Perendale



Professor Peren developed the white Perendale breed at Massey University by crossing Cheviot rams with Romney stud ewes and then breeding the progeny to fix the type. The Perendale is listed within the "crossbred" (long wools) category and the white Perendales were first Registered in 1960.

Black and coloured Perendales arose from recessive genes occasionally present within the white breed.

The Perendale is an alert, active, free moving, hardy, dual purpose sheep who likes to be handled quietly. It is a medium size sheep with prick ears, legs clear of wool, some wool on poll between ears and a slight Roman nose.

Genetic and environmental factors contribute to fineness and length of wool. An average ewe fleece is between 31 and 36 micron, with hogget fleeces finer. A Perendale fleece can be in a lower, medium or higher bulk range. The wool has low sheen. An average staple is 5-7" (12.5-17.5 cm) long with the average fleece weighing 3.5-5 kg. A shorn hogget fleece with about 8 months growth is 4-5" (10-12.5cm) long. All the wool should be well formed, free opening and have defined staples.

The finer medium to high bulk wool when used in knitwear gives warmth and comfort in relation to weight garment and is used mainly in knitted garments and blankets - medium wools are used for bulkier end products and outdoor wear – wools at the stronger edge are used for weaving, rugs, wall hangings.

A well skirted fleece for the handcrafter requires little preparation, is easy to spin and hence a good learners fleece.

Perendale natural coloured fleeces come in many colours, shades and colour patterns ranging from black through to a paler badgerface pattern.

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