



# ***MEATMASTER***

*Nature's moneymaker*



**A NEW DAWN FOR SHEEP BREEDERS**





# DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPACT OF SELECTION



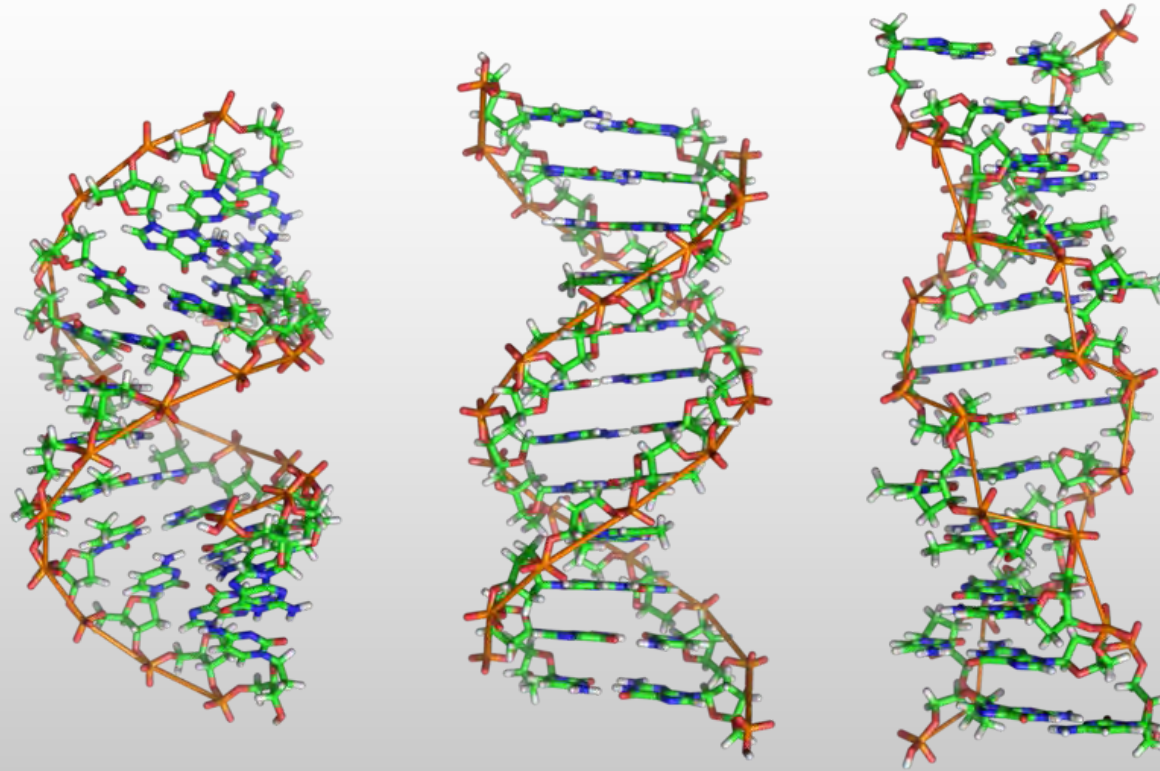


# BALANCE – IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WITH MEATMASTER BREEDING

1. BALANCE → ENVIRONMENT (EXCESSIVELY FAT VS AUCTIONABLE)
2. BALANCE → CONFORMATION (SEE WITH THE EYE) AND PERFORMANCE (MEASUREMENT)
3. BALANCE → MUSCLING AND REPRODUCTION
4. BALANCE → WHAT RAM LOOKS LIKE AND HOW PROGENY PERFORMS



# PURPOSE OF GENETIC SELECTION



The genes that make up the DNA are responsible for the phenotypic form, production, adaptability and many more unique traits of the animal.









# What is the Meatmaster?

- The geneticists Johansson and Rendel (1968) define a breed as a population of animals that differs from other populations within the same species in terms of specific, genetically based characteristics.
- The Meatmaster is a composite sheep breed, developed in South Africa, as a totally new and unique breed, that distinguishes itself under extensive farming conditions.
- It offers farmers an **alternative**, with **unique characteristics**, to meet the needs of a huge market in South Africa and around the world.
- It is bred as a non-fat-tailed, hair-type, easy care and management meat sheep.
  - Petty conformation aspects are ignored,  
with the focus on economic factors.
  - £ Costs as low as possible!
  - £ Income as high as possible!
  - = Maximum profit!!!!**



# Meatmasters Sheep Breeders' Society of South Africa



BREEDING AND SELECTION FOR PHENOTYPE

# DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Meatmasters are developed by crossing different breeds and then refining the crosses by sound selection.

Successful crossbreeding depends largely on the genetic composition and merit of the parents used in the programme.

- Meatmasters must have a percentage Damara blood.
- It does not matter how breeders intend to breed their Meatmasters in the development stage, but it is of vital importance, though, that the breed standards and selection norms are adhered to.  
These form the basis of the breed, and how breeders intend to achieve it is up to them.
- We will remain an open herd book.



# THE PURPOSE OF SELECTION FOR PHENOTYPE

- TO MAKE SURE WE DO NOT STRAY FROM OUR ORIGINAL TYPE OF SHEEP.
- TO STAY FOCUSED ON THE TRAITS WE IDENTIFIED IN THE BEGINNING TO MAKE OUR BREED PROFITABLE.
- TO MAINTAIN BALANCE WITH ALL ASPECTS OF PHENOTYPIC SELECTION.
- TO ELIMINATE FAULTS OF STRUCTURAL CONFORMATION FROM OUR BREED.
- TO ENSURE THAT THE MEATMASTER BREED NEVER STRAYS FROM ITS BREED STANDARDS.

# **THE FIVE IMPORTANT SELECTION TRAITS FOR PHENOTYPE**

- 1) THE **COMPOSITION** OF THE SHEEP
- 2) **FRAME SIZE**
- 3) **MATURITY**
- 4) **CONDITION** (FAT AND MUSCLING)
- 5) **CONFORMATION** AND COAT COVERING



# SELECTION CONCEPT OF THE MEATMASTER

Selection is done based on the composition of desired traits that can be summarised and evaluated linearly.

Composition =  $\frac{\text{Afri}}{\text{Euro}}$  {Indigenous / African type of sheep}  
                                  {European type of sheep}

- **Afri = African type** (undesired)
- Allrounder Afri = Allrounder that inclines to the African type
- Allrounder = *the ideal, balanced composition*
- Allrounder Euro = Allrounder that inclines to a European type
- **Euro = European type** (undesired)

# SELECTION CONCEPT OF THE MEATMASTER... (CONTINUES)

## Frame size

Large frame (out)

Medium large

Medium

Medium small

Small frame (out)

## Carcass maturity (refers to carcass readiness)

- Late matured (out)
- Medium late matured = *inclines to longer legs and muscling, at a later age*
- Medium matured = Allrounder type = *somewhere between early and late*
- Medium early matured = *inclines to shorter legs and muscling, at an earlier age*
- Early matured (out)



# SELECTION CONCEPT OF THE MEATMASTER... CONTINUES...

## Condition & Grading

Too wet/fat (out)

Ideal to wet/fat

Ideal (e.g. A2 and A3)

Ideal to dry

Too dry (out)

## Conformation and Coat covering

= *Form; balance; head; legs; pasterns; shoulders; topline; spring of ribs; capacity; muscling; tail + attachment; and coat*

# ACCEPTABLE TYPES



LEFT – SMALL, SHORT-LEGGED, VERY DEEP, BROAD AND GOOD MUSCLING

RIGHT – VERY BIG, STILL VERY BROAD BUT LONG ON THE LEG. THE RAM IS NOT DESCRIBED AS LANKY, AS LANKINESS IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY FLAT-SIDEDNESS AND LACK OF MUSCLING

**BOTH RAMS ARE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT IS ALLOWED IN THE BREED WITH  
RESPECT TO COMPACTNESS AND SIZE.**



Meatmaster Opsommende Lineêre Seleksie norme				
Samestelling	Raamgroote	Rypheid	Kondisie & Gradering	Struktuur & Bedekking
in terme v <i>Karakter-eienskappe</i>		verwys na <i>Karkas -gereedheid</i>		
(Ovis Afri x Ovis Euro)	Groot raam (uit)	(Pypbeen is 'n aanduiding)	Te nat (uit)	Balans = manlike/vroulike vorm
Afri tipe (uit)	Medium-groot raam	► Laat ryp (uit)	ideaal na nat	Manlik = wig na voor; sterk,manlike nek;
All rounder-Afri (neig na Afri tipe)	Medium raam	► medium-laat ryp -	Ideaal (bv. A2 + A3)	sterk, karaktervolle kop
All rounder - ideaal	Medium-klein raam	- neig na langer bene en bespiering,	ideaal na droog	Vroulik -= wig na agter; slanke, vroulike nek;
All rounder-Euro (neig na Euro tipe)	Klein raam (uit)	op 'n later ouderdom	Te droog (uit)	karaktervolle kop
Euro tipe (uit)		► Medium (All rounder tipe)	Gradering (vetverspreiding)	Vorm = Lengte van lyf; diepte oor voorkwart.
		► medium-vroeg ryp -	.... goeie verspreiding oor ly	Breedte oor bors (Kapasiteit)
		- neig na korter bene en bespiering,	.... met geen lokalisering	Ribsprong / platsydigheid
		op 'n vroëer ouderdom		Funksionaliteite van : Bene, Kote, Koppe
		► Vroeg ryp (uit)		Blaaie, Toplyn, Bespiering
				Kruis, Stert aanhegting, Pigment,
				Bedekking - gladde, kort haar met effense
				wolletjie in koue gebiede; gooi wol af; vs
				ongewensde digte vaste wol of syagtige haar

## Euro types contribute to:

- Carcass quality
- Muscling
- Carcass maturity (marketing age)
- Milk to wean age
- Growth

