

Breed Standard

Size – Medium with good overall length and depth.

Head – Rams: Masculine, wedge shaped, tapering towards the nose. Ewes: Feminine, wedge shaped, tapering towards nose.

Horns – Rams: fairly strong, well curved and set well apart at the base. Ewes: No horns or scurf.

Face - Rams: Broad forehead and muzzle. Forehead free from wool. Ewes: Forehead free from wool, more pointed face.

Eyes – Prominent and bright, black around the eyes, true black eyelids.

Ears – Rams: Small to medium and thin. Ewes: Small to medium and thin. Obliquely set.

Mouth – Check for overshot or undershot tendencies in jaws.

Neck – Short, well defined and fully covered with fine wool.

Brisket – Bold and roomy.

Shoulder – Nicely rounded, not too wide, level with back.

Ribs – Well sprung, deep in region of heart.

Back & Loins – Straight with strong loin.

Hindquarter – Thick and well let down.

Tail – Rams: Strong, long and straight, well covered with fine wool. Ewes: Long and straight, well covered with fine wool to provide shelter for udder.

Legs – Good, fine, comparatively short, well placed for good movement.

Underline – Straight and not too high from the ground.

Skin – Blue, well-mellowed tough.

Wool – Black, short, thick and firm to handle. A limited amount of kemp may be present. No white or grey.



Membership Application

Name _____

Flock Prefix _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Federal Flock ID _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Signature _____

Yearly Dues:

Voting Members - \$20.00 (Own registered sheep)

Associate Members - \$20.00 (Do not own registered sheep but wish to receive the newsletter.)

Youth Members - No Charge with A Voting Membership

American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association



The purpose of the American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association is to advance the public's knowledge and use of the purebred Black Welsh Mountain sheep by promoting the identity and versatility of these animals, conserving and protecting this rare breed.

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Black Welsh Mountain Sheep

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep are a small dual purpose breed that provides excellent mild mutton and a completely black, dense, durable fleece. BWMS are small and easy to handle and are ideal for farms where their hardiness, good mothering and feed efficiency are significant assets. They make a perfect small farm sheep.

The worldwide population of Black Welsh Mountain sheep is approximately 10,000. They are found in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland as well as the smaller North American population. A single importation in 1973 of 3 rams and 13 ewes by Mr. Tom Wyman forms the genetic basis of the North American flocks. In the late 1990's frozen semen from the UK was also imported

adding needed genetic diversity to the breed in North America. The current North American population numbers approximately 1100 animals in over 50 flocks in the U.S. and Canada.

Lambing percentages in the UK are typically 175% over the whole breed but selected flocks lamb at over 200%. The ewes are good mothers, deep milkers and the lambs are vigorous, quick to suckle and fast growing.

The average weight of a mature ewe is around 100 pounds while the average ram is between 132-143 pounds.

The breed produces premium quality meat with a minimum of wasteful fat. It is rich colored and full flavored but remains mild even when butchered as mutton. Finished purebred lambs average 30-40 pounds carcass weight.

The Black Welsh is a solid black breed and their color is a rare dominant black. The wool is short, thick and firm to handle. It is durable, light and warm and does not require dyeing. The wool clip averages 2.5-5.5 pounds per fleece.

American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association

The American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association operates a registry for purebred Black Welsh Mountain Sheep. As of the end of 2007 we have registered over 6200 purebred sheep born in the US since the original importation. We have breeders across the United States and Canada.

The US Association follows the UK breed standard. The most unusual part of that standard is the regulation concerning the long tails. Black Welsh Mountain sheep are required by breed standard to retain the tail

long and undocked. In the Welsh Mountains it provides cover and protection for the udder. They are fly strike resistant and so while in some breeds a long tail would get messy and be a health hazard in Black Welsh it is not.

We would encourage you to join the association as a regular voting member. Your dues will entitle you to a copy of the newsletter, a link off the association internet web page and a place on the breeders listing sent to all people who inquire about the sheep.

We also have an e-mail list set up to exchange information about the breed which is open to the public. It is located on Yahoo Groups. We encourage all interested breeders to participate in the on-line discussions there.

