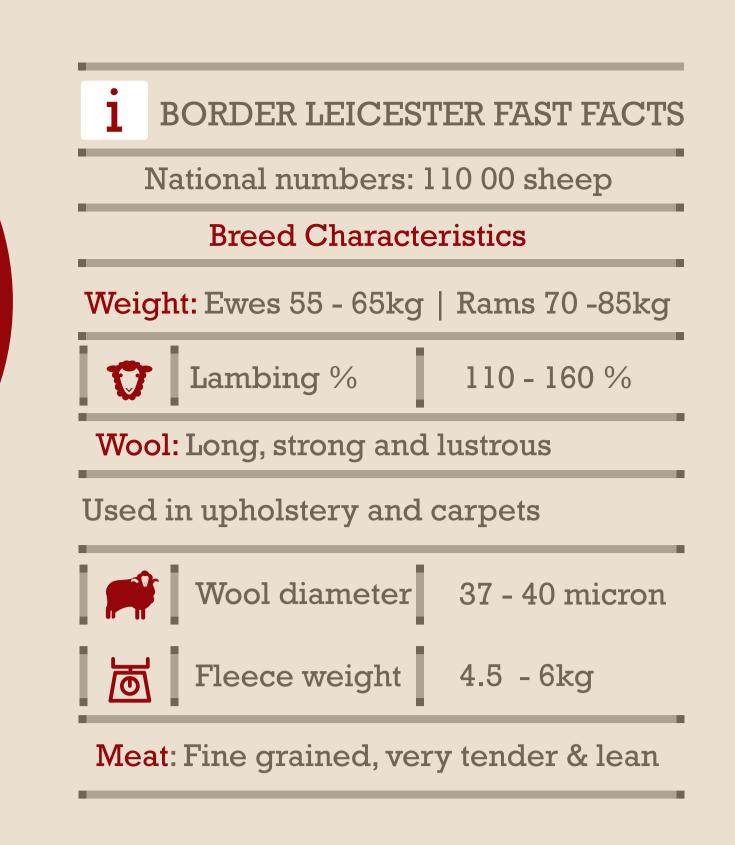
Border Leicester

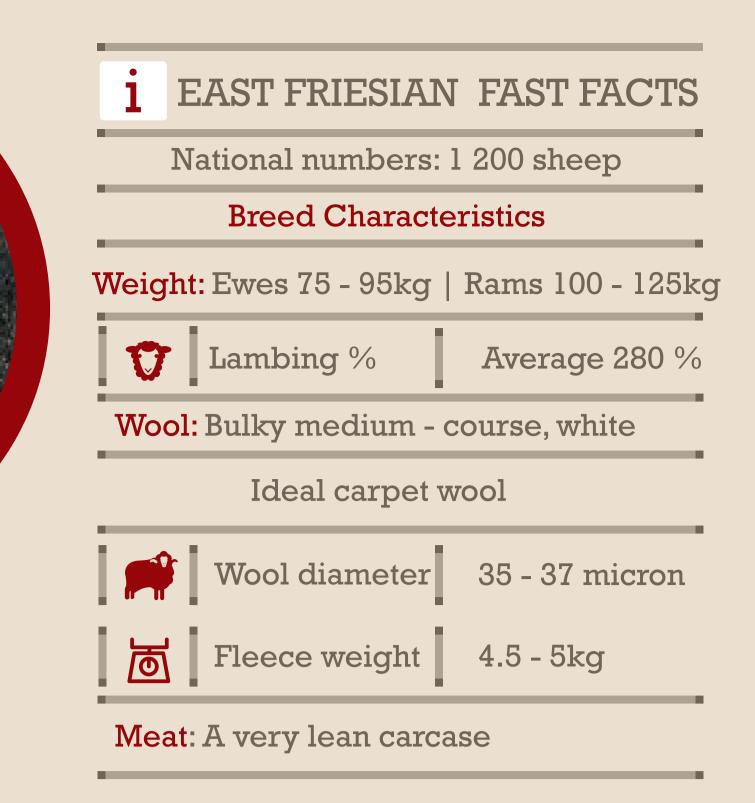
The Border Leicester first arrived in New Zealand in 1859. After refrigeration was introduced in the 1880s, the Border Leicester was used as a crossing sire to produce heavyweight lambs and wether mutton. Today the Border Leicester contributes high fertility and good mothering qualities to its crossbred progeny. It is a large, long-legged sheep with a pronounced Roman nose.





