# National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest: Livestock Breed Identification

#### Livestock Breed Identification

#### **Possible Points: 60**

This presentation will help prepare you for the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon. Participants must be able to identify breeds from the following livestock species. Participants must identify the breed name based on a photo of the breed, and also match the correct breed description to it.

- Beef cattle
- Swine
- Sheep
- Goat (non-dairy)

This presentation was designed to provide a broad representation of possible breeds that may be included in the contest. However, it is not all-inclusive; there are other breeds that could be included in the contest. Multiple resources exist for breed information. If questions arise in the contest, the "Breeds of Livestock" website developed by Oklahoma State University Animal Science Department will serve as the official reference.



## Beef Cattle

#### American Braford

- Brahman and Hereford cross
- Red with white on head, belly and feet.
- Developed in Florida in 1947
- Heat and insect resistant
- Great fertility and maternal qualities
- Susceptible to eye problems
- A separate Australian bloodline was developed in Queensland between 1946-1952



Photo by Casas Cattle

## Angus

- Polled, solid black
- Medium size
- Originated in Scotland
- Introduced to US in 1873
- Great marbling
- Early maturity
- The founder believed black was the proper color for the breed instead of the red recessive gene



#### Beefalo

- American bison and cattle mix
- Dense, fine coat varied in color
- Large breed
- Developed in California during the 1970s
- Weather resistant
- Beef is low in fat and cholesterol
- Low birth rates
- ABWR approval is needed to claim any beef product as beefalo



Photo by Laborde Beefalo Farm

#### Beefmaster

- Brahman, Hereford and Milking Shorthorn mix
- Light to dark red
- Medium size
- Developed in Texas during the early 1950s
- Heat and insect resistant
- High fertility
- First American composite breed



Photo by Collier Farms

## Belted Galloway

- Polled, black with white "belt" on barrel
- Large size
- Originated in Scotland
- Easy Calving
- Disease resistant
- Adaptable
- The Belted Galloway Association was previously named the Dun and Belted Galloway Association before 1951.



Photo by K Bar M Cattle Co.

#### Brahman

- Light grey to red with loose skin in neck area, prominent hump
- Medium size
- Originated in India
- Heat, drought and insect resistant
- Weak calving intervals
- Popularity limited to southern region of US
- Breed produces an oily secretion which creates a natural insect repellent



Photo by Kallion Farms

#### Braford

- •Cross between a Braham and Hereford
- •Red with white underbelly, head, and feet similar to the Hereford
- •Stockier than a Hereford due to the Brahman influence
- •Brafords were developed both in Australia in 1946 and in Florida in 1947.
- •Strong maternal ability
- •Early puberty and calving ease
- •Heat and insect resistance
- •Tend to thrive in warmer climates



## Brangus

- Brahman and angus mix
- Polled, black with hump
- Medium to large size
- Developed in US in 1949
- Weather resistant
- Good maternal traits
- Late maturity
- Registered brangus must be 3/8 brahman and 5/8 angus.



Photo by GKB Cattle

#### Charolais

- White
- Large size
- Developed in France
- Introduced to US in 1936
- Fast growth
- Muscling
- Late maturity
- All color variations of the breed are considered "recorded" by the American Charolais Association except for black



Photo by Makayla Ogg

#### Chianina

- White to grey with black nose, eyes, tongue and switch
- Large size
- Originated in Italy
- Genetics were introduced in 1971 but the first American bull was born in 1972
- Resistant to eye problems
- Heat, insect and disease resistance
- Growth rate
- Small udders
- Late maturity
- The largest breed of cattle in the world



Photo by S&S Cattle

#### Devon

- Chestnut or light to deep red
- Medium size
- Originated in England
- Introduced to US in 1623
- Heat and disease resistant
- Early maturity
- Growing calving difficulty amongst offspring with larger sires
- Coats are short during summer and grow longer for winter



Photo by Red Devon USA

#### Dexter

- Mainly black but can be red or dun
- Small size
- Originated in Ireland
- Longevity
- Early maturity
- Good temperament
- Known to the Irish as the "Poor man's cattle"

Photo by Freedom Farm Dexters



#### Florida Cracker

- Black, red or spotted with varied coloration, horns that curve upward
- Small to medium size
- Developed in Florida
- Heat and disease resistant
- Small scale meat production
- Purebreds are endangered due to excessive crossbreeding



Photo by Stephen Monroe, Florida Department of Agriculture

## Galloway

- Polled; black, dun, red or white with long curly coat
- Medium size
- Originates in Scotland
- Introduced to US in 1866
- Tolerant of harsh colder climates
- Excellent maternal traits
- Believed that the breed has never been crossbred.



