

About the breed

The Oxford Down is the largest and heaviest of the Down breeds. It is a bold, large-framed, upstanding sheep, with blocky conformation and a broad, deep body of good length. The whole body is covered with wool of close texture, good staple and fine quality, while the poll is adorned by a top-knot. The breed is noted for fast growth and early maturity.

The pure bred role

Oxford ewes will naturally breed early in the season for early lamb production and are generally good lambers with a strong maternal instinct. The breed is hardy and healthy, with scrapie virtually unknown, and the top-knot on the poll gives protection against head fly. Oxfords are noted for their good, hard feet. The breed clips a dense fleece of fine, light-shrinking wool, producing the heaviest fleece and longest staple of all the Down breeds.

Oxford Shearing Ewe



Where to buy Oxfords

Worcester Show & Sale	August
Melton Mowbray Show & Sale	September
Kelso Ram Sales	September
NSA Builth Wells Ram Sale	September
Carlisle Native Breeds Sale	September

If buying Oxfords privately ex-farm, please contact the Secretary for a list of breeders in your area.



Oxford Rams

OXFORD DOWN
SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



Contact us

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For further information about the breed visit:
www.oxforddownsheep.org.uk

OXFORD DOWN



Oxford Shearing Ram

THE TERMINAL SIRE FOR:

- Outstanding growth rates
- Vigorous and hardy lambs
- Large, lean carcasses
- Easy finishing off grass

OXFORD DOWN
SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



www.oxforddownsheep.org.uk

Use an Oxford ram for:

- **High growth rate** Oxford cross lambs have outstanding liveweight gain potential with a capacity for maturity up to 3 weeks earlier than lambs by other rams.
- **Large lean lambs** Oxford cross lambs will grow to heavy weights without excess fat.
- **Easy fleshing** Oxford cross lambs will finish easily on low-cost feeds as lambs or hogs and hold their condition well in adverse weather.
- **Hardy lambs** Good wool cover at birth and high birth weights give lambs a high degree of tolerance to cold and wet.
- **Lamb vigour** Oxford cross lambs are strong and active at birth.
- **Easy lambing** Oxford cross lambs will lamb easily from most ewe breeds and crosses.
- **Carcass quality** Large, lean carcasses with great width of loin and depth of lean meat. Flavour and eating quality are greatly enhanced by the meat being well marbled.
- **Versatility** Oxford crosses can be finished quickly for the early trade or kept to heavier weights for later marketing, giving great versatility to the commercial producer.



The commercial role

Used as a terminal sire on any commercial ewe breed or cross, the Oxford ram will produce high quality, hardy, fast-growing lambs that are easily finished off grass alone. Typically lambs will produce 18-22kg carcasses at 12-16 weeks or can be kept on to heavier weights (22-25kg) without excess fat, producing high quality large, lean lambs or heavy hogs.

Quality & Versatility

The Oxford's ability to finish over a wide range of weights and ages allows flexible marketing and maximum profits. The pure Oxford or Oxford cross lamb is particularly suited to the home freezer market because the large, lean carcasses allow larger joints with more meat to be prepared. Oxford lamb is well marbled, very much enhancing tenderness and flavour, making it ideal for premium quality markets such as private Butchers, Farm Shops and direct selling in box schemes.



What the butcher says

“ I have had Oxford and Oxford cross lambs for two years now. They are some of the best carcasses I have had. They are lean, easy-to-butcher carcasses, with excellent meat quality. The feedback we have had from our customers has been excellent. ”

R Walker, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos

What the farmers say

“ I use Oxford rams on 200 Mule and Suffolk x Mule ewes which lamb outside in March. The Oxford cross lambs are not difficult to lamb and they have good birth coats which help them to stay alive. Because of its fast growth rate, the Oxford cross produces a big prime lamb early. We sell through St Merryn Meats or at Raglan market where our Oxford crosses are usually among the top price per head. We find that weight pays. The Oxford is very underrated as a terminal sire. ”

J Griffiths, Park House, Rhiwderin, Newport, South Wales

“ I like Oxford rams because I've found they are stronger than some of the other breeds I've had over the years and they cope very well with the Exmoor winters. I have put the Oxford to some of my Exmoor Horns and some lightweight Texel ewes which have produced strong, solid lambs. ”

I Nicholls, White House, Exford, Minehead

