

Ewe Lambs

April 2009

Placing: 1-2-4-3
Cuts: 2-3-4

I line the Commercial ewe lambs up 1-2-4-3. The decision for me in this class is the middle pair. I feel the smoke colored ewe is the most complete of the 4 best combining muscle shape, with balance and extension. She is an attractive sheep, but where she excels 2 is in leg thickness and assumed top shape. She appears a thicker ended ewe being fuller thru the center and lower portion of the leg and appears smoother in her loin-dock junction. I'll admit that 2 appears to be the longest sided ewe in the class yet she funnels at the base of her leg and tightens in her flank and therefore can't place over the class winner.

In the middle pair of differing types, I prefer the added growth and extension found in 2 over 4. She is the later maturing of the pair and is significantly longer from flank to flank leading me to believe that she's also the longer handling sheep. In addition, she appears smoother over the point of her shoulder in the picture. Yes, 4 is a stouter featured ewe that I would expect to handle fuller thru her dock and lower leg. However, I left her third as she appears the shortest sided of the 4.

In the bottom pair, its power and volume that places 4 over 3. The white ewe is much more impressive in her rib shape and is more uniform in body depth from forerib to flank. She also exhibits more stifle expression and I would assume her to handle with more freshness over her loin edge when examining the photo of 3. I'll grant length to 3 but she is tubular in her design and appears the lightest muscled of the class and therefore stays fourth.

I'd like to thank the judging connection for letting me share my opinions on this class and I hope everyone is having a good spring season.

Thank You

Robert Dinsmore