



# AMERICAN BORDER LEICESTER ASSOCIATION

## Standard of Excellence Guide for Judging Border Leicester Sheep (Applies to both White & Natural Colored animals)

### HEAD & NECK (10 Points)

- Head: High, erect ears  
Spots on ears permissible  
Roman nose  
Black nose and lips (dark mottled with grey acceptable)  
No mottling on muzzle  
Both sexes polled
- Neck: Moderate length, fitting into shoulders gracefully

### FOREQUARTER (5 Points)

- Shoulders: Well rounded  
Legs: Straight, wide apart, no wool below knees

### BODY (15 Points)

- Chest: Deep and wide, but not fat  
Ribs: Well-sprung, long, showing no signs of excess fat  
Back: Broad, long and level  
Somewhat narrower in front than rear  
Hindquarters should be 1/3 or less in proportion
- Wool Cover: Belly and armpits well-covered with wool (minimum of skin) and consistent with balance of fleece

### HINDQUARTERS (10 Points)

- Hips: Level, smooth and wide apart  
Thighs: Deep and full  
Legs: Straight, wide apart, free of wool below hocks  
No evidence of low pasterns  
Black hooves
- Udder & Scrotum: Ewes - Udder should show evidence of two good teats  
Rams - Testicles well-developed and hanging down a distance from the body

### CONDITION (10 Points)

Animals should be in working condition, well-muscled, and not overly fat or thin

### GENERAL APPEARANCE (10 Points)

- Stance: Overall appearance to be regal in structure  
Quality: Should be strong boned  
Rams to appear masculine  
Ewes to appear feminine

### WOOL (40 Points)

1. Locks with purlled tips ending in a curl
2. High Luster
3. Minimum of kemp hair
4. Uniform fleece and belly wool
5. No black spots in white, no white spots in black wool

The fleece weight from mature females ranges from 8 to 12 pounds with a yield of 65 to 80 percent. The staple length of the fleece ranges from five to ten inches with a numeric count of 36 to 48 which is 38.5 to 30.0 microns.

Border Leicesters are typically shown with 3-5 months of wool growth, so that the judge can accurately evaluate the fleece, one of the most important characteristics of the breed. They are relatively easy fit for exhibition. They should appear clean and neat, but never shampooed, as this would remove the natural oil from the wool. A light spritzing with luke warm water can emphasize the natural curl of the fleece, but it needs to be done well before the show so that the dampened locks have time to dry thoroughly. Stray locks may be trimmed, but Border Leicesters should not be combed, carded, or blocked, which would disturb the natural lock formation and detract from the character of the fleece.

A ram at maturity should weigh 175-300 pounds and stand about 32 inches at the shoulder. He should have a wide, level back. Ewes usually weigh 150-225 pounds.