Photo by Callie Leucke

### Gelbvieh

- Polled, reddish gold to russet or black
- Medium to large size
- Originates in Germany
- Introduced to US in 1971
- Early puberty
- Large scrotums
- The South African Gelbvieh Association reported that when bitten by ticks, blood flow to that region is constricted so that the tick starves.



Photo by Bar JR Gelbvieh

#### Hereford

 Horns pointing downward, red with white face, belly, feet and tail

- Large size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to US in 1817
- High libido
- Fertility
- Adaptable
- Breed named after its place of origin, Herefordshire



Photo by GKB Cattle

#### Limousin

- Golden-red with lighter pigment around eyes, muzzle, belly and rear area
- Large size
- Originates in France
- Introduced to US in early 1930s
- Carcass quality
- High fertility
- Known as the "butcher's animal" in France



Photo by Long Reach Limousins

## Maine-Anjou

- Black or red with white markings on head, belly, rear legs and tail
- Medium to large size
- Originates in France
- Introduced to US around 1970 by artificial insemination
- Feed efficiency
- Aggressive bulls
- One of the largest French cattle breeds



Photo by Greer Farm

## Murray Grey

- Dark grey to light silver, dun or black
- Medium size
- Originates in Australia
- Introduced to US around 1972
- Good temperament
- Good marbling
- Preferred imported beef breed of the Japanese



Photo by Steeple View Ranch

#### Piedmontese

- White to light grey with black horns, hooves, eyes, ears, mouth and tail.
- Medium size
- Originates in Italy
- Introduced to US around 1979
- Carcass quality
- Early maturing
- Low fat beef
- The myostatin gene is naturally mutated which allows unrestricted muscle development or double muscling



Photo by Owens Farms

## Pinzgauer

- Dark chestnut with white marks on back, flanks and belly
- Medium to large size
- Originates in Austria
- Introduced to US around 1974
- Fertility
- Easy calving
- High weaning weights
- Adaptable
- Breed was crossbred with red friesian to improve milk output and udder shape in 1969.



Photo by Beaver Springs Pinzgauer Farm

#### Polled Hereford

- Polled, red with white belly, face and feet
- Large size
- Developed in Iowa
- •Docile temperament
- Fast maturity
- Adaptable
- Breed began with a mutation that left offspring without horns.



Photo by GKB Cattle

## Red Angus

- Polled, red
- Medium size
- Originates in England/ Scotland
- Maternal traits
- Longevity
- High fertility
- Intramuscular marbling
- The founder believed black was the proper color for the breed instead of the red recessive gene



#### Salers

- Polled or horned, dark mahogany to black
- Originates in France
- Introduced to US in 1975
- Large, well shaped pelvic area
- Calving ease
- Good soundness



Photo by American Salers Association

#### Santa Gertrudis

- Brahman and shorthorn mix
- Cherry red with short smooth coat
- Developed in Texas in the 1920s
- Heat tolerance
- Tick and bloat resistant
- Ease of calving
- All present day Santa Gertrudis descend from Monkey; the breed's foundation sire



Photo by Five Oaks Ranch

## Scottish Highland

- Red, black, yellow, dun and white with long silky hair, big horns pointing upward
- Small to medium size
- Originates in Scotland
- Introduced to US in late 1890s
- Tolerant of extreme colder temperatures
- Great mothering ability
- Less tolerant of tropical settings
- Late maturity
- Beef breed of choice for the British Royal Family; the family keeps a large herd.



Photo by Blue Ridge Highland Cattle

#### Shetland

- White with black to brown markings (resembles a Holstein)
- Small to medium size
- Originates in Scotland
- Rapid growth
- Fertility
- Ease of calving
- Classified as at risk by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in Britain



Photo by SCBA (UK)

#### Shorthorn

- Red or roan and white (sometimes speckled)
- Medium to large size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to the US in 1783
- Calving ease
- Fertility
- Rapid growth
- Directors of the Beef Shorthorn Cattle Society called to have Maine Anjou blood mixed into the bloodline for better muscling.



