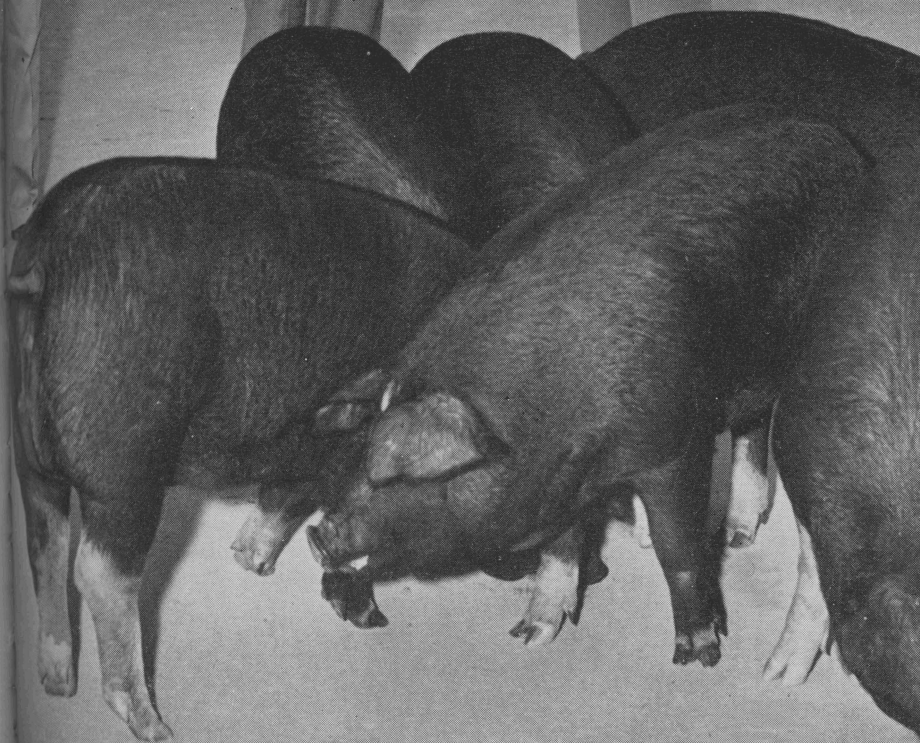


# Selecting Hogs

LIBRARY  
COLLEGE OF TEXAS



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

G. G. GIBSON, DIRECTOR, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

22  
3

[Blank Page in Original Bulletin]

# Selecting Hogs

E. M. REGENBRECHT, *Extension Swine Husbandman*  
Texas A. & M. College System

JUDGING LIVESTOCK is an art acquired through learning and practice. The first essential is a knowledge of what the ideal or standard type animal should look like. Learning to make accurate observations and passing good judgment on these may lead to success.

## *Locations of Points of a Hog*

A good judge can always support his judgment with reasons. In judging swine, the judge must know the various parts of a hog, and be able to use the terms which best describe them. The various breeds of hogs have different characteristics which identify them with their breed. These characteristics can be learned by studying hogs and pictures of hogs, typical of the various breeds.

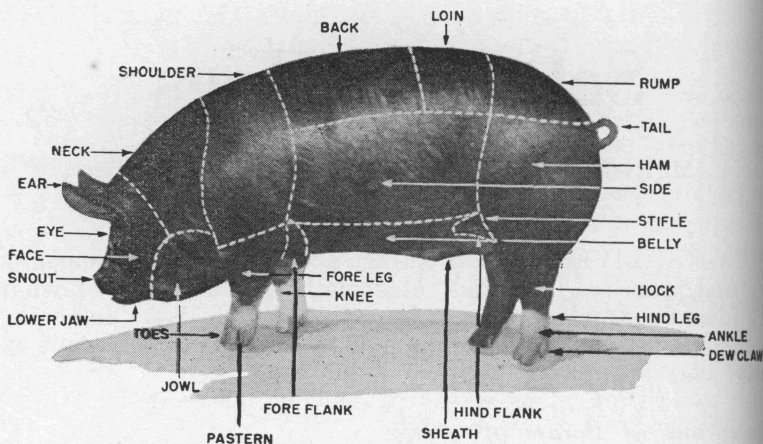
## *Market Hogs*

The purpose for which the hog is to be used must be kept in mind while judging. The fat barrow for market should meet the standard market weight requirements (180 to 270 lb.). The type desired will have length, depth, uniform thickness, with plump, firm hams, straight, smooth sides, trim underline and light jowl. The finish will be firm and uniform over the body, not excessively lardy or soft.

