

# NCWGA Judges Guide and Score Card For Natural Colored Sheep

Natural colored sheep classes may include all grades of wool, and all grades should be considered equal, so long as it is within the range specified for the class being shown. It is preferred that classes will be set up as follows:

Fine: above 60's (24.94  $\mu\text{m}$  or less)  
Medium: 50's – 58's (24.95 – 30.99  $\mu\text{m}$ )  
Long: 38's – 48's (31.00 – 38.09  $\mu\text{m}$ )  
Coarse: less than 36's (over 40.20  $\mu\text{m}$ )

Sheep must exhibit natural colored wool in at least 35% of the fleece. No specific color, solid or variegated, pale or dark, is required and all should be considered equal. White is the absence of color and natural colored sheep do not have more than 65% white wool. Breed stewards or show officials should take responsibility in case of a question. Use of artificial coloring must be grounds for disqualification.

Sheep may be trimmed, tipped or fuzzed off, but not blocked. Bellies, heads, lower legs and the dock area may have wool of any length preferred by the exhibitor.

## Wool – 60% for Handspinning Quality

**UNIFORMITY** – The wool should exhibit uniformity of grade and density throughout the animal as well as within the individual fiber, and should have the absence of hair or kemp fibers, unless this is a breed characteristic.

**DENSITY** – A dense fleece, for the grade of the fleece, is desirable.

**HANDLE** – Wool that is soft and lustrous, for the grade of the fleece, is desirable. Fleece should be free of excessive weather damage and crotching, be easily opened, and have proper strength of fiber for the grade of fleece.

**CRIMP** – A fleece will exhibit regular and definite crimp appropriate to the grade of fleece, and in clearly separate locks of appropriate density and compactness for the grade of the fleece.

**LENGTH** – Wool length is expected to be 2" or longer. Shorter fleeces should be penalized, except in young lambs. Wool exhibited with great length, for the grade of the wool, is desirable, but should not be so long as to be to the detriment and compactness of the wool.

**The following should be penalized from lightly to harshly, according to the severity of the problem:**

1. Wool under 2" in length, except in young lambs
2. Wool trimmed or blocked to unequal lengths on the chest, back, shoulder, sides, or britch area

3. Excessive contamination of wool with feed, bedding, burrs, dirt, paint, manure, etc.
4. Wool with permanent stains, wool rot, or crotching
5. Hairy and kempy fibers in the fleece out of breed character
6. Wool fibers excessively tender or break easily for the grade

## Conformation – 40% for soundness and musculature

**GENERAL APPEARANCE** – Sheep should be symmetrical in outline, balanced in ratio of height to length, with the head erect, and with the legs set squarely. Rams should be masculine, and ewes should be feminine. Size and scale are important, but should be considered within the range of the breed type.

**FEET AND LEGS** – There should be ample bone and strength for the breed type. Straight, well set legs and proper hock angulations are desired.

**HEAD** – Alert eyes and ears, correct bite, a clean nose, and an open face are all desirable. Horns should have adequate spacing away from the head.

**BACK** – There should be a strong, even top-line with adequate length, smoothness through the withers, and straightness out through the tail dock, in accordance to breed type.

**RIBS AND CHEST** – Chest should have adequate width and depth for heart and lung capacity. Ribs should show adequate covering of flesh.

**SCROTUM AND UDDER** – Rams must have two well developed testicles, ewes must have two teats, with the udder well balanced. Animals deficient in these traits should be disqualified.

**The following should be penalized from lightly to harshly, according to the severity of the problem:**

1. Poorly formed testicles or teats and udder
2. Malformation of the feet and legs such as weak pasterns, crooked feet or legs, bad hock angulations, or too narrow placement of feet
3. Overbites or underbites
4. Inverted eyelids, excessively sagging eyelids, or excessive wool blindness
5. Weak or swayed back
6. Untrimmed hooves, broken hooves, or sore feet