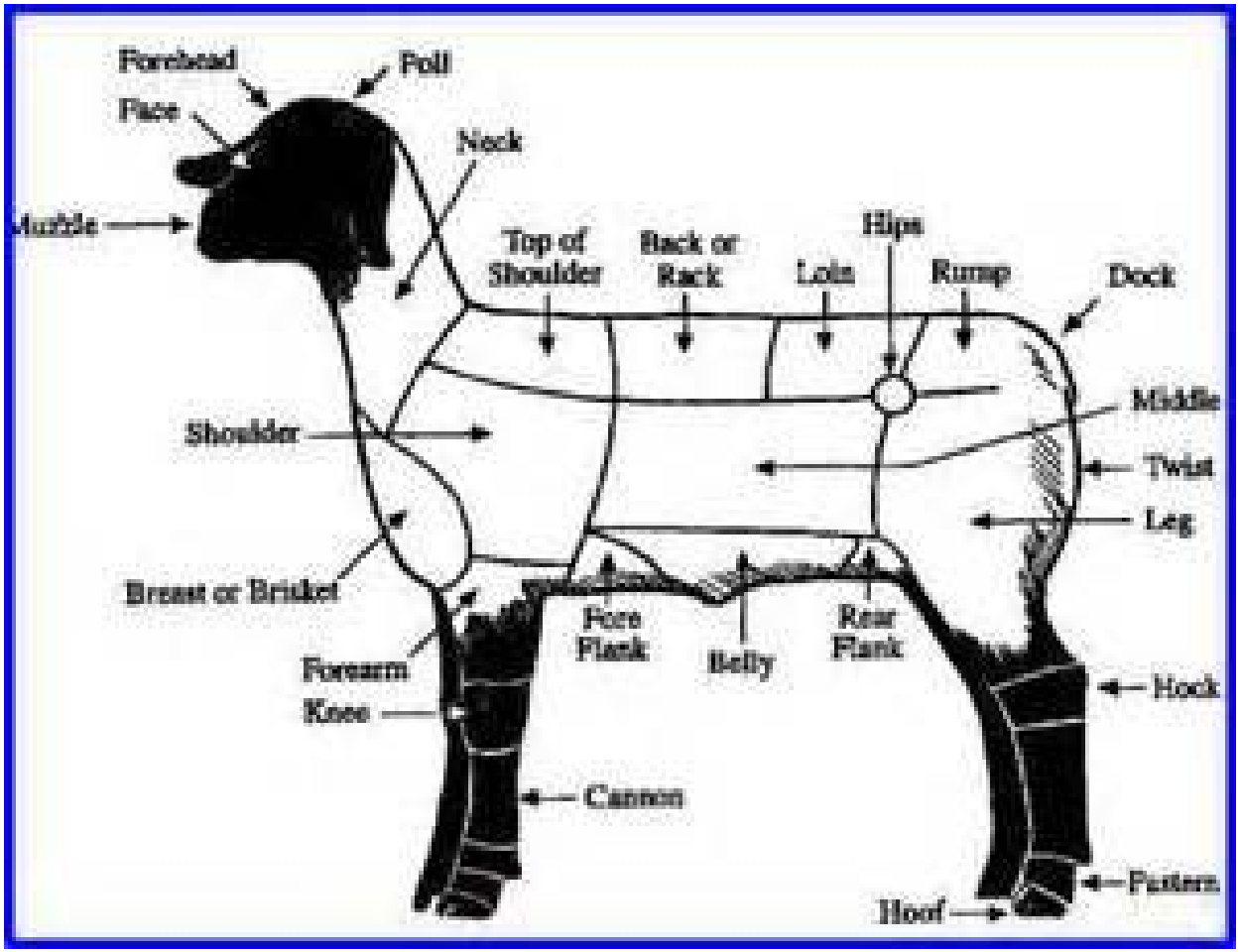
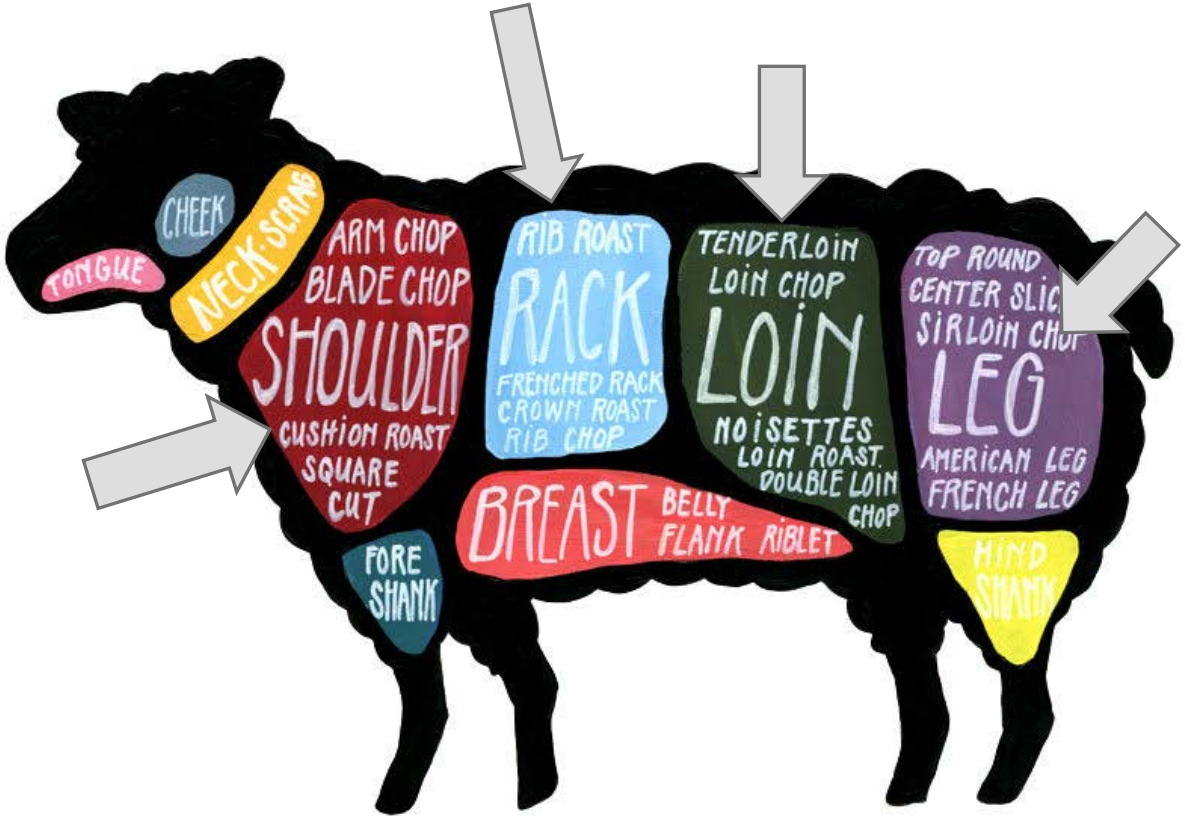
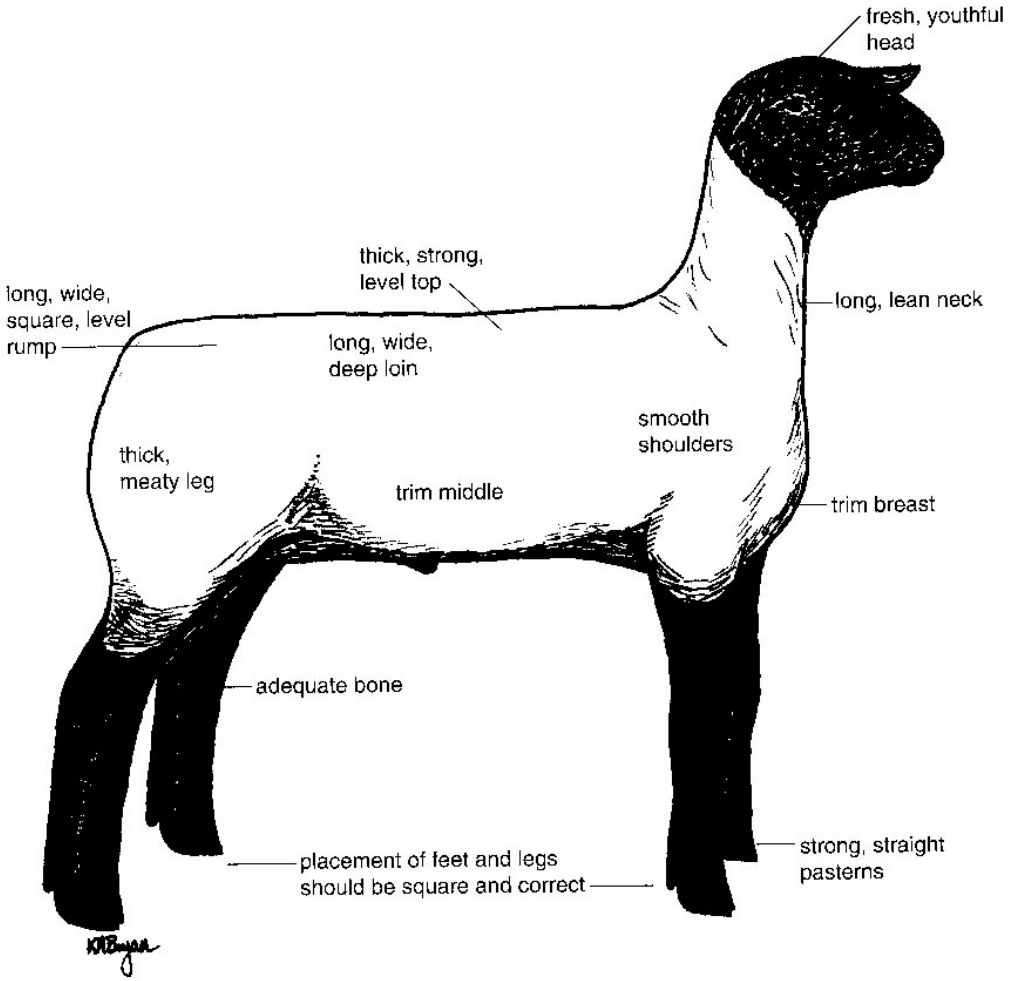
Livestock Judging… Market Lambs and Goats; Breeding Sheep

