

Gotland



HISTORY:

While not everyone agrees on the genetic origins of the Gotland Sheep, they do agree that the breed originated on the Island of Gotland, off the east coast of Sweden in the early 20th century. Today's Gotland sheep belong to the Northern European short-tailed sheep family and are thought to have resulted from breeding the Gute, (native primitive sheep on the island) with the Karakul and the Romanov sheep that the Vikings brought back from Russia.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

Ashland Bay's Gotland Wool is sourced from the Gotland Island in Sweden. Gotland sheep are hardy, medium sized and fine boned. They are hornless and have no wool on their heads or slender legs. They are friendly and docile sheep. The ewes are great mothers and the lambs are very vigorous at birth.

Recently, Gotland sheep received world recognition when the movie Lord of the Rings featured the Magi Elven Cloak, which is made out of Gotland wool.

Fleece Facts:

The fleece, a long luster wool, is noted for its dense clearly defined lustrous curls. The natural colors range from white to almost black, although predominate colors are light silver to almost black. Their pelts are known worldwide and highly sought after for their softness and smooth silky locks. Gotland Wool yarn is shiny, lightweight, durable and has a wonderful drape.

Specifications:

- Micron count- 27 to 33
- Average yield – 75%
- Average fleece weight – 5 ½ -11 lb
- Average staple length – 7”

Notes and Project Ideas:
