Sheep
WHOLESALE CUTS OF LAMB

1 -- Fore Shank
2 -- Breast
3 -- Flank
4 -- Leg
5 -- Loin Trimmed
6 -- Hotel Rack
7 -- Shoulder
Judging Sheep

• Breeding Sheep

  ▪ Structural Correctness
    ➢ Balance – Straightness of lines, strong top, level hip, trim breast and middle, equalization of body parts, weight distribution
    ➢ Feet/Legs – Correct angulation to the shoulder, knee and hock, strong pasterns cushioned adequately with feet set wide apart and square at corners.

  ▪ Growth
    ➢ Height at the point of shoulder
    ➢ Length of body
    ➢ Weight per day of age
    ➢ ADG

  ▪ Volume
    ➢ Width of chest
    ➢ Rib shape
    ➢ Base width
    ➢ Length of body

  ▪ Muscle
    ➢ Width of top (rack and loin)
    ➢ Width of rump
    ➢ Length and depth of muscle

• Market Lambs

  ▪ Attention should be given to length, muscling, type, and finish.
  ▪ Size and evidence of growth rate.

• Priority Traits

  ▪ Muscle
  ▪ Trimness
  ▪ Growth
  ▪ Structural Soundness
Ewes

Appearance/Balance

More Feminine
More Stylish
More Attractive Profiling
More Refined
Smotherer Fronted
Ties in Neater and Cleaner about Neck and Shoulder
More Youthful Appearing
Nicer Balanced
More Extended
 Longer Hindsaddled
 Longer Patterned
 Longer Profiling
 Longer Sided
 More Correctly Balanced
 Profiles with More Extension
 Profiles with More Balance
 Longer Docked
 Leveler Docked

Growth/Balance

Later Maturing
 Growthier Patterened
 Taller Statured
 Taller Shouldered
 Larger Statured
 Taller Fronted
 More Extended
 Longer Hindsaddled
 Longer Patterned
 Longer Profiling
 Wider Chested
 Bolder Chested
 Longer Sided
 Larger Scaled
 Taller Standing

Coarse Fronted
Open Shouldered
Coarse and Open Shouldered
Ewe Necked
Short Necked
Short Sided
Short Patterned
Short Fronted
Short Coupled
Short Hindsaddled
Short Docked

Early Maturing
Low Fronted
Small Statured
Short Fronted
Short Sided
Short Patterned
Short Coupled
Short Hindsaddled

Wider Shouldered
Wider Forequarters
Wider Chested
Bolder Chested
Better Sided
More Correctly Balanced
Slightly Fatter
Slightly Broader
Volume

Higher Volumed  Narrow Chested
Wider Chested  Flat Ribbed
Bolder Chested  Narrow Based
Bolder Sprung
More Shape and Spring to Rib
More Rib Shape
More Curvature to Rib
Bolder Ribbed

Muscle

More Muscular  Narrow Topped
Heavier Muscled  Light Muscled
Stouter Made  Flat Legged
Bolder Topped  Narrow Docked
Thicker Ended
Squarer Docked

Structure

More Correct Set to Hock  In at Hocks/Knees
Stronger Pasterned  Sickle Hocked
Stands/Travels More Correctly on Front/Hind Legs  Short/Steep Dock
Longer Leveler Docked  Hocked In
More Functional Set to Hock  Over in Knees

Term Combinations

He is a more rugged stouter made ram

He is a more powerfully muscled ram that opens boulder behind his shoulder, better maintains more width and dimension over rack and loin and is thicker through his dock and lower leg

He is a more masculine wider chested heavier muscled ram.....

He is a later maturing, larger statured, longer patterned ram.....

She is a more stylish ewe, as viewed from the side she is more youthful in her appearance and profiles with more extension

She is a more attractive longer profiling ewe.

