



## Jacob

**HISTORY:** *Although the origins of the Jacob sheep are unknown, there is historical documentation of spotted sheep in the Middle East, Far East and Mediterranean from three thousand years ago. These sheep were named after Jacob, a shepherd from the book of Genesis in the Bible, who bred spotted sheep. In England, the Jacob was originally referred to as the Spanish Sheep. Legend has it that the sheep washed ashore from shipwrecks in England after the destruction of the Spanish Armada in 1588*

### Distinguishing Characteristics:

The spotted fleece and impressive horns make the Jacob a very distinctive looking animal. Both the rams and ewes have horns, some have 2 or 4 or occasionally 6 horns. They are small, docile sheep that are prolific breeders and good mothers. Jacob sheep found popularity among the large estates in England as ornamental sheep and did not have much of a commercial value until recently.

### Fleece Facts:

Jacob fleeces are predominantly white with brown, black or lilac (blended color) colored spots. This medium grade fleece is open with very little lanolin. The wool has a springy feel and sought after by fiber enthusiasts for its multiple colors.

### Specifications:

- Micron count: 25 - 35 microns
- Average fleece weight: 3 - 6 lbs
- Average yield: 50 - 65% (the weight of the usable wool after the fleece has been washed)
- Average staple length: 4 - 6"

### Notes and Project Ideas:

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