# Afri types contribute:

- Maternal traits
- Quality of milk
- General health
- Resistance to ticks and other parasites
- Reproduction
- Easy lambing
- Walking ability
- Herd instinct
- Coat – shedding winter covering
- Natural intelligence
- Hardiness and adaptability
- Veld utilisation – large variety of plants
- Bloating is less common
- Gender dimorphism
- Fertility (short lambing intervals)
- Mating ability and virility
- Good pigmentation – especially on sensitive parts
- Minimum care



## Euro breeds



## Afri breeds





## Euro Types



## Afri Types





## Terminal



## Griekwastad Veld Rams



## Maternal





# WHY EVER CHANGE OUR TYPE? WE HAVE THE WINNING RECIPE!

- THE HEAVIEST MEATMASTER RAMS ARE AS HEAVY AS THE HEAVIEST OTHER BREEDS.
- NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ADG OF THE MEATMASTER AND BEST OTHER BREEDS.
- **NB.** THE GRIEKWASTAD VELD RAMS OF THIS YEAR HAVE NO RAMS WITH A SELECTION INDEX BELOW 85, WHICH IS THE CUT-OFF POINT. RANGES BETWEEN 119 AND 87 (DIFFERENCE OF 32). THE BEST OTHER BREED RANGES BETWEEN 143 AND 61. (DIFFERENCE OF 82.)
- **OUR WEAKEST THIRD VARIES LITTLE FROM OUR BEST THIRD.**
- WE DO NOT BOAST ABOUT OUR GROWTH, YET OUR GROWTH IS AMONG THE BEST. FERTILITY, MATERNAL TRAITS, FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY AND LOW MAINTENANCE COSTS ARE OUR STRENGTHS AND MAKE US MUCH MORE PROFITABLE

# MEATMASTER SHEEP BREEDERS' SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA



**BREED STANDARDS**

## THE GOAL OF MEATMASTER BREED STANDARDS AND SELECTION NORMS

TO PROVIDE BREEDERS WITH A BASIS OF GOOD AND SOUND SELECTION NORMS, WHEREBY  
THEY CAN SELECT THEIR FLOCK FOR FUNCTIONAL EFFICIANCY AND FERTILITY.

TO ENSURE THAT THE MEATMASTER IS SELECTED FOR ALL PROFITABLE TRAITS, EITHER BY  
PHENOTYPIC SELECTION (HOW THE ANIMAL LOOKS), OR BY DATA COLLECTION AND SELECTION  
ACCORDING TO PERFORMANCE - PREFERABLY BOTH.



# THE VISION



Damara

X



Dorper, etc...

= The Meatmaster





# THE MEATMASTER



# FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY

more functionally efficient



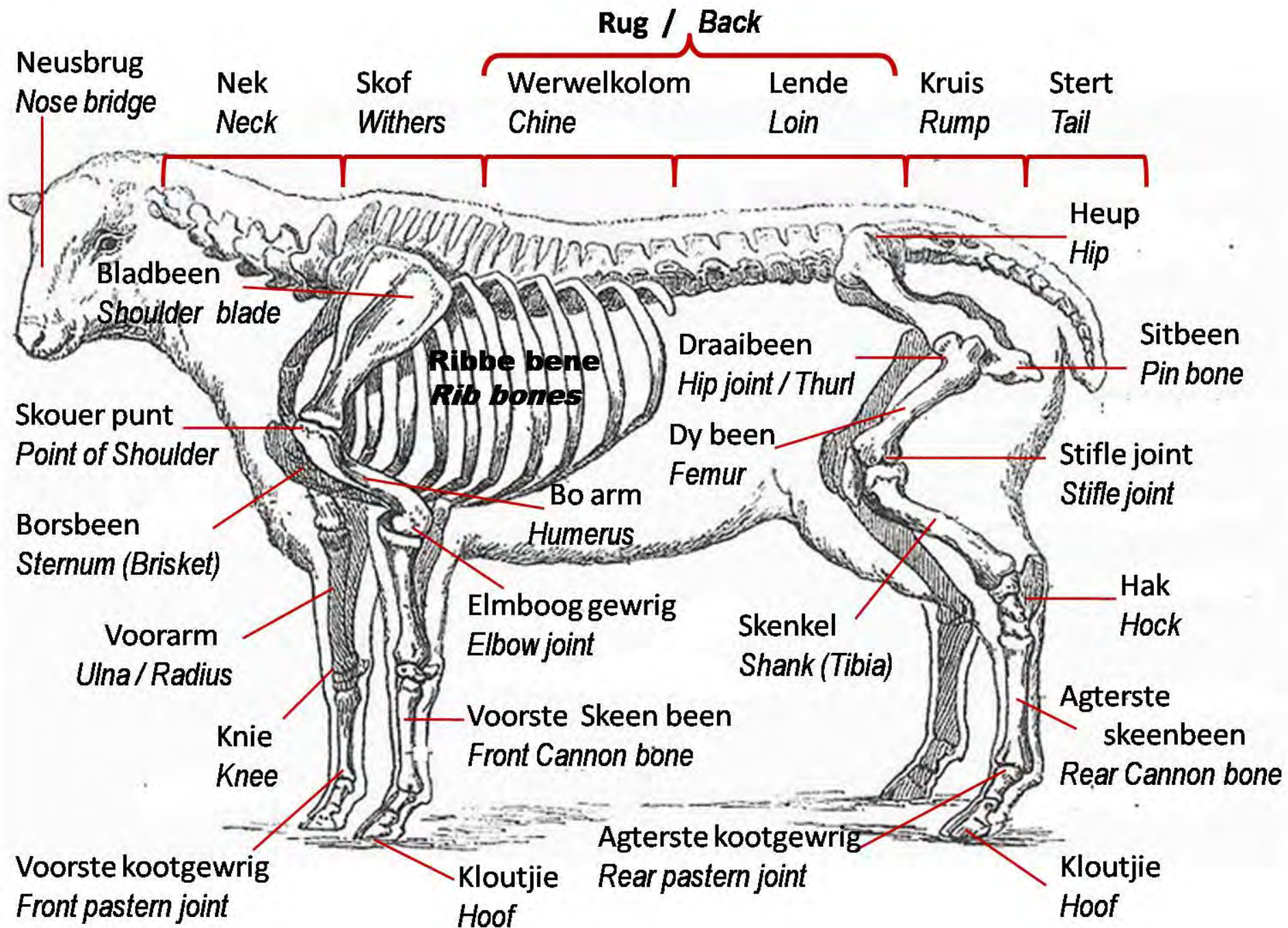


# FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY

more functionally efficient







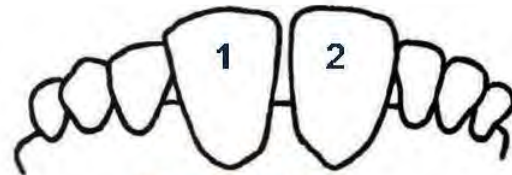
# **SHEEP - TEETH & AGE**



**Milk Teeth:**  
less than 1 year



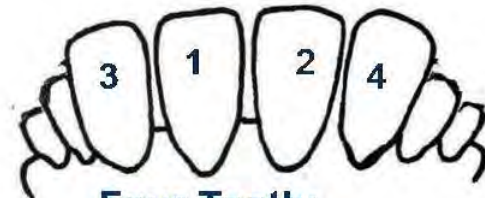
**Eight Tooth / Full Mouth:**  
± about 2.5 years onwards



