

Suffolk Breed Standards

Introduction: Suffolk sheep are efficient converters of forage and feed to body dimension and mass. All Suffolk sheep should be structurally and reproductively sound. They should have distinctly black heads, ears, and legs, and produce a white fleece. Rams should appear masculine, muscular, of good size and well proportioned. Ewes should exhibit strong maternal traits, carry and deliver lambs with ease, and have ample milking ability.

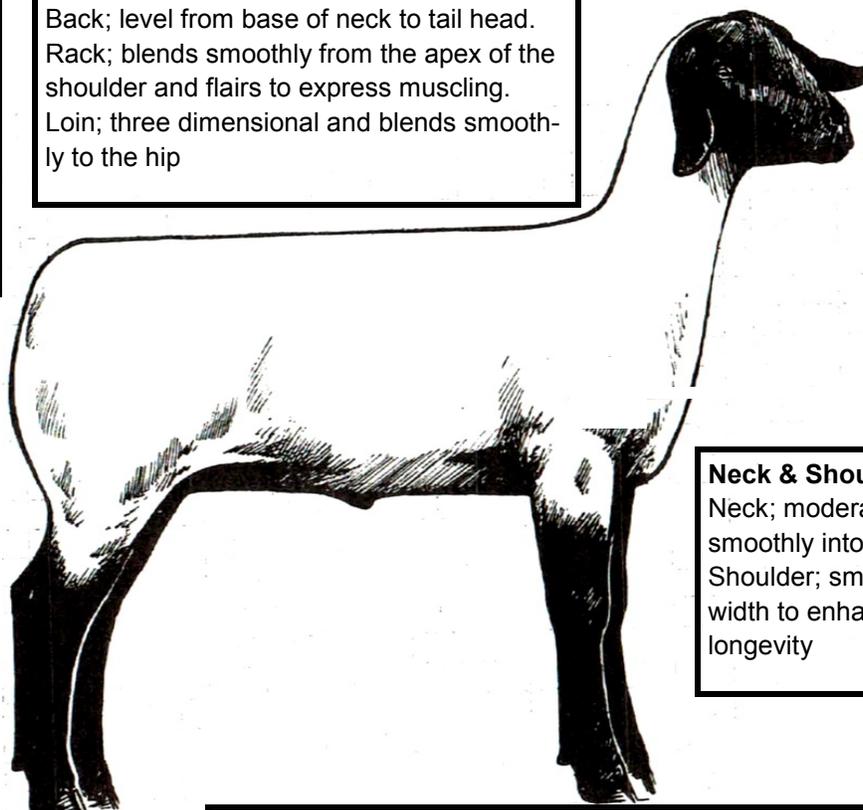
General Body Shape and Capacity: 20 points
 Chest; wide and deep, with these dimensions carrying back into the lower rib
 Side Profile; depth of body that carries through middle rib and rear flank
 Muscularity; roundness of shape in muscle patterns throughout the body

Rump and Twist: 20 points
 Rump; long and wide, level from hooks to pins, with width at tail head carrying down through a wide stifle,
 Twist; should be full, broad and deep

Back, Rack, & Loin: 20 points
 Back; level from base of neck to tail head.
 Rack; blends smoothly from the apex of the shoulder and flairs to express muscling.
 Loin; three dimensional and blends smoothly to the hip

Head, Mouth, & Ears:..... 15 points
 Head; black from poll forward with wide skull, long muzzle, and deep jaw
 Mouth; sound, with incisor teeth meeting the pad
 Ears; long, black, bell-shaped, pointing down

Legs, Feet, & Gait:20 points
 Legs; black with smooth heavy bones, front and rear legs set wide enough to exhibit body width
 Feet; short pasterns with toes pointing straight forward.
 Gait; long and smooth strides, tracking as wide in rear as in front



Neck & Shoulders:..... 5 points
 Neck; moderate length, set smoothly into the shoulders
 Shoulder; smooth with adequate width to enhance functionality and longevity

Disqualifications:
 *over-shot or under-shot jaw
 *Hermaphrodite (animals having both male and female organs)
 *Inguinal hernia
 *(rams) very small testicles or single testicle

Discriminate Against:
 *post or straight legged, or sickle hocked, or crooked, bowed, or bent legs
 *flat or weak pasterns
 *unsound movement or gait
 *excessive black fiber in woolled areas
 *white speckling or splotching on bellies, inner legs, neck or jaw
 *asymmetrical or split testes
 *inadequate scrotal circumference (yearling ram < 35 cm.)
 *pendulous udders, low capacity udders, balloon teats
 *upturned vulva
 *wild or uncontrollable dispositions
 *Inverted eyelids
 *prolapsed uterus or rectum