Cullen D. Tittle
County Extension Agent – ANR
Brazos County

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION


Forehead
Poll
Face
Nose
Muzzle
Top of Shoulder
Back or Rack
Loin
Hips
Rump
Dock
Middle
Shoulder
Twist
Leg
Breast or Brisket
Fore Flank
Belly
Rear Flank
Forearm
Knee
Hock
Cannon
Pastern
Hoof


CHEEK
TONGUE
NECK·SCRAG
ARM CHOP
BLADE CHOP
SHOULDER
CUSHION ROAST
SQUARE CUT
RIB ROAST
RACK
FRENCHED RACK
CROWN ROAST
RIB CHOP
TENDERLOIN
LOIN CHOP
LOIN
NOISETTES
LOIN ROAST
DOUBLE LOIN CHOP
TOP ROUND
CENTER SLIC
SIRLOIN CHOP
LEG
AMERICAN LEG
FRENCH LEG
BREAST
BELLY
FLANK
RIBLET
FORE SHANK
HIND SHANK



	NORMAL RANGE	AVERAGE	IDEAL
Live weight (lb.)	85 - 145	110.0	120.0
Dressing percent	45 - 58	52.0	52.0
Fat thickness (in.)	.05 - .60	.30	.12
Ribeye area (sq. in.)	1.5 - 3.2	2.25	2.80
KP fat percent	1.5 - 6.0	3.5	2.0
Leg score	low Good - high Prime	avg Choice	low Prime

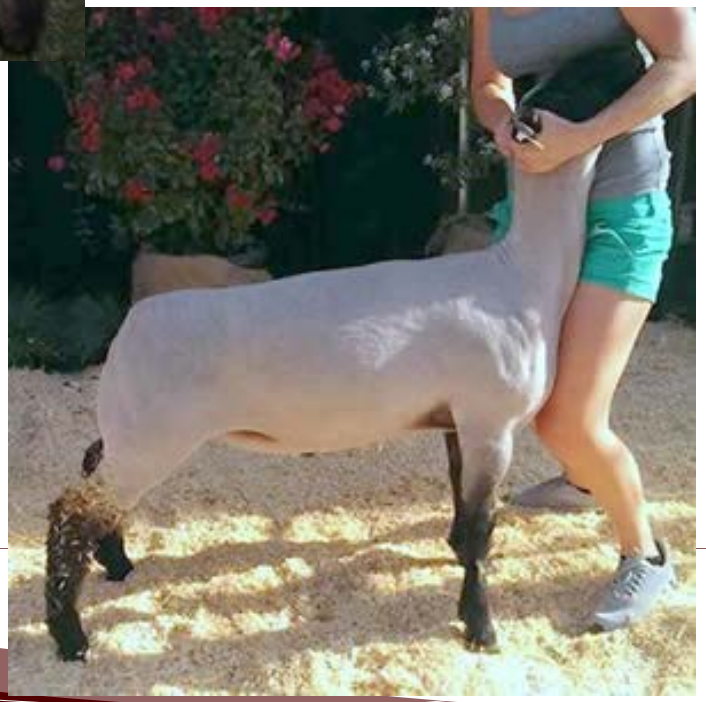
Adapted from *Live Animal Carcass Evaluation and Selection Manual*, 4th edition, 1993, Donald L. Boggs and Robert A. Merkel.

