

JACOB SHEEP IN THE SHOW RING

INFORMATION FOR JUDGES



JACOB SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

August 2006

INTRODUCTION

As Jacob sheep increase in popularity, they are appearing more often in the show ring. The purpose of this packet is to help acquaint judges with the unique characteristics of the Jacob breed, and with the fitting and showing preferences of the Jacob Sheep Breeders Association (JSBA).

This document includes:

- An overall proposed scorecard, immediately following this introduction;
- An overview of the Jacob breed;
- The Association's recommendations regarding fitting and showing;
- A discussion of breed characteristics;
- The JSBA Breed Standard (Appendix A);
- A Glossary of Terms (Appendix B); while most of these terms will be familiar to judges, a few are somewhat specific to this breed; and,
- Information on card grading (Appendix C).

A Short History of Jacob Sheep

Jacobs are a British long-tailed, polycerate breed dating back three to four hundred years. They are known as "Park" sheep because the earliest recorded flocks were kept on large country estates to enhance the beauty of the landscape. Until the 20th century these sheep had little in the way of selective breeding for traits such as meat and wool quality. Although importations to the United States and Canada prior to the 1960's and 70's are not well-documented, it is possible that Jacob sheep were brought into the to North America at an earlier date, particularly for purposes of display in zoological exhibits – possibly as early as the turn of the 20th century.



In Britain, Jacobs have been crossed to Dorsets in the South and Cheviots in the North and can now compete with the larger, selectively bred meat breeds. In North America, they have remained more primitive. The earliest ones were snapped up by hunters, private zoos and game farms for their "trophy" heads. The American Jacob is today closer to the earliest recorded flocks than those found in Britain. By retaining its small size, its large horns and its distinctly colored markings we should be able and proud to pass on to future generations this exceptionally unique breed.

A four-horned ram showing good breed characteristics.



This group of two-horned and four-horned Jacob ewes show the color patterns and other characteristics that are typical of the breed.

About the Jacob Sheep Breeders Association



The Jacob Sheep Breeders Association (JSBA) was formed in 1988 to provide a registry for purebred American Jacob sheep, and now represents more than 200 breeders from the United States and Canada. According to statistics provided by the America Livestock Breeds Conservancy, JSBA registrations account for about 80 to 90 percent of the American Jacobs registered annually. From the inception of the registry in 1988 through 2004, JSBA registered more than 8,700 Jacobs.

All sheep registered by JSBA must pass an inspection, and must be shown to meet the breed standard. However, given the limited genetic pool available, and the Association's goal of maintaining as much genetic diversity as possible, the standard is intentionally written to be inclusive of a fairly broad range of animals. Thus, some diversity in the show ring, including two- and four-horned animals of various sizes and marking patterns, is not only acceptable but to be encouraged. It is not our goal to produce large, uniform, "commercial" animals. All animals that place at the top of their classes should, however, exhibit typical breed characteristics, and should be sound, hardy animals – as is also characteristic of the Jacob breed.

Card Grading

In some (but not all) shows, a “card grading” system may be used as an alternate means of evaluating breeding stock. Under this system, all animals are graded as excellent, good, acceptable, and unacceptable while still penned. All sheep rated “excellent” are then shown against one another in the ring. This system helps to avoid a situation where a judge who is unfamiliar with the breed could place a sub-standard animal over one that the association considers to be ideal. Breeders are then able to select quality animals based on the judge’s evaluation, without the inference that one “type” of Jacob is inherently superior to another type. Additional information on card grading is included in Appendix C of this packet.