## *Breeding Hogs*

Breeding hogs are judged for their ability to produce the right kind of market hogs efficiently. Brood sows and boars should not be as fat as barrows; yet in good, strong flesh. Young breeding hogs, when not excessively fat, always appear more leggy and more shallow bodied than the same hogs would appear if they were carrying more fat. Therefore, gilts and young boars should not be discriminated against too severely if they appear slightly leggy and shallow of body.

Good boars and sows are growthy or large for their age, and are smooth and free from wrinkles. Look for legs that



*Points of a Berkshire hog*

are sound and straight, and pasterns that are short and strong.

Sex characteristics are important in selecting breeding hogs. Sows and boars should have a large number of well-developed teats evenly spaced. Sows should have feminine heads, and boars should have masculine heads. Boars should always have two testicles of uniform size.

### *Points To Consider in Judging Swine*

**General Appearance:** Strong back of medium width and uniform arch; long, deep and smooth sides; deep heartgirth and full flanks; deep, full hams with short shanks; smooth shoulders of uniform width; trim underline; smooth and light jowl; short neck; and sound well-placed feet and legs.

#### **Form**

1. **Head and Neck**—broad, clean cut head, large prominent eyes, wide forehead, medium-size ears, trim and smooth jowl and cheeks and a medium short, well-developed snout. Neck of medium length should blend in smoothly with shoulders. In breeding classes, breed characteristics should be considered in setting of ears and type of head.

2. **Shoulders**—smooth, deep, smoothly covered with firm flesh and of same width and depth as the rest of the body.

3. **Back and Loin**—medium wide, long, strong and uniformly arched, firm and smoothly fleshed, loin not pinched.

4. Sides—long, deep, full at flanks, thickly and firmly fleshed and free from creases and wrinkles.

5. Belly—trim, straight—not flabby. In breeding gilts, sows and boars there should be six pairs of well-placed, prominent teats.

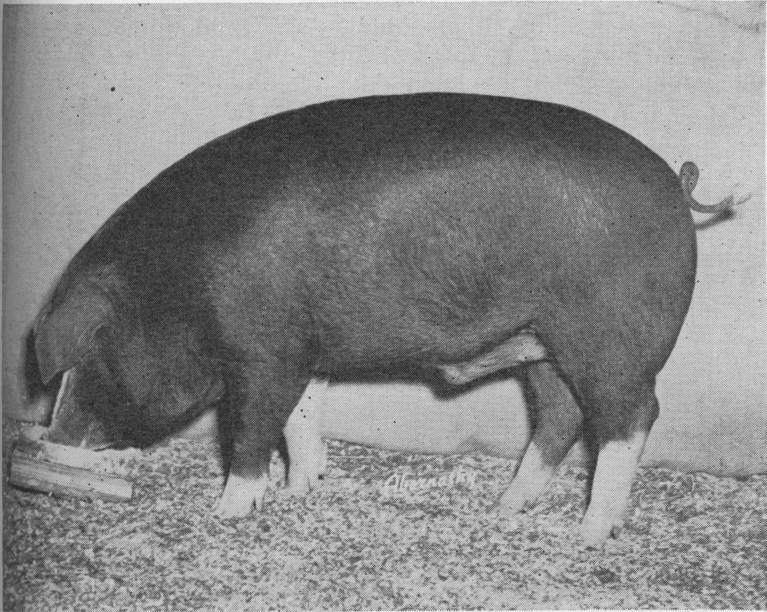
6. Rump—uniformly wide, long, and with a high tail setting.

