



The BCSBANZ Registered Breeds Handbook

Aims:

- to introduce new, existing, and potential BCSBANZ members to the aims and objectives of the purebreeding of sheep;
- to document all aspects of the registration process;
- to record BCSBANZ Registered Breed flock histories for all breeders to use as a reference tool for animal/flock pedigrees [in process].

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Starting a Registered Flock

In most cases, you will start your Registered Flock by purchasing already registered animals from an existing Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders' Registered Flock. Registered animals are sometimes available for purchase through the annual BCSBA South or North Island Sales. Visit Registered breeders with flocks of the breed you are interested in, get to know the characteristics of the breed, find out whether they will thrive in your region, and discuss any particular flock management requirements with the breeders.

Flock Registration Form

Once you have decided to start your own registered flock:

1. Make sure you are a financial member of the BCSBANZ.
2. Contact the Registered Breeds Registrar for a RB Flock Registration Form or download a copy from the website
3. Fill out and return the completed form with the appropriate fee. (see Flock Book)
4. You will be asked to propose a flock prefix, or name of your flock. To avoid duplication, check the BCSBANZ Flock Book for current and past names; consider a name short enough to fit on a brass ear tag (maximum 13 letters or spaces) and be easily readable. If you are already a member of BCSBANZ and have a flock prefix and number, you can use your existing one. Two letters will be added in front of the number denoting your purebred flock: for example, BLACK RO979 means BLACK is your flock name, RO is Purebred Romney, and 979 is your flock number.

Inspection for New Flocks

When the Registrar receives your form, s/he will arrange inspection of the sheep you wish to purchase at the breeder's property and before sale and transport. All sheep put forward for inspection must be wearing a metal or plastic ear tag as a form of identification. Sheep without brass or metal ear tags are not eligible for inspection. All sheep must be presented with the minimum fleece length for the breed. Minimum fleece length at time of inspection: Merino – 2 cm. Other fine wool – 3 cm. Strong wool – 5 cm. The records of all sheep put up for inspection must be viewed and approved as accurate and in order at the time of inspection.

All inspections are undertaken by two inspectors working together at the same time. These inspectors may be both Black and Coloured Registered Breeds Inspectors or one registered black and one white stud Inspector. They are considered equal in status and no inspector can 'pull rank' on another by reason of age, experience, membership, standing in the association, etc. Inspectors are looking for animals which are true-to-type and which have sound conformation and constitution. They will inspect only two-tooth or older animals as any younger animals have not generally reached maturity and may not yet exhibit the true-to-type characteristics.

Inspection ensures that the highest standards of sheep breeding are maintained and guarantees that the integrity of the BCSBANZ Purebred Registry is maintained. Contact the Registered Breeds Registrar for the RB Flock Inspection form or download it from the BCSBA website. For current costs of inspection see the Flock Book.

Inspection occurs regardless of whether already registered animals are being transferred from a registered flock, or whether they are unregistered animals, but from a documented line of purebred sheep, accompanied by accurate records. Once your flock is established, all progeny are eligible for automatic registration from the date of passing inspection of the dam, provided they are sired by a single entered registered ram. Any progeny born previous to inspection are not automatically eligible for registration, but themselves must be inspected as a two-tooth. Sheep which have not passed inspection due to inheritable faults cannot be re-inspected in future. Sheep which have not passed inspection due to acquired faults such as scald or mange are eligible for re-inspection. In both cases, their eartag numbers must be recorded on the inspection form. Any progeny of sheep which have not passed inspection must be inspected before being entered into the flock register.