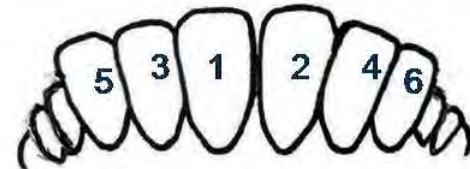
**Two tooth:**  
± 1 – 1.5 years



**Worn Mouth or Broken Mouth**  
± 4 years & more



**Four Tooth:**  
± 1.5 – 2 years

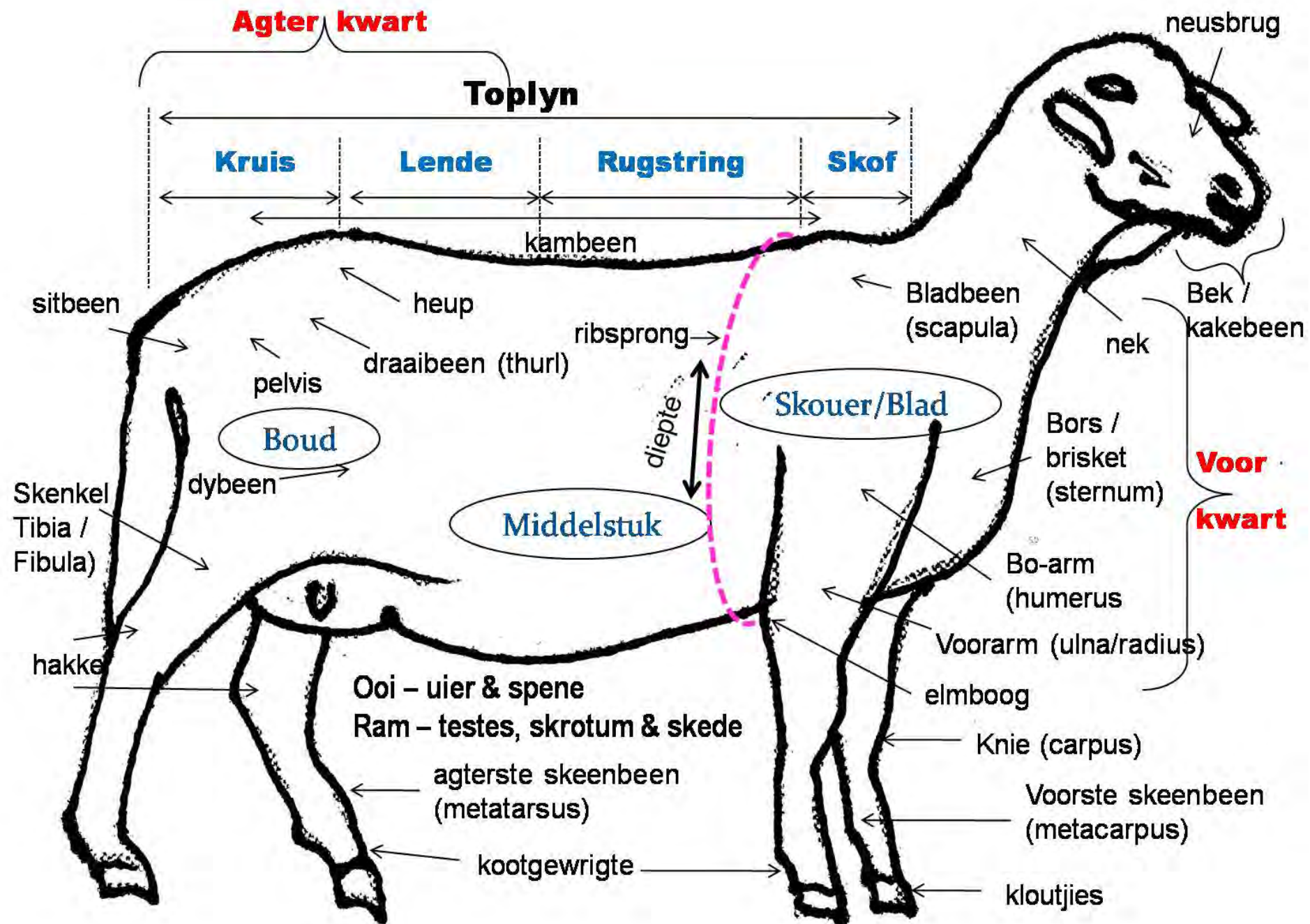


**Six Tooth:**  
± 2 – 2.5 years

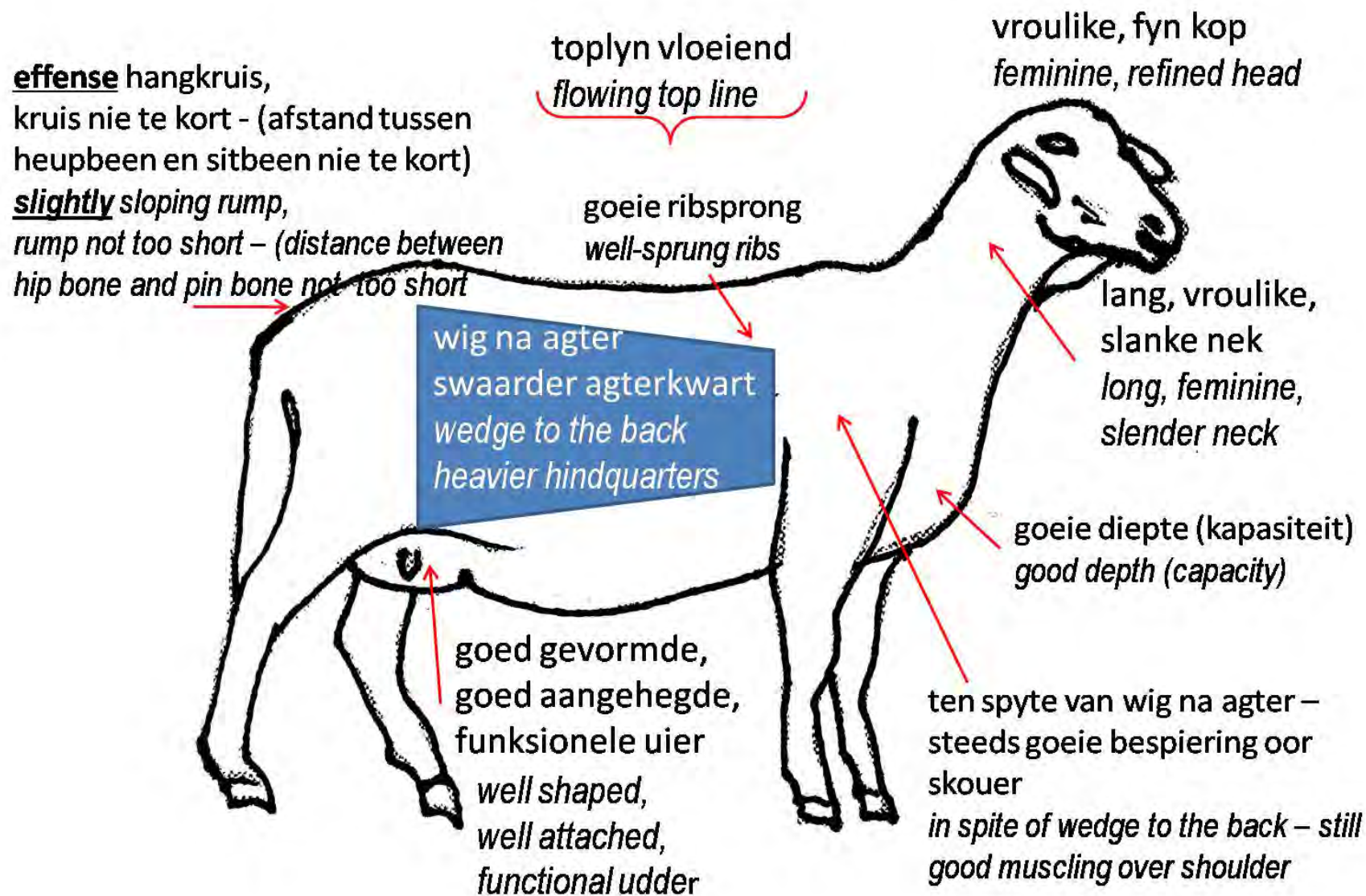


**How to check the incisor teeth**





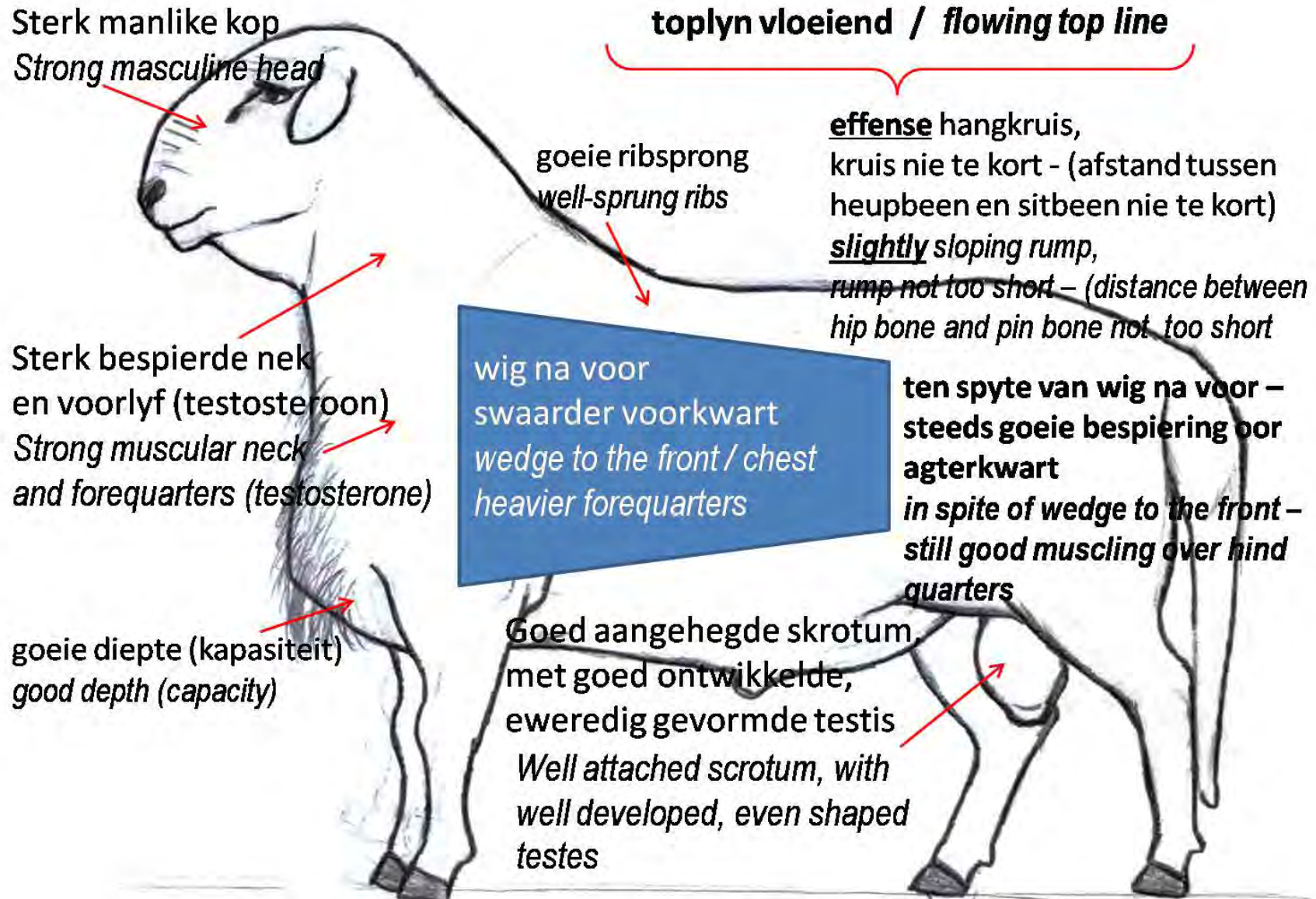
# EXCELLENT SHAPE (BALANCE) – FEMININITY



hakke, kootgewrigte, plasing- en stand van bene moet korrek wees  
*hocks, pasterns, placement- and stand of leg should be correct*

