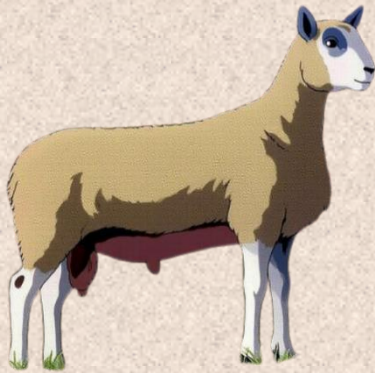


SIX UNDERUTILIZED

breeds in the US Sheep Industry



Bluefaced Leicester

The Bluefaced Leicester is a dual-purpose British breed of long wool sheep. It has a distinct roman nose and deep, blue skin. In the UK, Bluefaced Leicester rams are used to sire the famous "Mules," which comprise about 50 percent of crossbred ewes in the UK.



Border Leicester

The Border Leicester is a British breed of long wool sheep. It is known for its high, erect ears. The breed is considered dual-purpose, reared for both meat and wool. Around the world, it is used to produce commercial ewe crosses.



Gulf Coast Native

The Gulf Coast Native is one of the oldest sheep breeds in the US. It descends from sheep brought to the New World by Spanish settlers. The Gulf Coast Native evolved via natural selection and is one of the most parasite resistant breeds in the US.



Icelandic

The Icelandic is Iceland's only breed of sheep. They were first imported into the US in 1985. The Icelandic is of the Northern-European short-tailed group of sheep. They have a naturally short, fluke-shaped tail that does not require docking. Icelandics are prolific and very cold hardy. A gene has been found in the breed that causes high levels of multiple births. Icelandics produce a dual-coated fleece.



Tunis

The Tunis is one of the oldest breeds in the US. It originated from fat-tailed sheep brought to the US from Tunisia (Africa) in 1799. The breed was nearly wiped out during the Civil War. Tunis are adapted to warm weather and are known for their extended breeding season. Lambs are born red or tan in color, before gradually whitening.



North Country Cheviot

The North Country Cheviot is a hardy hill sheep that can survive almost any weather conditions. They evolved on the rugged Scotch Highlands. The breed association's motto is "the breed that thrives where others survive."