She is a higher volumed wider chested ewe that has more shape and spring of rib, and as viewed from behind she is squarer and fuller through her dock and tracks wider off her hind legs

She is a more muscular ewe that is bolder topped and thicker ended

She is a nicer balanced ewe with a longer thinner neck that better ties in neater about her shoulder.....
Market Lamb Terminology

Muscle

More Muscular
Heavier Muscular
More Powerfully Muscular
Stouter Made
Open Bolder Behind Shoulder and Better Maintains More Width and Dimension of Muscle over Rack and Loin
Bolder Topped
Squarer Docked
Thicker Ended
More Width and Dimension to Lower Leg and Stifle
Thicker Through Lower Leg and Stifle
More Expressively Muscular
Handles With More Shape and Dimension/Expression of Muscle Over Rack and Loin
 Fuller Through Lower Leg and Stifle
Spans with More Width and Dimension of Loin

Balance/Growth

More Youthful Appearing
More Attractive Profiling
More Stylish
Smother-Shouldered
Ties in Neater/Cleaner about Neck and Shouldered
Smother Fronted
Cleaner Fronted
Later Maturing
Growthier Patterned
Taller, Statured
Taller Shouldered
More Extended
Larger Statured
More Refined
Taller Fronted
Longer Hindsaddled
Longer Patterned
Longer Profiling
Longer Sided
Measures with More Length of Hindsaddle/From Last Rib Back
More Potential for Future Growth
Profiles with More Extension
Nicest Balanced

Finish

More Correctly Finished
Firmer Handling

Light Muscled
Narrow Topped
Flat Legged
Narrow Docked
Flat Through Lower Leg
Shallow Loined

Ewe Necked
Coarse Fronted
Wasty Fronted
Coarse Shouldered
Open Shouldered
Early Maturer
Small Statured
Short Fronted
Short Sided
Short Patterned
Short Hindsaddled
Short Docked
Coarse and Open Shouldered
Short Necked

Excessively Finished
Heavy Finished
Fresher Handling
Trimmer Finished
Trimmer Made
Trimmer Handling

Soft Handling
Mellower Handling

**Carcass Terms**

More Shapely Carcass
More Muscular Carcass
Heavier Muscled Carcass Opening with a Larger Eye
Heavier Muscled Carcass
Yield a Carcass with a Larger Percentage of Trim Leg and Loin
Yield a Carcass with a Larger Percentage of Trim Hindsaddle
Yield a Carcass with more Weight from the Last Rib Back

**Term Combinations**

He is a more powerfully muscled lamb that opens boulder behind his shoulder and better maintains more width and dimension over his rack and loin, he is fuller through his dock and has more thickness through his lower leg and should yield a heavier muscled carcass opening with a larger eye.

She is a nicer balanced lamb that ties in neater and cleaner about her neck and shoulder, measures with more length of hindsaddle and is squarer through her dock.

She is a more attractive profiling lamb, as viewed from the side she is taller fronted longer sided and ties in neater and cleaner about her neck and shoulder.

He is simply a boulder topped thicker ended lamb that should yield a heavier muscled carcass

2 profiles with more extension and correspondingly measures with more length from his last rib back.
Hampshire Wether Dams – Official 4213, cuts of 2-3-6
Reasons Score: 46

I like the Hampshire wether dams 1243. I think this class certainly presents some challenge. However, I think there's two stouter featured, bolder ribbed ewes to sort up. I tied into the lighter faced, painted topped ewe because I think she’s further highlights her combination of power & rib with maternal function and skeletal quality. Now, the dark faced female can certainly be labeled as the “powerhouse”, as she’s big legged, round ribbed female who’s ultra-stout & powerful out of her hip – but all too often that comes at a cost – the short necked, down headed ewe reads a bit bold & more opened up in the shape of her shoulder, so I felt most comfortable sorting her into a close 2nd.

But, drop her down in the middle decision of contrasting types & I’ll still side with the extra stoutness of the ewe who wedges back into an expansive hip & pin set. Now, I know the wooly legged female is longer and more elegant up front and is plenty practical in her rib design. I just think it'd be awfully hard for the narrow-pinned ewe to get around the sheer power found in the two broodier ribbed ewes ahead of her.

But none the less – I still think the looser hidied, trendy legged ewe has a distinct advantage in base width & rib in the bottom decision. Now the up-headed ewe who’s more attractive about her head & neck carriage is more athletic in her range of motion. But in a class of this caliber, she remains the frailest in her feature with the least substance and width and I felt obligated to sort her down.