Photo by WHR Shorthorns

#### Simmental

- Gold to red with white markings
- Large size
- Originates in Switzerland
- Introduced to the US in 1967
- High and long term fertility
- Short calving intervals
- Great mothering ability
- Considered one of the oldest cattle breeds in the world.
- •Known as "fleckvieh" in Germany and Austria
- Known as "pie rouge" in France



Photo by Jensen Simmental

#### Sussex

- Dark red with a white tail switch
- Medium size
- Originates in England
- High fertility
- Easy calving
- Great mothering ability
- Can travel long distances on rough terrain
- Breed development for beef industry didn't occur until the 1800s



Photo by Cooper's Farm

#### Tarentaise

- Tan with darkening around eyes and neck, black nose, udder and hooves
- Medium size
- Originates in France
- Introduced to the US in 1973
- Early puberty
- Good pelvic size
- Adaptability
- Used solely for milk production in France



Photo by American Tarentaise Association

#### Telemark

- Horns pointing upward, white with brown streak on barrel and brown ears
- Small to medium size
- Originates in Norway
- Good grazers
- Norway's oldest breed of cattle



Photo by Anna Regnberg, Norwegian Genetic Resource Center

## Texas Longhorn

- Long horns pointing upward, color variation and spotting
- Medium to large size
- Developed in Texas
- Disease and parasite resistant
- Aggressive
- Lean meat
- Breed fashioned entirely in US



Photo by Double Helix Ranch

### Wagyu

- Straight horns that darken with length, black or red
- Medium size
- Originates in Japan
- Introduced to US in 1976
- Early maturity in females
- Low birth weights
- Exceptional marbling
- Some breeders give cattle beer in the summer to stimulate appetite and massage to reduce stress and muscle stiffness



Photo by Walker Cattle Co.

#### Watusi

- Long and thick horns, brown and white pattern variations
- Medium size
- Originates in Uganda
- Introduced to US in 1960
- Tolerant of extreme weather
- Low birth weights
- Lean meat
- Breed was primarily used for milk in Africa because large herds were a symbol of wealth



Photo by Soper Ranch

#### White Park

- White with black ears and muzzles
- Medium size
- Originates in Wales
- Good grazers
- Good marbling
- Breed nearly extinct— less than 50 left in the US



Photo by J West Cattle Co.

### Swine



#### Berkshire



Photo by Conover Show Pigs

- Yorkshire, lincolnshire and bedforshire mix
- Black with white points, erect ears
- Medium size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to US in 1823
- Fast growth
- Flavorful meat
- Cleanness
- Marketed as black pork in Japan and held at premium price

#### Chester White



- White, medium droopy ears
- Medium to large size
- Developed in Pennsylvania between 1815-1818
- Mothering ability
- Soundness
- Muscle quality
- Originally named Chester County White

#### Duroc



- Descends of red hogs brought to America with Columbus and Desoto
- Light golden to mahogany red, droopy ears
- Large size
- Developed in the New York/ New Jersey area during the 1800s
- Weather resistant
- Mothering ability
- Tamworths heavily influenced the breed's development but it was never documented because of dissatisfaction of producers of the time.

# Hampshire



- Black with white "belt" across shoulders that covers the front legs, erect ears
- Large size
- Originates in England/ Scotland
- Introduced to the US between 1825-1835
- Mothering ability
- Longevity in sows
- Minimal back fat
- Produces large loin eyes
- The breed has several nicknames: McGee hog, McKay, saddleback, ring middle and thin rind

#### Hereford



Photo by Tick Briar Farm

- Duroc, Chester White and Poland China cross
- Red with white face, feet and belly, droopy ears
- Medium size
- Developed in Missouri in 1902
- Early maturity
- Feed efficiency
- Quiet and docile disposition
- The breed's popularity began to decline during the 1960s

#### Landrace



- White, droopy ears slanting forward
- Large size
- Originates in Denmark
- Introduced to the US in 1934
- Ideal for crossbreeding
- Farrow large piglets
- Heavy milkers
- Denmark refused to export purebreds for many years to defend their title as the chief bacon exporting country

