

Dorper Breed Standards

There are **two recognised methods** for determining the quality of an animal. They include Breeding Index values acquired from ongoing measurements submitted to **Lambplan**, plus, the **visual system** reinforcing desirable breeding standards established for the dorper breed. It is interesting to note that 'scientific' Lambplan results compare favourably with the visual approach.

This page provides details to assist in assessing animals using the visual method.

Visual Standards

1.

1. Dorpers are classified by approved inspectors to an international Breed Standard. Even so, the standard is also used by owners to assess the quality of their animals on farm and at sales.
2. Once you remember that all registered dorpers are stud stock, the grading for dorper sheep is very simple.

Type 5 - Very good stock, especially for Stud programmes

Type 4 - Good stock for both Stud and Commercial purposes

Type 3 - Used in breeding programmes though probably best in Commercial flocks

Type 2 - Commercial standard animal

Type 1 - Cull these animals, they have several problems you don't need to reproduce

3. There are many finer points to consider including: Head, Fore-quarter & neck, Barrel, Hind-quarter, Udder and sex organs, Body, Size, Fat distribution, Colour pattern and Cover. The final assessment results in a classification or 'Type'.
4. Type is a measure of an animal's function & future; helping to determine the cost and quality of animals on offer.
 1. Each of the five main "visual" characteristics earns a score out of 5 (see table below),

Conformation 'B'

Head

- Strong, long head
- Large eyes widely spaced, protectively placed
- Strong nose, strong well shaped mouth
- Well fitting deep jaw
- Forehead not dished
- Size of ears in relation to head
- Developed horn base or small horns
- Dull black/white hair on head
- Head dry (no fat)

Fore-quarter and neck

- Ribs Neck medium length, well feshed and coupled to forequarter
- Shoulders firm, broad and strong
- Moderate protrusion of brisket
- Strong forelegs, straight with good pasterns. No X legs

5.

Barrell

1.
 - dry Long, deep, wide body
 - Ribs well sprung, loin broad &
 - full long straight back. Slight dip behind shoulders is okay.

Hind-quarters

- Well developed udder and sex organs essential
- Ram scrotum not too long
- Testicles of equal size, not too small
- Symmetrical and well proportioned

General appearance

- Calm temperament
- Vigorous appearance

2. **Size and growth rate 'G'**

- i. The animal should not be too large or too small for its age and development

3. **Distribution of Fat 'D'**

The animal should be firm and muscular, with an even distribution of fat

4. **Colour Pattern 'P'**

- Black confined to head and neck
- i. Limited black spots on body and legs okay
- ii. Entirely white or black not permissible
- iii. Brown hair around eyes,
- iv. Black in the hoofs (total white hoofs undesirable)

5. **Cover or Fleece 'H'**

- Short loose light covering of hair and wool
- i. Wool predominating on fore-quarter
- ii. Natural clean kemp underline
- iii. Manes are a disqualification

2. You can remember the five visual characteristics using this acronym: **B**reeding **G**ood **D**orpers **P**revents **H**ard **T**imes. The T relates to 'Type' which determines how an animal will perform best - breeding or commercial market; and is a measure to judge the cost and quality of animals on offer

MINIMUM POINTS required for each Type

B G D P H TYPE

1.

4	5	5	3	3	TYPE 5
5	4	5	3	3	TYPE 5
5	5	4	3	3	TYPE 5
4	4	4	3	3	TYPE 4
3	3	3	2	2	TYPE 3
2	2	2	2	2	TYPE 2

