

COAT COLORS IN THE SHORTHORN BREED

The Canadian Shorthorn Association recognizes the following color choices for purebred and appendix Shorthorns:

RED • RED & WHITE • RED with WHITE MARKINGS • ROAN • WHITE

Below are descriptions and examples of colors for each of the above and tips for choosing the color designation for your animal. In some instances an animal's color combination may make the color choice difficult (eg; is it red & white or red with white markings?) and in those instances simply choose the one that you feel is the most representative. Note: occasionally a black nose will appear on an otherwise Shorthorn colored animal and in that case, it can be ignored.

1) **RED:** in addition to SOLID RED, this color choice also includes a RED animal with very small amounts of white such as: in the switch or a small white forehead star or a thin, white underline or a couple of small white spots on the belly. Any white marks above the underline (except forehead stars and switch) would classify the animals as Red with White Markings.



Thin white underline



Small white forehead star

2) **RED & WHITE:** the animal is between 50/50 and 25/75 RED and WHITE; either fairly evenly both colors or with substantial RED patches on WHITE or, vice versa, substantial WHITE patches on RED. Patches may occur anywhere on the body, legs, tail and/or head, leaving the animal somewhat splotchy looking.



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3) **RED with WHITE MARKINGS:** the animal is predominantly RED (more than 75%) with WHITE MARKS on the body, face, legs and/or tail which often look like random slashes or spots; included would be wide white underlines, an all white udder, white feet or lower white legs.



RED with WHITE markings

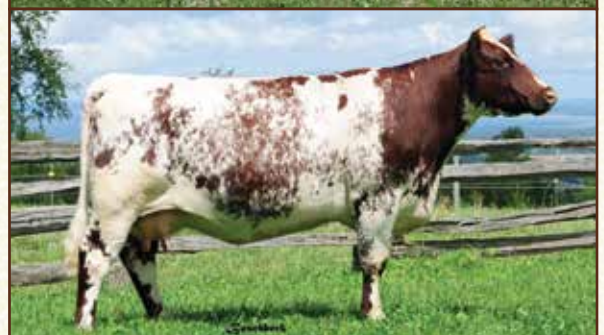
Wide, white underline & udder

4) **ROAN:** there are many variations of the roan color which is distinguishable by the unique white and red hair mixture found over all or a portion of the body. It is this red/white hair mix which makes the animal a "roan" although the amount of that color mixture will vary greatly from roan to roan. Animals with any amount of roan coloring may be called a roan. For purposes of CSA color designation, all types of roans are simply called ROAN.

- * Light roans have more white hairs than red in the mixture and often also have solid white areas on the body.
- * Red roans (sometimes referred to as dark roans) have more red hairs than white in the mixture and at a distance they may occasionally appear red; white underlines and tails may also occur.
- * Red neck roans have a red head, neck and some shoulder area with the remainder of the animal showing noticeable areas of mixed red and white hairs; as well there may be additional solid white or red areas on the body.



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5) **WHITE:** the animal is solid white; there may be small areas of reddish hair, but NOT BLACK, in the ears or around the eyes or nostrils; these are most often seen in young calves.



Reddish hairs in ears, around nose & eyes