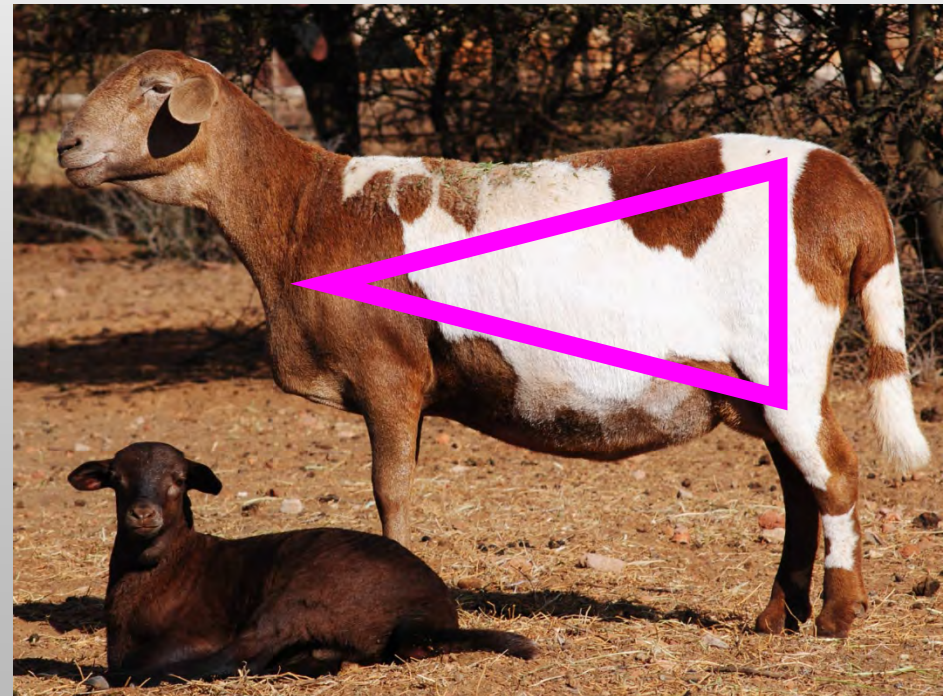
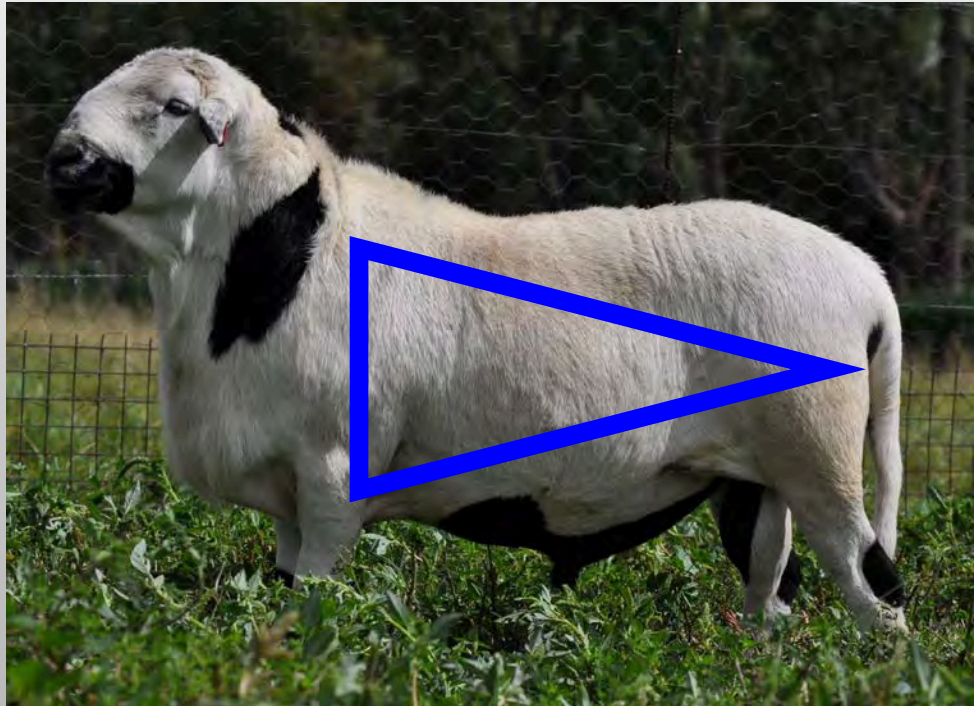


# EXCELLENT CONFORMATION (BALANCE) – MASCULINITY



hakke, kootgewrigte, plasing- en stand van bene moet korrek wees  
*hocks, pasterns, placement- and stand of leg should be correct*

Note the differences in body structure between the ram and the ewe.



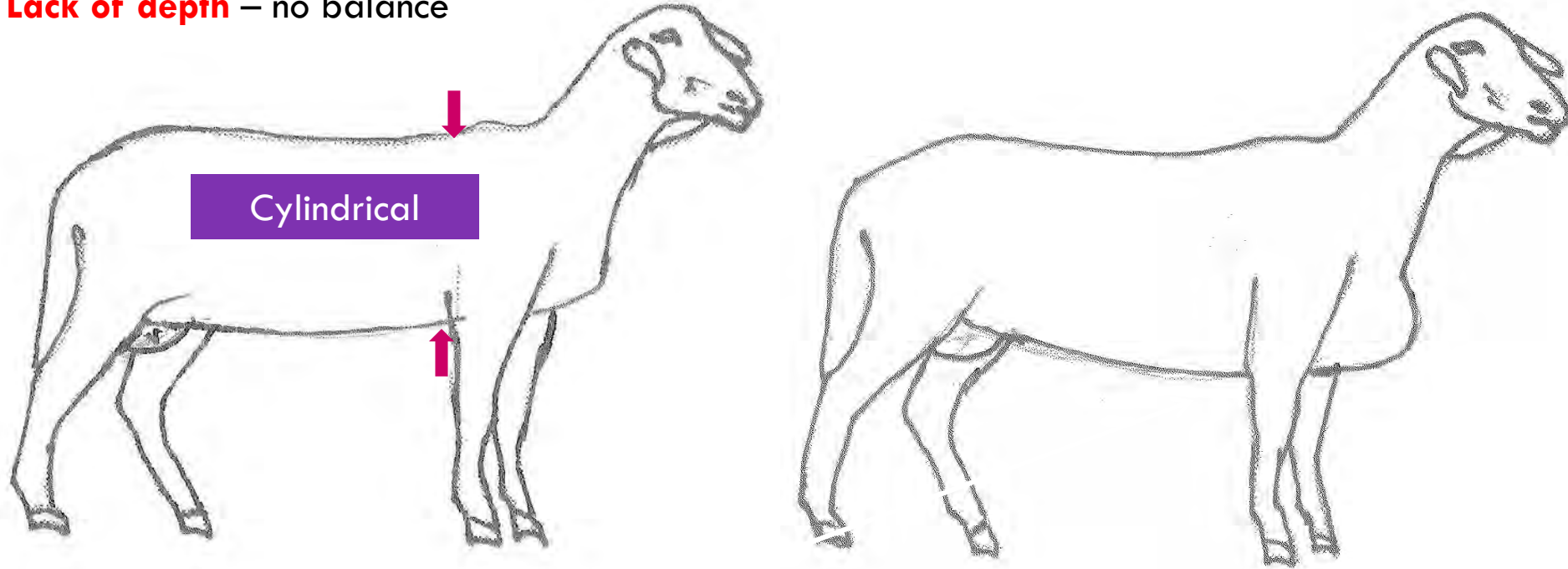


# GENDER DIMORPHISM



# UNDESIRABLE

**Lack of depth** – no balance



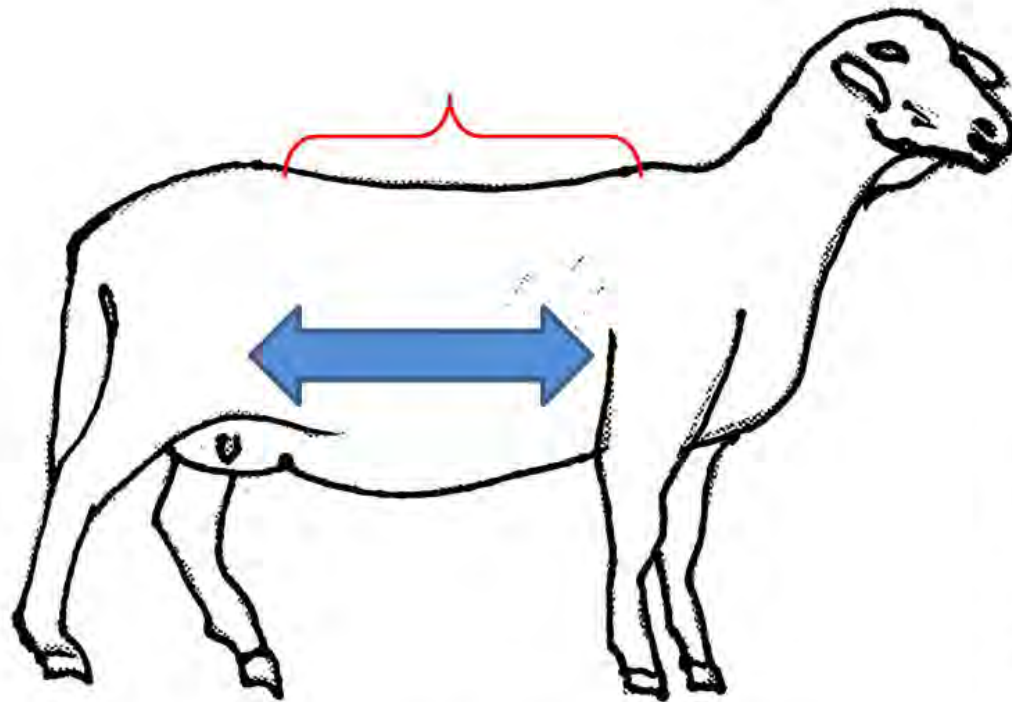
Heavier forequarters in ewes – usually accompanied by a thick neck and head = indicates decreased fertility.

Heavier hindquarters in rams – usually accompanied by a lack of masculinity in the neck and head.

