

# Lesser known

## SHEEP BREEDS IN THE UNITED STATES



### American White

The American White is the counterpart of the Australian White. The Australian White is a composite hair sheep that is known for its excellent eating qualities, with the meat being described as the “Wagyu of the lamb industry.”



### Awassi

Best suited to an arid climate, the Awassi is a fat-tailed sheep of Middle Eastern descent. While triple purpose, it is raised primarily for milk. It was introduced to the US in 2012 via embryos and is the third type of dairy sheep in the US.



### Charollais

The Charollais originated in the same region of France as Charollais cattle. It is primarily a terminal breed excelling in fast growth with high meat yields. Its introduction into the US is unknown.



### Dutch Spotted

Dutch Spotted sheep originated in the Netherlands. The first lambs were born in the US in 2024 from embryos. The breed is known for its high yielding carcasses on pasture diets.



### Ile de France

While the Ile de France is known for its triple purpose, it is valued primarily as a meat breed. It is one of the most popular terminal sires worldwide. While the breed has been in the US for many years, a breed registry was not established until 2023.



### Kerry Hill

Originating in Wales, the Kerry Hill is known for its unique markings: a black nose and sharply defined black markings on the head and legs. There is no specific information as to how the breed was introduced to the US. It appeals mostly to small flock owners.



### Valais Blacknose

The first Valais Blacknose sheep arrived in the US via AI and ET programs in 2016. This dual-purpose Swiss breed is known for its distinctive black markings, large spiral horns, and curly wool. In the US, they are prized more for their novelty than utility.