Inspection for existing Purebred Flocks

When additions to a Registered Purebred Flock are to be made:

1. Notify the Registrar who will arrange the inspection.
2. A written purebred history of the sheep (two tooth or older) to be inspected must be provided at the time of inspection.
3. All sheep to be inspected must be wearing numbered metal or plastic eartags with the Flock prefix, year of birth and sheep's number as a permanent form of identification. Sheep without these tags will not be inspected.
4. Minimum fleece length at time of inspection: Merino – 2 cm. Other fine wool – 3 cm. Strong wool – 5 cm.
5. Inspections will be made by two inspectors working together at the same time. The Inspectors may be both Black and Coloured Registered Breed Inspectors or one of them may be from a white stud of the appropriate breed.
6. The inspection papers upon completion need to be sent to the Registrar promptly. The form must include the eartag numbers of any sheep not passed during the inspection. Those sheep not passing due to an acquired fault would be eligible for a second inspection at a later date.
7. Sheep that are automatically registered in the flock also require inspection by two Inspectors before transfer to another registered flock.

Sale & Transfer

Once the animals have passed inspection, you can arrange for their purchase and transport. The breeder of the animals you have purchased will fill out a transfer form which documents the breeding history of each animal. If you have purchased in-lamb

ewes, a Sire Certificate will also be provided. You will receive a copy for your records, and copies are sent to the Registrar. If, in future, you decide to sell a registered animal to an unregistered breeder, registration remains with the breeder for the life of that animal.

Breeder's rights when transferring registration of rams or semen

At present, the registered owner of a ram has the right to transfer registration papers or not. A registered owner withdrawing semen still retains registration of the ram.

Some frequently asked questions:

1. Does the registration get transferred to the drawer of semen or to the buyer of semen?
 - We only have a mechanism for transferring papers to another BCSBANZ registered breeder, or to a member of the American Romney Breeders Association (ARBA), or the Leicester Longwool Society with a registered flock.
2. If a registered breeder transfers semen registration to another registered breeder, does this then cover them on-selling semen to other registered breeders as owners of that semen registration? Should the breeder of the ram retain control of who has the right to gain registration with the purchase of semen? If the semen station draws extra straws, what registered status is applicable to the extra straws?
 - At the moment the registration is with the ram owner so the semen station would have to apply to the breeder for a further fee. A member of ARBA buying a registered ram here has that animal transferred to the ARBA registration; likewise for the Leicester Longwool Society.

Breeders selling Registered rams should consider the following options:

1. Retain the semen rights;
2. Retain half ownership of the ram (or other percentage e.g. one third);
3. Right to breed a set number of ewes to that ram annually for set period;
4. Financial arrangement for a percentage to the purchaser when semen is taken.

Animal Identification

Every animal in a registered flock must have a permanent form of identification which remains with the animal for life. BCSBANZ only accepts a **metal** or **plastic** ear tag which has flock prefix, date, and individual identification number: for example, BLACK 53/07. This identification remains with the animal for the rest of its life. Lost ear tags should be replaced immediately and a record made of the replacement tag.

If you are purchasing animals from another flock, the animal retains its original tag with the original flock prefix.

Documenting your Flock

Now that your new flock is established, it is essential that you maintain an accurate record of the life of each animal. This will assist you with decision-making about any aspect of sheep breeding and management; it is also information required for any future inspection, transfer, sale of animals or genetic material, etc. You can create your own paper-based or electronic recordkeeping system. Some breeders use the BCSBANZ Record Cards which document breeding history, shearing and lambing dates, fleece weights, colour, and disposal information; there are also a number of computer software programmes now available. Whichever method you decide to use, all records must be available at inspection or at any other time as requested.

Upon confirmed flock registration, the Registrar will also provide you with a set of Annual Return and related forms [see list below]. These must be filled out accurately and legibly, and be submitted to the Registrar by the required annual deadlines in order to maintain a record of each animal and to provide the necessary information for your flock entry in the official annual BCSBANZ Flock Book. Please do not hesitate to contact the Registrar at any time about filling out these forms, or anything to do with the Registered Breeds process.