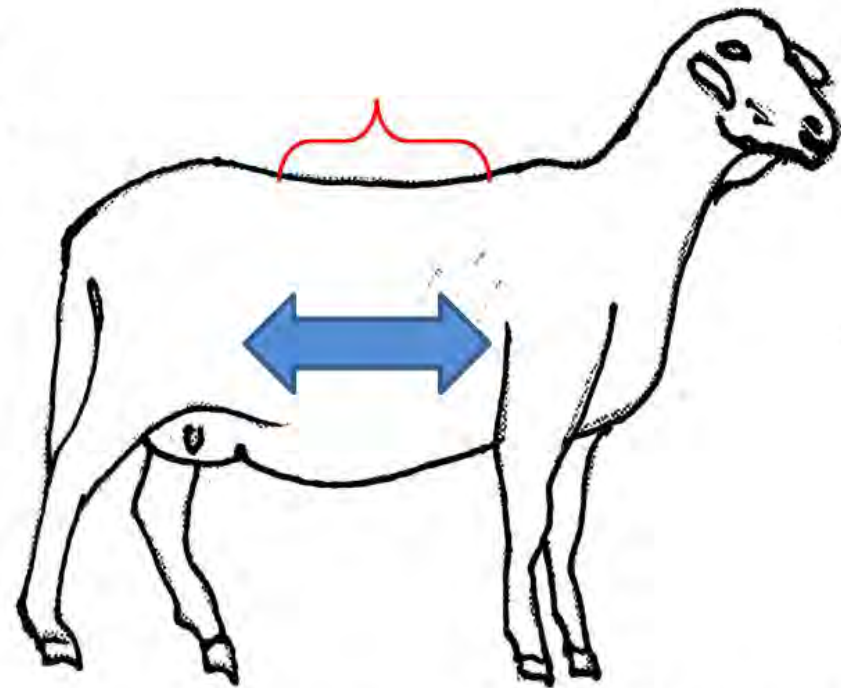


## CONFORMATION – LENGTH

Normale, vloeiende toplyn / *Normal flowing top line*



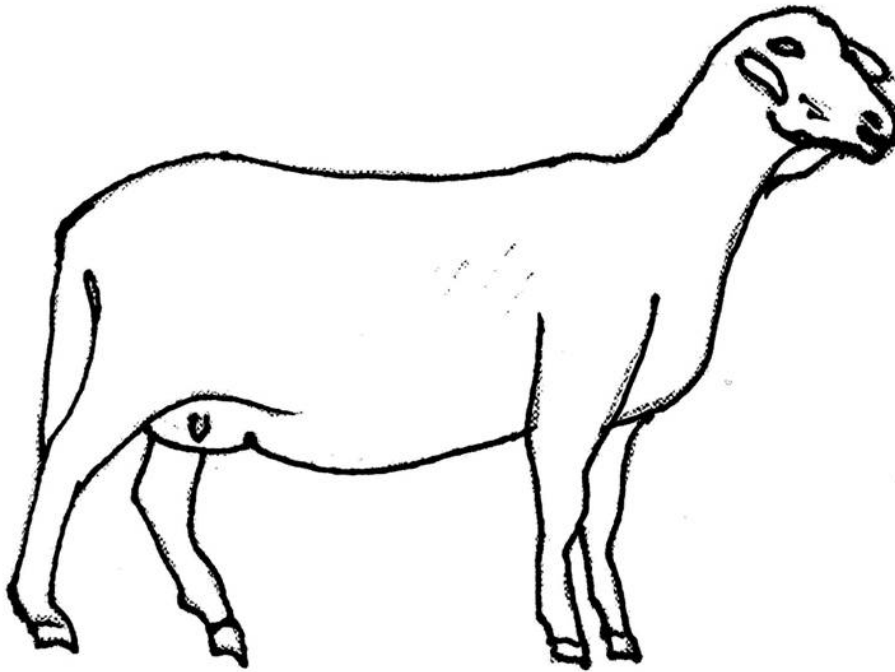
goeie lengte van lyf  
*good length of body*



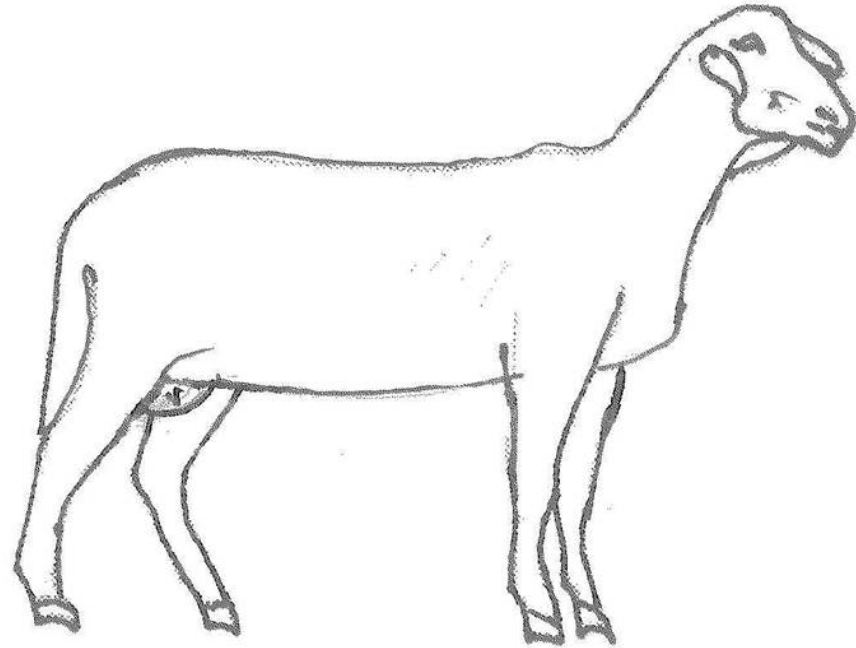
gebrek aan lengte van lyf (kort lyf)  
*lack of body length (short body)*

## CONFORMATION – DEPTH (CAPACITY)

Diepte (Kapasiteit) / Depth (Capacity)



goeie diepte / kapasiteit  
*good depth / capacity*



gebrek aan diepte / kapasiteit  
*lack of depth / capacity*

# CONFORMATION – FOREQUARTERS – CAPACITY

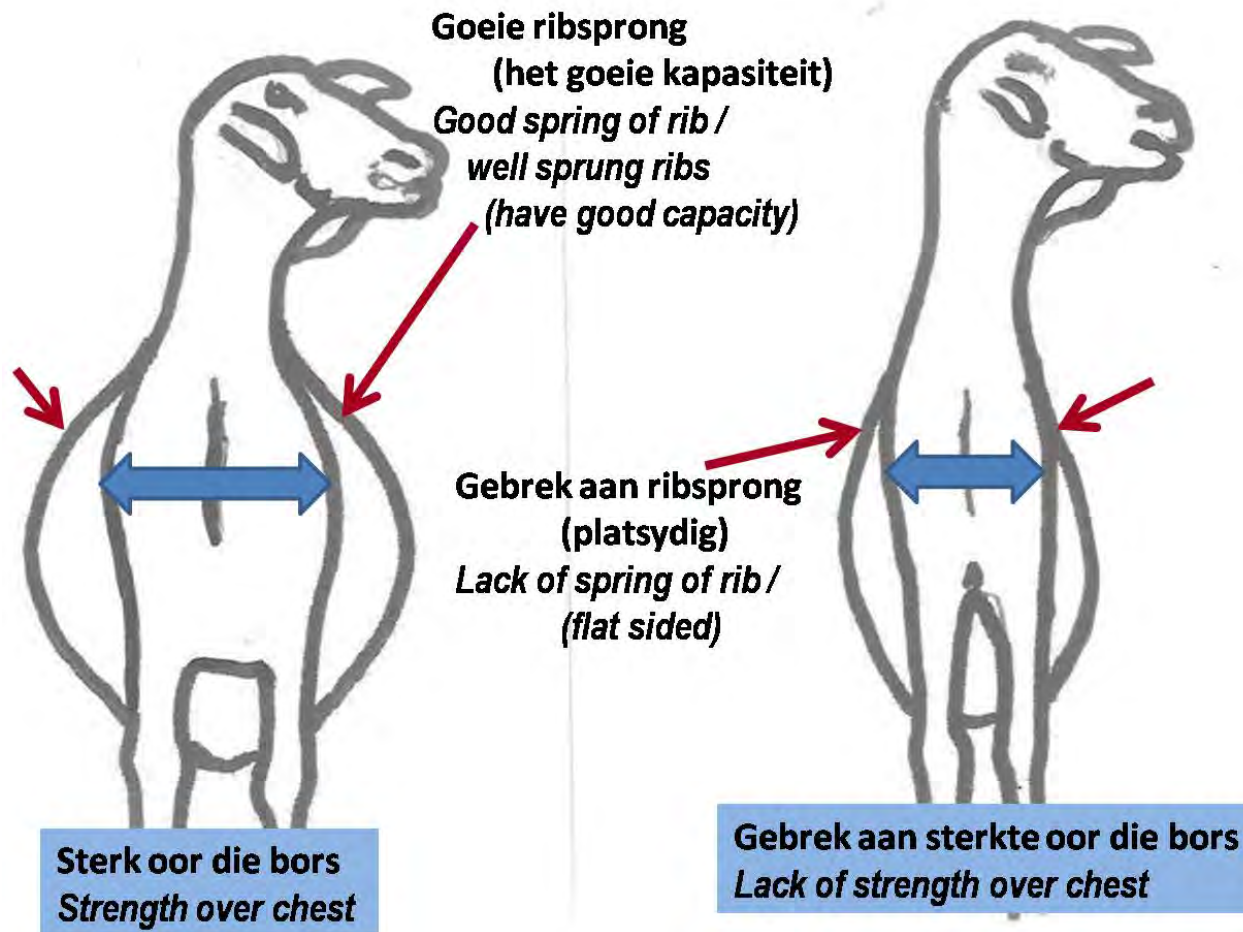


Figure 11. Flat chested



# SIZE, CONDITION AND FEEDING

- WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE MEATMASTER WAS DEVELOPED AS A MEAT SHEEP TO **FILL THE GAP** BETWEEN OTHER MEAT BREEDS AND OUR FAT-TAILED BREEDS, NOT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR EXISTING MEAT BREEDS.
- ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED TO GIVE THE BEST PROFIT IN TRADITIONALLY EXTENSIVE SHEEP AREAS.
- MEATMASTERS PERFORM VERY WELL UNDER INTENSE CONDITIONS AS WELL; THEREFORE, THE ORIGINAL TYPE CAN BE RETAINED AS IT IS.
- ONE SHOULD LEARN TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FLAT-SIDEDNESS, SUFFICIENT MUSCLING AND THE ROLE FEEDING PLAYS IN THE PROCESS.



