

on sheep-breeding, some of whom have visited and studied the sheep in Bokhara, are of the opinion that there is no way of knowing how Karakules originated. It is said that the flocks of Karakule sheep in Bokhara present a motley picture of distinct groups of Karakule, Kirgiz, Arabi, Shiraz and Afghan, with Karakule being predominant. The name Arabi often used in connection with Karakule sheep comprises one of these groups, and it is probable that the foundation of the present fur-bearing sheep was the early native Arabi, in conjunction with the small black Danadar sheep, now almost extinct. The Karakule takes its name from Karakul (black lake) a village in the eastern part of the province of Bokhara, about which there are large flocks of these sheep. The area of Bokhara is about 85,000 square miles, and the number of sheep is estimated at from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000, while the average export of lambskins averages about 1,500,000. The skins are collected by dealers and traders and packed into bales for export and are sorted according to quality and uniformity by the dealers.



Karakule ewe and young lamb.

During recent years Persian lamb fur has become very popular, causing a steady advance in the price of the raw skins. In New York imported dyed skins of the first quality sell at from \$12 to \$20 each, while for the lower qualities prices range from 75 cents to \$12. It is said that the average wholesale price of all skins sold at Nijni Novgorod, in Russia (the centre for the sale of Bokhara skins), in 1913 was \$6.25.

The term Karakule applied to this breed is used in a general sense, since it has already been noted that there are a number of groups making up the breed in their native home, Bokhara. Those sheep, however, that have been brought into Canada together with their descendants conform very well to a distinct type, and may be described as follows: They are medium size, with black face and legs. The wool at maturity is grey and very long and coarse. At birth the lambs are almost invariably black, with the tightly-curled fur, which is the desirable feature; as yearlings the wool is still black, but with brownish tint, the following year turning to shades of grey. The rams have large horns curving outwards, while the ewes are polled, although some

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