East Friesian

In December 1992, eleven
pregnant ewes and four rams
were imported into New
Zealand from Sweden. It is a
large framed sheep with a
thin tail and pink nose. The
The East Friesian will also
become the basis for
establishment of a sheep milking
industry for the production of feta cheese and other
sheep-milk products. Over its lactation period it
produces 500-600 litres of milk.



Meat was first sent to Britain in cans, in 1870, after the wool market began declining. In 1882, the first frozen sheep carcasses were shipped on the Dunedin, revolutionizing the industry. Farmers began farming sheep that produced good meat, not just good wool. Most meat went to Europe, specifically Britain, and in later years the United States.

The meat from sheep is known by different names depending on the age; lamb being the youngest at under a year; hogget refers to sheep older than a year but up to two; and mutton which is the oldest and can be up to five years of age. Today sheep meat is exported to a wider range of countries and New Zealand is well recognized for the quality of its product.

Some Meat Breeds of Central Otago

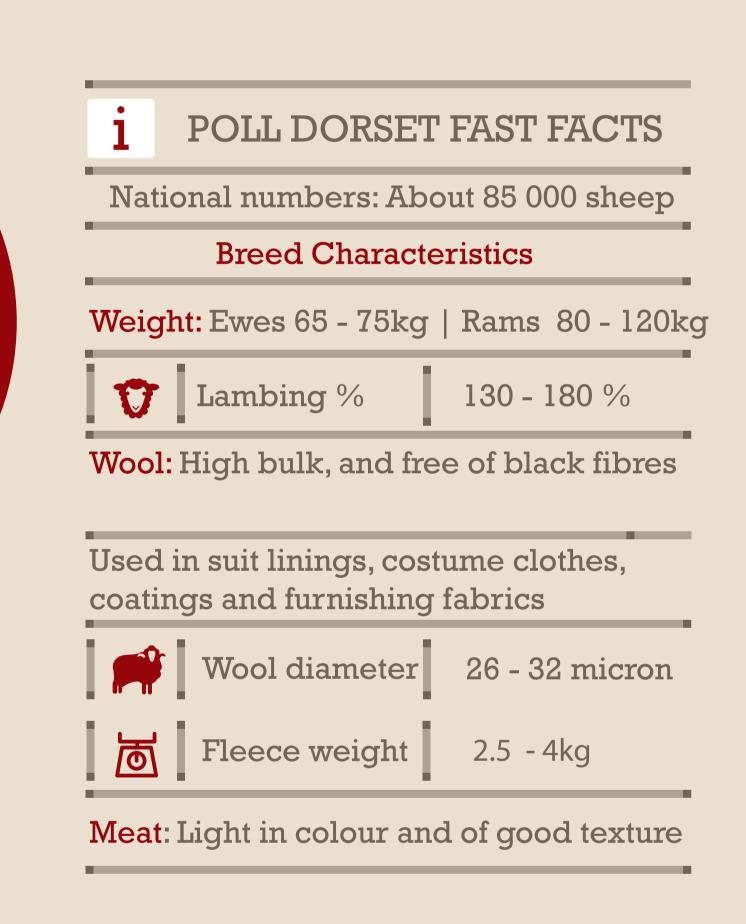
Poll Dorset

The New Zealand Poll Dorset
Breed was founded in 1959.

The breed has been so well
received by the industry
that it has grown to be the
biggest meat breed in both
New Zealand and Australia.

It is an open, white faced, pink
nosed sheep with lips free from
pigmentation and a long well-muscled body, free of
excess fat. The wool is of medium micron, with high
wool bulk. This allows Poll Dorset wool to command a

premium over other meat breed sires.



Suffolk

The original Suffolks were the result of crossing Southdown rams on Norfolk Horned ewes. The breed first arrived in New Zealand in 1913. In 1930, Southdowns were described as large sheep without horns, dark faces and legs, fine bones and long small necks. They were low set in front with high shoulders and light forequarters. One of the worlds heaviest breeds, Suffolks are now the most dominant sheep meat breed throughout the world.



New Zealand Hampshire

The first Romney sheep to reach
New Zealand was in 1843.
While the composition and
quality of the New
Zealand wool clip has
changed over the last 10
years, the traits such as good
whiteness and brightness, as
well as good length and strength,
remain the key attributes of the New Zealand
Romney. The Romney was the single most popular
breed in New Zealand throughout the 20th century. It
continues to make up the majority of the New
Zealand sheep population today.



Dorset Down

Now one of the most common breeds in Central Otago, the Dorset Down was first brought to New Zealand in 1921, but soon died out. Further imports were made from 1947 onwards and this time the breed quickly established a niche for itself as a meat breed for the production of export lamb. The Dorset Down is one of the most virile rams of all mutton breeds.

