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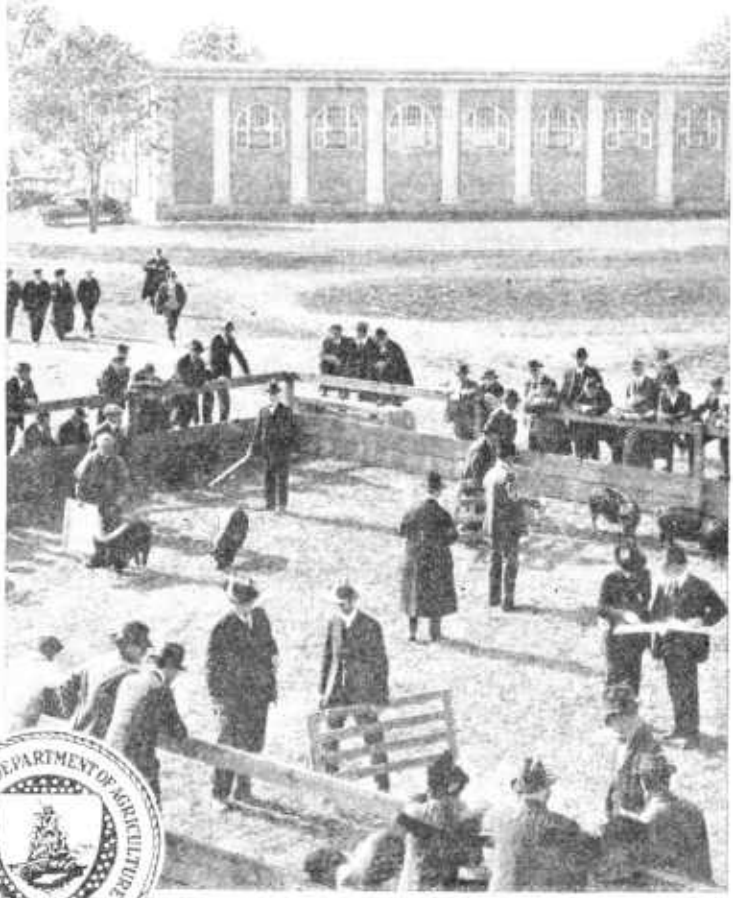
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FITTING, SHOWING, AND JUDGING HOGS



THE SELECTION of high-class animals for the breeding herd improves opportunities for profit in the hog business.

A study of the score card enables an experienced person to evaluate external characteristics of the hog. Constructive selection of breeding stock should be based not only on a combination of desirable external characteristics but also upon the animal's proved ability as a breeder.

Fairs and livestock shows offer opportunities for breeders to observe the conformation, type, and breeding ability of strains as demonstrated particularly by get of sire, produce of dam, and herd classes within the various breeds.

The selection and breeding of superior strains of hogs should work to advantage for both the producer and the consumer.

The following pages contain a discussion of these subjects, which, with the illustrations, should be valuable both to the exhibitor and to persons selling hogs for slaughter.

FITTING, SHOWING, AND JUDGING HOGS

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ENTERING HOGS FOR EXHIBITION

ABOUT 2 or 3 months in advance of the opening date, application for a premium list should be made to the secretary of the fair at which it is desired to exhibit. All rules, regulations, and conditions, including information regarding switching charges, draying, pen rent, etc., are printed in the premium lists and should be studied carefully. Dates on which the entries close should be carefully noted and all entries made before that time. The principal hog shows are held between August 15 and December 1.

The fact is well recognized that best results are obtained in swine production when the best animals are used for breeding purposes. Fairs and expositions are recognized as places where one may obtain up-to-date information on the characteristics of the best animals. Breeders follow the practice of showing their animals at livestock shows for the purpose of advertising and selling their surplus. Naturally the right individuals should be selected for show purposes, and they should be properly fitted.

