

## Wool

In the past, ten samples of fleece were tested and found to be 19 to 22 microns, which puts it in the class of cashmere. The "Babydoll" fleece also has more barbs per inch than any other wool types, making it an ideal blend with either Angora rabbit or Angora goat. It is a hand spinner's delight!

## Weeders and Companions

Weeding trials were sponsored and monitored by the association, utilizing "Babydolls" as organic weeders. They have been used with great success in orchards, berry farms, and vineyards as they will not harm the fruits, girdle trunks, or harm shrubs. They leave the grounds well groomed as well as fertilizing as they graze. "Babydolls" are ideal companions for other non-aggressive livestock. Their calm, docile dispositions have a soothing effect on other livestock. I have kept them with miniature donkeys, horses, llamas, alpaca's, goats, cattle and other sheep breeds. They should not be kept with intact male llamas or alpaca's who will attempt breeding with them. It is wise to introduce them gradually to other livestock (separate paddocks at first). Livestock salt blocks must be placed out of reach, as the copper in them is toxic to all sheep breeds. A salt and mineral block made for sheep and goats is available and serves the other livestock as well.

## Availability

A nationwide Breeders list is available on the registry website and lists over 300 members across the U.S. and Canada.

## The Registry

The Old English "Babydoll" Southdown Sheep Registry was founded in 1991, for the preservation of the original breed type by Robert Mock. The registry continues promoting the breed and strives to protect its purity and integrity.

### **Olde English "Babydoll" Sheep Registry**

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Lebanon, MO 65536

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[www.oldeenglishbabydollregistry.com](http://www.oldeenglishbabydollregistry.com)

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## Why everyone loves their "Babydolls"

Because of their short legs, "Babydolls" do well in small areas. They are ideal for suburban lot owners who want the tranquility of sheep as living lawn ornaments. Both ewes and rams are polled (have no horns) and are non-aggressive by nature. They are not wanderers and do not bother fences. The ewes are good mothers, often raising twins and triplets with ease. Rarely do they need assistance when lambing. Because "Babydolls" are an ancient breed, they are not prone to many of the modern sheep problems. They are quite resistant to foot rot. In general, they are cared for like any other sheep which includes worming, hoof trimming, and a variety of vaccines for yearly boosters, tetanus and overeating.

## Return to their Homeland

One of the major goals of the registry was to return the original breed to England where it has been extinct for over 50 years. This goal was accomplished in 1999.

# *OLDE ENGLISH "BABYDOLL" MINIATURE SOUTHDOWN SHEEP*



