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## best breed for me

Posted by Rion - 2009/05/20 16:45

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hi there everyone

I have a 3 acre property but I only got 1 acre to have some sheep as I am only 14 and still living with mum and dad. They have horse so there will be 3-5 horse with them most of the time.

im not looking to show the sheep or anything its more for sending them to the sales or meat works.

what breed would best suit my purpose I was thinking dorpers because of the way they shed and dont need crutching ect.

how many would i be able to have on a acre. i was thinking 3-4 ewes and 1 ram.

any opinions appreciated

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## Re:best breed for me

Posted by Karl Ritar - 2009/05/20 16:59

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Hi Rion,

Glad to see a young bloke having a go at farming activities.

Dorpers are a good choice and so are Wiltipolls. Both are shedding sheep, however dorpers don't shed completely. They normally have some left on their backs, even the pure bred ones. Wiltipolls shed completely. In both cases, if they are not pure bred, they may require shearing, for instance if they are 1st or 2nd crosses. Third cross is usually pretty good.

As for how many, it depends on how much grass you have and how much your horses will leave for the sheep. You didn't say where you live and what kind of pasture you have.

If you need more info - send a reply.

Karl

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## Re:best breed for me

Posted by Rion - 2009/05/20 17:08

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i live in qld about a hour south of brisbane. the horses will be moved for a month or so while i plant rye grass i the paddock and then i will get a round bale or so. hope that helps.

in the paddock at the moment it is just normal pasture grass.

how much would a 3rd cross Wiltipoll ewe be?

cheers

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## Re:best breed for me

Posted by Karl Ritar - 2009/05/20 18:32

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Seems you are getting lots of rain up your way. How about you send some down our way around Mudgee.

If you have a bit of pasture that is reasonable quality, you should be able to run 3 or four sheep all year round. Maybe 1 or 2 more. But you may have to give them a bit of barley or sheep pellets to supplement their diet. Also it helps to keep them quiet and approachable. Do not buy just 1 sheep. They are herd animals and need to have mates. Always keep 3 or more sheep at any given time. I have a Wiltipoll breeder in Qld if you are interested. They may be able to give you a quote on prices. For your situation I would suggest around \$100 per good quality ewe.

Nice to talk to you. Karl

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## Re:best breed for me

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Posted by Rion - 2009/05/21 06:39

Would i be able to get a email to the Wiltipoll breeder in Qld. would luccern hay be good for them i can get a fair bit of that.

I might be able to get this 2 acre property out the front of my house the guy that owns it dosnt use it so i might go see him on the weekend and find out.

what is the average number of lambs do the ewes have?  
i have been told 3 is the max they have.

when are the ewes old enough to breed?

Thank you,  
Rion

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### Re:best breed for me

Posted by Karl Ritar - 2009/05/21 08:01

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Would i be able to get a email to the Wiltipoll breeder in Qld. would luccern hay be good for them i can get a fair bit of that.

The email address for the Qld breeder i:

Lea Johnston,  
jonala@activ8.net.au home  
07 5483 3707 Home  
"Flinders"  
83 Old Coach Lane  
Canina Qld 4570

I might be able to get this 2 acre property out the front of my house the guy that owns it dosnt use it so i might go see him on the weekend and find out.

Sounds good

what is the average number of lambs do the ewes have?  
i have been told 3 is the max they have.

Many ewes have twins and occasionally they have triplets

when are the ewes old enough to breed?

Ewes can be joined as early as 6 months of age. However, Wiltipoll ewes are seasonal breeders. This means that they will become pregnant only in autumn (Feb to May) and lambs will be born in spring ) Aug to October. Dorpers can become pregnant at any time of year.

Regards, Karl

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### Re:best breed for me

Posted by Rion - 2009/05/21 08:19

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i cant seem to get my email to go through to them but i will try again tonight. what is the average whieght of a 12 month old ram?

is roads grass ok for sheep?  
while i am asking what feeds are ok it might be easier to just ask what not to feed them?

thanks,

rion

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## Re:best breed for me

Posted by Dimarlan - 2009/10/02 10:18

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If you are looking for animals to send directly to the works or through the sales, I would suggest buying lambs and feeding them out. Since you have a bit of a space problem. Having to breed the animals takes longer, but is a lot more enjoyable to see your first lambs; as I have just gone through. Very exciting!

Sheep will eat practically anything, its usually a problem of them getting too heavy, especially ewes because they may have trouble lambing.

The weight of a yearling ram varies a bit with the breed and condition, they mature at about 2 years I think. So some may grow quicker than others.

I'm glad someone else who is younger is having a go at this, I am fifteen years old and am having a ball with my Wiltipoll stud :D

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## Re:best breed for me

Posted by Karl Ritar - 2009/11/12 10:16

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Its encouraging to see some young people breeding they terrific breed of sheep. Keep up the good work.

These have to be THE EASY CARE SHEEP. They are never a problem if handled every now and then. I give mine a small amount of barley almost daily just to make them approachable and to keep a check on their health.

Check out the Sale/Show that Wiltipolls NSW will be holding in Mudgee on the 6th Feb 2010. Details are under the Events listing

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## Re:best breed for me

Posted by Dimarlan - 2009/11/14 22:42

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All of our sheep (wiltipolls, dorpers and wiltshires) are all great to handle, we are starting to cull out the wiltshires - I getting sick of being stabbed in the guts when we mark them! They are all very easy to handle, and quieten down easily when food is involved.