The successful showman acquires the knowledge of how to select and properly fit an animal by experience. Since there is a wide difference in the ability of individual animals to take on flesh, in their habits, and in the general surroundings under which they are fed and fitted, it is impossible, in a bulletin of this kind, to give specific instructions that will apply in all cases. Some general rules, however, are applicable, and this bulletin is intended to assist inexperienced persons in fitting. It is not necessary to produce excessively fat animals for the show ring, thus making them practically worthless as breeding animals. Hogs in good show condition should be active and alert and should fully display all their qualities. They should not be fat to the extent of being logy, not should the flesh be "patchy" and the body wrinkled; on the other hand, they must not be too thin to show to the best possible advantage.

There are practically three different groups of hogs which ordinarily are exhibited: Pigs, including both fall and spring farrow; sows, ranging in ages from junior yearlings up; and boars of like ages.

¹ Mr. Russell retired January 1, 1937. Slightly revised by J. H. Zeller, senior animal husbandman.

DEFINITIONS OF AGES AND CLASSES

BREEDING ANIMALS

The usual classification of hogs in premium lists of fairs and shows is: Junior pigs, senior pigs, junior yearlings, senior yearlings, aged animals, junior champion, senior champion, grand champion, reserve junior champion, reserve senior champion, and reserve grand champion. There are also group classes, including the young herd, young herd bred by exhibitor, aged herd, aged herd bred by exhibitor, get of sire, and produce of dam.

A junior pig is one farrowed March 1, or after, of the year the show takes place. A senior pig is one farrowed between September 1 of the year prior to the show and March 1 of the year of the show. A junior yearling is one farrowed between March 1 and September 1 of the year prior to the show. A senior yearling is one farrowed between September 1 of the second year prior to the show and March 1 of the year prior to the show. An aged animal is one farrowed before September 1 of the second year prior to the show.

The animals eligible to show for the junior champion are the first-prize junior and the first-prize senior pigs. Those eligible to show for the senior champion are the first-prize junior yearling, the first-prize senior yearling, and the first-prize aged animal. Those eligible to show for the grand champion are the junior champion and the senior champion.

Those eligible to show for reserve junior champion are the first-prize animal defeated as junior champion and the second-prize animal in the class from which the junior champion was selected. Those eligible to show for reserve senior champion are the two first-prize animals defeated as senior champion and the second-prize animal in the class from which the senior champion was selected. Those eligible to show for reserve grand champion are the animal defeated for grand champion and the animal or animals in the class from which the grand champion was selected.

The young herd consists of a boar and three sows that are eligible to show in either the junior or the senior pig class. The herd may contain both junior and senior pigs. The young herd bred by the exhibitor is the same as the young herd, except that the animals shown in this group must have been bred by the exhibitor or (as provided in most classifications) farrowed the property of the exhibitor.

The aged herd consists of a boar and three sows eligible to show in the junior yearling, the senior yearling, or the aged class. It may contain animals from one or all of these three classes. The aged herd bred by the exhibitor is the same as the aged herd, except that the animals must be bred by or (as provided in most classifications) farrowed the property of the exhibitor.

The get of sire consists of four animals of any age of either or both sexes, the get of the same sire. Most premium lists provide that all animals in this class must be owned by the exhibitor, but some shows permit ownership to be by different persons.

The produce of dam consists of four animals of any age of either or both sexes, the produce of the same sow. Some premium lists require that the produce of the dam be of the same litter. Almost all require that the animals shown be owned by the exhibitor.

BARROWS.

The market-type barrow show acts as a close check on the type being selected in the breeding classes. It provides farmers, breeders, and feeders with an opportunity to study the type of hog most in demand on the market. The classification for barrows differs from that of the breeding classes in that most fairs and expositions have classifications for weights instead of ages. A person expecting to exhibit barrows should get advance information regarding the classification at the particular place where he expects to show in order properly to select and fit animals for that fair.

DESIRABLE WEIGHTS FOR SHOW ANIMALS

The most desirable weights for show animals of the different classes vary considerably with breeds and the individual animal. Table 1 gives averages of the actual weights taken at the National Swine Show for the period 1934-39, of the various classes and breeds. The figures show averages of the highest and lowest, also the weighted average of all the premium winners in each class and breed. Reference to this table should be of considerable assistance in determining the best weight at which an animal should be exhibited.

