



AFRINO BREED STANDARDS

As an extensive dual purpose breed the AFRINO is known as a hardy highly adaptable sheep with good mothering abilities.

This breed has the ability to survive economically within its environment, to maintain its condition and to reproduce regularly. It is generally noticeable in its:

- Low mortality.
- Reproduction, high lambing percentage, early sexual maturity and good lambing intervals.
- Growth ability.
- High ewe productivity.

It is important that a balance be kept with regard to all production and reproduction characteristics.

The following data will be taken into consideration when performance testing is done:

- Condition point
- ADG
- Final mass
- Birth status
- Fleece weight index

The following cull faults are directly applicable to the AFRINO:

- Stronger than 23 Microns.
- Excessive dewlap.
- Woollen cheeks.
- Small Tuft.
- Harsh Face.

Characteristics that give the AFRINO an advantage in the feedlots:

- Good fat distribution.
- High carcass slaughter percentage.
- High quality meat.

The AFRINO's high fertility gives it the following advantages:

- More lambs for marketing.
- Stricter selection.
- More lambs over the lifetime of the ewe.
- Younger flock.
- AFRINO rams are known for their high Libido.

HEAD

Ideal

Big open and strong shaped head with strong developed upper and lower jaw and with prominent nostrils.

Must show good AFRINO character on the parts without wool and ears.

Ewes are polled and in the case of rams a small loose horn together with masculinity is allowed.

The face must be covered with soft cream coloured hair without any kemp fibres.

A small tuft of wool is allowed on the forehead with no wool on the cheeks.

Eyelids must be surrounded with brown pigmentation without excessive black colour on the face and ears.

Discrimination

A finely developed head, tapered with little AFRINO character and quality.

A sunken forehead or a too wide forehead.

Too feminine head in rams and masculine head in ewes.

Small, weak eyes without character.

Little pigmentation with the appearance of some colour on ears and face.

Appearance of a hard facial covering and some wool on the cheeks.

Disqualification

Any disqualifications appearing on the head and mouth, for example a short or long lower jaw, wry mouth, loose teeth, two rows of teeth, soiled jaws (misbek), a wry face and inverted eyelids.

Covering: Too big a tuft with woolled cheeks and kemp.

Colour: No pigmentation around the eyes, too much black colour on the face and ears or too much brown pigmentation around the eyes and mouth, colour on the horn buds.

Ears: No or mouse ears.

Horns: Any horns for ewes and prominent fixed horns for rams.

NECK AND FOREQUARTERS

Ideal

The neck must be reasonably long, with good fleshing and must join symmetrically with the rest of the body.

Shoulders and chest must be deep, wide and well attachment to the rest of the body.

Rams and ewes must show good muscling over forearm.

Discrimination

Too fine or thick neck. Somewhat U-neck with less good attachment to the rest of the body.

Somewhat prominent shoulders.

Slightly loose shoulders.

Light muscled forearm & shoulders.

Disqualification

Too fine long thin neck, as well as the opposite namely a short thick neck, U-neck.

Excessive dewlap and a cross pleat under the neck.

Shoulders:

Weak attachment to the rest of the body.

Sharp loose shoulder blades with a devil's grip.

Too little width and depth.

Exaggerated wide shoulders which hamper mobility.

Chest:

Exaggerated broad chest.

Too narrow chest.

BARREL, BACK AND LOIN

Ideal

The barrel must be long, broad and deep.

It must join well and symmetrically to the shoulders and hind-quarters.

The back must be in harmony with the barrel, and be long and straight. Loin must be broad and well fleshed.

As a whole the barrel must show a good spring of rib.

Ewes must show a typical wedge shape which is an indication of femininity.

Discrimination

A slightly short, hollow or bowed back.

Flat appearance with little depth.

Slightly developed loin.

Disqualification

Short hollow and bowed back.

Too flat sided with little depth.

Weak development in loin.

HIND QUARTERS

Ideal

The hindquarters must be wide across the hips and pin bones and blend well at the barrel.

