

DORPER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (TYPING)

This is an overview of the classing system and explanation for descriptions in our catalogue. I have tried to make clear and concise explanations. Any problems please contact us.

The Dorper & White Dorper sheep breeds follow an internationally recognised breed standard that is implemented by qualified inspectors. The Dorper sheep is an animal which can maintain itself, produce meat and reproduce under sub-optimal conditions.

The system is NOT compulsory and being involved is at the discretion of the stud owner.

At AMARULA DORPER STUD we believe it is an extremely concise visual tool to describe and classify Dorpers and White Dorpers and have used the Dorper Breed Standard classification system since the establishment of our Stud.

The international Dorper Breed Standard is a classification system which TYPES individual animals and is used worldwide in countries producing Dorper Sheep. The sheep are classed according to five criteria.

- **Conformation** – being the most important.
- **Size** – not too big or too small. (Has an environmental factor i.e. twin, drought etc.)
- **Fat distribution**- evenness of fat over the body.
- **Colour Pattern**
- **Covering**

Scores from these then determine the "**TYPE**" of the animal and ranks it from 1 to 5. TYPE is determined by the degree the Dorper conforms to the Breed Standards. The general impression must be of good balance, muscling and a vigorous appearance. Masculinity in the ram and femininity in the ewe is important.

Type 5 (T5) – (STUD) is a superior, elite animal. (Breed Standard)

Is a very small group, therefore it is only a superior animal that fits in this group.

Type 4 (T4) – (STUD) is a very good animal. (Breed Standard)

This group has a much broader range and fits many T4 STUD Dorpers into this group.

Due to time constraints on auction day and not being able to speak to all our clients, AMARULA portrays as much information in the catalogue as possible. Clients want to identify out of the T4 STUDs, which are the better animals. This information is in the catalogue, in an easy to understand format. To identify an above average Type 4 (T4) animal from a middling Type 4 (T4), we have added a (+) to categorise it at the top of the group. When we established Amarula Dorpers back in 2000, the South African inspectors used +/- to explain a better animal within a group to us. We have continued to use this method. Therefore in AMARULA'S CATALOGUE the following mean

- **4+** Excellent Type 4 STUD animal. Top of the range (above average) in the T4 group. I can't fit **T4 excellent** in the box (+ fits).
- **4** A very good Type 4 STUD animal. Middle range (average) of the T4 group.
- **4-** A good Type 4 STUD animal, but is at the lower range of the T4 group.

It is not a separate classing system, but a method used by AMARULA DORPERS, to deliver the information about the differences within this wide range of T4 STUD animals and convey this in a catalogue, to the best of our ability. I would love to be able to talk to everyone and tell them all the information, but there is just not enough time. There is limited space in the catalogue, so this is a brief way to have all the information in front of you.

TYPE 3 (T3) OR FIRST SELECT (S1) is a good animal classified as commercial. (Breed Standard)

A Type 3 is not a stud animal, but a Type 3 ewe is recognised as of sufficient quality to “breed up” (produce progeny better than herself) if mated to a stud ram. As the Dorper industry rapidly grows in Australia many breeders are using Type 3 ewes.

Note many Type 3 animals can have superior production or other traits.

Again this group has a wide range and therefore we have used +/- to express the difference within the Type 3 group.

- **3+** Top of the range in the T4 group. Above average.
- **3** Middle range of the T4 group. Average.
- **3-** Lower range of the T4 group. Below average.

TYPE 2 (T2) OR SECOND SELECT (S2)

Is an inferior animal and at AMARULA we cull this animal out of the flock.

TYPE 1 (T1) CULL

This animal exhibits a cull fault and is removed from the flock.

OTHER MEASUREMENTS

We also use objective measurements (Lambplan ASBVs) as a tool to guide us in our selection of STUD animals. (See ASBVs explained). The ASBV's for individual animals are listed in the catalogue, to give our clients more information for their selections.

There are other guides and tools available (AuctionsPlus assessment for commercial sheep or selling your sheep internationally on the Classmate Website, you must meet classmate guidelines for their buyers), but **The International Dorper Breed Standard**, in our opinion, is the most important.

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS IN THE CATALOGUE

PS - POTENTIAL STUD

This is a young animal that is showing all the qualities of being a STUD animal, but needs a bit more growing and development to make sure.

C4P2T3 – Conformation 4, Colour Pattern 2, Type 3

This is an abbreviation for a STUD conformation animal with excellent stud traits, but it has too much or not enough colour to qualify for Stud status, so becomes a Type 3.