TABLE 1.—Average weights of premium-winning swine of the various classes and breeds at the National Swine Show, 1934-39

Class	Berkshire	Chester White	Duroc Jersey	Hampshire	Poland China	Spotted Poland China	Tamworth	Yorkshire
Aged boars:	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
High	880	963	1,094	880	1,097	1,063	803	803
Low	684	733	830	683	834	797	491	642
Average	777	827	960	771	973	906	644	697
Senior yearling boars:								
High	777	798	971	718	902	907	640	655
Low	554	575	777	529	703	663	444	535
Average	679	679	866	610	811	796	533	595
Junior yearling boars:								
High	665	718	891	612	806	775	489	556
Low	497	455	703	485	648	571	391	462
Average	562	582	802	544	721	667	429	497
Senior boar pigs:								
High	508	470	610	459	543	538	363	455
Low	301	308	434	337	349	333	240	335
Average	414	373	533	392	463	461	289	386
Junior boar pigs:								
High	204	195	244	188	217	205	158	185
Low	151	149	178	137	172	163	124	153
Average	178	174	209	163	194	183	136	165
Aged sows:								
High	778	836	947	788	868	928	645	714
Low	615	642	729	618	749	692	501	571
Average	688	743	841	702	805	807	585	626
Senior yearling sows:								
High	671	688	838	610	804	818	596	635
Low	527	553	704	529	618	618	488	515
Average	604	613	767	567	704	715	548	571
Junior yearling sows:								
High	612	612	752	566	695	696	471	595
Low	468	487	603	464	562	572	364	455
Average	546	540	675	512	614	633	429	518
Senior sow pigs:								
High	488	453	566	408	510	536	415	454
Low	329	336	433	323	389	403	253	325
Average	411	399	496	368	445	476	317	382
Junior sow pigs:								
High	205	205	224	153	216	209	173	193
Low	155	149	175	147	172	157	123	153
Average	178	173	203	164	194	183	146	177

SELECTING THE INDIVIDUALS

PIGS

Junior pigs for show purposes should generally be selected when they are from 12 to 16 weeks of age. Defects that are inherent may not be apparent at that age; consequently care should be taken to select pigs from sires and dams that do not have marked defects in important points. They should come from parents of good conformation, having the ability to take on flesh readily.

Senior pigs for show purposes need not be selected until they are about 5 or 6 months of age, because generally they are not exhibited until they are 11 months of age or more, which gives plenty of time to condition them properly. Senior pigs are generally selected from the ones farrowed in September or October. Any pig farrowed between September 1 and the end of February following may be shown as a senior pig, but pigs of late farrow are always handicapped

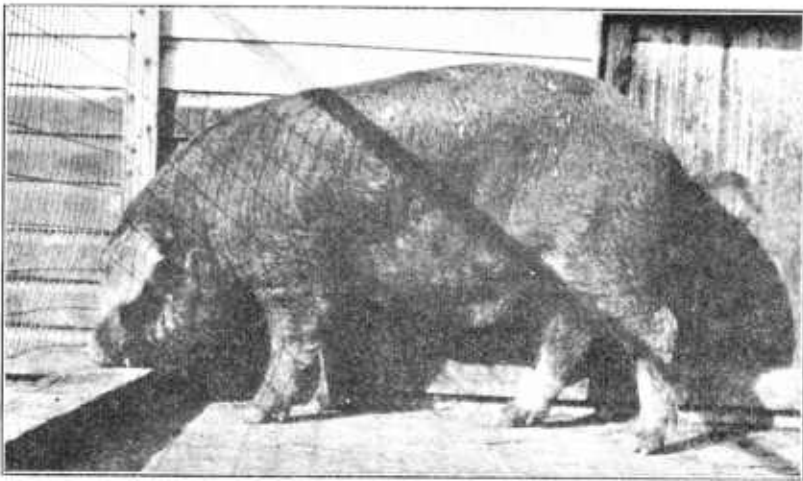


FIGURE 1.—A hog with low back, long, weak pasterns, or crooked legs should not be selected for show purposes. This animal is deficient in these points.

by size and should not be selected for exhibition unless they are outstanding in quality.

