

# Wool in Schools

## Fact sheet

### New Zealand sheep breeds

There are many sheep breeds in New Zealand. Most were brought to New Zealand in ships from Britain with the earliest European settlers. Circle the sheep breeds you have heard of before.



**Borderdale**  
SOUTH ISLAND

High fertility  
Easy care lambing and high growth weight  
Excellent mothering ability  
Good fleece weights  
Wool type—strong



**Border Leicester**  
BOTH ISLANDS

High fertility  
Crossed with romney/corriedale/merino for crossbred commercial ewes  
Prime lamb production  
Longevity  
Wool type—strong



**Cheviot**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Compact, hardy, free moving sheep used for crossbreeding and as a terminal sire  
Bulky, low lustre wool of 28-33 microns  
Lamb production (120-130%)  
Wool type—strong



**Coopworth**  
BOTH ISLANDS

High fertility  
Wool type—strong  
Strong mothering ability  
Easy care lambing  
Breeding selection based on meat and wool production



**Dorset Horn**  
SOUTH ISLAND

White woolled  
Out of season breeding  
High milking ability  
Meaty lean sheep



**Drysdale**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Specialty fibre for wool carpets  
Premium paid for wool  
High yielding premium grading carcass  
Uniquely New Zealand  
Wool type—strong



**East Friesian**  
BOTH ISLANDS

High milkers  
High lambers  
Fast growth rates  
Good cross breeders  
Wool type—strong



**English Leicester**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Sound constitution and vigorous  
Excellent mothers  
Easy lambing and early maturing  
Lustrous free flowing heavy fleeces  
Wool type—strong



**Merino**  
SOUTH ISLAND

Hardy constitution  
High quality fine wool 12-24 microns  
Long breeding  
Fine texture tasty meat season



**Oxford**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Quick growth, matures early  
Good yielding  
Crosses well with all breeds  
Good grading and grows more wool than other down breeds  
Wool type—fine/medium



**Perendale**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Medium to large active sheep  
Easycare hill country sheep  
High bulk, low lustre  
Lamb production (100-170%) wool of 31-37 microns  
Wool type—medium



**Poll Dorset**  
BOTH ISLANDS

High growth rate, well muscled, low fat  
High fertility  
Milking and mothering ability  
White wool Wool type—fine



**Shropshire**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Good sire crossbred lambs  
Hardy  
Wool type—medium, hard wearing



**Southdown**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Terminal crossing sire  
Mousey coloured face and legs with a lengthy well muscled body  
Fast growing high meat yielding lambs  
Fine, short wool used for quality bedding



**South Dorset**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Early maturing breed  
Perform under extreme drought conditions  
Good temperament  
Fertility well above  
Wool type—down average



**South Suffolk**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Produces lambs which show vigour at birth, are fast growing and mature early  
Will reach heavy weights without excess fat  
Are efficient converters of grass to meat  
Wool type—down



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**Corriedale**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Quality meat producers  
High quality mid micron (26-31) wool production  
Bred for longevity  
Increasingly fertile breed  
Wool type—medium



**Dorper**  
BOTH ISLANDS

A self shedding meat breed  
Capable of lambing 3 times in 2 years  
Used mostly as a terminal sire for crossing into ewe flocks  
Two types—the White And Black Headed Dorper



**Dorset Down**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Early maturity  
High yielding  
Heavyweight carcass  
Excellent grading  
Wool type—down




**Finnshoop**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Highest fecundity  
Highly intelligent  
Crossed successfully with all New Zealand sheep breeds and long living breed  
Wool type—fine



**Hampshire**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Early maturing lean carcass  
Top meat yielding  
High natural fertility  
Very maternal with strong hybrid vigour  
Wool type—down



**Lincoln**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Top fleece weights  
Highest micron wool  
Greatest tensile wool strength  
Super longevity  
Wool type—strong



**Polwarth**  
MAINLY SOUTH ISLAND

Big upstanding sheep with good frames and barrel  
High fertility 120-50%  
Wool type—fine, heavy weights 5.5 kg+  
Ultra white wool of 21-25 microns



**Romney**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Good constitution—adapting well to varying terrains and climates  
Good fertility (120-200%)  
Good producer of both meat and strong wool  
Good mothering and survivability



**Ryeland**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Maternal  
Docile  
Thrifty  
White-faced  
Wool type—medium



**Suffolk**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Rapid weight gains  
Draft at any time without excessive fat  
Easily identified  
Most common prime lamb sires in New Zealand  
Wool type—down



**Texel**  
BOTH ISLANDS

Dual purpose meat breed  
Hardiness  
Exceptional muscling  
Wool type—medium/high bulk



**Wiltshire Horn**  
MAINLY NORTH ISLAND

No shearing, crutching, dagging or flystrike  
High lambing percentage (150-180%)  
Hardy, good feet, high immunity and survivability  
Strong hybrid vigour and no wool on legs, belly, crutch in first cross

