

Sheep. There are two main purposes for which sheep are kept and two general groups into which they fall. All sheep produce both wool and mutton. The English breeds are the better ones for mutton and are more profitable farm sheep than the Merinos are, but do not produce such fine wool. The Merinos are well adapted to being kept in large bands, and most of the range sheep are Merinos, or are partly of Merino blood. Special mutton sheep and special wool sheep differ in form and appearance somewhat as the beef and dairy types of cattle differ. Mutton sheep are large, square-bodied sheep with well sprung ribs and good fleshing qualities. The special wool sheep are rather small and thin looking. They have sloping or flat ribs and are not well fleshed any place. Those producing the finest wool are quite wrinkly in the skin. Of the English breeds, the Middle-wooled, dark-faced sheep are preferred in the Prairie Provinces. Dense-fleeced sheep do not lose their animal warmth readily, nor does the snow penetrate easily to the skin. They are generally hardy. The classes and breeds are commonly grouped according to the kind of wool they have and are as follows:

Long-wooled Breeds :

Leicester.
Lincoln.

Cotswold.
Romney Marsh.