7. Ham—large, deep, full, wide, carrying down to hock, not flabby or wrinkled.

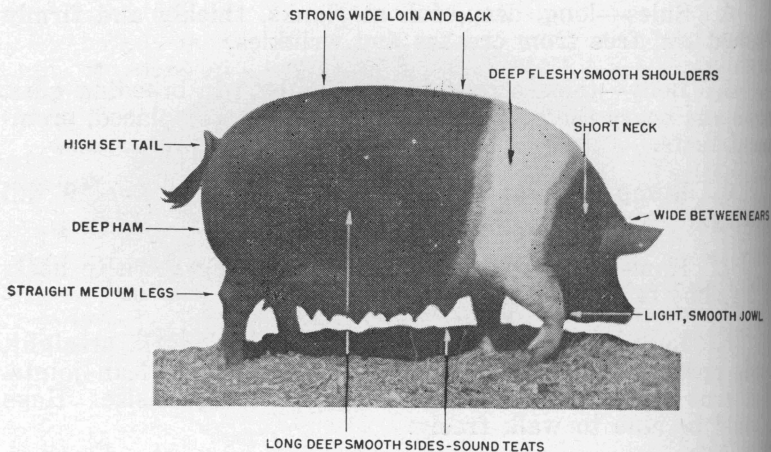
8. Legs and Feet — legs of moderate length, straight, wide apart, set on corners of body, ample bone, clean joints. Pasterns upright, toes not spreading and of equal size. Hogs should be able to walk freely.

#### Finish

Deep finish, uniformly and firmly laid over entire body. A fat back, 1½" to 2" thick is most desirable. Overly fat, lardy hogs are undesirable. Breeding hogs need to be fleshed enough to show essential features to best advantage.



*A desirable Poland China barrow*



Courtesy of American Hampshire Herdsmen

*A desirable Hampshire sow*

### **Quality**

Free from wrinkles and flabbiness; refined hair, bone and head.

### **Dressing Percentage**

High degree of finish, quality and trim middle result in high dressing percentage. Fat hogs only are judged for dressing percentage.

### **Balance**

Harmonious and symmetrical unity of all parts.

### **Breed and Sex Character**

Indicated by clean-cut head and stylish action. Color markings, setting of ears, and head type distinctly in conformity with the specific characteristics of the breed represented by the individual. Boars should be masculine; gilts and sows should be feminine; and barrows should not be staggy.

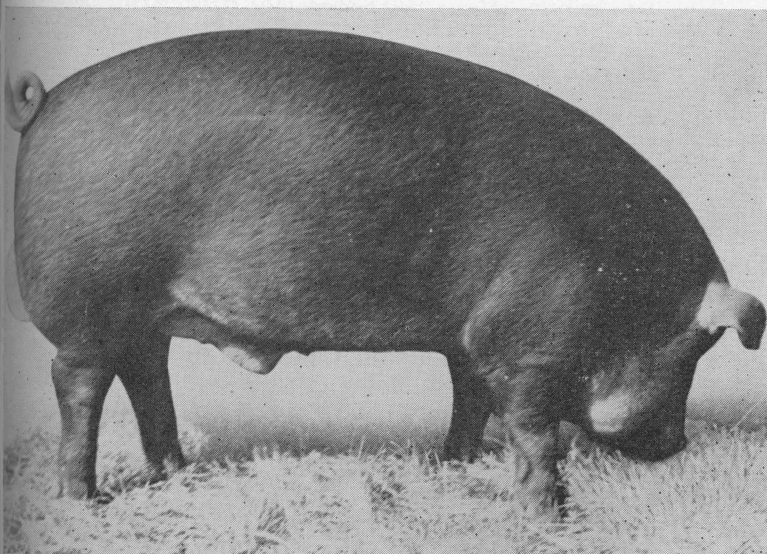
### ***Judging Contest Procedure***

In judging contests, a definite procedure is followed. Four animals usually constitute a class. These animals are designated by bars across the back. That is, an animal having one bar across his back is No. 1; two bars, No. 2, etc. The contestant places the animals in order of their merit. Fifteen or 20 minutes are allowed the contestant to view and examine the animals and to make placings. Notes should be taken on reason classes.