The purpose of this guidance is to advise those judging Jacobs of the characteristics that the Association and its members consider more and less desirable. It is our hope that showing Jacobs will help to introduce this less-common breed to the public in a positive manner, and that such competitions will be a positive experience both for members and those who judge our sheep. For additional information, please contact:

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Jacob Sheep Breeders Association Recommended Scorecard

	DESIRABLE (“HIGH”)	ACCEPTABLE (“MEDIUM”)	UNACCEPTABLE (“LOW”)
Conformation (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively small, fine-boned • Straight back with rump sloping toward tail head • Legs set square, no wool below the knee • Head slender and triangular, no wool forward of horns in adults; small alert ears • Brown, blue, or marbled eyes without evidence of split upper eyelid • Tail docked, or reaching near hock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back not level over shoulders • Square rump, not sloping • Slightly cow-hocked • Somewhat Roman-nosed • Eyelid with minor evidence of a split upper eyelid that will not cause injury to the eye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rams over 180 lbs; ewes over 130 lbs. • Very large, heavy boned animal • Large, square-jawed head, pendulous ears • Wool on legs or face (forward of horns in adults) • Split eyelid deformity that causes injury or discomfort to the eye • Unsound
Fleece (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium, open, with soft springy handle • Staple length of 3-7” • With or without crimp, but uniform and desirable for handspinning • Clean line between colored and white patches • Minimal if any kemp; lambs may, however, have some loose fibers that are NOT kemp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finer, short, dense fleece • Longer, coarser fleece that is more hairy in appearance • Presence of some freckling obvious in the white wool • Small amount of kemp • Lacking in uniformity, or with excessive britch wool • Significant “bleeding” between colored patches and white areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very coarse fleeces grading 38.9 microns (40 Bradford count) or coarser • Very fine fleeces grading 23.5 microns (60 Bradford count) or finer • Double coating • Short, brittle fleeces with heavy kemp • Fleeces that shed • Excessive quilted appearance • Excessive mottling or freckling, with “salt and pepper” appearance

	DESIRABLE (“HIGH”)	ACCEPTABLE (“MEDIUM”)	UNACCEPTABLE (“LOW”)
Breed Characteristics (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-marked, a white sheep with black or lilac patches, neither too light nor too dark. Two large eye patches; pigmented nose (in adults) or muzzle patch present Legs white or with colored patches, but not all black; black or striped hooves With even number of strong, well-balanced and spaced horns In general appearance, fine-boned, somewhat primitive, and alert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal color on body, but with typical Jacob color pattern Missing or slipped eye patch, or having only one facial marking (one eye patch or muzzle patch) One to three dark colored legs Horns less well- spaced, may be partially fused or evenly fused at base in adult rams Slightly forward tipping horns that will not impair grazing or harm the animal Ewes with scurs in place of lower (secondary) horns Somewhat coarse in appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 85% colored, or giving the appearance of a black animal with minimal white markings More than 85% white Having no facial patches All black legs Forward growing horns that harm the animal or impair the ability of the animal to graze Polled sheep Rams with scurs (except in <u>addition</u> to full horns) Ewes with scurs in place of top (primary) horns Very large and heavy boned
Showmanship (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonably clean and attractive but with minimal grooming of fleece Natural in appearance Well-conditioned, but not with expectation of same amount of cover as a meat breed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some trimming and washing to present an attractive animal Adult ewes that have lambed in somewhat lower condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals recently sheared without sufficient wool for evaluation Excessively fitted Very poor condition

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Overview of the Jacob Breed

American Jacobs are a spotted, multi-horned, Old World sheep that, unlike many other breeds, have not undergone extensive breeding to satisfy the commercial marketplace. They have a more primitive body shape, are relatively slender-boned, and provide a flavorful, lean carcass with little external fat. The fleece is soft, open and light in grease, making it highly sought after by handspinners. Jacob sheep are also attractive to owners of small flocks because they are hardy, resistant to parasites and foot problems, lamb easily, and have strong mothering instincts, thus demanding a minimal amount of attention.

Most serious Jacob breeders are concerned with conservation breeding -- that is, with maintaining genetic diversity within a breed having a relatively small number of individuals. Jacob sheep are currently listed as a "Rare¹" breed by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. JSBA actively encourages diversity within the Jacob breed, rather than uniformity, and the breed standard reflects this philosophy. The Association recognizes that an emphasis on diversity will present particular challenges for a show judge presented with animals that may vary in size, number of horns, color patterns, and fleece type. However, with the following guidance in mind, we believe that in most instances it will become apparent which animals best represent the breed as a whole.

