

Polwarth



The Polwarth sheep were developed by the Dennis family at Tarndwarncourt in Victoria, Australia in 1880. You can still visit the latest generations of the Dennis family at their historic property where they have the descendants of the original breeding programme.

They crossed Saxon Merino with Lincoln and then bred the progeny back to a Merino. With intensive culling over a period of time a stabilized breed was formed. The original name of Comeback was not particularly flattering or marketable and so they settled on the name Polwarth which was the name of the county in which Tarndwarncourt resided.

The Polwarth sheep is a relatively plain bodied sheep that produces a fleece that ranges in micron from 21 microns to 26 microns. The Lincoln influence allows the sheep to annually produce a fleece that is 110mm to 125mm in length that shows some lustre. The Merino provides the soft handle that is associated with a Polwarth fleece. These attributes make it well sort after by handcrafters.

Originally bred as white sheep, a range of colours has slowly emerged within the breed. The Dennis family still has a sizeable flock of both white and coloured Polwarths. In New Zealand the largest flock of coloured Polwarths is bred by Stuart and Sue Albrey. Their genetics have been strongly influenced by the use of top quality white stud rams from Matakanui Station.

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