Official BCSBANZ Paperwork

The Registered Breeds Committee of the BCSBANZ has a variety of forms to help facilitate the recordkeeping of all registered sheep breeding activities. Annual fees for Registered Breeds are based on the information provided in these forms and are listed in the Flock Book.

Annual Return [former pink form]: total flock census including lambs from previous year's docking and sires used in the current year's tupping. Due by 10 May each year.

Annual Return [former blue form]: a record of ewes automatically registered and/or passed by inspection and added to the flock in the current year. Due by 10 May each year.

Single Entry Form for Rams [former yellow form]: all coloured rams used for tupping in the current year require a single entry number which is provided on receipt of this form and payment of relevant fee (see Flock book). The ram retains that SE number for the rest of its life. Due before tupping each year so SE number can be recorded on Annual Return.

Transfer Certificate for Registered Sheep: sheep purchased from an existing registered breeder require a transfer form to be completed in order for animal to become automatically part of a new or established registered flock.

Sire Certificate: when using a registered sire of the same breed from an existing registered flock, a form must be completed which documents the SE number of the sire used, dates of service, and ear tag number of ewes serviced, and requires the signature of both ram and ewe owners.

Other Paperwork

Ovine Brucellosis Accreditation: All two-tooth and older rams from your flock need to have an annual Ovine Brucellosis Accreditation certificate if you wish to participate in A & P shows, national sheep sales, when selling stock to other registered breeders and as part of the transfer process. Many registered breeders maintain their flock's OBA status as a matter of course for animal health, management decisions, and indicate their commitment to purebreeding.

Export of Registered Livestock & Genetic Material: Any breeder wishing to export live animals, semen, ova, or embryo must arrange inspection in advance and contact the BCSBANZ National Secretary with reasonable lead-time for the necessary export certificates. See following sections on export for more details. Remember to refer to the most current MPI and overseas export regulations and requirements.

Some Methods for Improving Your Flock

1. purchase in-lamb registered ewes.
2. use a coloured ram lamb:
 - a) use an automatically registered ram lamb from your own flock, remembering to file for a Single Entry Number *before* use.
 - b) use a purebred ram lamb from a documented purebred source. This animal must have a Single Entry Number *before* use and be inspected and passed as a two-tooth in order for its progeny to be eligible for registration (automatic or inspected). If a ram lamb dies after service but before being inspected as a two-tooth, its progeny must be inspected and passed as a two-tooth or older before attaining registered status and thus eligible to be added to the flock.
 - c) If a two-tooth ram doesn't pass inspection then the progeny must be inspected as two-tooths.
 - d) outcross to white purebred stock of the same breed by buying in, for example, cast-for-age ewes, or a white purebred ram.
 - e) use a registered sire of the same breed from another registered flock, recording service using a sire certificate.
 - f) use semen/ova/embryo from other purebred sheep of the same breed, sourced locally or imported.

