

Ile de France Sheep

Breed Information

Extremely successful in France

- Developed in France starting in 1824
- The Ile de France Flock Book was established in 1982
- Most common meat sheep in France - 300,000 ewes or 22% of meat sheep
- Origin is the Dishley Leicester and Merino
- Performance recording started by the Ile de France Flock Book in 1933. By 1959, all sheep breeds in France had followed suit.
- In 1968 the Flock Book began batch testing progeny. In 1972, a test station was opened at Verdilly, where Ile de France are tested and selected for meat qualities and fertility.

Beautiful appearance

- Well proportioned
- Excellent conformation
- Thickly muscled hind quarters
- White, woolled sheep: Average fleece weight is 4 - 6 kg (9 - 13 pounds) with a 7 - 8 cm (2.75 - 3.2 inch) staple length and a count of 56 - 60.
- Both sexes are polled
- Average ewe weight 70 - 90 kg (154 - 198 pounds)
- Average ram weight 110 - 150 kg (242 - 330 pounds)
- Withers height; males - 77 cm (30.3 inches); females - 67 cm (26.4 inches)

Top quality lamb carcasses without excessive fat

- Lean, well-muscled lamb with large rib eye area and good killing out percentage
- 18 - 20 kg (40 - 44 pound) carcass at 3 - 4 months
- Average daily gain of twin male lambs at 10 - 30 days: 251 grams (0.55 pounds)
- Average daily gain of single male lamb at 30 - 70 days: 361 grams (0.8 pounds)
- 19 - 20 kg (42 - 44 pounds) at 42 days of age
- 34 - 41 kg (75 - 90 pounds) at 100 days of age
- Gain well on grass alone
- Excellent feed conversion

Hardy, easy care sheep

- Thrifty sheep that perform well on grass alone
- Very hardy, vigorous newborn lambs that are active and up and nursing in short order
- Lambs average 4 kg (9 pounds) at birth so lambing problems are rare
- Lambs grow rapidly and have among the best daily live weight gains and feed conversion in Europe

Very fertile

- Breed year round
- 171% lambing average recorded in the fall and 198% in the spring

Highly maternal

- Ewes are devoted mothers
- Excellent milk supply
- Excellent udder conformation with very well placed teats
- Lambs are smaller/moderate sized at birth so lambing problems are rare
- Calm disposition