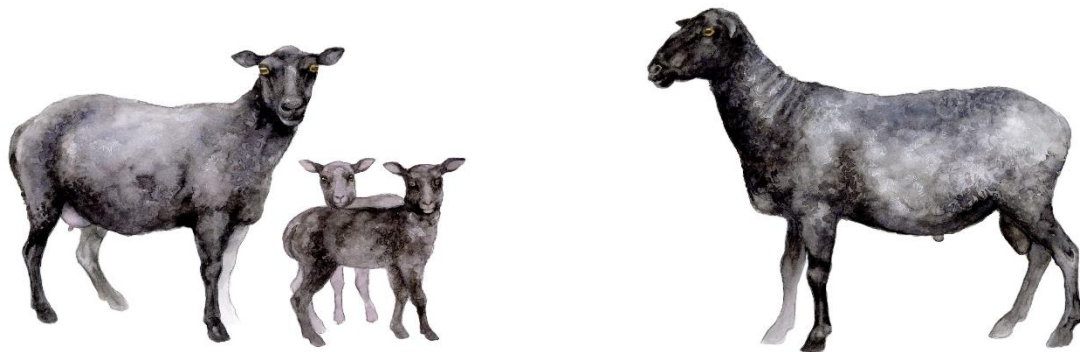


GOTLAND SHEEP



The Gotland sheep, or Gotland Pelt sheep, is a breed of Northern European short-tailed sheep. As the name indicates it originates from the Swedish island of Gotland. Its systematic breeding began in the 1920s, and today it is a well-established breed for meat and pelt production. Gotland sheep were first imported to Finland in the year 1981

Gotland is a medium-sized sheep breed. Adult rams weigh 75 to 90 kg on average, ewes 55 to 65 kg. The breed is polled, short-tailed and fine-boned. The head is characteristically fine-featured, and the head and legs are covered in only short, straight fur. The sheep are lively and have a strong herd instinct though will wander far apart when grazing. The breed is very well suited for landscaping. When in rut rams sometimes defend the herd aggressively.

The breed's fertility is average. Reproduction is strongly seasonal, with heat occurring in autumn and lambs born in the spring. The ewes have a strong mothering instinct and take good care of their lambs.

Gotland ewes give birth to an average of two lambs at a time. Weight of the lambs averages 4.7 kg at three days and 29.7 kg at four months, with an average daily growth of 191 grams. Ewes typically reach slaughter weight at approximately 7 months of age. Carcasses are medium quality, with approximately 80% receiving EUROP grade O, 3.2% grade R and 11% grade P. It is recommended to give the lambs fortified feed during autumn in order to reach slaughter weight and ensure good pelt quality.

Adult Gotland sheep have single-coloured wool, with colour ranging from light grey to nearly black. Lambs are typically born black and lighten as they grow. The wool is of medium coarseness and is shiny and durable, with elegant corkscrew curls that give a sense of three-dimensionality to the pelt. The beautiful pelts can give the farmer significant additional income.

Information repository:

www.lammasyhdistys.fi/materiaalipankki