

History

Descended from Gutefår Sheep

It is believed that Gotland sheep are descendants of flocks established on the Swedish island of Gotland during the Viking era. Gotland Island was a thriving trading center for the Vikings who transported sheep during their expeditions.

The northern most tip of Gotland, Faro island, is home to the native breed of Gutefår (Gute sheep), whose bloodlines date back to the Vikings. The modern day Gotland descended from this landrace breed of sheep.



Pälsfår- Modern Gotland Sheep

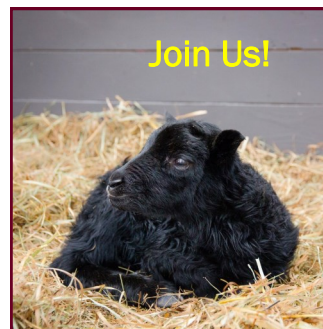
The modern day Gotland fleece is fine, long, lustrous and dense and can be all shades of grey from silver to charcoal grey. GSBANA also allows black, white and brown Gotlands.

They have a clearly defined even curl (purl) and staple that is soft to the touch. Their disposition is docile and friendly. The fleece is typically 29 to 34 microns in diameter. Lambs wool can be in the low to mid 20's microns range.

The fleece is prized in the US by handspinners and felters. In Europe they are most desired for their pelts.

The Association

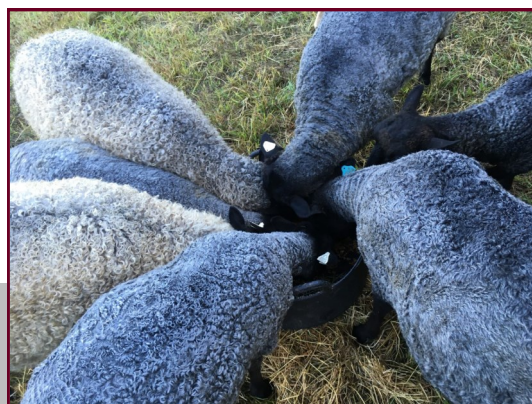
The Gotland Sheep Breeders Association of North American (GSBANA) was founded in 2006.



The purpose of GSBANA is:

- To establish and support the Gotland sheep breed in North America
- To provide education about and to promote Gotland sheep
- To register and keep pedigree records of eligible sheep
- To maintain high standards for Gotland sheep in North America

Become a GSBANA member today.
Visit our website and click on **JOIN GSBANA**.



**GOTLAND SHEEP BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION of NORTH AMERICA**

gsbana.org
gotlandbreeders@gmail.com



***The original Gotland sheep club
dedicated to the development
of the Swedish Gotland Sheep
breed in North America***



gsbana.org

Rare Breed



Gotland sheep are not rare world wide but are new to North America. GSBANA was founded in 2006 to develop Gotland sheep by crossing specific foundation sheep breeds with Gotland sheep genetics through imported semen or natural breeding.

Northern Short-Tailed Breeds

Finnsheep - Icelandic - Shetland

Longwool Breeds

Bluefaced Leicester

Border Leicester - Cotswold

English Leicester - Lincoln

Wensleydale - Teeswater



Inquisitive, friendly and small size make Gotlands a perfect family project.

Multipurpose Breed

Intensive selective breeding in Sweden since the 1920's produced the modern Gotland, famous for its soft and curly pelts. While the pelts were the most notable product from Gotland sheep, Gotlands are a true multi-purpose breed.



- **Gotland wool** - a beautiful, lustrous, long curly fiber excellent for spinning and is a favorite wool for felting.
- **Gotland pelts** - prized world-wide for clothing and home décor.
- **Gotland lambs** - twins, triplets and occasional quads are common with high percentage Gotlands. Ewes produce abundant milk. Lambs are active, quick to nurse and fast growing.
- **Gotland meat** - lambs reaching ideal slaughter at 5-7 months of age. The meat is mild, good flavored and close grained.

Why Gotland Sheep?

- Gotlands are bright, active and friendly. Ewes are easy to lamb, have high lambing rates and strong mothering instincts.
- Their inquisitive personalities make them an entertaining breed to own.
- Gotlands are hardy and adaptable to a variety of environments throughout North America.
- Their size and adaptability makes them an ideal small farm livestock choice.
- Gotland sheep are naturally short tailed and both rams and ewes are naturally polled.



**GOTLAND SHEEP
BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
of NORTH AMERICA**

gsbana.org
gotlandbreeders@gmail.com