



# HAMPSHIRE DOWN SHEEP FACTS

## Found

The Hampshire Down was firmly established in Hampshire and Wiltshire grazing on arable land. The breed has a great ability to adapt to various environments.

## Description

The Hampshire Down have a face and ears of a rich dark brown. They have white wool, strongly jointed and powerful legs of the same colour as face.

## Wool

Their wool is white, of moderate length, close and fine texture. Used in the production of hosiery, hand knitted wools, flannels and felts.

## Breeding

Hampshire Downs lamb naturally in December. Easy lambing, multiple births, and mothering ability - Ewes in satisfactory physical condition should need no further assistance when lambing. They should produce, at least, two strong and active lambs. They should also provide adequate milk supply to insure maximum growth. The ewe should exhibit a strong desire to protect her offspring.



The BIG Sheep tourist attraction has a Hampshire Down Ram, this is a picture of one like him. This ram performs in the Sheepy Shows throughout the year along side various other breeds of rams. The demonstrators educate visitors with facts about the varieties of sheep in an entertaining way.

The Hampshire Down is docile, easy to manage and suited to flocks both large and small. The Hampshire Down owes its origins from the crossing of the Wiltshire Horn and the Berkshire Knot with infusions of Southdown. From the 1830s to 1850s the breed type gradually became established and by 1911, almost 200,000 ewes were registered. The breed was of extraordinary economic importance in the South of England with a very large number of farms, particularly on the lighter soils, relying on folded flocks of Hampshire Downs to provide fertility for subsequent arable crops. The flock was also a valuable cash crop in its own right, by the sale of fat lambs, cull ewes, wool and pedigree breeding stock.