# Mangalitsa



- Blonde, red, black or white with curly hair, erect ears are most common
- Medium to large size
- Originates in Hungary, Germany
- Strong maternal traits
- Small liters (usually about 6 piglets)
- Resistant to harsh colder climates
- Meat has a longer shelf life than other pork
- Classified as a rare breed
- The black Mangalitsa went extinct during the 1970s

#### Meishan



Photo by Corva Bella Farm

- Black with wrinkled skin, long droopy ears
- Small to medium size
- Originates in China
- Introduced to the US in 1989
- Slow growth rate
- Early maturity
- Large amount of back fat
- One of the most prolific breeds of pigs in the world— it's common that sows have 2 litters of 15-16 offspring per year

#### Mulefoot



Photo by Tick Briar Farm

- Black, erect ears
- Medium size
- Originates in US
- Fast growth rate
- Hardy
- Toes are fused together which makes the feet resemble hooves, fitting the name mulefoot

#### Pietrain



Photo by Gillo Pedigree Pietrain

- White with gray to black spots, erect ears
- Medium to large size
- Originated in Belgium
- Prolific females
- Good lean to fat ratio (meat tends to be more lean)
- Weak mothering ability
- Weak milkers
- Carries the halothane gene which causes porcine stress syndrome
- Purebreds are rarely used for meat production

#### Poland China



- Black with white points, droopy ears
- Medium to large size
- Developed in Ohio in 1850
- Feed efficiency
- Lean pork
- One of the oldest American swine breeds

#### Red Wattle



Photo by Idle River Farms

- Red with wattles, erect ears with floppy tips
- Medium to large size
- Originates in Australia
- Introduced to US during the late 1700s
- Good mothers
- Adaptable
- Lean carcass
- Better suited for outdoor foraging
- Breed has never reached popularity in America

#### Saddleback



- •Large and deep in the body
- •Black coloring with a white band around the withers, shoulders, and front legs
- •Some white is allowed on the nose, tail, and hind feet and it is lop-eared
- •Hardy and have thrived in hot climatic conditions, such as Nigeria
- •Strong maternal qualities

### Spots



Photo by Pork Checkoff

- Poland china and Big China (now extinct) mix
- Black and white with spots, erect ears
- Large size
- Developed in Indiana
- Introduced to US between the late 1800s and early 1900s
- Feed efficiency
- Gain rate
- Longevity in sows
- Referred to as "spots" after the National Spotted Poland China Record changed its name to National Spotted Swine Record

#### Tamworth

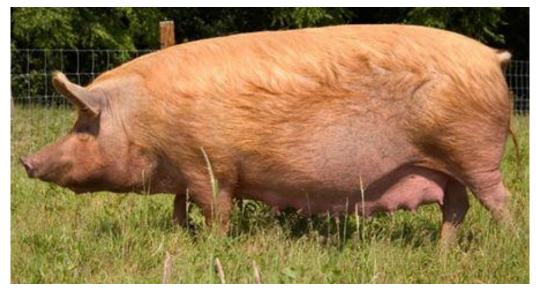


Photo by Tamworth Swine Association

- Red, erect ears
- Medium size
- Originates in Ireland
- Introduced to US in 1882
- Excellent mothers
- Resistant to sunburn
- Lean meat
- Most active breed of swine
- The breed was almost extinct in America after WWII

#### Yorkshire



Photo by National Swine Registry

- White, erect ears
- Large size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to US during the 1830s
- Soundness
- Low back fat
- Lean meat
- Called "English large white" in England
- Most popular swine breed in America



### Goats

#### American Cashmere

- Varied in color, horned
- Small to medium size
- Originates in Australia/ New Zealand
- Introduced to US during the 1980s
- Tolerant
- Independent
- Primarily used for fiber and cashmere production
- 60% of the world's supply of cashmere is produced in China



Photo by Weesner's Bittersweet Farm

# Angora

- Mainly white but can be a variety of colors with long curly hair, long ears
- Small size
- Originates in Asia Minor
- Great browsers
- Not prolific
- Doesn't do well in wet climates
- Weak offspring
- Produces the finest mohair— mainly used for mohair production instead of meat production



Photo by Kay Stewart

#### Boer

- White body with brown on neck and face area, long ears and horned
- Large size
- Originates in South Africa
- Introduced to the US in 1993
- Good browsers
- Early maturity
- Extended breeding season
- Low maintenance
- First caprine breed involved in meat performance testing