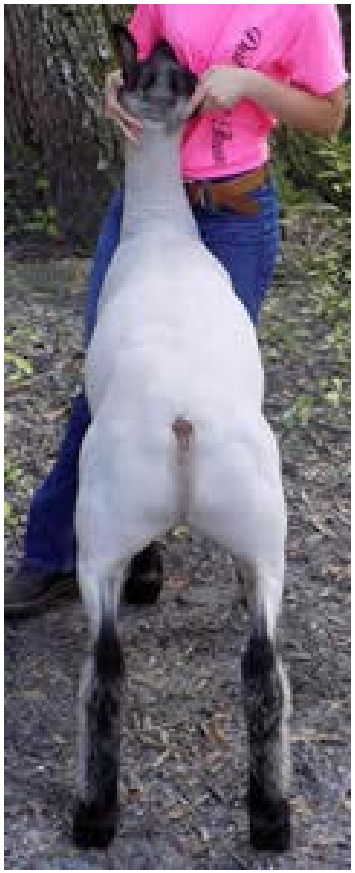
What we're looking for...

- Muscle (**Leg, Loin**, Rack, Shoulder)
  - Quantity
  - Location
- Skeletal correctness (impacts balance and eye appeal)
  - Base width
  - Width between pins; square-wide-long-level hip
  - Rib shape….. ( ) or I I
  - Long-level spine
  - Elevated chest floor
  - Smooth shoulders
- Correct condition or fat cover