In judging hogs, stand at a distance of 10 to 20 feet from the animals and study the forms of the various individuals carefully. It is not the detailed description of each hog, but the comparison of the parts of the various hogs, that determines the placing. Stand at such a distance that the comparison of size, length, depth, and width of bodies and length and straightness of legs can be made. Watch the hogs walk and note how they handle their bodies and legs. Some hogs show their defects most clearly while standing, while others show them most clearly when walking. After a few minutes observation from a distance, approach the hogs and note those parts that cannot be seen accurately from a distance.

### *Give Definite Reasons*

Contestants are required to give their reasons for their placing to the judge within several hours after the placings have been made. Reasons are as important as placings. Be sure there are several definite and clear reasons for each placing. Reasons need not be long and numerous; on the other hand, they should be definite, concise and to the point. Above all, reasons should show that the contestants made accurate observations and proper evaluations.



Courtesy of the Duroc Record Association

*A Duroc boar*

## EVALUATION OF DEFECTS IN JUDGING BREEDING AND MARKET HOGS

DEFECTS	BREEDING HOGS	MARKET HOGS
<i>I. Head and Neck</i>		
1. Blindness	Serious	Slight
2. Ears obstructing vision	Serious	Slight
3. Long narrow head	Serious	Slight
4. Long neck	Serious	Serious
5. Heavy jowl	Serious	Serious
<i>II. Feet and Legs</i>		
1. Weak, long pasterns	Serious	Slight
2. Marked lameness (permanent)	Serious	Slight
3. Slight lameness (temporary)	Slight	Slight
4. Swollen joints or knots on knee	Serious	Slight
5. Crooked legs	Serious	Slight
<i>III. Body</i>		
1. Low back	Serious	Slight
2. Pinched loin	Serious	Slight to serious
3. Steep rump	Serious	Serious
4. High flank	Serious	Serious
<i>IV. Sexual Characteristics</i>		
1. Boar showing but one testicle	Serious	
2. Boar with abnormal size testicle	Serious	
3. Boars or gilts with one teat apparently inverted	Slight	
4. Boars or gilts with several teats apparently inverted	Very serious	
5. Sows 18-months-old showing not to have suckled pigs	Serious	
6. Blind teats	Serious	
7. Irregular spacing of teats	Serious	
<i>V. Color and Hair Coat</i>		
1. Hair color not according to breed standards	Serious	None to slight
2. Swirls	Very serious	None to slight
3. Curly hair	Serious	Slight to serious
4. Color markings not according to breed standards	Serious	Slight
<i>VI. Miscellaneous</i>		
1. Undersize for age	Slight to serious	Slight
2. Rupture or hernia	Very serious	Serious
3. Too fat	Slight to serious	Slight to serious
4. Blemishes not affecting usefulness	Slight	None



## **Breed Association Requirements for Registration**

The following information is printed from rules and regulations issued by the various record associations governing registration.

### **American Berkshire Association**

"To be eligible for record, the general color of a Berkshire shall be black with white points, appearing on nose, feet and tail; any of these points may be missing or an occasional splash of white may appear on the body of the animal. At no time shall there be more than 10 percent white on any hog."

### **The Chester White Swine Record Association**

The following disqualifications are listed for this breed:

1. Not two-thirds big enough for age.
2. Upright ears.
3. Swirls above flanks.
4. Off-colored hair.
5. Cryptorchidism (ridgling) in males.
6. Hernia in males or females.

### **United Duroc Record Association**

"No Duroc with distinct white or black spots; or with a swirl on top part of the body or neck; or with white markings on feet and legs, is eligible for record. Objectionable points: curly hair, extreme dark red (bordering on black) hair or skin, or extreme light yellow color; coarse heavy ear that hinders eyesight or a stiff, erect ear; or one or more inverted teats, or a blood wart, or ridgling."

### **Hampshire Swine Registry**

"Any breeding animal showing any one or more of the following disqualifications is not eligible to win a prize, and judges should act accordingly."

1. Any white on the head other than front of the snout.
2. White on hind legs higher than bottom of ham.
3. More than two-thirds of body white.
4. Solid black.
5. White from belt running back on underline to meet white on hind quarters.
6. An incomplete belt.
7. One or both front legs black.
8. A swirl.
9. A boar with one testicle.