Show class

Jacob sheep should be placed in a Natural Colored Wool Division, and in a Medium (or Medium-Fine) Wool Class if there is not a breed-specific class.

Fitting and Showing

It is the preference of the JSBA that Jacob sheep be shown in as natural a condition as possible. Ideally, this means that they have not been washed, trimmed/fitted, or carded, other than minimal grooming to clean feet, remove any manure tags, etc. However, depending upon the geographic location and the time of year, a limited amount of washing and trimming may be necessary to present a clean animal.

Jacob sheep should never be penalized for being shown in a natural condition, as long as the fleece is not excessively matted or dirty. Nor should sheep be penalized for being washed or trimmed in order to allow for a good presentation. However, Jacobs should never be blocked, and if excessive washing has resulted in a harsh or dry fleece, the animal may be penalized.

Sheep may be shown with or without a halter. While all animals should, of course, be under good control while in the show ring, many novice adult shepherds are attracted to the Jacob breed. The Association requests the patience and understanding of judges

¹ Based on fewer than 1000 annual North American registrations and estimated fewer than 5,000 global population

toward those who are committed to the preservation of this unique breed, but who may be new to the show ring.

Weighting of characteristics

Unless a show provides specific guidelines, JSBA recommends that judging be weighted as follows:

<u>Conformation:</u>	30 percent
<u>Fleece quality:</u>	30 percent
<u>Breed characteristics:</u> (e.g. color patterns, horns)	30 percent
<u>Showmanship:</u>	10 percent

Judges should refer to the JSBA Breed Standard (Appendix A) for a complete summary of desirable, acceptable but less desirable, and unacceptable traits. The card grading system outlined in Appendix C also summarizes good and less desirable traits based on the Standard. A discussion of the most significant traits exhibited in the show ring follows.

Breed Conformation

The Jacob is a small, some would say “dainty”, breed. Mature ewes should range from 80 – 120 pounds; mature rams from 120 - 180 pounds. **Within the appropriate weight range, animals should not be ranked based on size, provided that they are in good condition.** Under the philosophy of conservation breeding, increasing the size of the breed is discouraged.

Jacobs are relatively fine-boned; a large, very heavy-boned sheep should be penalized. Fine-boned does not mean unsound; Jacobs are a strong and hardy breed and should appear so in their movement.

This two-horned yearling ewe is fine-boned yet strong and alert.



Legs are ideally set square; the animal should stand firm and be well-balanced. Some Jacobs are slightly cow-hocked – one school of thought associates this characteristic with their primitive nature. Legs are free of wool below the knee. Note that although the back is straight, the rump should slope toward the tail head to conform to the breed standard --- this facilitates easy birthing.



This ewe lamb shows the sloping rump that is typical and correct in Jacobs.

The head should be slender and triangular with a straight profile (although rams often develop a “roman nose” during the breeding season). The head should be free of wool forward of the horns.

Eyes. Some four-horned Jacob sheep show evidence of a split upper eyelid – a defect that is genetically linked to the four-horned condition. Evidence of a split eyelid that does not cause injury to the eye (a small notch or pucker in the eyelid, often accompanied by a tuft of long eyelashes) is an undesirable but acceptable trait. On the other hand, a split upper eyelid that is serious enough to cause discomfort or injury to the eye is unacceptable; animals carrying this serious condition are not eligible for registration (and therefore should not appear in a purebred Jacob competition). Animals having an obvious split in the upper eyelid should be penalized.

Tail. Some breeders do not dock their animals. Jacobs should not be penalized if the tail is left in a natural condition. However, an undocked tail should not extend below the hocks, and should never appear to be short and fat

Fleece

Although *genetically* Jacobs are black sheep with white spots, in *appearance* they should be white sheep with colored markings. (Additional discussion of marking patterns is included below under “Breed characteristics”.) The fleece is open, and is easily parted to reveal a soft, medium to medium fine wool with a good degree of springiness and a staple length that measures 3 – 7 inches. The fleece may be either somewhat crimp or

somewhat spongy (having a less defined crimp), but should have a soft handle and be highly desirable to the handspinner. Grease will typically be minimal. The total weight of the adult fleece is expected to be 3 – 6 pounds.