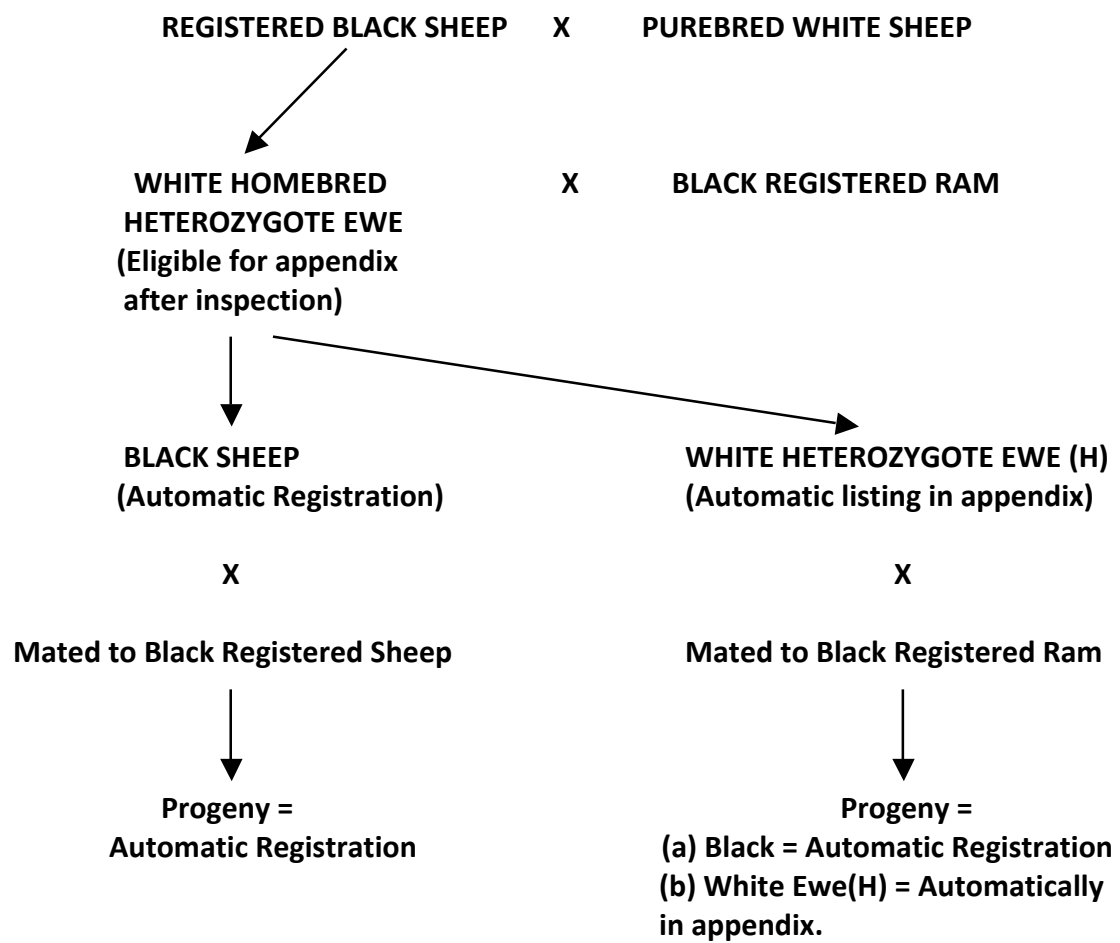
Using and Recording Heterozygotes

A heterozygote (H) is a white purebred animal with a proven black gene. Heterozygotes are useful to accelerate a breeding programme and/or introduce new genetic material into your flock. The Registered Breeds Committee keeps a **Heterozygote Appendix** in order to record such animals and ensure that accurate information is available at the time of inspection or at any time when information about breeding history is requested. At the 2017 conference, it was recommended that heterozygote ewes be marked with three holes in either ear following the Australian convention. These marked heterozygote ewes are eligible to be sold as flock sheep in the BCSBANZ sale.

The **Heterozygote Appendix** includes:

1. After inspection, white purebred homebred heterozygote ewes which have not yet had coloured progeny. Any coloured progeny (ewe/ram) from a white (H) ewe so entered into the Appendix is automatically registered in the Registered Flock.
2. Any white ewe lambs from a white (H) ewe already entered into the Appendix.
3. Heterozygote rams are not eligible for the Appendix.
4. Heterozygote ewes are not eligible for transfer.

A visual explanation of the various generations of breeding using heterozygotes and how they are recorded follows below:



Certification of sheep, semen, ova, and embryos from New Zealand [by L. Jensen]

NOTE: Please refer to the most current MPI and overseas export regulations and requirements.

In the last few years, sheep breeders from overseas have searched for and found in New Zealand the coloured sheep genes they are seeking to introduce into their breeding programmes. In order to assist them to get what they think they are getting, the BCSBANZ has developed some guidelines for export of sheep, semen, ova and embryos. It is our wish to maintain the integrity of the product available in New Zealand both for the continued usefulness of our flocks here and for the good of the breeders using our gene pool to develop flocks internationally.