#### Kiko

- Varied coloration but mainly white, horned
- Medium to large size
- Developed in New Zealand
- Introduced to the US in the 1990s
- Parasite resistance
- Rapid growth rate in kids
- Maternal instincts
- The original breeders still controls the breed in New Zealand



Photo by Salmon Creek Ranch

# Myotonic

- White and black to brown with spots, horned
- Medium to large size
- Originates in US (eastern)
- Breed development in Tennessee c. 1880
- Good mothers
- Easy kidding
- Prolific
- Carries a recessive gene activated by excitement or fear that causes the goat to stiffen and faint



Photo by Victorian Farms

#### Nubian

- Varied coloration but mainly red or tan with short hair, roman nose and long ears
- Large size
- Developed in England
- Introduced to US in 1896
- Heat tolerant
- Adaptable
- Extended breeding seasons



Photo by Tick Briar Farm

### Pygmy

- Mainly an agouti pattern but can be varied in color, straight medium- long hair with erect ears
- Small size
- Originates in Cameroon
- Introduced to US in 1959
- Docile disposition
- Multiple breeding seasons
- Primarily used as pets in America



# Spanish

- Variation in color with straight mediumlong hair, large ears
- Small size
- Originates in Spain
- Introduced to US in the 1540s
- Hardy
- Active
- Can breed out of season
- Breed is listed on the American Breed Conservancy watch list because purebred numbers are threatened by crossbreeding



# Sheep



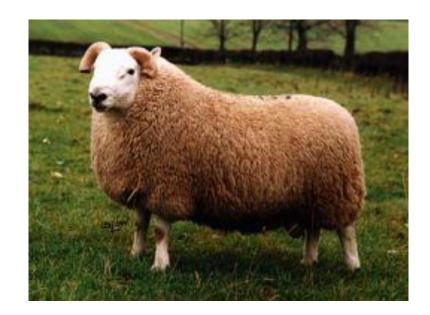
#### Border Leicester

- White with bald face and black nose, long erect ears and roman nose; polled
- Large size
- Developed in England
- Introduced to US in the 1850s
- Excellent mothers
- Strong lambs
- Fast growth
- Two strains of the breed were developed—bluecaps and redlegs
- Red legs were preferred because of their hardy nature
- Most Leicester descend from redlegs



#### Cheviot

- Long white wool with black muzzle and bald white face, polled with long erect ears; can be horned
- Large size
- Originates in England/ Scotland
- Introduced to US in 1838
- Hardy
- Easy lambing
- Good mothers
- Early maturity
- Breed has a distinctive helical crimp that helps reduce fleece rot and fly strike



#### Columbia

- Lincoln and Rambouillet cross
- White with bald face, horned
- Large size
- Developed in Wyoming in 1912
- •Developed by the USDA
- •Hardy
- Adaptable
- Fast growth



Photo by Langhus Columbia Sheep, Big Timber, Montana

#### Corriedale

- White wool with white face and black nose, polled
- Large size
- Originates in North Otago, New Zealand
- Introduced to the US in 1914
- High fertility
- Adaptable
- Good carcass quality
- Second most popular breed of sheep in the world after the merino



Photo by Windborne Farm

#### Dartmoor

- White to golden with curly wool, white face; horned
- Medium size
- Originates in England
- Lean carcass
- Tolerant of harsh winters
- Good carcass quality



Photo provided by Freda Magill

### Dorper

- White with black face and neck area or white only, can be horned
- Medium size
- Originates in South Africa
- Mothering ability
- Rapid growth
- Adaptability
- World desired sheep skin—called cape glovers



#### Dorset

- White with open faces, horned
- Medium size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to the US in 1860
- Hardy
- Adaptable
- Prolific
- Good mothers
- Lambing ease
- Most popular white face breed in US



Photo by MossyFallsFarms.com

# Finnsheep

- White with bald face and white legs, polled
- Medium size
- Originates in Finland
- Introduced to the US in 1968
- Prolific
- Short gestation
- Large litters
- Fast growth



Photo by Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner

# Hampshire

- White with black legs and dark face, polled
- Large size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to the US in 1840
- Soundness
- Feed conversion
- Fast growth



