



Wool Sheep

O. aries



What is the history of my relationship to man?

Sheep were among the first animals domesticated. An archeological site in Iran produced a statuette of a woolled sheep which suggests that selection for woolly sheep had begun to occur over 6000 years ago.

Habitat / Climate

Raised all around the world they are able to handle most environments.

Where am I from?

There are a number of different theories regarding the origins of domestic sheep. They originated from mouflon. There are wild populations of mouflon still in existence: the Asiatic mouflon which is still found in the mountains of Asia Minor and southern Iran and the European mouflon of which the only existing members are on the islands of Sardinia and Corsica.



Other family members:

- Harte beast
- Mouflon
- Markhor

Who are my relatives?

I am a hoofed mammal who also has wool my cousins are other sheep but animals like the llama are distantly related to me.



Breeding

Once a year
Sometimes twins

How am I born?

We have a gestation period of about five months. We will stand within an hour of birth.

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live

After we are several weeks old, lamb marking—the process of ear tagging, docking, and castrating—is carried out. Ewes generally reach sexual maturity at six to eight months of age, and rams generally at four to six months.

Breeding Season

A	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
N	E	B	R	Y	N	U	L	G	E	P	C

What kind of family life do I

We have a tendency to congregate close to other members of our flock.. We also have a natural inclination to follow a leader.

Names for:

- Adult male- Ram
- Adult female- Ewe
- Young- Lamb
- Group:- Flock

What do I eat and when do I eat?

We are grazers we spend all day wandering to the best spots to find grass.

Who are my predators?

We have to watch out for hunters like wolves and big cats. That's why we are happy to share our fields with dogs that guard us.



Comments:

Here at the Ranch we have both wool sheep(Suffolk) and we have hair sheep from the Caribbean Islands called Barbados sheep.