

American Romney ewe fertility is repeatedly confirmed by high lambing percentages under varied feeding and geographical conditions. This Romney ewe can produce quality, high yielding market lambs while also producing an excellent heavy wool clip that yields a very high percentage of clean wool. Other traits that make the Romney a top mother breed are their calm, gentle disposition, prolific milk production, ease of lambing, and natural mothering instinct.

Foot rot resistance and strong feet and legs are well known desirable Romney traits.

Other breeds have gone through several trendy changes but the American Romney remains a truly practical, dual purpose breed which can be the basis of a profitable sheep and wool enterprise. The breed is continually striving for improvement, and the ARBA insists that this improvement come from within the breed.

Romney Registration

The registration system was established by the American Romney Breeders Association to protect the breed from short term goals which could threaten to overrule qualities and standards of excellence which breeders seek when buying pedigreed sheep.

Registration means that the American Breeder abides by the by-laws of the association and is required to meet certain standards in their breeding practices.

The registered Romney Breeders are very aware of the challenges which confront them from other breeds. Breeders are aware that making full use of scientific material, progeny testing and record keeping results in satisfied clients when they purchase animals.



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///AMERICAN ROMNEY ~ *The dual Purpose Breed of the Future*

Romney Past & Future

The American Romney Sheep has been developed from the original Romney Marsh breed of the county of Kent, England. By breeding and selection the extremely hardy Romney Marsh sheep, having the characteristics of fast growing lambs and good wool production, was developed under the traditionally rugged climatic conditions of southeastern England. The Romney Marsh sheep were first imported into the United States in 1904 by William Riddell of Monmouth, Oregon.

The Romney Marsh was also exported to New Zealand, where it is today their most important and numerous sheep. Many bloodlines developed in New Zealand have been imported to the United States.

Thus the American Romney is a product of both England and New Zealand lines reflecting both influences, much to the enhancement of the breed.

Although Romney sheep have traditionally been considered a sheep best adapted to the Pacific Slope and the Eastern Seaboard of the North American continent, improved technology and pasture management have made the Romney an attractive breed in many areas previously considered unsuitable. The Romney sheep is extremely adaptable to many environments and wherever good green grass may be grown in the temperate zones of the North American continent, the breed will flourish. Breeders in 30 states and Canada demonstrate the expanding nature of the breed across the country.



The Romney is a true dual purpose animal and under a variety of climatic conditions produces abundant top quality fleeces suitable for many purposes and lean and tasty market lambs suited for modern tastes.

Romney Meat Production

The Romney breed is well named as a dual-purpose breed. It is found in every type of farming environment. This versatile sheep has converted pasture land into heavy hanging weights with lean, quality red meat. Demands for lean carcasses with high meat content and good muscling make it evident that the future of the lamb market rests with breeds that have these attributes. The American Romney fulfills these needs and will continue to be increasingly important in large and small commercial programs. The dual-purpose nature of this breed means greater profits.



Romney Wool

Romney sheep produce a fleece of high lustre and spinnability. The spinning count may run from a low of 44 to a high of 50. White Romney fleeces must be free of black or brown fiber. Natural Colored fleece colors range from very light (almost cream) to gray to very dark (black) with variation or variegation of the shades of color within the fleece. The goal of breeders should be to produce a fleece of uniformity over the body of the sheep. Uniformity of crimp from butt to tip is also extremely important.

The architecture of the Romney fleece is unique and distinctive. Wool is produced in locks, each hanging separately, with a minimum of cross hatching with other locks. This characteristic of forming locks produces a very light shrinking and consequently high yielding

fleece. Whereas the value of a fleece depends on its clean wool content and not on its grease weight, the Romney is one of the heaviest wool producers of all breeds.

Romney Genetic Depth

The Romney has evolved as a pure breed for over 250 years. Many breeds of sheep developed in this century, such as the Coopworth, Perendale, and Romadale, owe much of their genetic parentage to the Romney. Commercial sheepmen find the Romney valuable in their crossbreeding programs. Their excellent mothering traits and good meat confirmation make them equally useful as both a sire or dam breed.

The Romney will continue to be important in new breed development and crossbreeding programs because it is still a "pure" breed and has not been adulterated by outcrosses as have many U.S. Breeds today.



Romney Fertility & Performance

The excellent fertility and performance of the American Romney can be best illustrated by describing some of the outstanding traits. ■