Inner and outer thighs must be muscular and well fleshed.

A somewhat drooping rump is preferable.

Discrimination

Less width at hips and pin bones.

Less flesh covering on inner and outer thighs.

Disqualification

Poorly muscled inner and outer thighs.

Exaggerated dropping rump.

Narrow hips and pin bones.

LEGS

Ideal

Forelegs and hind-legs must be well placed. The sheep must stand comfortably on its legs.

Legs must have a reasonable length with a strong dry bone structure.

Legs must be covered with short soft cream coloured hair.

Pasterns:

Must be sound and flexible.

Hooves:

Amber coloured and well-formed with a sharp pointed form to the front.

Discrimination

Any slight appearance of leg faults that may be present.

Thick coarse bone formation with thick round hooves.

Some wool on the legs.

Colour on some hooves (four or less).

Disqualification

All flaws present at the legs, such as:

Colour on legs (sandy-legs).

O-shaped front legs and hind legs.

X-shaped front legs and cow hocks.

Sickle and straight hocks.

Pasterns:

Weak pasterns that are sagging or turning in or out.

Hooves:

Split hooves.

One complete black hoof or colour on all eight hooves.

FAT COVERING

Ideal

Sufficient fat with good distribution.

Discrimination

Less fat (dry) or signs of localisation.

Disqualification

Localised fat.

REPRODUCTION CHARACTERISTICS

Ideal

Rams must have two well-formed testes carried in a relatively short scrotum.

Ewes must possess a well-formed udder with two teats as well two halves functioning well.

Discrimination

Somewhat split scrotum.

Long low hanging scrotum

Disqualification

Rams:

Too small testes.

One or no testes.

Any abnormalities in testes.

Split scrotum, more than 3cm.

Ewes:

One or no teats.

Any abnormalities in the udder.

SIZE

Ideal

A combination of length, width and depth of body.

Discrimination

Animals that tend to be too big.

A little smaller than the average in the flock.

Somewhat flat-sided.

Lack of depth.

Disqualification

Too small for its age / body.

Mass or too big for the environment with coarse bone structure.

Too short body.

Too little depth.

Flat-sided.

WOOL CHARACTERISTICS

AFRINO wool must show a good quality with a fibre diameter of not more than 23 microns. It must be free of any kemp, with little variation.

SIZE

Ideal

Distinctness of crimp with a soft handling without any foreign fibre and a minimum variation from front to back.

The crimp/fibre diameter ratio must be as close to the Deurden standards as possible with a fibre micron of 23 microns or finer.

Discrimination

Deviating (non-conforming) quality.

Slight variation.

Big crimp thickness deviation.

Disqualification

Poor quality.

Big variation in the fleece and the breech.

Any kemp or hair in the fleece and the breeches.

Over strong wool, stronger than 23 microns.

COLOUR

Ideal

The ideal colour for the fleece without any coloured fibres in the fleece. Belly wool is white to light cream.

Discrimination

Variation in fleece colour.

Disqualification

Too yellow or a chalky white fleece.

LENGTH

Ideal

The AFRINO must at least be a B to an A length, i.e., 60 —80 mm, over twelve months growth.

Discrimination

Short fleece.

Disqualification

Too short length over a specific period.
Too big a variation in length. Wool Characteristics.

COVERING

Ideal

The body and belly of the AFRINO must be covered with a good quality and a reasonable amount of wool.

Seen as an extensive dual-purpose breed, the amount will be determined by conditions.

Clean bellies are seen especially in ewes which suckled lambs, as well as some rams.

Discrimination

Too much or too little wool.

Watery staples or thick staples.

The appearance of some cheek wool.

Disqualification

Too little wool with watery staples.

Too much packed wool.

Creeping bellies.

Big tufts of wool on the head and wool on legs.

LENGTH

Ideal

Ample oil with a white colour.

Discrimination

Visible oil with a deviant colour or yellowish.

Disqualification

Too much visible oil on the fleece.

Yellow or brown oil.

Oil coagulated in the fleece.