

# Montadale Breed Standards



**Montadales are a medium to large-sized, white-faced meat breed which was developed in the United States in the early part of the 20th Century by crossing Cheviot rams on Columbia ewes.**

**Montadales are extremely hardy and do well in all parts of the U.S.**

**The ewes are easy-lambers and the rams are active breeders.**

**Montadales are attractive and have a regal, stately appearance.**



**Cheviot Ram**



**Columbia Ewe**

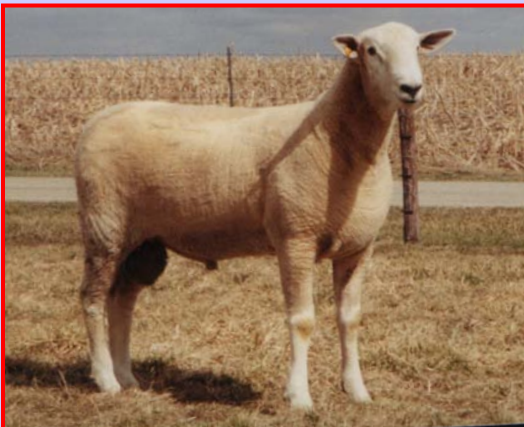
**Montadales were the brain-child of an elderly Kentucky master shepherd, a leading breeder of Cheviot sheep, who passed the idea of a better sheep to a young teenager named E. H. Mattingly. Among the master shepherd's many suggestions for carrying out the development of a new breed was the assumption that a Cheviot ram should be a part of the equation since it was known for its hardiness, vigor and vitality along with its small head, clean legs, open face, and high yielding choice meat quality. E. H. Mattingly would start the development of Montadales around 1930 using the Columbia breed which had been developed by the USDA in Laramie, Wyoming. Columbias are a large-framed, robust, wool-type sheep developed from a cross between the heavy, coarse-wooled Lincoln breed and the large, fine-wooled Rambouillet breed.**

# Scorecard for Judging Montadale Sheep

*adopted June, 2006*



Above: Beautiful-headed young ram, very correct on feet and legs.  
Below: a mature, massive ram with a beautiful head



Two exceptional yearling ewes with beautiful breed type. The large-framed ewe below is especially long



*The Breed Standards are meant to be used as a guideline in selecting and judging Montadales.*

*Some breeders will place more emphasis on certain aspects of the Breed Standards depending upon the goals of their individual breeding programs*

## Conformation and Soundness

**50-60%**

All animals should show straightness of lines and smoothness denoting quality. Animals should exhibit balance or symmetry with all parts blending smoothly together. All sheep should have adequate muscling.

**Frame** -- Long-bodied animals with special emphasis on length from the last rib back and with enough length of leg to appear balanced are most desirable. Structural correctness is emphasized.

**Feet and Legs** -- Legs should show good bone, well-muscled and set well apart. Pasterns should be short and straight. Correctness of feet and legs is critical.

**Mouth** -- All animals should have a sound mouth with the teeth matching smoothly with the dental pad. Some roughness acceptable but not desired. An extremely off mouth disqualifies for registration.

**Back** -- The back should show a true level line and free of any low or weak spots. Low and weak areas in the back are undesirable.

**Loin** -- Loin should be level, deep and wide with extreme length and well-fleshed.

**Rump** -- A wide, level and long rump is most desirable. A narrow and sloping rump is less desirable.

**Brisket** -- A medium-width brisket is most desirable and should be free of body folds. A wide or narrow brisket is less desirable.

**Growthiness** -- All animals should show plenty of size for age. Animals that are very small disqualifies for registration



## Breed and Sex Character

25-35%

**Head** -- Ram head should show style and masculinity. A black nose, deep jaw, and wide muzzle is most desirable. Mixed pink and black is less desirable. Ewe head should show style and alertness. A completely pink nose disqualifies for registration. If wool stops behind ears, it is most desirable; if it stops one inch above eye line, it is less desirable; heavy growth to eye line or below, disqualifies for registration.

**Ears** -- Ears must be well apart and point outward. Long ears are desirable.

**Scurs** -- No signs of scurs is most desirable. A soft, movable scur is less desirable. A large base horn that is tight and immovable disqualifies for registration.

**Color** -- A heavy coat of pure white hair on head and legs below the knee/hock is most desired. Black spots in hair covering are not objectionable. Some light, scattered brown hair is acceptable, but not desired. Excess brown hair disqualifies for registration. Black hooves throughout are most desirable. Black mixed with brown or white is less desirable. Brown or white hooves disqualifies for registration.

**Pigmentation** -- It is desirable that visible skin areas other than those covered with wool or hair should show some pigmentation. It is less desirable if these areas appear bright pink. Although newborn lambs may look very pink this usually fades as pigmentation develops with age. Older sheep sometimes develop pigmentation to the extent they appear to have grey skin beneath hair covering.

**To understand Montadale breed type, it is helpful to compare the differences between Montadales and their parent breeds, the Cheviot and Columbia.**

**Note the photos below and the differences between their respective breed types.**



**Cheviots are refined, clean-headed and small-bodied with black noses and hooves. Their ears are almost upright. Mature Cheviots are smaller-framed than Montadales or Columbias.**



**Montadales have the clean heads, black noses and hooves of the Cheviot with the size and frame of the Columbia. These lambs' ears point up slightly**



**Columbias are rugged and large-framed. Most have pink noses and white hooves. Their ears are straight out or hang down slightly from the head.**

## Wool

15%

Fleeces should be of high quality. They should be bright, dense, uniform in grade and free from black, brown and hairy fibers. 3/8 and 1/4 blood are most desirable. Low 1/4 blood is undesirable. Sheep with fleeces that will grade common or braid are not eligible for registry. Sheep with fleeces that contain black or grey spots are undesirable but not disqualified for registry. Discrimination in the show ring for small spots in the wool (approximately 1-2 inches in diameter) should be limited to 15% or less of entire animal. Animals with larger black or grey spots, may be discriminated at the judge's discretion. Black Montadales (with the exception of market lambs) are not eligible to show in regular (white) Montadale classes. A 12-month fleece should show a minimum of a 4-inch staple.

## BLACK MONTADALES



**Black Montadales are popular with hand spinners and as market lambs. The lambs featured are typical of the markings on black Montadales. In addition to some white on the face, there is a white "frosting" of hair around the ears and inside the legs.**



**MSBA registers black Montadales with the following provisions:**

- 1. Black Montadales are so indicated by the letter "B" following the Assn. No. on their Registry Certificate**
- 2. White Montadales are not eligible for registry from black parentage.**

## REGENERATION MONTADALES



**The Reserve Grand Champion Ewe at the 2001 National Show & Sale was sired by a Montadale ram and out of a Cheviot x Columbia ewe. This ewe has ideal Montadale breed type and is structurally correct.**

**While Montadales were developed in the early part of the 20th Century, the crossing of Cheviots on Columbias ceased in the 1950's and the record books were closed.**

**In 1996, the Board of Directors adopted a Montadale Regeneration Project which allowed breeders under certain conditions to cross Cheviot rams on Columbia ewes and then breed the resulting offspring to registered Montadales.**

**Breeders must file an application and have same approved to participate in the project and must have the resulting lambs inspected by a National Director.**

**The purpose of the project is to increase the Montadale genetic base. Offspring of the Regeneration Project are not eligible to show until they have attained ideal Montadale breed character as described in these breed standards.**

**The Cheviot x Columbia lambs are registered with a "C" after their MSBA registration number. These F-1's or C's are then mated with a registered Montadale and those offspring are designated with an "M" after their MSBA registration number.**