

Breeding programme of the British Rouge Sheep Society



The Flock Book of the Society

The British Rouge Sheep Society was formed in 1986.

The Society shall collect, verify and preserve the pedigrees of Rouge Sheep and other information relating to them.

Aims of the Breeding Programme

The aims of the society are to preserve and maintain the pedigrees of Rouge sheep and promote the crossing ability of the breed by creating Rou-TEX to be sold to commercial buyers at society sales.

Breed Characteristics and essential traits

Breed Standard

Head: The head is reddish pink in colour, bare of wool but may have a covering of fine brown or whitish hair. A wide hornless forehead with ears of same colour, which are straight and alert. Broad muzzle, prominent eye sockets with a bold eye.

Body: Shoulders should be flat on top and no wider than the rib cage. The Rouge should be symmetrical and block shaped. The chest broad and deep. Avoid heavy, narrow or open shoulders. The body should be long but must be in proportion to the rest of the body, the back to be level. Avoid dips or slackness behind the shoulder. The loin should be wide and deep. The rump should be as wide and level as possible and not tapering in to the tail. There should be ample length between the haunch and the tail neatly set in. The gigot should be deep, round and well fleshed from the tail and down the hock.

Legs: Legs should be fine boned, but capable of carrying the weight. The back legs should be well sprung from the hock, standing on short upright pasterns. Legs may have a light covering of brown or whitish hair. Avoid front legs too narrow or too wide apart, pigeon or open toed, cow hocked or straight back legs, weak or long pasterns.

Wool: The wool is fine and close, with a moderately short staple. Avoid an open fleece, kemp, black or brown spots in the wool, short staple, stripping around tail or down the neck.

Ewes: Mature ewes weigh 70 – 100 kg. They have excellent mothering ability and are extremely milky. Lambing percentage is well above average, with many pedigree flocks reaching well above 200%. Out of season, breeding is a feature of the rouge and its early maturity. This enables ewe lambs to be bred from in their first year.

Rams: Mature rams weigh from 100 – 140 kg. The Rouge is a dual-purpose breeding sire of medium size. It has excellent conformation, without excessive

bone. They are extremely hard workers and are easily adaptable to a range of climatic conditions found throughout the UK, even on the hill.

Essential Traits

Breeding stock:

- Easily born – lively lambs which get up and start suckling quickly
- Maternal prolific and highly milky ewes
- They provide top quality flock replacements
- Excellent medium sized terminal sires

Meat production

- Top confirmation with great length of loin and overall muscling
- Meat in all the right places with an extremely high meat to bone ratio
- Good grading carcasses with the potential to reach 20+ kg at 100 days

Rou-teX: They are a first cross from a Pedigree Rouge ewe, with the option of using a pedigree Texel, Beltex or Dutch Texel sire.

Rou-teX have been recognised by the society since 2015, although many members have been breeding them for years. The ewes make excellent mothers, while the rams are great terminal sires.

Lambs can be registered with the society and receive a pedigree certificate. Registered Rou-teX are eligible to be sold at our pedigree sales. No progeny from Rou-teX can be registered with the society.

Geographical territory and breeding population

The British Rouge Society's breeding programme is carried out within the UK, including Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There are approximately 2,500 registered rouge-breeding animals within the UK.

System for Identifying Breeding Animals

The British Rouge Sheep Society asks that:

- i. All breeding animals are individually identified and registered within the Society flock-book;
- ii. All lambs must be ear marked in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Council and current UK legislation, either by tattooing and EID Tag or double ear tagging one of which should be an EID, before the date by which they are to be Birth Notified or they may be ineligible for entry into the flock-book.

Members must adopt prefix and flock initials before they can register an animal.

Members shall pay a fee, as determined by Council from time to time, which entitles members to exclusive rights to such a prefix and flock initials as long as they are breeding pedigree Rouge sheep.

The adopted prefix and flock initials shall be applicable to all animals registered by the Society for that member and no other member may make use of the same in any form in naming the sheep.

Members must provide EID tag numbers, which will be printed on the pedigree certificate. The Society will arrange for the issue for Pedigree certificates for all animals on entry in the flock-book on receipt of the appropriate fee which is set by council.

Registration and Recording of pedigrees animals

Registration

Registration of animals in the British Rouge flock-book is available only to members of the British Rouge Sheep Society.

The flock-book is comprised of a main section only. To be eligible for entry in the flock-book an animal must satisfy the following conditions:

- i. Its' parents and grandparents must be entered in the flock-book;
- ii. It must be identified from birth according to the rules of the flock-book;
- iii. Members must keep a private flock-book and no entry will be received into the Society's flock-book unless the breeder of the animal keeps a private flock-book.
- iv. Rou-teX - Female must be pure rouge, registered with the society and the sire must be registered with the appropriate breed society Dutch Texel (D), Texel (T) or Beltex (B) and a copy of their pedigree certificate registered with the society. Along with the appropriate fee as set by council.

Unless disqualified by another rule, a lamb whose sire and dam are registered is eligible for entry in the flock-book.

Applications for birth notification and registration must be notified to the Society on the society forms or online along with the appropriate fee as determined by council. Conditions and method of registration must be observed and may be changed by Council from time to time.