Pigs having long pasterns, crooked hind legs, low backs, or poor heart girth should not be selected, as these defects are apt to become more pronounced as development and increase in weight occur. (Compare figs. 1 and 2.) The pigs should not be weaned until they are 10 weeks of age or older, and they should have access to self-feeders or be carefully hand-fed from the time they begin to eat, which is when they are about 3 weeks of age. The pigs should be on good pasture, with access to a self-feeder containing corn and shorts or middlings. This will tend to prevent any setback or retarding of growth at weaning time. Gradual weaning, by reducing the quantity and quality of the sow's feed and thus causing her to secrete less milk, is advisable.

BOARS

The fitting of a boar for show requires considerable time and care. Since transportation and other expenses connected with showing hogs are considerable, it is inadvisable to try to fit an animal having any serious defects. It is impossible to tell just how any boar will

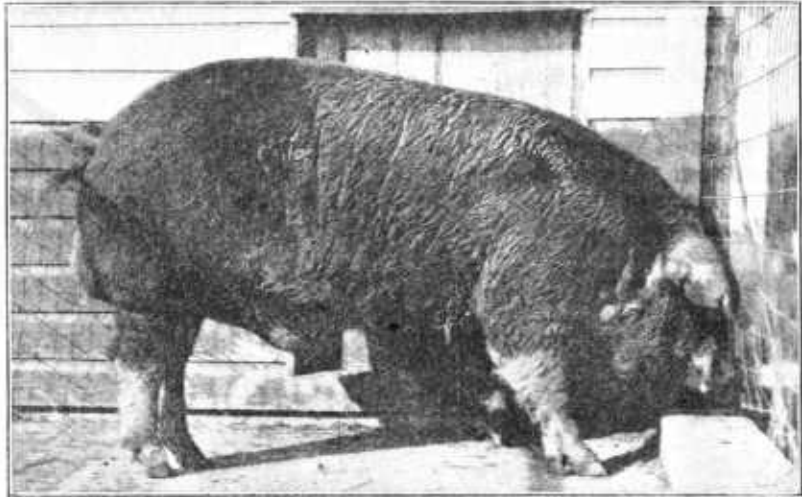


FIGURE 2.—A hog with a good back, good pasterns, and straight hind legs.

respond to fitting. Some defects may be remedied by feeding, but others will become more pronounced as a result of increased weight.

A few of the important points to be considered in selecting a hog for exhibition are the back, feet, legs, eyes, head, and ears. A boar



FIGURE 3.—A hog with eyesight blurred by heavy eyelids or otherwise is not a desirable show animal.



FIGURE 4.—A hog selected for show purposes should have clear, wide-open eyes.

to show well should have a well-arched back, though not one extremely arched. If he has a low back or even one that is flat before fitting, the chances are that he will show a poor back when finished.

If the pasterns are long and weak or if the toes spread badly, fitting is very apt to increase rather than reduce the defect. When the toes spread, the condition may be helped by proper and frequent trimming. If at the beginning the legs are weak and crooked, added flesh will probably make them worse.

A boar should show with good, clear, wide-open eyes. If the eyes are partly closed by fleshy lids, more flesh will probably add to the defect. (See figs. 3 and 4.) Likewise, an extremely rough head that is not well proportioned, or heavy ears that hinder the sight, are seldom improved by fitting.

SOWS

The rules of most fairs permit junior and senior yearling sows to show without their having ever raised a litter of pigs. Some fairs even provide that aged sows that have never raised a litter may show, while others bar them from competition. However, the only profit-

