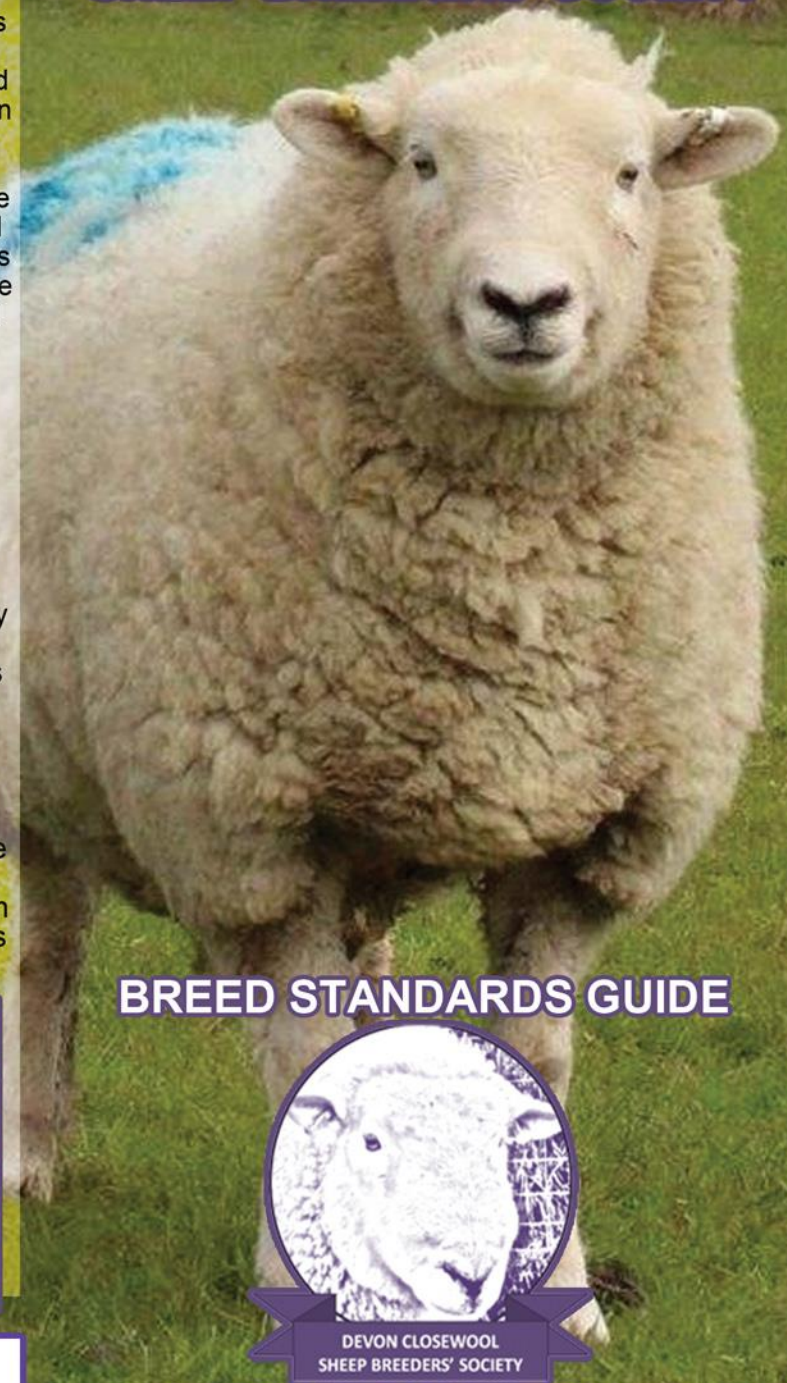
The Devon Closewool is a placid, amenable breed of sheep which thrives on pasture alone and is particularly suited to extensive management systems where its ability to graze marginal, unimproved grassland makes it the ideal choice for low-input farming systems. They are a dual-purpose breed providing delicious sweet meat and copious quantities of thick, glorious white wool which can be used for many purposes including blankets, throws, clothing and rugs. The ewes are excellent mothers with the average lambing percentage being around 1.5% often lambing in their natural environment outdoors. The Devon Closewool makes an ideal starter flock due to it's ease of management but is also farmed commercially by many farmers nationally.



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DEVON CLOSEWOOL SHEEP BREEDERS' SOCIETY



BREED STANDARDS GUIDE



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DEVON CLOSEWOOL