The ideal Jacob fleece ranges from 26.4 to 36.19 microns (44-56 Bradford count) demi-luster. **Fleeces grading finer than 23.5 microns (60 Bradford count) or coarser than 38.9 microns (40 Bradford count) are considered unacceptable.** This allows a wide range of “ideal” fleece types. Within this range, the “best” fleece is the one that is generally the most desirable to the handspinner in terms of handle, staple length, uniformity, and overall quality. Note that a fleece having a coarser texture is typically not quite as uniform as a finer fleece; this factor may be taken into consideration, but excessive britchiness may be penalized. While some animals have a small amount of kemp, an excessive amount of kemp in the fleece should also be penalized.

The colored portions of the fleece may be black or “lilac” – the latter ranging from a blue gray to a gray brown. Many Jacobs fade in the sun, and the surface of the fleece may appear brown. This is not to be penalized.

Breed characteristics

Horns

The Jacob’s horns are often the first thing noticed by an observer. Both rams and ewes may have two, four, or six horns. Rams’ horns are clearly more massive; a ram should be penalized for having small, feminine horns. **Polled animals are not acceptable.** Multiple-horned ewes may have scurs - small rudimentary horns – in *the lower or secondary horn position only*; although these ewes may be accepted for registration, this trait is considered undesirable². Rams having only scurs, or four-horned rams having scurs in the lower horn position, are unacceptable.

There is no preference shown for two- or four-horned animals, but the number of horns should be even (that is, a three-horned animal would be undesirable). The horns should not be fused –that is, grown together and split apart only at the tips – in a manner that produces an asymmetrical horn set.

Four-horned animals should ideally have space between the upper and lateral horns, although in a mature ram with large horns such space may be limited. Horns that grow significantly forward and that would interfere with the well-being of the animal in any way - e.g. that would interfere with grazing, or that tend to grow into the face - are a very serious fault. It is not uncommon that the tip of lower or lateral horns must be trimmed to avoid rubbing against cheeks or shoulders; this is not considered as serious a fault as forward-growing top horns.

Two-horned rams should have very wide-spread horns that will allow adequate space between the horns and the animal’s head and neck when mature. Horns that will interfere with the animal’s neck or jaw are unacceptable.

² It is, however, fully acceptable for a ram or ewe having four strong horns to have additional scurs.



Four-horned ram with well-balanced horns.



Two-horned ram showing correct wide horn spacing.



The young four-horned ram to the left has unacceptable forward-growing horns that will interfere with the animal's ability to eat as he matures.

*The four-horned ewes on the right have broken upper and lower horns as lambs (as evidenced by the blunt tips and uneven length). This is relatively common in ewes, since the horns in ewes lambs initially are quite small. Ewes that have evidence of broken horns should **not** be significantly penalized **if** the adult horns are strong and well-placed, and the overall appearance is attractive, as with these ewes.*



Overall, the horns should appear to be symmetrical and attractive. The horns may be black, or black with white stripes, but should never be all white.

Color patterns

According to the breed standard, Jacobs should ideally be about 60 percent white and 40 percent colored. However, animals should not be penalized in the show ring unless they are excessively light or dark. An animal that is less than 15 percent white or more than 85 percent white is unacceptable. The overall appearance should be of a white animal with dark patches, not the other way around, and they should always show a good spotting pattern. Most Jacobs have color around the neck and shoulders. They should also have at least some spotting on the body behind the shoulders. If all else is equal, an animal with limited color on the body should be ranked below one with a greater percentage of spotting, unless the competitor has excessive color.

This well-grown ram lamb (right) has a color pattern that effectively represents what is expected in the Jacob breed, with color in “all the right places.”



The ewe lamb on the left is acceptable, but is approaching the upper limits for color percentage. All else being equal, she should be placed below a ewe with a spotting pattern that is more characteristic of the breed.

A ewe that is much darker than this would probably be unacceptable.

The nice Jacob ewe to the right is somewhat lighter-colored, but is still acceptable, and she has other attributes that would increase her “breed character” score. Her facial markings are correct, and she has strong, well-balanced horns.