Market Lambs Official Placing 3241 cuts 533
Reasons Score: 47

I like the mkt lambs, 3-2-4-1, it is evident in my mind that 3 is here to win. I think it’s hard to ignore his skeletal quality and competitive show wether look. He is built the most attractive in his head carriage and neck set, has enough carcass merit and just wedges all the right ways. And then, he truly sets himself apart when pulled out of the station because he remains more balanced and athletic.

Don’t get me wrong, because the brown eared wether starts a strong crisp muscular turn out the backside of his shoulder and reads just as powerful from behind, he deserved consideration. But I’m just leery of the short coupled wether that washes a tick over his loin and feel he needs to be redesigned in his front skeleton. I set this aside in my intermediate duo, 2 is the leveler lined lamb that’s heavier structured, square out of his doc and touches back with a more upstanding shape over his rack. On the other hand, the thin pelted wether spans my hand wider and more hydrated over his loin and is the trendiest in his leg wool, I just don’t support bad built livestock and he is too far forward in the angle of his shoulder, roaches up in his top and turns out from behind.

Taking this into consideration, I never wavered to use 4/1 in my final pair, he has the upper hand in an industry that sells by the pound. Plus he’s the wider chested lamb who is more massive in fore arm, then he transitions to a rounder rib with more dimension to his lower leg. There is no question that 1 patterns up better from the side because he is assembled more attractive in his hip and hind leg posture. But the compliments end there for the loose pelted wether and I find it rather routine to put flat ribbed wether who reads the most non-descript and is the most closed up at the ground fourth.
Sample Sheep Questions

*Answers are in parenthesis*

Columbia Ewe Questions
1. Which ewe is the poorest in her hip structure and is cow-hocked? (2)
2. Which ewe is the levellest in her rump structure and the highest in her tail set? (1)
3. Between 1 and 4, which ewe is more correct in her front leg structure? (1)
4. Which ewe is the narrowest chested and tightest in her rib? (3)
5. Between the two January born ewes, which is the largest framed and longest bodied? (4)
6. Which ewe is genetically superior in her fleece weight? (3)
7. Which ewe had the poorest weaning weight EPD? (2)
8. Between 2 and 4, which ewe is more correct in her neck and shoulder junction? (4)
9. Which ewe is the poorest in her post-weaning growth data? (3)
10. Which ewe has dark pigment on her nose? (4)

Dorset Ewe Questions
1. Who is the least structurally correct off of her back legs? (4)
2. Between 1 & 4, who has the most rib shape and volume? (1)
3. Between 1 and 2, who is the tightest at the point of her shoulder? (2)
4. Between 1 & 3, who had the highest 120 day and weaning weight FEPDs? (3)
5. Between 3 & 4, who has the poorest Dorset breed character? (4)
6. Between 1 & 2, who was born as a twin and raised as a single? (2)
7. Which ewe is the most extended through her front end? (3)
8. Between 2 and 3, who is the squarest out of her dock? (2)
9. Between 2 & 4, who is the best balanced? (2)
10. Between 2 & 4, who’s offspring would be the lowest in milk production? (4)
Hampshire Ewe Questions

1. Who was the only ewe born as a twin and raised as a single? (2)
2. Who was the youngest and also highest in her growth traits? (4)
3. Who was the heaviest conditioned ewe in the class? (1)
4. Who was the shallowest ribbed ewe in the class? (2)
5. Who was the largest framed ewe in the class? (1)
6. Between 4 and 2, which is the heaviest muscled? (4)
7. Between 4 and 1, which is nicer balanced and more attractive? (4)
8. Between 3 and 2, which is the lekelest designed? (3)
9. Which ewe is the longest sided? (1)
10. Which ewe is the shortest hipped? (2)
National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

Market Lamb Questions-Class #1

1. Which lamb is the shallowest and flattest in his rib and body? 2
2. Which wether has the grey spot on his shoulder? 4
3. Which wether is the most toed out in the front? 2
4. Which wether is the heaviest in his finish? 4
5. Which lamb is the shortest in his loin? 2
6. Between 1 and 4 which lamb is cleaner in his chest and brisket? 1
7. Between 2 and 3 which lamb provides more hip and stifle? 3
8. Which lamb is the most uneven in his top line? 3
9. Which lamb is the most expressive and prominent in his muscle shape? 1
10. Between 2 and 4, which is bolder made and stouter featured? 4