Photo by Caskey's Pine Law

### Jacob

- White with black spots, four black distinctive horns
- Small to medium size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to the US in the early 1900s
- Lambing ease
- Resistant to parasites
- Not good in extreme temperatures
- Hoof problems
- Weak flocking behavior
- Used as guard animals
- Named after, Jacob, the first person recorded in the bible to practice selective breeding of livestock



Photo by Joan Gross

# Katahdin

- St. Croix, Southdown, Hampshire, Suffolk cross
- White to brown pattern variation with long fine hair in chest area, polled
- Medium to large size
- Developed in Maine
- Introduced to the US in 1976
- Adaptable
- Resistant to parasites
- Mothering ability
- Moderate flocking behavior
- Breed named after Mt. Katahdin– the highest mountain in Maine



# Lincoln

- White, black or grey with long locks of wool, polled
- Medium to large size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to the US in the 1800s
- Average prolificacy
- Muscular carcass
- Breed has the longest fleece in the world



# Montadale

- Columbia and cheviot cross
- White with bare legs and open face, black nostrils and hooves; polled
- Medium size
- Developed in US during the 1940s
- Strong maternal traits
- Strong lambs
- Rapid growth
- Lean carcasses



Photo by Baugh and Dunn Montadales

# Oxford

- White with dark face and legs, polled
- Large size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to US in 1846
- Docile
- Easy lambing
- Early maturity
- Largest of the down breeds



Photo by Apple Oxfords

# Rambouillet

- White with open face, horned
- Medium to large size
- Originates in France
- Introduced to US in 1840
- Adaptable
- Hardy
- Breed developed on Louis XVI's farm



Photo by Kay Stewart

#### Romanov

- Grey or tan with black legs and faces, sometimes has a white crest on head; polled
- Medium to large size
- Originates in Russia
- Introduced to US in 1980s
- Early puberty
- No specific breeding season
- Low birth mortality
- Known for quadruplets, quintuplets and sextuplets



Photo by Meinders Stock Farms

# Shetland

- Varied coloration with long wool, black face and legs; horned
- Small to medium size
- Originates in Scotland
- Introduced to US in 1986
- Tails don't need docking— fluke shaped
- Good mothers
- Lambing ease
- Slow maturity
- Smallest of British sheep breeds



Photo by Simmering Moon Farm

# Shropshire

- White to straw with black face and feet, polled
- Medium size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to US in 1855
- Adaptable
- Longevity
- Prolific
- Named the "farm flock favorite"



# South African Merino

- White with open face, polled
- Medium to large size
- Originates in South Africa
- High fertility
- Wool ideal for sportswear because it absorbs unpleasant odors



Photo by Langhus Columbia Sheep, Big Timber, Montana

# Southdown

- Gray to brown with wool on face and legs, polled
- Small to medium size
- Originates in England
- Introduced to US in 1824
- Early maturing
- Lambing ease
- Adaptable to wet climates
- Oldest breed of the down sheep



# St. Croix

- Mainly white but can be brown, tan or black; polled
- Medium size
- Originates in Caribbean
- Introduced to US in 1975
- Excellent foragers
- High fertility
- Parasite resistant
- Adaptable
- Classified as a rare breed



Photo by St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders

# Suffolk

- White with black head, legs and hooves; polled
- Large size
- Originates in Caribbean
- Introduced to US in 1888
- Hardy
- Great mothers
- Spider lamb syndrome common breed
- The University of Idaho played a major part in advancing the breed in western states



# Targhee

- Ramboulliet, Lincoln and Corriedale cross
- Light brown to white with bald face, polled
- Large size
- Developed in Idaho
- Introduced to US in 1930s
- Long breeding season
- Mothering ability
- Popular in South Dakota



#### Texel

- White and brown with bald face or legs, black nose and hooves; polled
- Medium size
- Developed in Netherlands
- Introduced to US in 1985
- Muscle development
- Feed efficiency
- Leanness
- Fast growth
- Breed broke the world record for sheep sales being sold at \$231,000 in Scotland in 2009



Photo by Cooke Creek Sheep Co.

# Tunis

- White or cream with copper-red legs and face, polled
- Medium size
- Originated from North Africa and Middle East area
- Introduced to US in 1799
- Disease resistance
- Tolerant
- Feed efficiency
- Extended breeding season
- Excellent mothers
- Classified as rare by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
- Increasing popularity in Eastern states



#### References & Photography

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