While this ewe has a number of desirable Jacob traits, the thickness and blockiness of her body are not desirable Jacob conformation.



Color patterns on the head are very important. An animal must have at least two of the three possible facial color patches – left and right eye patches, and a colored patch around the muzzle. If both eye patches are present, it is not necessary that the muzzle have a colored patch, but (except in young lambs) the nasal septum should show dark pigment, rather than appearing all pink.



A “slipped” eye patch is one that shows up on the cheek below the eye; this pattern should not be greatly penalized.

The young ram lamb to the left has a small “slipped” eye patch on his cheek below the eye. He would not be heavily penalized for this fault alone.

The skin beneath the white wool must be pink, while that under the dark wool is black. Mottled wool and skin are undesirable. Freckling does occur in the Jacob breed. While a limited number of black freckles in the white areas are acceptable, if the sheep has so many freckles that the fleece develops a “salt and pepper” appearance, the animal may be penalized.

Hooves should be black or striped. All-white hooves are unacceptable. Many Jacobs also have black marking on the knees and feet. Although these marking are “showy”,

they are not essential. However, the legs should not be ALL black. An animal having four all-black legs is unacceptable. An animal with from one to three all black legs may be marked down accordingly.

Summary

In the show ring, it is likely that the Jacob class will present the judge with a diverse group of two-horned and four-horned animals, having a variety of color patterns and fleece types. The JSBA standard will help to define the range of desirable characteristics.

Those sheep that wind up at the top of the class may or may not be the largest sheep, but they should have:

- 1. Sound conformation representative of the primitive nature of the Jacob breed;**
- 2. A fleece that is highly desirable to the handspinner; and,**
- 3. Breed characteristics (horns and marking patterns) that are both attractive and consistent with the breed standard.**

We appreciate your assistance in helping the Association to achieve these goals.

The recommended scorecard included at the beginning of this document summarizes desirable, acceptable but less desirable, and unacceptable characteristics.

Appendix A: Breed Standard

As currently adopted by the Jacob Sheep Breeders Association.

I. Desirable traits

HEAD:

- Slender and triangular head
- Clear of wool forward of the horns
- Large symmetrical eye patches incorporating the cheeks
- Clear white blaze from poll to muzzle
- Straight profile
- Nasal septum and mouth should be dark pigmented in adults even though the muzzle patch may be absent

EARS:

- Small, erect and slightly above the horizontal
- White, colored or spotted

EYES:

- Clear, bright eyes, no evidence of upper split-eyelid deformity
- Color: brown, blue, or marbled

HORNS:

- Color: black or black and white striped
- Rams:
 - Any number provided they are well differentiated (cleanly separated) and balanced
 - Flesh between horn bases
 - Two horned rams should have wide, well spaced horns with good clearance of checks, nose, and mouth at maturity
 - Lower horns should be well spaced from face, cheeks and neck
- Ewes:
 - Horns firm, fine featured with femininity, balanced, and well differentiated

NECK:

- Medium length

TAIL:

- The natural Jacob tail reaches almost to the hock
- Is wooly, not hairy

LEGS:

- Set square on all corners, standing firm, well-balanced
- Fine boned and of medium length
- Free of wool below the knees
- Color: white with or without colored patches

- Hooves are black or striped

BODY CONFORMATION:

- Mature rams weigh between 120 and 180 lbs.
- Mature ewes weigh between 80 and 120 lbs.
- Long framed, smooth muscled with well-sprung ribs
- Fine boned with straight back
- The rump slopes toward the tail head
- Rams have short scrotums holding testicles closer to the body than modern breeds
- Ewes have small udders held closer to the body than modern breeds

BODY COLOR and FLEECE:

- The Jacob is a randomly spotted sheep, basically white with colored spots or patches
- Preferably an approximate 60% white and 40% black or lilac spotting
- Skin beneath white fleece is pink, skin beneath colored spots dark
- Fleece is a medium grade with an open character and soft springy handle (Bradford count 44-56, demi-luster)
- Fleece staple length is 3-7 inches, fleece weight 3-6 lbs, with little grease and high yield