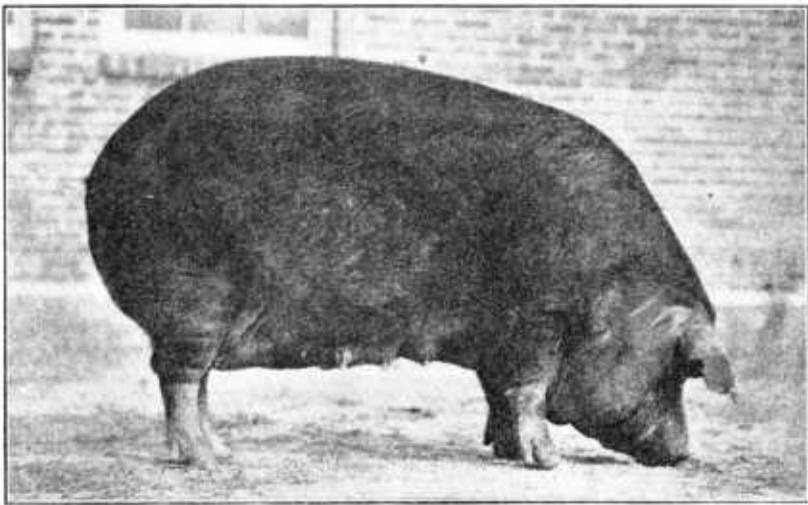


FIGURE 5.—A sow showing in the aged class should have produced and suckled a litter.

able breeding animals in a herd are those that produce, and most good judges do and should discriminate against aged sows that have never raised a litter. Sows over 2 years old that have never produced a litter should be sent to market. Figure 5 shows an aged sow that has produced a litter.

Sows that produce a litter when they are 12 to 13 months old are seldom shown as junior yearlings, because it is difficult to get them into proper condition by show time. Some animals make a very good showing as juniors after raising a litter, but a large percentage of the winners are sows which are shown open (unbred) or bred to farrow after the exhibition.

Sows which are to be shown as junior yearlings should be selected the fall before the breeding season and should not be bred. Only those that give promise of standing well on their feet and legs and of having backs that will not go down should be selected. They must

have good length, be smooth in the head, with ears that stand up well and droop slightly at the tips. Careful examination should indicate that the udder is well developed and that there are no blind teats.

While the rules of most fairs do not require senior yearlings to have raised a litter before being shown, it is best, however, that they do so. A senior yearling sow may raise a litter in the fall or winter after she is 12 months old, or may raise an early spring litter so that the pigs can be weaned in plenty of time to get her into good condition for show. The senior yearling or aged sow bred to raise a litter in the spring before being exhibited in the fall should be in good flesh at the time she farrows. She should farrow early, and every effort must be made to keep her in the best possible condition during the suckling period, so that she will carry a sufficient amount of flesh at fair time without too much crowding.

Sows in this class should be long and deep, have well-developed hams, stand well on their feet and legs, have good heads, rather thin necks but not too long, eyes clear and wide open, and well-developed udders showing two rows of good teats with at least six in each row. The animals should be shown in good flesh; they should never, however, be "logy." It is a good plan to breed them so that they will farrow soon after the fair. If they are properly fitted and handled they should be in good condition, at that time, to farrow and raise a litter.

BARROWS

Many livestock shows and fairs have classifications for barrows as individuals, groups, or both. The same general rules should be followed in selecting barrows for exhibition purposes as are followed in selecting the pigs and the boars. The animals should stand well on their feet, have good, strong backs, be smooth, and have the body evenly covered with flesh.

Uniformity of individuals must be closely observed when they are to be shown in groups.

FEEDS AND FEEDING

The feeds to be used and the general conditions under which hogs of all ages are fitted for exhibition purposes are much the same.

Good pasture of alfalfa, red clover, or a variety of grasses is almost a necessity and should be provided from early spring until show time. A variety of feeds should always be provided and abrupt changes avoided. Feeds most commonly used are corn, barley, wheat, rye, oats, and shorts or middlings, tankage, fish meal, old-process linseed meal, and skim milk or buttermilk. The first four are high in carbohydrates and are fat-producing feeds; the others, high in protein, are muscle- and growth-producing feeds.

Corn may be fed on the ear, shelled, or ground. Barley, wheat, and rye should always be ground. Oats may be ground or fed whole in a self-feeder or scattered on a feeding floor.