# SIZE, CONDITION AND FEEDING - CONTINUES 1

- THE ABILITY OF MEATMASTER LAMBS AND YOUNG SHEEP TO STAY SMALL DURING **HARSH TIMES** AND THEN EXPLODE WHEN CONDITIONS IMPROVE, IS ONE OF ITS MOST VALUABLE TRAITS.
- **SIZE, CONDITION, MUSCLING** AND **CONFORMATION** ARE ALL AFFECTED DRASTICALLY BY FEEDING AND MATURITY.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) IT IS **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** THAT VELD RAM PROJECTS SHOULD MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL DIFFERENCES AND MAKE **PROPER COMPARISONS** BETWEEN THE ACTUAL GENETIC POTENTIAL OF ANIMALS.
- 2) IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT BREEDERS SHOULD REGISTER THEIR SHEEP AND START RECORDING DATA ACCURATELY.



BIGGER IS NOT NECESSARILY NEEDED TO BREED LAMBS OF 40KG TO 50KG AT 4 MONTHS.



**EWES 41 KG – LAMB 44 KG – AGE 4 MONTHS.**



# SIZE, CONDITION AND FEEDING- CONTINUES

- THE MEATMASTER IS A **MEDIUM-FRAMED** SHEEP WITH A GOOD LENGTH OF LEG.
- **BALANCE** BETWEEN LENGTH, WIDTH AND DEPTH IS VERY IMPORTANT.
- THE MEATMASTER HAS GOOD FAT DISTRIBUTION. (ACQUIRES FAT OVER WHOLE BODY.)
- **VARIATION** OF ALL THE TRAITS, WITH CLEAR CUT-OFF POINTS IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THE BREED TO PREVENT US FROM DEVIATING INTO A CERTAIN DIRECTION.
- **CULL FAULTS: TOO BIG WITH EXCESSIVELY HEAVY BONE STRUCTURE. – TOO SMALL WITH EXCESSIVELY THIN LEGS – EXCESSIVELY FAT ANIMALS – SLENDER, LANKY SHEEP – SHEEP WITH FAT LOCALIZATION (ALL IN THE HINDQUARTERS AND VERY LITTLE IN THE FOREQUARTER) – EWES WITH EXCESSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOREQUARTERS.**



TWO 4-TOOTH RAMS IN THE SAME CONDITION –  
THE TYPES OUTSIDE THE LIMITS



RED RAM TOO LARGE, **MORE THAN 120 KG...** / BLACK RAM TOO SHORT AND PONY-LIKE,  
NOTE LENGTH OF LEG, UNDER **70 KG...**

## AF TIPE



ROOI RAM – RANKERIG EN PLATSYDIG

(AFRI)

BONT RAM – KORT EN PONIE AGTIG

(EURO)





# VERSKIL TUSSEN EURO EN AFRI TIEPE

- EURO TIEPE WORD GEKENMERK SILINDRIES  
MIDDELSTUKKE KORT OP DIE BEEN KORT  
RONDE DIK BESPIERING, VERAL IN  
AGTERKWART. KORTER NEK EN BONKIGHEID
- AFRI TIEPE WORD GEKENMERK DEUR  
PLATSYDIGHEID HOOG OP DIE BEEN, LANG  
RANKERIG, LANG GLADDE BESPIERING

# THE EFFECT OF CONFORMATION ON THE LAMB AND THE LAMBING PROCESS

- A MEATMASTER LAMB SHOULD APPEAR TALL AND LANKY AT BIRTH. LIKE THE PARENTS, THE LAMB SHOULD HAVE A LONG NECK WITH MEDIUM TO LONG, DRY LEGS.
- IF THE MOTHER HAS A LONG, SLIGHTLY SLOPING RUMP, THE LAMB FITS PERFECTLY INTO THE BIRTH CANAL AND THERE SHOULD BE NO COMPLICATIONS AT LAMBING.
- IF THE PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT CONFORMATION, THE LAMB TOO SHOULD HAVE THE CORRECT CONFORMATION.

**CULL FAULTS :** ALL EWES WITH LAMBING PROBLEMS – WATCH OUT FOR SHORT, THICK LAMBS WITH SHORT NECKS AND WIDE SHOULDERS WITH LARGE HEADS.



# HEAD AND HORNS



- RAMS AND EWES SHOULD HAVE GOOD MOVEMENT OF EARS WITH CLEAR, ALERT EYES. ALWAYS WATCHFUL.
- STRONG MOUTHS WITH WELL-PLACED TEETH.
- EWES SHOULD HAVE FEMININE HEADS.
- RAMS SHOULD HAVE STRONG, MASCULINE HEADS, WITH A SLIGHTLY WIDE, ROMAN NOSE BRIDGE (NEVER EXCESSIVELY SO).
- LIGHT HORNS IN BOTH SEXES ARE ACCEPTABLE.
- CULLS: DULL HEADS WITHOUT CHARACTER – RAMS TOO FINE AND WETHER-LIKE – EWES TOO BIG-FRAMED AND WETHER-LIKE – LONG OR SHORT MOUTH – SKEW FACE.



# HEAD FAULTS



- RAM LAMB TO THE LEFT – HEAD WITH NO CHARACTER OR DEPTH.
- RAM TO THE RIGHT – SAME AGE; NOTE THE CHARACTER, DEPTH AND WIDTH OF THE HEAD.

# SHOULDERS, NECK AND HEAD CONNECTIONS



- RAMS, WIDE AND DEEP IN THE FOREQUARTERS. SHOULDER WITH SOLID ATTACHMENT AND NO PROMINENT SHOULDER POINTS. SLIGHTLY ROUNDED OVER THE SHOULDER.
- RAMS - NECK WITH GOOD LENGTH AND THICKNESS AND GOOD DEVELOPMENT.
- EWES, FINE AND FEMININE IN THE FOREQUARTERS. NOT TOO WIDE AND DEEP. ALSO SLIGHTLY ROUNDED OVER THE SHOULDER.
- EWES – NECK – GOOD LENGTH, FINE AND FEMININE.
- THE NECKS OF BOTH RAMS AND EWES SHOULD BE HIGH OUT OF THE SHOULDER AND RISE UPWARDS TO CARRY THE HEAD HIGH.

**CULLS: PROMINENT SHOULDER KNOBS – LOOSE SHOULDERS – U NECK – TORTOISE-LIKE NECK – SHORT NECK – RAMS TOO THIN AND FINE IN THE NECK – EWES TOO HEAVY AND THICK IN THE NECK.**

THERE SHOULD BE CLEAR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RAM AND THE EWE.

GOOD MOVEMENT AND ALERTNESS VERY IMPORTANT.



# NECK FAULTS

**Left** – weak neck, shoulder and head attachment.

**Right** – the ideal attachment.  
Note the fine neck and shoulders.



Note the prominent shoulder point and excessive forequarters.

Short, thick neck; conformation out of balance.



# MIDSECTION EN TOPLINE

- RAMS AND EWES SHOULD HAVE A REASONABLE LENGTH OF BODY WITH ENOUGH SPRING OF RIB, DEPTH AND CAPACITY.

OVAL SHAPE CLEARLY VISIBLE.

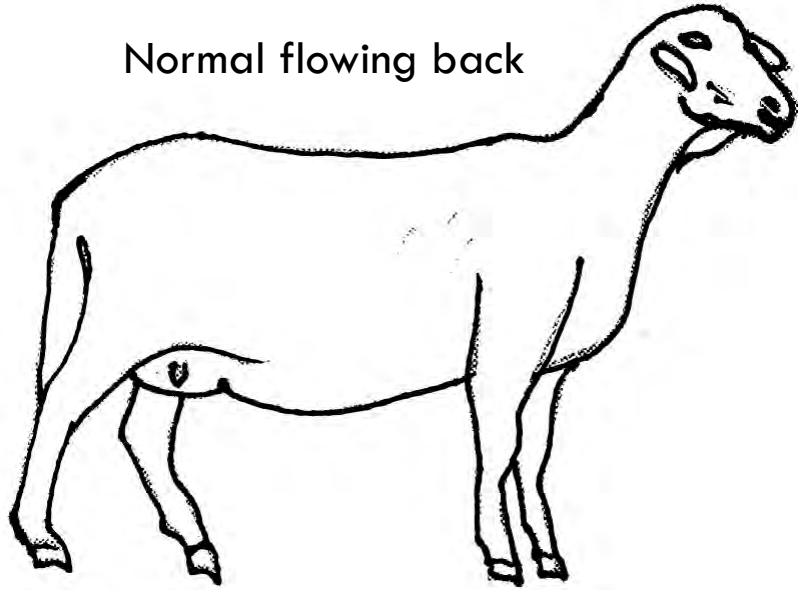
- GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN LENGTH, DEPTH AND WIDTH.
- TOPLINE: SLIGHTLY HIGHER AT THE SHOULDER AND OVER THE HIPS. OBVIOUS SLOPE IN THE RUMP WITH THE PIN BONES PLACED LOWER THAN THE HIP BONES.

CULL FAULTS: EXCESSIVELY SLOPING RUMP – FLAT RUMP – SHORT RUMP – HOLLOW BACK – DEVIL'S GRIP – LOOSE SHOULDERS – CYLINDRICAL – FLAT-SIDED.