II. Acceptable but less desirable traits

HEAD:

- Having only one of the three facial markings
- Slipped (below the eye) eye patch or patches
- Pink nose on young lambs
- Slight tendency to Roman nose
- Young lambs, up to a maximum of 6 months of age, showing baby wool forward of the horns

EARS:

- Slightly larger but proportional to body

EYES:

- Grade 2 or 3 split upper eyelid deformity causing no injury to the eye which would require surgical intervention

HORNS:

- Rams:
 - Fused even horns
 - Slightly forward tipping horns which do not impair grazing
 - Insufficient spacing between upper and lower horns (must be differentiated and balanced though flesh may not be present)
- Ewes:
 - Unbalanced horn set
 - Fused horns
 - Multiple horned ewes having normal securely attached primary horns, but with scurs in the lower horn position only. (It is fully acceptable for a ewe with 4 or more strong, balanced horns to have additional scurs or horn buds.)

LEGS:

- Slightly cow hocked

- One to three dark colored legs
- White hooves

BODY COLOR and FLEECE:

- Random colored patches on front half of body only
- Not less than 15% colored markings nor more than 85% color
- Patches of color with some bleeding, mottling or freckling
- Small amount of freckling in white wool
- Small amount of kemp

III. Unacceptable/Disqualifying Traits

HEAD:

- Absence of facial markings
- Wool forward of the horns
- Large, square non-Jacob looking head

EARS:

- Large pendulous ears and/or disproportionate to body

EYES:

- Grade 3 split upper eyelid deformity or more, causing discomfort or injury to eye
- Wide, broad bone structure between the eyes

HORNS:

- Polled sheep, or sheep with scurs only
- Rams : *Two-horned rams having small, weak, feminine-looking horns
*Multiple-horned rams having fewer than four strong horns, with scurs in upper or lower horn position. (It is fully acceptable for rams with at least 4 or more strong balanced horns to have additional scurs or horn buds.)

Ewes: *Two-horned ewes having small or weak horns.
* Multiple horned ewes having scurs in the primary/top horn position.
- Solid white horns
- Forward pointing horns curling towards the eyes, or growing over the nose impairing the ability to graze naturally
- Narrow or close horns on two horned rams that lack space between the growing horns and his neck or jaw, encumbering his well being
- Undifferentiated and unbalanced set to four horned ram, i.e., fused in an irregular pattern on one or both sides
- Lower (lateral) horns that grow into the face, cheek or neck

LEGS:

- All dark colored
- Wool present below the knees and hocks

BODY CONFORMATION:

- All conformational and/or congenital defects leading to unsoundness for breeding
- Large, heavy boned
- Fat or short tailed
- Rams over 180 lbs.

- Ewes over 130 lbs.
- Long, pendulous scrotal sacks on rams
- Large, loosely attached udders on ewes
- Excessively large teats on ewes

BODY COLOR and FLEECE:

- Fleeces grading 60 Bradford count or finer
- Coarse fleeces grading 40 Bradford count or lower
- Double coating
- More than 85% colored markings
- Less than 15% colored markings
- Short, brittle fleeces with heavy kemp
- Fleeces on adult sheep which shed
- Fleeces weighing 8 lbs. or more
- Excessive quilted appearance to the fleece (where the dark fiber are shorter than the white or vice versa) occurring after the first shearing
- Excessive freckling in the white wool of young animals

Appendix B: Glossary

Glossary Of Terms From The JSBA Guidebook.

Bleeding (fleece and skin): Spotting that lacks clearly defined edges.

Bradford Count: Fleece is ascribed a number that represents the maximum number of hanks, each 560 yards long, that may be spun from one pound of that fleece. The Jacob Bradford count is 48 – 54. Grading of fleece is now primarily done by micron count, which measures the diameter of the fiber.

Britch: Area of wool on the lower rear legs of the sheep. This wool is often coarser.

Cow-hocked: A conformational condition where the hocks turn in toward one another. This condition varies in degree and is often present to some extent in primitive breeds of sheep including the Jacob. (See hock.)

