

## MERINO SHEEP BREED



### DESCRIPTION

The Merino Sheep Breed was originally bred in Spain. In the late 1700 they were distributed to England and many countries across Europe. Coloured Merino flocks are now found in Australia, North America and New Zealand. The Merino was originally kept for its fine wool qualities but has recently become a dual purpose breed for meat and wool. The rams have large curled horns giving them a majestic appearance. Folds of skin under the neck produce more wool while a long narrow face enables them to browse rough pastures in mountainous country.

### WOOL

Merino wool ranges from a super fine to an extra strong fibre and fleeces can weigh an average of 3.5 to 5kg unskirted. Staple lengths range from 50 to 60mm for fine wool and 100 to 120mm for strong wool. Microns range from 15 to 19 for fine wool, ideal for baby clothes, shawls and lighter garments. Micron of 20 to 23 for medium wool is best for weaving while the Micron of 24 to 27 for strong wool is useful for outer garments, hats, scarves and gloves. Merino wool has a soft handle and can be overdyed.





**MERINO**

Soft, super-fine to fine wool