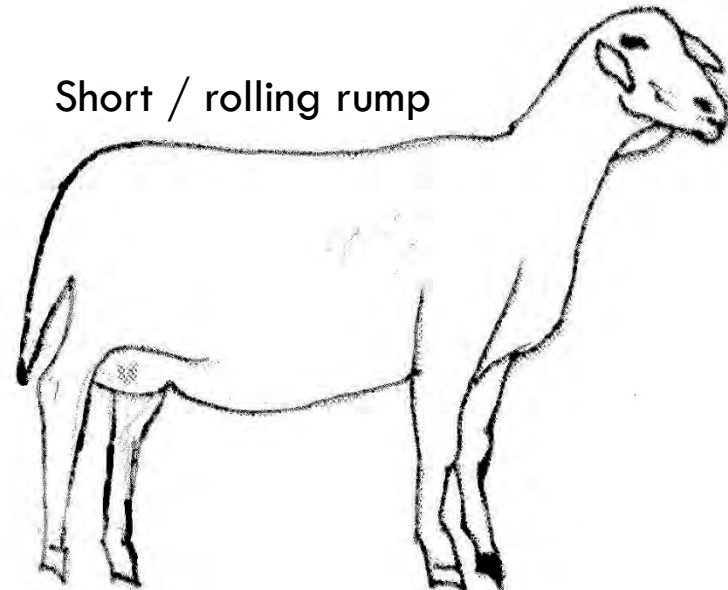


# STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS - BACKS

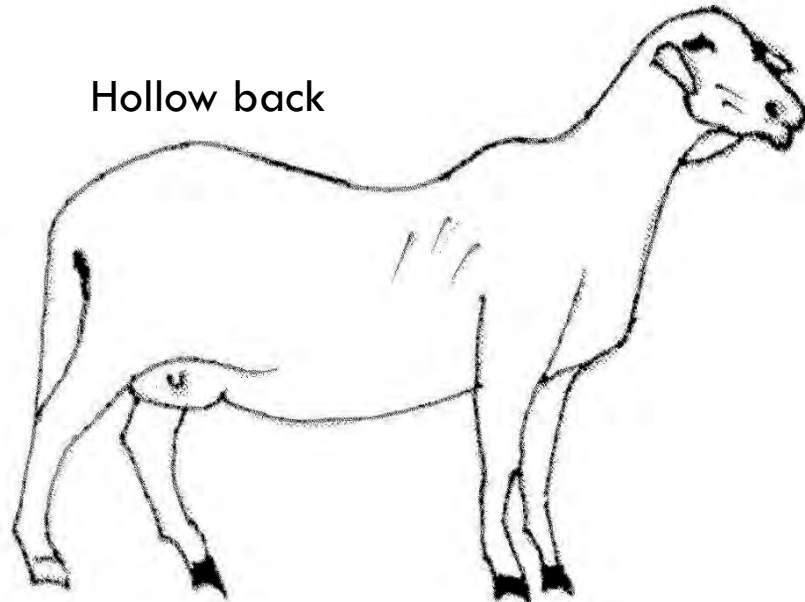
Normal flowing back



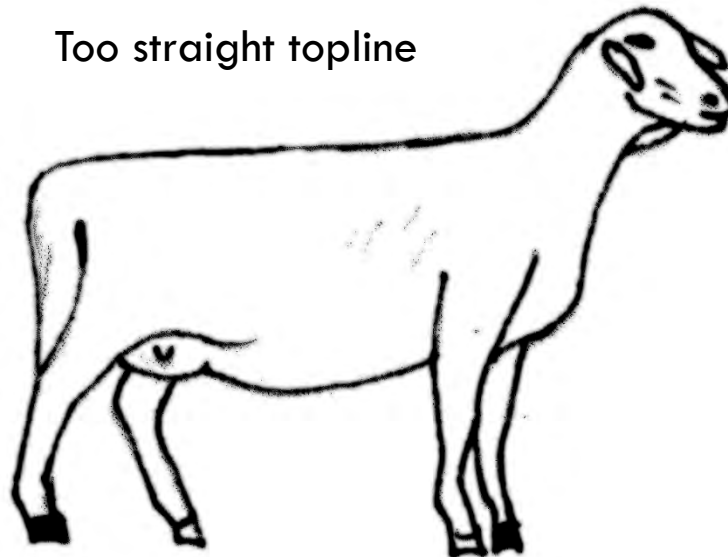
Short / rolling rump



Hollow back



Too straight topline



# HINDQUARTERS



- RAMS ARE STRONG AND FAIRLY WIDE ACROSS THE LOINS AND IN THE HINDQUARTERS.
- EWES ALSO STRONG OVER THE LOINS BUT NOT TOO MUSCULAR IN THE INNER THIGHS FOR ENOUGH UDDER SPACE.
- ALWAYS LONG MUSCLING; NEVER SHORT, THICK, ROUND MUSCLING.
- PIN BONES ALWAYS LOWER THAN THE HIP BONES.
- CULLS: FLAT-SIDED OR LACK OF MUSCLING – EXCESSIVE MUSCLING – SHORT, ROUND MUSCLING.



# THE IDEAL TAIL AND ATTACHMENT



- GOOD ATTACHMENT DUE TO GOOD RUMP SLOPE.
- GOOD SHAPE.
- NOT TOO LONG OR TOO SHORT – PREFERABLY FROM JUST ABOVE THE HOCK TO JUST BELOW THE HOCK.

CULLS: ATTACHMENT TOO BROAD AND LOW, AND TOO MUCH FAT, ESPECIALLY IN EWES – TOO SHORT – TOO LONG – TWISTED TAIL.

# THE TAIL



- GOOD ATTACHMENT.
- PREFERABLY NOT MUCH LONGER THAN THE HOCK.
- NEAT WEDGE SHAPE, WITH ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF FAT.
- IT SHOULD NEVER BE NECESSARY TO DOCK THE TAIL.

## **REASON:**

- PREVENT TICKS AND BLOWFLY STRIKES.
- NO STRESS OR INFECTIONS WITH TAIL DOCKING – LOWER RISK.
- LESS WORK - LOWER COSTS.

# TAIL FAULTS

✗ TOO FAT

✗ ATTACHMENT TOO WIDE

⇒ **DISCRIMINATE**

## REASON:

- LEADS TO MATING PROBLEMS
- FAT LOCALISATION
- POOR CARCASS QUALITY





# TAIL FAULTS

- × TOO LONG
- × TOO FAT
- × LOW ATTACHMENT
- × TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE

⇒ **CULL**

## REASON:

- MATING PROBLEMS
- POOR CARCASS QUALITY



# STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS – SHORT, DROOPING RUMP, WITH LOW TAIL ATTACHMENT



Reason: ► mating problems  
► carcass quality

# WEAK MUSCLING OVER LOINS

HOLLOW BACK





# LEGS, PASTERNS, HOOVES AND MOVEMENT



## Culls:

- Upright hocks
- Sickie hocks
- Cow hocks
- Bow-legged hocks
- X front legs
- Bow-legged forelegs
- Loose attachment to the shoulder
- Loose pastern joints

- ✓ MEATMASTERS ARE MODERATE TO LONG-LEGGED SHEEP WITH EXCELLENT MOVEMENT.
- ✓ LEGS SHOULD APPEAR DRY AND NOT FLESHY.
- ✓ THE CANNON BONES IN THE FRONT SHOULD HAVE GOOD LENGTH WITH NO INDICATION OF BEING PONY-TYPE.
- ✓ HOCKS SHOULD BE WELL PLACED AND HAVE THE CORRECT SHAPE.
- ✓ FRONT LEGS SHOULD BE WELL PLACED UNDER THE SHEEP; THE ELBOW SHOULD BE ATTACHED RIGHT UP AGAINST THE BODY.
- ✓ PASTERNS SHORT AND FIRMLY PLACED, ALMOST UPRIGHT.

- Too long pastern joints
- Too short cannon bones or bones in general
- Rolling hooves
- Pigeon toe
- Skew pastern due to short and long hoof
- Poor movement and walking method

# LEG FAULTS



Right leg - skew pastern;  
Short hoof on the inside

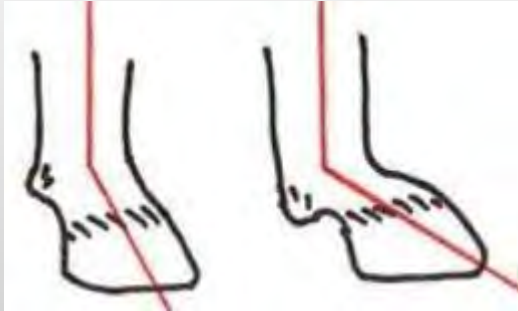


X forelegs



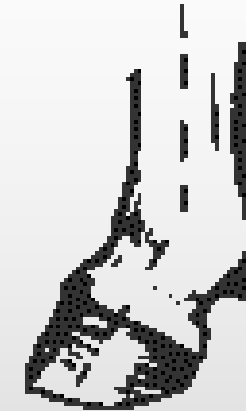
Bowed hind legs

# STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS – PASTER JOINTS

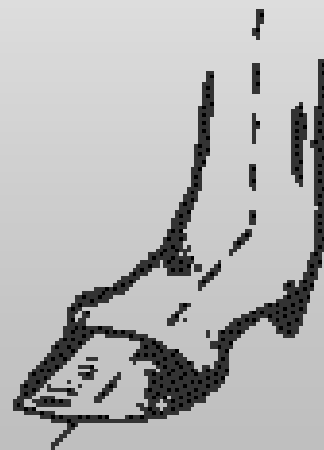


weak pastern

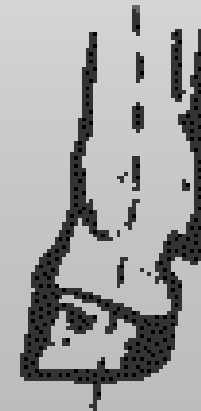
Angles of  
different  
pastern joints



Correct



Too much  
angle



Too straight



# **STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS – HOCKS**



# COLOUR AND SKIN PIGMENTATION



- ANY COLOUR COMBINATION IS ACCEPTABLE.
- FULL PIGMENTATION AROUND THE EYES
- RECOMMENDATION: DARK HOOVES, WITH GOOD PIGMENTATION AROUND THE EARS AND GENITALS

**CULLS: NOT FULL PIGMENTATION AROUND THE EYE.**



# COLOUR AND SKIN PIGMENTATION

- Any colour or combination of colours is acceptable.
- Good pigmentation around the eyes, ears and hooves is essential.