Dock: Noun: The tail head/chine - which should be set slightly below the straight of the back. Verb: To shorten the natural length of the tail.

Double-coating: A fleece that naturally has two distinct fibers: a coarser, longer guard hair covering a shorter, fine wool. Navajo-Churro sheep have this type of fleece character.

Fat tail: A characteristic of some breeds of sheep, such as Karakul and their crosses, which show large quantities of fat deposits in their tails. If the tail is docked, the rump area may accumulate fat reserves.

Freckles (fleece and skin): Three types of freckling can occur.

- A) Small groups of dark spots in the white area of the skin, which produce dark fibers. This may appear at birth or not until one year of age. This is a heritable characteristic.
- B) Age spots appear as small, darker spots (usually a shadow-like gray) on the pink skin as the animal gets older. The fibers growing from this area are rarely affected as the pigment change affects only the skin. This may be a heritable characteristic.
- C) Sunburn spots appear from exposure to strong sunlight. These spots are generally much darker than age spots. They are also very small and may or may not have pigment changes involving fiber. This is an environmental effect.

Fused horn: Horn(s) which grow together. One can usually find the seam along the point of fusion. The tips of the horns may remain separated giving a split effect. Horns may fuse in a balanced form giving a two-horned appearance, or unbalanced form such as a three-horned appearance.

Handle: The actual feel of the wool in relation to the breed. The Jacob's fleece can be described as having a soft, springy handle with an open, airy appearance.

Hock: The angled elbow-like joint on the rear legs.

Kemp (fleece): A coarse fiber (structurally different from wool fibers) that is brittle, weak, and usually a chalky white color that will not take dye. It sheds from the fleece and will also shed from

cloth made of kempy yarns such as Harris tweeds.

Lilac: A color variation of the commonly black and white Jacob. This color resembles a gray to brownish hue and is distinctive at birth. This color variation may be accompanied by a ring of lighter hairs surrounding the eyes.

Marbled eyes: Refers to a combination of eye coloration in eyes, usually brown and blue.

Mottling (fleece and skin): Spotting that is not distinctly defined, more irregular than clearly defined spotting, and that may run together.

Narrow horn set: Horn set that is close toward the head. In the two-horned ram they will be close to the cheek at maturity. As the horn continues to grow in width, it will crush the facial bones or grow into the skin, causing infection. This may be heritable in the naturally two-horned ram, i.e., horns not formed by the fusing of four horns. In the four-horned ram the lower set may curl in towards the face, neck, or jaw. This may be a heritable trait, or it may occur as a result of injury to the lower horn during the lamb's first 6 to 9 months of age.

Poll: The area between the ears of the sheep on the crown of the head.

Polled: Having naturally no horns. Polled Jacobs are disqualified from registration.

Polycerate: Having the ability to produce more than one pair of horns.

Quilted (fleece): Fibers of one color grow longer and often coarser than the fibers of the other color. The fleece has an uneven "quilted" appearance. This may be present on lambs, and disappear after the first shearing or become noticeable on older animals.

Roman nose: The profile of the face, from crown to muzzle, is convex shaped rather than straight. This trait is atypical for a Jacob, but should not be confused with the swelling of the Jacob ram's nose during the breeding season or from trauma resulting from fighting among males.

Scur: A rudimentary horn that is small and may not be securely attached to the skull. A Jacob may appear to be polled, but upon examination the scurs may be felt.

Slipped eye patch: This refers to the colored patch that normally surrounds the Jacob's eye but that is located below the eye rather than incorporating it.

Split-eyelid deformity: Fault found in some polycerate sheep breeds where the eyelash edge does not form a continuous, unbroken line (normal), but instead has a notch (mildest form) or an inverted V-shaped split (most severe form). In the worst cases, the eyelid with the lashes may be curled into the eye, causing abrasions and ulceration leading to blindness. This trait is genetically carried by both four-horned and two-horned sheep. The two-horned ram may suppress the expression of this trait but will not remove it from the genetic inheritance of its offspring. Each eyelid is scored separately. A score of 1 is normal with 4 describing a severe split. All Jacobs should be carefully examined and the correct score for each eyelid recorded on registration forms.

