

Easy Keepers

Navajo-Churro sheep are small, hardy sheep that are good at taking care of themselves. They are grazers and browsers and will stand up on their hind legs to eat leaves from low branches. They make very efficient use of any kind of feed you give them. Navajo-Churro ewes are great mothers that do not need your help at lambing time, and they will stand and fight to protect their lambs from predators. Twins account for 20 to 25 % of births. Navajo-Churro rams are almost always gentle, even with the wildest looking horns.



Excellent mothering skills allow for hands-off shepherding.

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History on the
Hoof.

Navajo-Churro Sheep and Lambs



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Living History



A multi-colored lamb

Navajo-Churro sheep are the direct descendents of the flocks brought to the New World by settlers from Spain in the early 17th century. For more than two hundred years, these sheep were the backbone of territorial New Mexico's economy,

reaching a peak of more than six million animals in the mid 1800's.

When the railroads came to New Mexico, they opened new commercial marketing possibilities and brought in new breeds of sheep. The Churro as it was then known fell from favor with breeders. Stocks were mixed with other breeds, selected for finer wool, and eventually became lost in the genetic background of the Western Finewools.

Small flocks of pure Churro sheep in remote areas of the Navajo Reservation survived. This was partly because of their isolated locations, but mostly because the Navajo had made these little sheep and their unusual double coated fleece the foundation of their weaving tradition. Today they can also be found in small farm flocks around the West, and number less than 3000 animals.

Sheep of Many Colors

The Navajo-Churro is a small, fine boned sheep that carries very little body fat. Ewes typically weigh about 90 pounds, and rams about 150 pounds. Their small size makes them easier and safer to handle in a farm flock setting. They produce very good tasting meat that does not become strong and "muttony" in older animals. Their double-coated fleece, prized by spinners and weavers, truly sets this breed apart.

The RT Davis Flock

We have been breeding Navajo-Churro sheep on our farm next to the Rio Grande in San Pedro for nearly 20 years. Our original stock came from Ingrid Painter's Puddleduck Farm, and USU's Navajo Sheep Project. Our sheep have long, dense, lustrous, double-coated fleeces that grow quickly. We have been selecting for color variation, and we are still getting new colors. They are alert and agile animals with open faces and bare legs. We sell individual animals, and we have put together some very nice small flocks for several buyers. Like all livestock, prices vary as animals vary. We will see that you get the animals you want at a reasonable price.



New lamb crop



This four-horned ram grows a two-toned fleece: long blond outer coat with a brown undercoat.

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