



Cotswold ewe,
Mistress Quickly,
Woolhalla Tunis

What is the Conservation Priority List?

Various categories of animals are grouped by The Livestock Conservancy according to the degree of threat to their extinction. These categories include **Study**, **Recovering**, **Watch**, **Threatened**, and **Critical**.

Why is protection necessary?

Industrial farms today rely on only a very few specialized breeds of livestock, and valuable genetic diversity is in danger of being lost forever. Within the last 15 years, at least 190 breeds of farm animals worldwide have become extinct, and another 1,500 are at risk.

Some statistics say that while there are around 100 breeds of sheep in the US, at the present time about 60% of total population are of four breeds: Merino, Rambouillet, Hampshire, and Suffolk, and probably 40% are Suffolk. It is possible that a fast moving breed-specific virus or bacteria could decimate an entire species of livestock. Maintaining genetic diversity means breeds are better able to withstand disease, harsh environmental conditions, and to forage naturally. Diversity can also showcase specifics of the breed such as docility, fecundity, or with sheep, focus on wool characteristics such as length, luster, touch, or strength. Not all qualities are found in a single breed.

What Sheep Breeds Are on the Priority List?

Study: none

Recovering: Shetland, Southdown

Watch: *Barbados Blackbelly*, Oxford, Shropshire, Tunis, *Wiltshire Horn*

Threatened: Black Welsh Mountain, Clun Forest, Cotswold, Dorset Horn, **Jacob-American**, **Karakul-American**, Leicester Longwool, Lincoln, Navajo Churro, Romeldale/CVM, **St. Croix**

Critical: Florida Cracker, Gulf Coast or Gulf Coast Native, Hog Island, Santa Cruz

* breeds found only in the US are shown in **boldface**.

hair breeds are shown in *boldface italics***



(left) **Karakul** ram, Levi,
Flying Colors Fiber Ranch

(right) **Navajo Churro**
ewe, Sister Rosa,
Cunnington Farms



How You Can Participate



- Sign up through The Livestock Conservancy website, or contact Tempe Yarn and Fiber, or Woolhalla Tunis for help or further information.
- Purchase fiber products of at least 4 oz from sheep breeds on the Priority List at left.
- Create amazing projects!!
- Know that you are doing your part to give rare breeds a job to do and help insure their survival.

Here is how

Tempe Yarn and Woolhalla Tunis will support your participation

- Over the course of the SE2 2019 Initiative, we pledge to make available at least 15 of the 19 fiber sheep listed on the Priority List; some will be as roving, some as yarn, and some as both.
- We pledge that these fibers are sourced from small farms, and **directly** support the shepherd and sheep – no middle marketing!
- We pledge that price for these fibers will be as close to our current prices as possible. Some will cost a little more as they are hard to source from small USA farms at prices fair to farmers/shepherds.
- We pledge that a portion of each fiber sale will be donated to support rare breed sheep.

**We hope “ewe” will join us
in this conservation effort!**

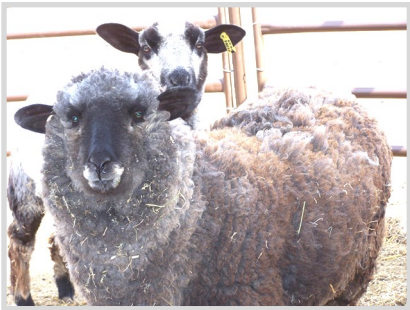
What is Shave 'Em to Save 'Em?

Shorthanded to SE2SE, Livestock Conservancy's website describes this new initiative as:

"... a program to reward fiber artists for working with wool from breeds on the Conservation Priority List while connecting shepherds of heritage breeds with customers.

When fiber artists register (through the website) they will receive a passport that includes a page of information for each breed. Each page will also include space to put a stamp after they purchase wool from a particular breed. There will be a Facebook group and a Ravelry group to share pictures of projects. As fiber artists work their way through the breeds, they will receive prizes for completing projects and reaching various landmarks.

The Livestock Conservancy has long said that the way to save endangered breeds of livestock is to give them a job. In the case of wool sheep, we need to start using their wool again. Because of marketing challenges, some



*CVM ewes, Coco and Frenchie,
Cunnington Farms*

shepherds discard or compost the wool after their annual shearing rather than cleaning it and selling it. In addition to encouraging fiber artists to try using rare wools, the program will also educate shepherds about how to prepare their wool for sale and how to reach customers and fiber artists, thereby making it more profitable to raise heritage breeds.



Woolhalla Tunis, a registered flock

from

The Farm at the End of the Road

Queen Creek, Arizona

602-938-8572

aztunis.com

@aztunis via Instagram

All photos of Tunis sheep are from our own flock

Steve and Sonja Pyne, owners



Woolhalla Tunis



locally sourced fiber
and the

Shave 'Em to Save 'Em

2019—2022

Initiative

from