Well-sprung ribs: A term used to describe an animal's ribs, which should bow outward and down to give the body cavity space and structural soundness.

Appendix C: Card Grading

An Introduction to Card Grading

Card Grading is an alternate system of evaluating breeding stock other than the "single best animal" currently achieved in the competitive show ring. **This system is not, however, in use at all shows.** Two or three evaluators grade an animal for soundness and adherence to the standard for the breed.

There are four grades:

- **Blue** for excellent breeding stock;
- **Red** for good breeding stock;
- **Yellow** for acceptable; and,
- **White** for unacceptable or unsound.

If further competition is desired, then only blue-graded sheep are entered in the show ring for further evaluation by the show judge. By allowing only blue-carded sheep in the show ring we avoid having a judge who may be unfamiliar with certain breeds place an animal that has been red- or white-card graded at the top. At the same time, those seeking breeding animals will know that ALL of the blue-carded sheep are of excellent quality, based on a team evaluation against the Jacob breed standard, no matter how they are ranked by the show judge on that day.

Benefits of Card Grading

The goal of Card Grading is to objectively evaluate a single animal for soundness and adherence to the breed standard, while identifying and maintaining the broadest amount of genetic diversity within the breed. The grade given an animal is valid for that time only; a lamb graded a red card may grow up to be a blue or even a yellow the following year. An adult may also change from year to year. This system is flexible, evaluating a single animal on its own merits on any one day.

A breed association utilizing card grading is able to monitor the standards established for the breed. If a deviation from the standard is becoming evident, perhaps we need to ask ourselves if we are purposefully modifying the breed or whether the breed standard needs to be examined. The show-ring, an organized sale or auction, or the farm yard are all settings where Card Grading evaluation can be utilized. In the setting of the show ring or even the sale ring, more than one evaluator is necessary. When animals receiving blue cards are presented in the show ring, we can see the diversity of traits within the group of animals having the "excellence" rating, and breed integrity is maintained. Having more than one person in the farm-yard setting is also beneficial but not absolutely necessary.

Breeders and buyers are able to evaluate animals for their own breeding goals, for health and soundness, and for production potential. An individual breeder can utilize the same principles when looking at his or her animals as do the team of evaluators. The key word is OBJECTIVE evaluation. The prettiest ewe or most handsome ram may not be the best for your flock. The sweetest, friendliest pet may not be benefiting your breeding goals because you can't see her

flaws, while the 'witch of the barn' you can't stand may have the traits you need to improve your flock. It is very hard to be objective about one's own flock. It is easier to be objective when looking at animals you do not personally know.

SUMMARY OF POINTS TO LOOK FOR IN A 'QUALITY' JACOB SHEEP

HEAD

- Balanced horns, well spread, dark colored.
- Strongly horned in both sexes -scurred and polled ewes should be avoided.
- Facial patches -minimum of two out of 3. No all black or all white faces.
- No wool forward of the horns.
- Small ears, no longer than 4" in mature animals.
- Triangular face, slightly dished, no "Roman" noses.
- Good eyes, no split upper eyelids causing injury to the eyeball.
- Good teeth which meet the upper pad flush with the lips -no over or undershot jaws.

BODY

- 80 to 180 lbs, rectangular shape with straight topline.
- Good coloration - no more than 75% black and not less than 15%.
- Clearly defined colored spots or patches, JACOBS ARE GENETICALLY BLACK SHEEP WITH WHITE MARKINGS, BUT IN APPEARANCE ARE WHITE WITH BLACK MARKINGS.
- Docked tail that is set lower than top level of the spine (or undocked tail that reaches almost to the hock).
- Scrotal sack held tight to the body, two healthy testes.
- Udder with good teats, good attachment, no lumps.

FLEECE

- Even fleece 3" to 7" long, 3 to 6 pounds grading approximately 27 to 33 microns -this is not too fine, not too coarse, not too crimpy and is open and springy.
- Well-defined color.

LEGS

- White with or without black patches -one solid black leg is OK but three are barely acceptable.
- Black or striped hooves.
- No knock knees or cow hocks.
- No wool on legs.