Animals will be eligible for entry into the flock-book within their year of birth and where all the required lambing details have been provided including EID tag identification.

Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer

- i. ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION - On applying to Birth Notify a lamb got by Artificial Insemination, the insemination form must be forwarded, with the Birth Notification details. Please note any rams used, if not previously registered with the society will be charged at the appropriate fee.
- ii. EMBRYO TRANSFER - On applying to Birth Notify lambs got by Embryo Transfer, the insemination form must be forwarded with the Birth Notification details. Please note any rams used, if not previously registered with the society will be charged at the appropriate fee.

Birth Notification and Registration for both of above are covered by the main registration rules and fees. This may be changed by Council from time to time. Lambs got by AI/ET are identified by an (E) on their pedigree certificate and in the database.

Imports

Pedigree imported sheep can be registered with the Society (provided there is a 3 generation valid zootechnical pedigree certificate) and when the importer pays the inscription fee of double normal transfer fee or such a fee, as shall be determined by Council from time to time. The Society will enter into the breeding book, animals of the same breed, line or cross that are eligible for entry under the Society's breed criteria, without discrimination on account of their country of origin."

Pedigree and zootechnical certificates

The Society will arrange for the issue of the pedigree or zootechnical certificates for all animals. These shall be issued by the Secretary of the Society on receipt of the fee fixed by the Council.

Transfer of ownership (within the UK)

Members will record transfer of ownership: by the Pedigree Certificate accompany the animal at the time of the sale. The new owner must notify the transfer to society along with details, date and the appropriate fee. The society will transfer the animal to their ownership and new Pedigree Certificate will be issued. All subsequent transfers of ownership will be recorded in the same manner. Members must also update their flock profile on the Grassroots database to reflect any movement out of their flock.

The Society reserves the right to remove an animal/s from the flock-book and withdraw its certificate of registration on the basis of information found to be inaccurate or misleading.

Transfer of ownership (out-with the UK)

Transfer of ownership out-with the UK, members must notify the society in order that the relevant Zootechnical certificate be issued, to accompany the animal along with other necessary paperwork.

Breeding Objectives

The objectives of the Society are:

To maintain the purity and characteristics of the breed whilst improving its economic viability and popularity among commercial flock masters. Breeding animals are selected by individual breeders on their performance and their conformance to breed standards as listed above. Flock masters must preserve the Rouge sheep breed and maintain the breed characteristics.

Technical Activities

Flock-book Database will be sourced from Grassroots Pedigree Software Solutions, Richmond House, 48 Bromyard Rd, St. Johns, Worcester, WR2 5BT, and include:

- i. The maintenance of a database containing the British Rouge flock-book, along with support and updates.

The following records must be entered onto the Grassroots system by members of the Society each year, by the date specified, using the screens available on the Grassroots system:

- i. Individual lambing details showing ewe identity, the identity of the sire of the lambs, number of lambs born alive and the number born dead lambing date, and the individual number assigned to each live lamb – the society operates a price matrix in relation to the date of submission and the charges levied.
- ii. List of male and female lambs for registration in the flock-book, the society operates a price matrix in relation to the date of submission and the charges levied.

Rules of procedure

Nothing in the Society's rules shall be used for any discriminatory treatment of breeders or potential breeders of registered Rouge Sheep. Eligibility for entry in the Flock-book is only governed by the rules herein.

Appeals

Where a member considers he/she has been unfairly treated, they have the right to have their case examined by an Appeals Committee. The appeals committee shall be appointed by the Council and composed of members not involved with the dispute and/or experts. The appeals procedure to be applied shall be as follows:

Stage 1: A member who feels aggrieved in relation to any matter pertaining to Association business should write, in the first instance, to the Chairman of the Council making it clear that Stage 1 of the appeal procedure is being invoked. The Chairman will reply as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any case within 30 days from receipt of the letter from the applicant. Contact details can be found on the website.

Stage 2: If the grievance remains unresolved at Stage 1, or a reply is not forthcoming from the Council Chairman within 30 days, the member(s) may request in writing that at their next Council meeting, the Council shall allow the member(s) to attend the meeting during the period that the grievance is being considered. The member will be allowed to make an oral submission on the grievance. The Council will then consider the issue and must communicate its decision to the appellant within 30 days.

Stage 3: If the issue remains unresolved after Stage 2, the member(s) may request an independent hearing. Appeals at Stage 3 will be heard by an individual or group of individuals with appropriate expertise, and agreed by both parties to the dispute. From the date of appointment of the person(s) hearing the appeal, the case will be heard and the decision taken will be communicated to both parties within 3 months. The person(s) hearing the case will decide on the apportionment of costs.

Stage 4: Any dispute that remains unresolved after Stage 3 may be pursued by invoking provisions under the legal personality of the Society (1963 Companies Act).

All members and persons associated with a member must conduct themselves in an acceptable and appropriate manner at all time in relation to Association business. Any member or associated person witnessed or reported to be physically or verbally aggressive towards any individual carrying out their duties on behalf of the British Rouge Sheep Society, will be reported to the Council for sanction.

The Association, its servants or agents shall not be responsible for injury, loss or damage to any person, animal or property occurring during or as a result of inspections or generally carrying out the business of the Society or any Society-related activity.