The export of sheep, semen, ova and embryos from New Zealand is controlled by the New Zealand Customs Department which enforces controls set by the New Zealand Ministry of Primary industries (MPI). The controls set by MPI focus on certifying the health status of the sheep and material for export in relation to regulations operating in the country of destination.

Each consignment must be accompanied by:

- a. Veterinary certificate from MPI **and**
- b. Certificate from the appropriate breed society affirming that the exported sheep or material conforms to the standards of that breed society.

For white sheep, each breed has its own society or section within a society, making it easily understood what the certificate represents. In the case of coloured sheep, which belong to our breed society because they are coloured rather than because they conform to a specific breed standard, it is not so easily understood, especially by people outside our association.

To have an animal in our flock book, the criteria is that the wool be coloured. Therefore, a flock listed in our flock book can be of a single specified breed or there can be sheep from different breeds in one flock or the flock can consist of various breeds crossed to produce a style of sheep desired by the breeder. In addition, we have flocks that are inspected and Registered as being a specific breed, for example Romney or Merino.

In order to insure that buyers coming to New Zealand in search of sires, particularly when purchasing semen rather than a live animal, understand what the certificate represents, our association has named two categories for export. These are

1. BLACK & COLOURED with the name of the breed specified;
2. BLACK & COLOURED without the name of a breed specified.

Provision of two different types of certificate indicates two sets of inspection criteria:

1. Sheep and semen exported as BLACK & COLOURED with the breed identified leave the country as being representative of the identified breed because they are from a registered flock that conforms to that breed's characteristics. Currently our flock book has purebred Corriedale, English Leicester, Merino, Polwarth and Romney flocks.

2. Sheep and semen exported as BLACK & COLOURED without a breed identified are from an unregistered flock that has not been inspected for breed characteristics and therefore our association makes no statement about what breed they may or may not conform to. The owner may describe them as being a particular breed, a breed type or as more than one breed crossed but our association doesn't endorse them as representative of a specific breed.

Both certificates indicate the sheep for export, or sheep from whom material for export was derived, are structurally sound and do not possess any visible faults such as an over- or under-shot jaw, poorly shaped shoulders or back, or poorly shaped legs or feet. Specific approval of the New Zealand Minister of Primary industries is required to export Merino and Booroola Merino ewes and *ova* or *ova* of other breeds.

Export Papers for Sheep/Semen/Ova/Embryo

NOTE: Please refer to the most current MPI and overseas export regulations and requirements.

When intending to export sheep/semen/ova/embryo, send a written application to the BCSBANZ National Secretary to request an Inspection. For export of semen, inspection must occur PRIOR to drawing semen.

1. Sheep of background **NOT RECORDED** with the Registered Purebred Section of BCSBANZ should be:
 - a. Inspected as a **BLACK & COLOURED SHEEP**
 - b. Recorded for export as Black & Coloured sheep/semen/embryo
 - c. No breed given
 - d. No records given by our Association.

Comment: If breeders themselves want to claim a specific breed and history then we can't stop them dealing directly with the buyer, but then any problems remain with the breeder and **NOT** the Association.

2. Sheep of background recorded with the **REGISTERED PUREBRED SECTION** of BCSBANZ should be:
 - a. Inspected for its specific breed
 - b. Recorded for export as its specific breed
 - c. Pedigree given (if a ram also include SE number)

N.B. In the case of semen it is only the rights to that **specific batch No.** of semen that is transferred since the sheep is still the property of the owner. The same would apply to embryo transplants. See following section for further information.

Inspectors need to fill out **EXPORT INSPECTION FORMS** and view breeder's records. The Inspectors should not be in a position of having to assess the breed of sheep they are inspecting. Standard inspection forms for use with the Registered Purebred Flocks are not suitable for export requirements.