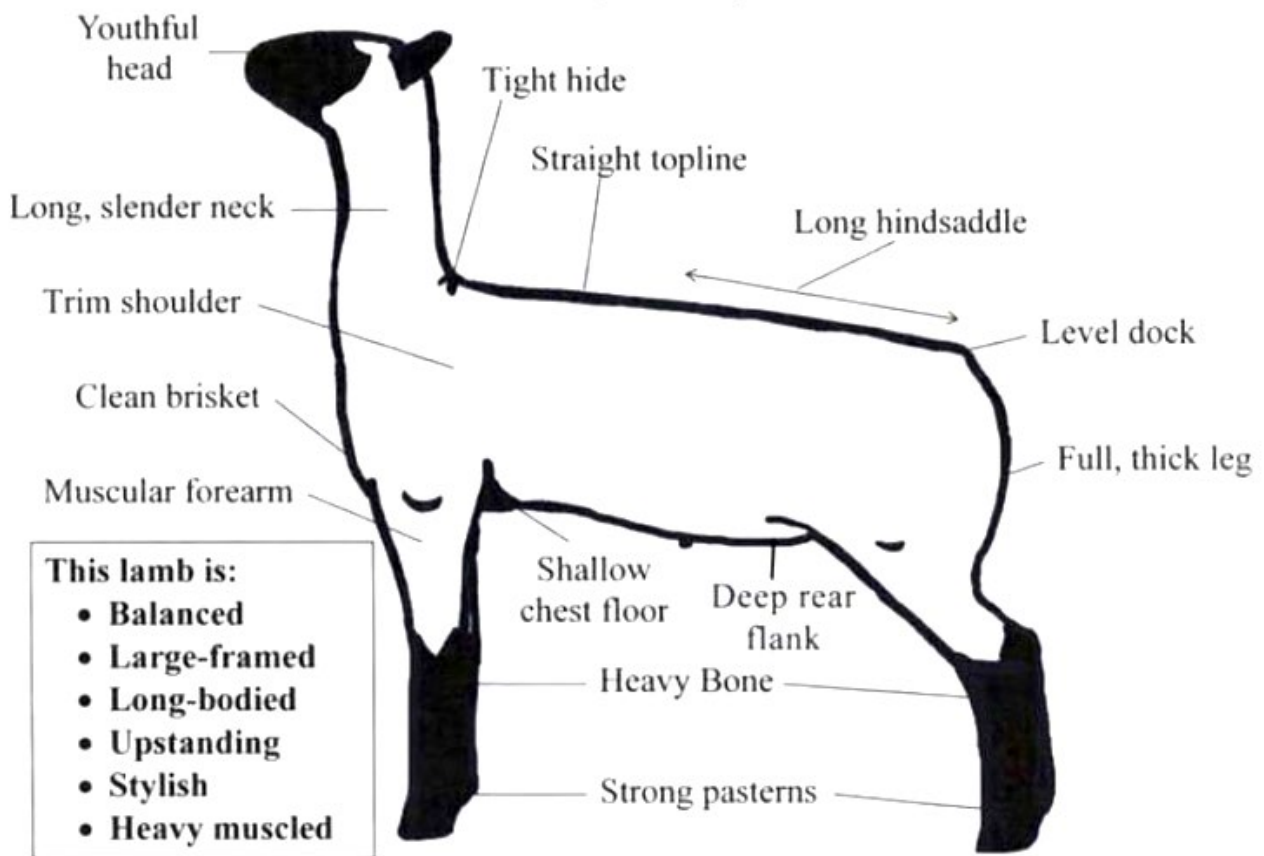


Choosing Your Best Market Lamb



www.emsofflivestockcompany.com

1. Structural correctness

Structural correctness refers to the skeletal system or bone structure of an animal. A lamb should hold its head erect and the neck should extend out of the top of the shoulders. A lamb should travel and stand wide and straight on both front and rear legs, and the legs should be placed squarely under the body. A lamb should have a strong level top. Your lamb should be heavy boned and be strong on its pasterns.

Open-shouldered, weak-topped, weak-pasterned, steep-rumped lambs should be avoided.

2. Muscle

Generally, a lamb that walks and stands wide is going to be heavier muscled. The lamb should have a deep, heavily muscled leg and rump.

When viewed from behind, the widest part of the leg should be the stifle area. The lamb should have a broad, thick back and loin that is naturally firm and hard handling. A good lamb should be wide through its chest floor, with bold shoulders and a prominent forearm muscle.

3. Volume and capacity

This refers to the relationship of body length to body depth and body width. Lambs should be fairly long bodied, with adequate depth and spring of rib.

Avoid selecting lambs that are short bodied, shallow bodied, narrow based and flat ribbed.

4. Style and balance

Style and balance refer to the way all body parts blend together, how the neck blends into the shoulder, the shoulder into the rib cage, the rib cage into the loin, the loin into the rump, and how “eye-appealing” a lamb is.

When viewed from the side, a lamb should have a smooth shoulder, level top, trim middle and straight legs. A lamb that is balanced, pretty and holds up its head is the first one you notice when you walk in the pen. (Extension UNCAR, 2019)

