

American Romney Breeders Association Buyer Checklist

- Where to find Romneys for sale:
 - <http://americanromney.org/member-services/events/> - Fairs, festivals, shows, and sales. Regional and National ARBA Show and Sales are a great venue to find quality Romneys.
 - <http://americanromney.org/membership-directory/> - Local ARBA breeders
 - <http://americanromney.org/classifieds/> - Current ads from ARBA members
 - <http://americanromney.org/member-services/events/> - ARBA sanctioned sales
 - ARBA Gaggle email list
 - Members can send an email to americanromney@gaggle.email and it will be distributed to every member of the list
 - To join, contact Carol Pasheilich, District 5 Director
 - ARBA District Facebook groups (as well as other farm groups)
 - Farm Website/Facebook page
- Make sure the animal fits your needs
 - Sex, age, color
 - Show/fleece/meat/pet quality
 - Budget
- Have you seen the animal?
 - If at all possible, visit the farm and see the animal before purchasing.
 - If you are unable to visit the farm prior to your purchase, then ask for photos.
 - You'll want to see pictures from all angles –front view, back view and side view. Don't forget a picture of the fleece, too!
 - Familiarize yourself with breed standards so you can make an evaluation.
 - General appearance (topline, black points, etc.)
 - Condition
 - Neck and head
 - Feet and legs
 - Body
 - Fleece
 - Refer to <http://americanromney.org/about-romneys/breed-standard/>
 - Ask to see sire/dam, progeny, or full siblings of the animal you are buying. Anything you can see will be helpful to you in making your decision.
- Is the animal (and flock) healthy?
 - Make sure the animal meets your state's health requirements. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) provides a list of requirements by state. Make sure the seller has obtained a health certificate if needed.
 - Has the animal received any necessary shots (CD&T vaccine)?
 - Has the animal been dewormed? If so, when and with what?
 - Any known health problems in the flock (hoof issues, lice, etc.)?
 - If you are purchasing a mature ram, is he proven (does he have offspring). You may want to request a breeding soundness exam. This can be done by a local veterinarian. A breeding soundness exam checks the ram's overall health and the health of their semen to assure that they are fertile and that they are in good breeding condition.

- If you are purchasing a mature ewe, you may want to inquire about her breeding history. How old is she? How many lambs has she had? Singles, twins, or triplets? Were the births easy and unassisted? Did she produce enough milk? Any mastitis or other issues?
- If purchasing lambs, ask about their dam and sire productivity/history.
- Inspect the animal upon pickup.
 - Breed standards again
 - Bite/Jaw alignment
 - Teeth should meet dental pad
 - Avoid under or overshot jaw abnormalities
 - Body condition and eye membranes (should be nice and red/pink)
 - Check for health problems (hoof rot, lice, etc.)
- Is the animal ARBA registered?
 - Ask the seller if the animal is registered with ARBA.
 - Double-check the animal's registration status by asking to see the registration certificate, OR ask for the animal's ARBA registration number.
 - If you want help checking an animal's registration status, contact your District Director (contact information can be found on the ARBA website at <http://americanromney.org/about-arba/officers-directors/>)
 - If the animal is not registered, ask for it to be registered BEFORE you purchase it. At the very least make sure it can be.
 - If registration is pending, ask for a copy of the completed registration form.
 - ARBA only registers purebred Romneys. For an animal to be registered with ARBA both parents must be registered, purebred Romneys. No cross-breed animals can be registered.
- Obtain registration paper.
 - Seller may sign over paper for you to then send in for transfer, or
 - Seller may offer to send in registration and payment for transfer (this is great, but ask for a copy so that you have all of the necessary information right away).
 - Find information at <http://americanromney.org/member-services/registration/>
 - Be sure if you purchase a bred ewe that you get the proper signatures on the registration form so you can get your lambs registered.
- Be sure the number on the registration and health papers match the number in the animal's ear tag.
 - Animals should at least have an official USDA scrapie tag that includes the originating flock's premise ID (state followed by number, ex. NY1234).
 - Animals may also have an additional farm tag.
- FIND A MENTOR at <http://americanromney.org/member-services/membership-mentors/>

Buyer Beware: Most sellers are conscientious and remember to take care of important sale details; as the buyer, it is in your best interest to double check all details, including registration status, any testing, and health status. It is highly recommended to ask for references (previous buyers) and heed the advice of experienced buyers.

ARBA encourages all prospective buyers of Romneys to verify the registration or qualification for registration of any animal prior to purchase of the animal. If there is any question about the qualification for registration of an animal, contact your District Director or another board member before committing to its purchase.