

Heritage Sheep Breed FIBER PROFILE



Lincoln

Those young Lincoln ram lambs in the photo, members of the English longwool family of breeds, represent the largest of British sheep. At their adult size, these gents will weigh up to 300 pounds; the ewes will come in at something over 200 pounds. Their fleeces are equally massive and enough length accumulates over the course of a year that they can be shorn twice and still produce generous locks.

A full year's growth of Lincoln wool can be used for dolls' hair or Santa beards. Either six-month or twelve-month growth lends itself beautifully to spinning highly textured novelty yarns or smooth, durable worsteds. Lincoln fleeces can be spun woolen-style as well, although that's not the first approach that comes to mind for the fiber. Because of its robust nature, thick yarns will be quite heavy. Thinner yarns can be sleek. Known for a lustrous surface, Lincoln takes dyes beautifully. It also drapes well.

Because of the relatively large fiber diameter, Lincoln wool is not next-to-skin soft, although when spun worsted (minimizing the potential for the prickly fiber ends to stick out), it can feel smooth and cool, with some of the behavior of a heavy silk.

While Lincoln can be exquisite in garments, it is unparalleled for making rugs, tapestries, pillows, and bags. In addition to being appropriate for knitted and



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crocheted textiles, Lincoln is an extraordinary wool for weaving, whether balanced, weft-, or warp-

faced. For a glorious experience, supplement the delicious natural colors with dyed jewel tones.

Fleece weight	Generally 11–16 pounds (5–7.5 kg); yield 55–80 percent.
Staple length	Generally 7–15 inches (18–38 cm), average 7–10 inches (18–25 cm).
Fiber diameters	(U.S.) 33.5 (minimum)–41 microns.
Lock characteristics	Firm, heavy locks, with pointed and often spiraled tips, and defined crimp.
Natural colors	White, silvery grays (light through dark), black, and possibly some moorits (a shade of brown).



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