Reason:

- ▶ to prevent damage due to the harsh sun
- ▶ to minimise eye infections.
- ▶ pigmented hooves are usually stronger





# PIGMENTATION FAULTS



NO PIGMENTATION AROUND THE EYE  
LEADS TO CANCER AND EYE DISEASES.



The reason why pigmentation is so  
important to protect against the sun  
and elements.

# COAT COVERING



**IDEAL:** THICK SHINY HAIR OF ONE AND A HALF TO TWO CENTIMETERS LONG WITH A THICK LOW-MICRON FLUFFY WOOL UNDER THE HAIR ACROSS THE BACK AND UPPER HALF OF THE BODY. LENGTH OF HAIR DECREASES LOWER TO THE SIDES TOWARDS THE STOMACH. THE SHINE OF THE HAIR DISAPPEARS AND THE WOOL COMES THROUGH THE HAIR BEFORE THE SHEEP SHEDS HIS FLEECE IN GOOD CONDITIONS. IN THE COLD WINTER AND HARSH TIMES, THE WOOL INCREASES AND GROWS LONGER THAN THE HAIR.

**UNDESIRABLE:** HIGH-MICRON WOOL THAT GROWS TOO LONG – SHORT BRISTLY HAIR ACROSS THE BACK WITH TOO LITTLE FLUFFY WOOL - LONG BRISTLY HAIR THAT PREVENTS THE SHEEP FROM SHEDDING HIS WOOL.

**CULLS:** ANY OF THE UNWANTED TRAITS ABOVE IN EXCESS OR A SHEEP WITH TWO SEASON'S COVERING GROWING OVER EACH OTHER. SILKY COAT.



**EXCELLENT**





**GOOD**



**GOOD FOR A WARM CLIMATE, TOO SHORT  
FOR COLD**



## AVERAGE





## **ACCEPTABLE POORER COVERING**





# THESE EWES ARE SHEDDING THEIR FLEECE





# CULL

Tightly fixed coat, will never be shed



Silky coat



# COAT



Crinkly, coarse hair



TIGHT WOOL

# STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS - MOUTHS

**kort onderkaak**  
***short / undershot lower jaw***

**lang onderkaak**  
***overshot lower jaw***

**normaal**  
***normal***



**tande byt binne die kussing**  
***teeth bites short of dental pad***

**tande byt verby die kussing**  
***teeth bites outside the dental pad***

**bo- & onderkake is in lyn met mekaar**  
***(tande "lê" soms a.g.v. ouderdom of sagte voedings)***  
**upper- & lower jaws are in line with one another**  
***(teeth sometimes protrude a little because of age or soft feeds)***



# HEAD AND MOUTH FAULTS



UNDERSHOT JAW



# **OVERSHOT JAW**



NOTE THAT THE LOWER JAW PUSHES OVER THE UPPER JAW;  
DO NOT LOOK AT THE POSITION OF THE TEETH.

## UDDER AND GENITALS



### ✓TESTES:

- ✓WELL FORMED WITH
- ✓EXCELLENT ELASTICITY.
- ✓NORMAL SIZE FOR AGE AND CONDITION.

**CULLS:** TOO SMALL - NOT THE SAME SIZE  
– UNSIGHTLY SPLIT SCROTUM - SCROTUM  
HANGS TOO LOW – TWISTED SCROTUM  
- ANY ABNORMALITIES.

### UDDER:

- ✓GOOD ATTACHMENT FRONT AND BACK.
- ✓WELL-DEVELOPED LACTEAL VEINS.
- ✓WELL-PLACED TEATS OF NORMAL SIZE.

**CULLS:** UDDER IS TOO SMALL - TEATS ARE  
TOO SMALL OR TOO BIG - POOR  
ATTACHMENTS - ANY ABNORMALITIES.

# **TESTIS FAULTS**

- SPLIT TESTIS

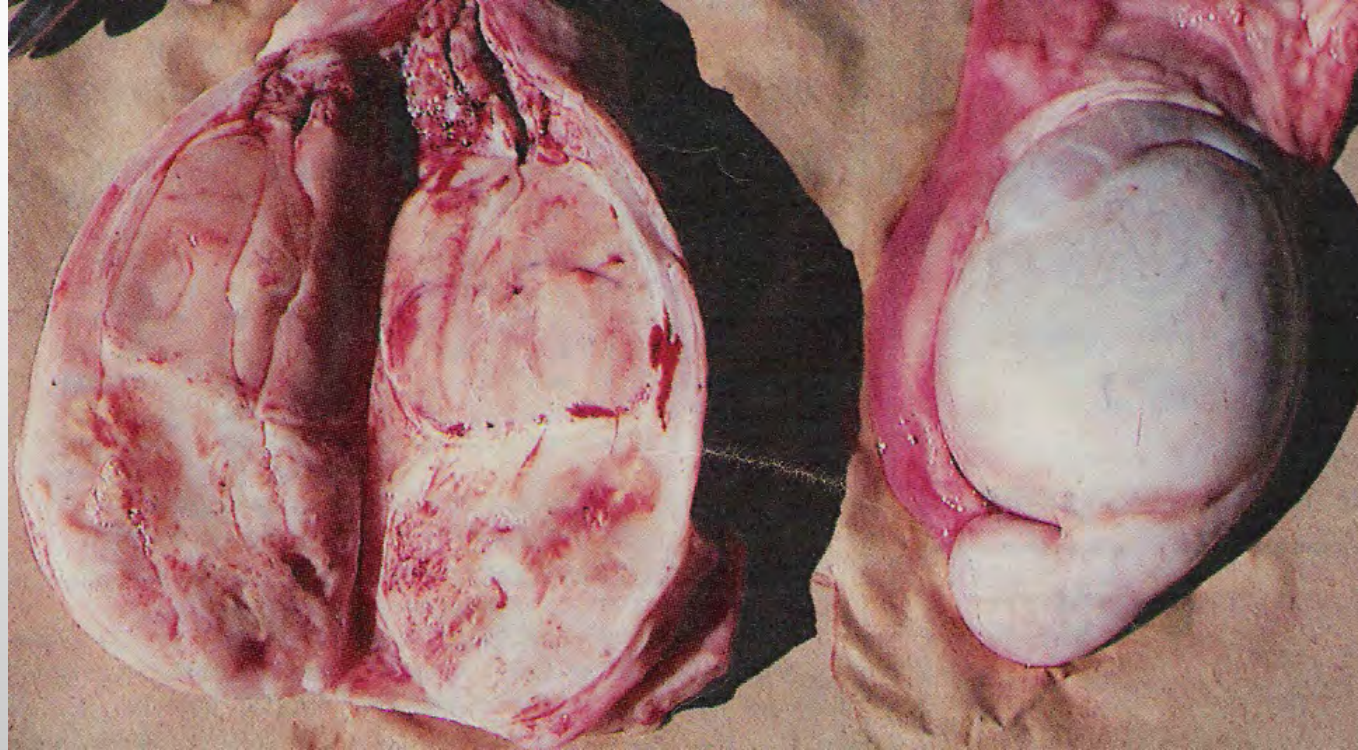


- Infection of the epididymis





## AFFECTED TESTICLE



- ON THE RIGHT, THE HEALTHY EPIDIDYMIS CAN BE SEEN CLEARLY.
- LEFT – INFECTION OF THE EPIDIDYMIS AND REDUCTION OF THE TESTIS.

## OTHER TRAITS TO OBSERVE





# MATERNAL TRAITS





# STRONG HERD INSTINCT



## REASON:

- ESSENTIAL FOR EASY MANAGEMENT IN BUSHY OR MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS.
- PREVENTS WANDERING AND GOING THROUGH FENCES.
- PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THE LAMBS AGAINST PREDATORS.

**CULLS:** ANY SHEEP THAT DOES NOT STAY IN THE HERD. THIS TRAIT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND DISAPPEARS QUICKLY WHEN THE EURO GENES INCREASE TOO MUCH. CANNOT BE OBSERVED AT AUCTIONS. WATCH OUT FOR THE EURO TYPES.

# NON-SELECTIVE GRAZERS



- ✓ UTILISES DRY MATERIAL AND DRY GRASS FIELD WELL.
- ✓ EAT GRASS, BUSH, TREES, SHRUBS AND MOST WEEDS.
- ✓ **WATCH OUT, AS THIS WONDERFUL TRAIT MAY DISAPPEAR IF THE EURO GENES INCREASE TOO MUCH.**



### SELECT PURPOSEFULLY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- ⇒ DO TICK COUNTS FOR RESISTANCE AGAINST TICKS.
- ⇒ WEAN SHEEP AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM DOSING FOR **INTERNAL PARASITES**.
- ⇒ GOOD MOTHERS WHO RAISE THEIR LAMBS WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
- ⇒ VIRILE RAMS WITH EXCELLENT MATING ABILITY.
- ⇒ LAMBS WITH A SLAUGHTER WEIGHT OF 12-25KG (*DEPENDING ON THE AREA WHERE YOU ARE FARMING*). LAMBS SHOULD BE SLAUGHTERED OFF THE MOTHER, BEFORE 5 MONTHS).
- ⇒ AN AVERAGE RATING OF A2-A3 MUST BE ACHIEVED AT THE ABOVE MASSES.

## ENSURE YOUR OWN SUCCESS

- Be disciplined and dedicated regarding your breeding and selection.
- Advertise the breed country-wide, but especially in your area by means of the following:
  - Farmers' union meetings and farmers' days
  - Expos
  - Emerging farmers
  - Articles in agricultural magazines
  - Participation in slaughter competitions
  - Organised sales
  - Use local newsletters or newspapers
  - Create your own website

## BACK A WINNER!

The Meatmaster is undoubtedly a winning breed.  
Do your part and don't wait for the Board or Society.

**YOU ARE THE SOCIETY!**  
**You must be the motivation.**

The breed offers you everything...  
...your success depends fully on what you intend  
to do with it!

Get involved with the development and promotion of the breed.  
It has the potential to change sheep breeding worldwide!!!

**Make this the investment of your life.**

**IT'S GOOD TO BACK A WINNER ! ! !**



# GENETIC IMPROVEMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



Thank you for your attention