

GENERAL APPEARANCE (10 Points)

Overall appearance is a proud animal with a bold carriage, purposeful stride and commanding presence. Rams to appear masculine and ewes to appear feminine.

CONDITION (10 Points)

Animals should be in working condition, well-muscled and not overly fat or thin; this is a very athletic breed of sheep.



HEAD & NECK (10 Points)

- ♦ **HEAD:** Broad muzzle, good mouth, Roman nose, alert eyes, long erect ears. Black nose and lips (dark mottled gray acceptable). No red-brown spots/speckles. On a white animal the head skin should be dark blue showing through white hair. Small black spots are permissible on the face, ears, and neck. Both sexes polled.
- ♦ **NECK:** Good length, laid into broad shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS (5 Points)

- ♦ **SHOULDERS:** Broad shoulders, well rounded.
- ♦ **LEGS:** Straight, wide apart, strong-boned, free of wool. Black hooves, and no evidence of low pasterns. No rust-colored hairs, or red-brown spots/speckles. Small black spots are permissible on the legs.

BODY (15 Points)

- ♦ **CHEST:** Deep and wide.
- ♦ **RIBS:** Well-sprung; “a good spring of rib”.
- ♦ No extremely narrow heart girth area; “pinched girth”.
- ♦ **BACK:** Long, strong and level. No weakness behind the shoulder.
- ♦ **WOOL COVER:** Even, consistent fleece on the body. Free of wool on the head, neck, legs, belly.



HINDQUARTERS (10 Points)

- ♦ Hindquarters should be 1/3 or less in proportion. No extremely straight hindquarter angles from the hip through the hock; “post legged”.
- ♦ **HIPS:** Level, smooth, and wide apart.
- ♦ **THIGHS:** Broad and deep.
- ♦ **LEGS:** Well-positioned, strong-boned, clean, and free of wool below hock. Black hooves, and no evidence of low pasterns. No rust-colored hairs, or red-brown spots/speckles. Small black spots are permissible.

UDDER & SCROTUM:

- ♦ **RAMS – Testicles:** no wool, well-developed, and hanging a distance from the body.
- ♦ **EWES – Udders:** no wool, and showing evidence of two good teats.



WOOL (40 Points)

- ♦ Tightly curled, fine, and dense. When parted, it opens cleanly to the skin.
- ♦ Semi-lustrous, 56s-60s count, 24-28 microns, staple 3-6 inches long.
- ♦ Free of kemp and hair.
- ♦ Uniform fleece.
- ♦ No black spots in white, no white spots in black wool, on the body. Small black spots are permissible on the face, ears, neck, and legs.



FAULTS

- ♦ **Structural Faults**
 - Overshot or undershot mouth.
 - Weakness behind the shoulder (dips or rough join).
 - Lack of good spring of the rib cage (“slab-sided”).
 - Extremely narrow heart girth area (“pinched girth”).
 - Sway back.
 - Weakness in the pasterns (low or “soft” pasterns).
 - Extremely straight hindquarter angles from the hip through the hock (“post legged”).
- ♦ **Color Faults**
 - Rust-colored hairs, or red-brown spots or speckles anywhere on the head, legs, or in the wool on the body (on white sheep).
 - Distinctive black spots in white wool on the body.
 - Distinctive white spots in black wool on the body.
- ♦ **Wool Cover Faults**
 - Wool cover where there should be none.
 - “Peeling” of the main body of fleece.

A Brief History of the Bluefaced Leicester

Also known as: Hexham Leicester

Descendents of Robert Bakewell's improved Dishley Leicester, the Bluefaced Leicester evolved near Hexham in Northumberland, England, in the early 1900s. Classified as a longwool type, they are one of three Leicester sheep breeds; English (or Longwool) Leicester, Border Leicester, and Bluefaced Leicester.

The Bluefaced Leicester was originally bred to produce high-quality crossbred ewes from the native black-face and Swaledale draft ewes. It was found that a darker-colored ram, with a finer skin and wool produced a better crossbred ewe from the black-faced hill ewes, a cross traditionally called the "mule". From its original home in the Northern Pennines, the breed spread throughout the upland areas of England, Scotland, and Wales, and into Northern Ireland. Breeders in the United Kingdom eventually came together and organized The Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association, and published their first national flock book in 1964.

Concern for the breed led to the importation of frozen semen from the United Kingdom to expand the genetic base of the Bluefaced Leicester in the United States. In 1997, the first "new blood" since the first importations into Canada was introduced into North America.

Following this important milestone, the Bluefaced Leicester Union of North America (BLU) was organized in 1998 to educate, promote the breed, and support its members, and an official Registry was established with the 1998 lamb crop. BLU issued its first flock book featuring the 2005 lamb crop. In 2007 the Bluefaced Leicester was returned to Canada. BLU welcomes the opportunity for the USA and Canada to work together in promoting this great breed.



Serving the breed and the breeder!

www.bflsheep.com

The Bluefaced Leicester Union of North America

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Cover photo of Nancy Cox-Starkey's ewes
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The Bluefaced Leicester Union of North America



SCORECARD

Guideline for Judging Bluefaced Leicester Sheep

Applies to both White and Natural Colored Animals