

# Heritage Sheep Breed FIBER PROFILE



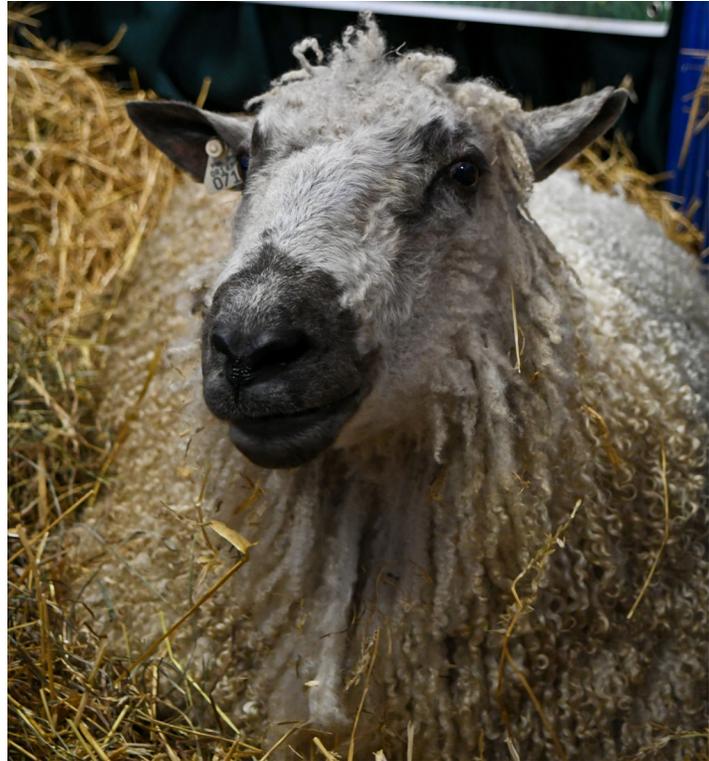
## Teeswater

Teeswaters are members of the English long-wool family, and the listing of Teeswaters as endangered by The Livestock Conservancy reflects the breed's small global numbers and the recognition of North American Teeswaters as an important satellite population by the British breed society. Although North American Teeswaters have been developed through upgrading, they have come to represent a genetic resource for the breed.

Teeswater sheep grow masses of long fiber and are often shorn twice a year, to yield more workable lengths. Teeswater fleeces grow in long locks with a characteristic called *purling*, a distinctive spiraling form that also shows up in the fleeces of Wensleydales (classified as rare in the British Isles) and Blue-faced Leicesters (not rare).

Teeswater wool combines elegance with a good supply of durability. If you're familiar with micron counts with regard to fiber and you see numbers like 30 to 36, next-to-skin use is not your first thought. Yet Teeswater can be processed in ways that allow it to be used to make such items as sweaters or shawls.

Think of these as supple wools. Worsted preparation and spinning techniques, which maintain the parallel arrangement of fibers, emphasize the luster, maximize durability and draping qualities, and minimize any potential itchiness. Teeswater fleeces can also be carded and spun woolen, although that won't bring out these unique properties. They can also be spun



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into novelty yarns that have enough body to hold their shape and enough softness to use in a variety of applications.

The natural Teeswater whites are most often pure and brilliant. This inherent clarity of color, combined with the luster, means that dyed hues sparkle.



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<b>Fleece weight</b>	7½–18 pounds (3.5–8.25 kg), often 12–15 pounds (5.5–7 kg).
<b>Staple length</b>	12–15 inches (30.5–38 cm) first clip; then (twice a year) about 6 inches (15 cm).
<b>Fiber diameters</b>	30–36 microns.
<b>Lock characteristics</b>	Very long, wavy locks with brilliant luster and a smooth surface.
<b>Natural colors</b>	Teeswater wool is white by the British breed society's standard.