

SUFFOLK



The fast-growing Suffolk breed was developed in England in the 19th century for meat and wool production. The breed was created by crossbreeding South Down rams with Norfolk ewes. Today the breed is popular in all major sheep-raising countries for production of lamb meat.

The breed first arrived in Finland in the year 2011 from Denmark. Suffolk sheep are calm and adapt well to different environments, tolerating high heat, rain and cold equally well. Suffolk is a long-tailed polled breed. The wool is medium long; lambs are born dark-coloured but lighten as they grow. The head and legs are free of wool, covered only by short, shiny black hair. Ewes have somewhat narrow snouts while rams' snouts often have a noticeably aquiline profile. The chest is broad and the back is long; the chest, back and thighs are well muscled. Ewes average 65 to 80 kg in adult weight, rams 90 to 110 kg.

Suffolk ewes are caring mothers and good milkers. They produce an average of 1.88 lambs per birthing, with an average weight of 5.5 kg each. The lambs grow quickly, reaching an average of 42 kg weight at four months of age with an average daily growth of 200 grams. Slaughter weight is reached at 5 months of age on average, but can be reached at as early as four months. Typical EUROP indices are R or U.

Suffolk sheep utilize fodder well and are efficient grazers. They are often used as the terminal sire in three-way crossbreeding but can also serve as breeding dams. The breed's muscularity and strong growth have a high inheritability.

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