10. More than two-thirds under size.
11. Any animal showing signs of having been tampered with in any way to conceal faults of conformation or color markings.

### **The Poland China Record Association**

The Poland China Record Association lists a "swirl in hair" as a disqualification.

### **The National Spotted Poland China Record**

The National Spotted Poland China Record lists the following disqualifications:

**Form:** small upright ears, small cramped feet, broken-down feet or deformed in any way.

**Size:** Very small, not over half the size given in the standard.

**Color:** Brown or sandy spots. Less than 20 percent white on the body, or more than 80 percent white, score less than 60 points.

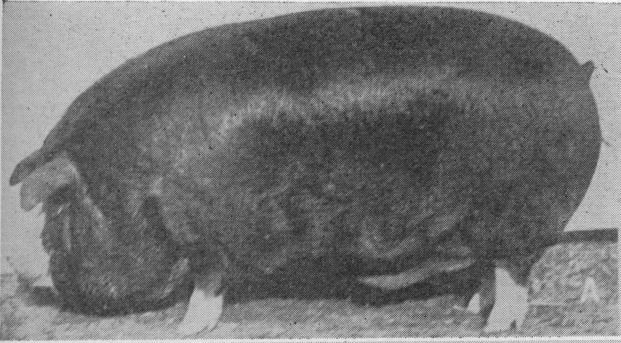
**Condition:** Seriously diseased, bareness or blindness.

Sow with swirl may be recorded, but not shown or sold in public sale.

Boar with swirl disqualified for registration.

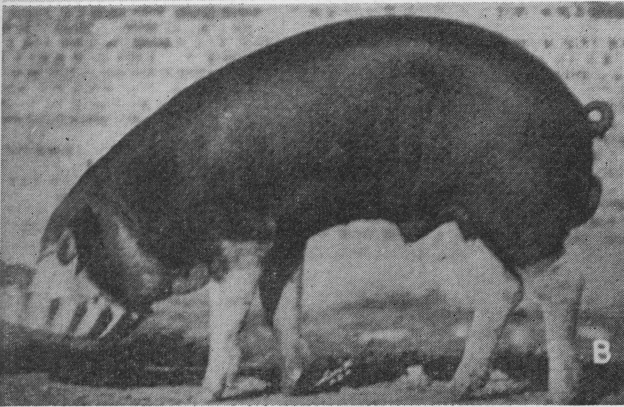
# Swine Type

Type



**Short  
Lardy**

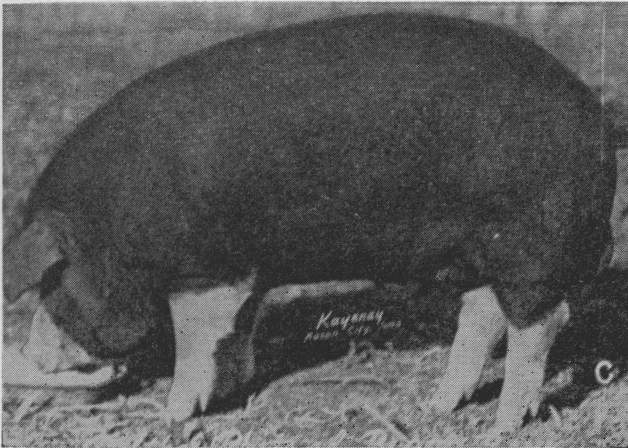
Type



**Long Legs  
Shallow Body  
Hard Feeding**

able

pe



**Well-Balanced  
High Cut-Out  
Value**

*Have You Met . . . . .*



. . . . . YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS?  
If not, drop by to see them soon. They represent both the United States Department of Agriculture and The Texas A. & M. College System in your county and they can furnish the latest information on farming, ranching and homemaking.

Most county extension agents have their offices in the county courthouse or agriculture building. Get to know them and take advantage of their services.

This publication is one of many prepared by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service to present up-to-date, authoritative information, based on results of research. Extension publications are available from your local agents or from the Agricultural Information Office, College Station, Texas.

---

Cooperation Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, The Texas A. & M. College System and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914.