SHOW LAMBS

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION





Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

1

2

3

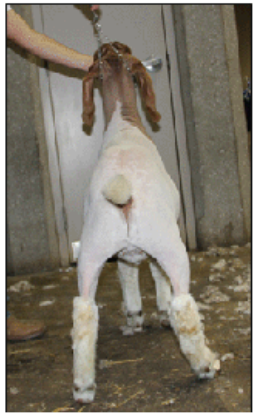
4

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

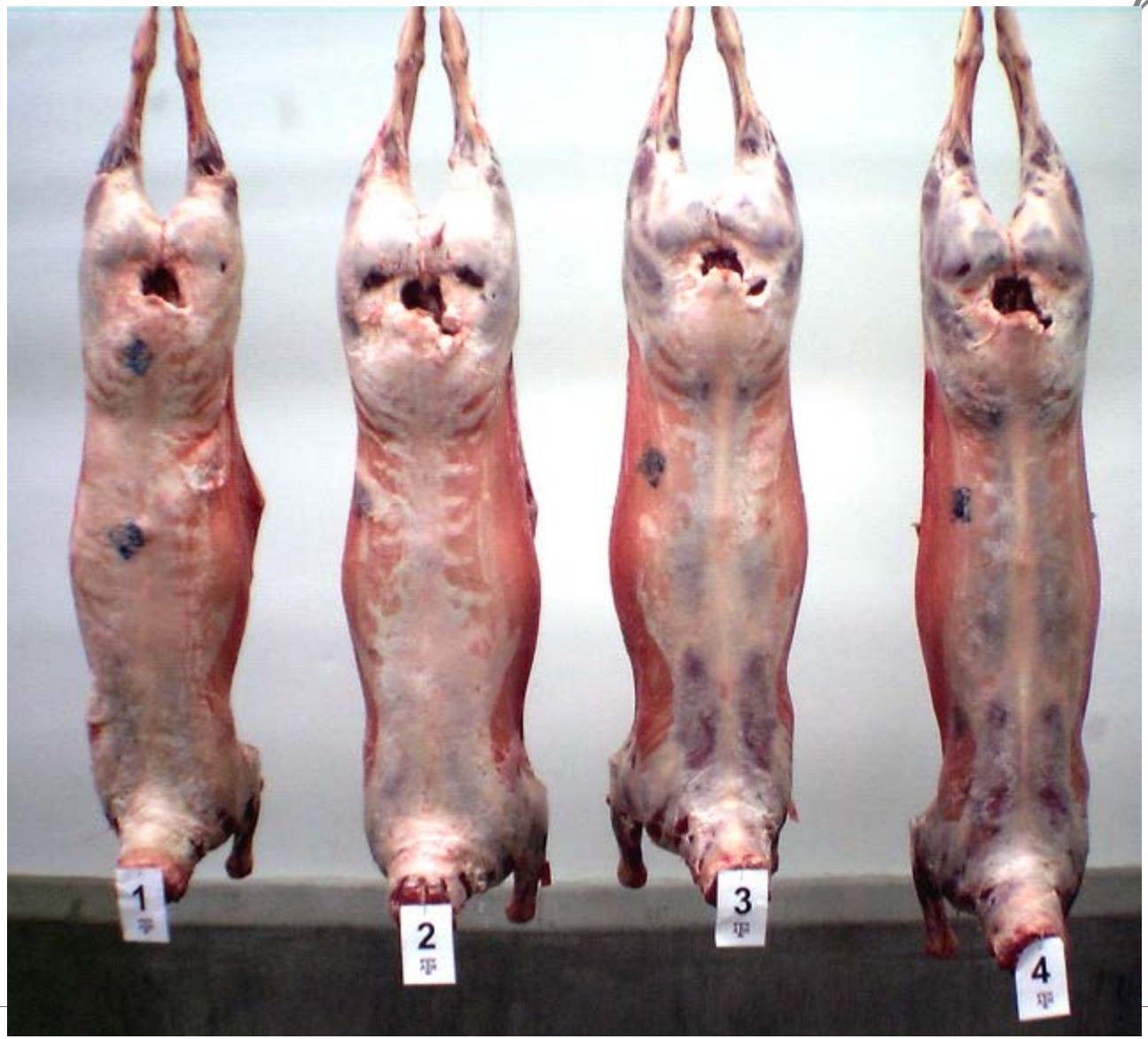
1

2

3



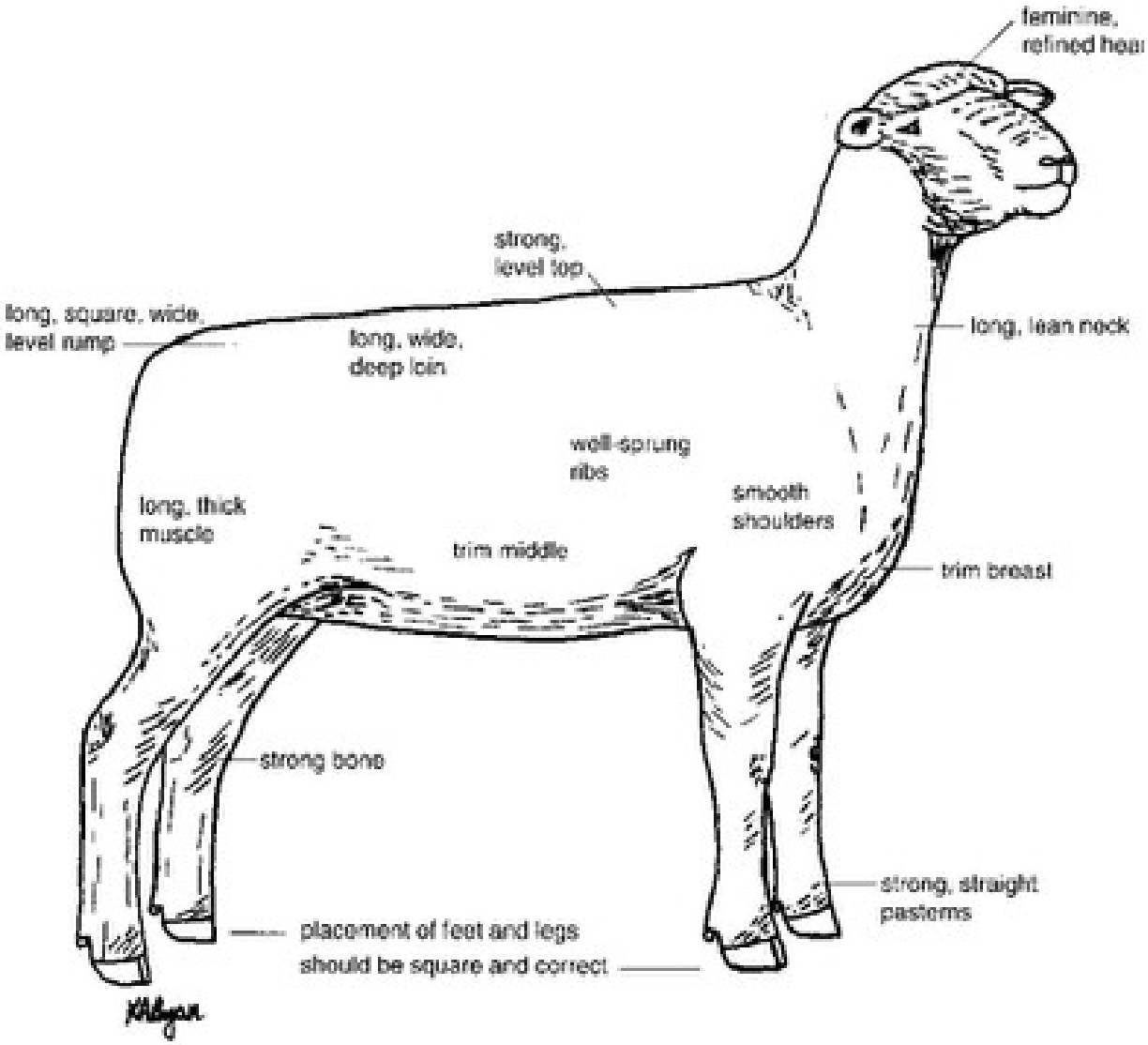
4


1
2
3
4

When evaluating market animals, work from the ground… up; and, from the rear… forward!

Livestock that are wide at the ground are generally wide on top!

Livestock that are wide on top; but, narrow at the ground are usually fat and light muscled!

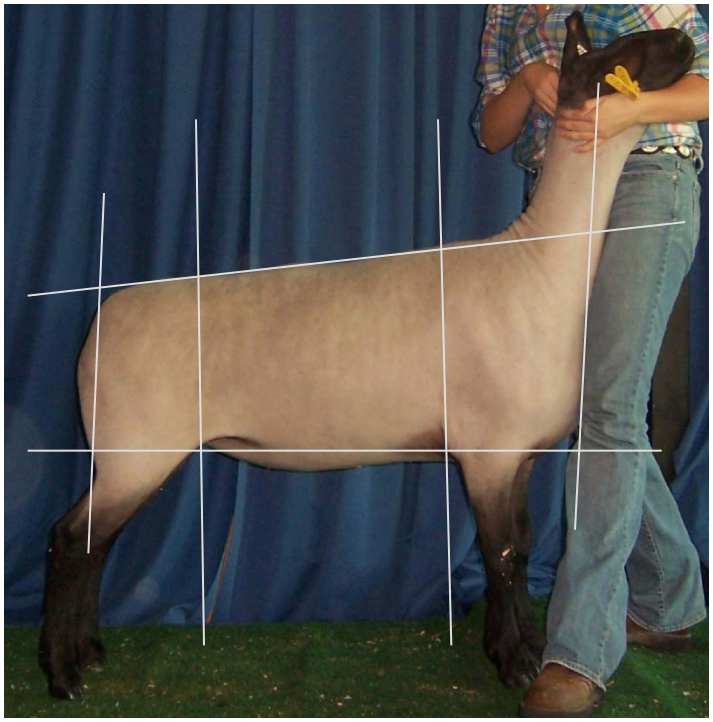

feminine, refined head
strong, level top
long, square, wide level rump
long, wide, deep loin
long, lean neck
well-sprung ribs
smooth shoulders
long, thick muscle
trim middle
trim breast
strong bone
strong, straight pasterns
placement of feet and legs should be square and correct

What we look for...

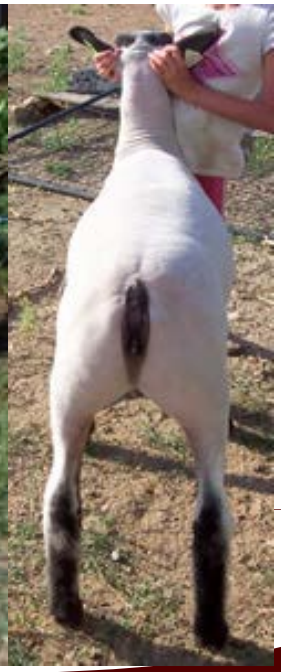
- Skeletal correctness
  - Base width and foot size
  - Width between pins; square-wide-long-level hip
  - Rib shape….. ( ) or I I
  - Long-level spine
  - Elevated chest floor
  - Smooth shoulders
- Growth – Size
- Muscle
  - Quantity, type (long and smooth) and location
- Femininity / Masculinity
- Breed character

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

2014
oYe



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



- Questions?