

American Border Leicester Association
Standard of Excellence
Guide for Judging Border Leicester Sheep

(Applies to both white and natural colored animals)

HEAD & NECK (10 Points)

HEAD: High, erect ears
Spots on ears permissible
Roman nose
Black nose and lips (dark mottled with gray acceptable)
No mottling on muzzle
Both sexes polled

NECK: Moderate length, fitting into shoulders gracefully

FOREQUARTERS (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 purred 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

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 to fit for exhibition. They should appear clean and neat, but are never shampooed, as this would remove the natural oil from the wool. A light spritzing with lukewarm 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 200-225 pounds and stand about 32 inches at the shoulder. He should have a wide, level back. Ewes usually weigh 150-175 pounds.