Natural shade is desirable, but when it is not available, comfortable, cool, well-ventilated quarters in a barn or shed or under an artificial shade must be provided in or adjacent to the pasture (fig. 6). An artificial shade must be of sufficient size so that the

sun's rays will not get near the center during the heat of the day; a space 20 feet square is suitable. A framework securely fastened to posts, about 4 feet from the ground, and covered with straw or grass to a depth of 3 to 4 feet, makes a very satisfactory shade. Frequent applications of water through the covering, or oil sprinkled on the floor, will prevent dust from accumulating.

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF PIGS

Pigs which are being fitted for exhibition should be induced to take plenty of exercise. Corn and like feeds should be fed in limited quantities. The greater portion of the ration should consist of shorts or middlings made into a thick slop with milk, with a small amount of linseed meal, tankage, or fish meal added. Oats of good quality, fed either whole or ground, are desirable for growing pigs and are good to use at this time. If fed whole they should be scattered thinly on a feeding floor or fed in a self-feeder. It is thought by

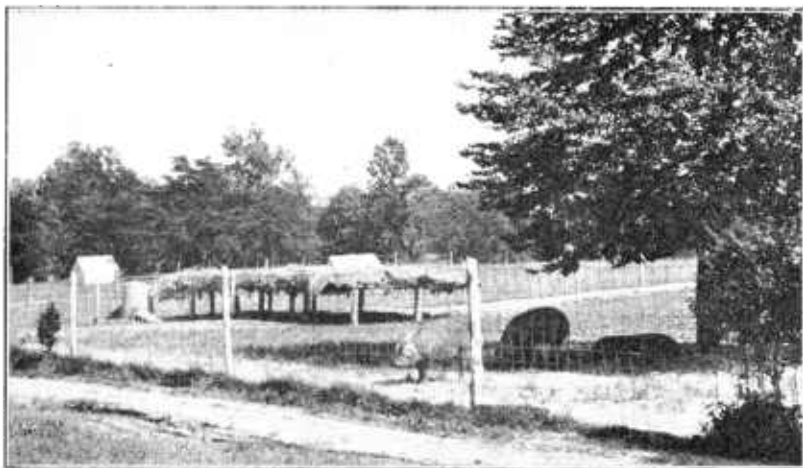


FIGURE 6.—Hog lot provided with both artificial and natural shade.

some hog raisers that pigs cannot be fitted properly without milk. That is not true, though milk is a very valuable feed for that purpose.

The feeding for show should begin immediately after weaning, thus permitting as much growth as possible without laying on too much fat. If fitting begins early, gains in weight may be constant and rushing and overfeeding will not be required.

Feeding three times a day, except in extremely hot weather, should produce better gains than twice a day. It is best, however, to feed corn but twice a day—morning and evening. The morning feed should be early and the evening feed late to avoid the heat.

In the case of senior pigs there will be about eight months from the time the pigs are weaned until show time. The necessary growth can be made with the use of but very little corn. Shorts or middlings and oats can be used to advantage as a large part of the ration. When pasture is not available, pigs should have free access to third or fourth cutting alfalfa hay.

FEEDING THE BOAR

If the boar has been considerably reduced in flesh during the breeding season the work of building up should begin as soon as the breeding is over. A week or two of rest and quiet should put him in condition to take on flesh. By beginning early he may be well conditioned by show time and not be required to gain too rapidly at any time.

The feed should consist largely of bone- and muscle-forming feeds. These feeds do not cause so rapid gains as feeds high in carbohydrates, but if the fitting is begun early enough the necessary weight and condition will be obtained.

The feeds named heretofore are sufficient in variety and quality to condition any hog properly. The total ration should not contain more than 25 percent of corn, unless rapid gains are necessary in order to get the animal in proper flesh by the time the fair is to be held.

Every effort should be made to produce flesh and a skin that is soft and pliable. Slop feeds assist in accomplishing this much better than feeds given dry. Shorts or middlings of good quality are very good to use as the major portion of the boar's feed. To this can be added a small portion of tankage, fish meal, or linseed meal.

If a boar does not eat a sufficient quantity of feed during the fitting process, placing a young boar pig with him is sometimes helpful. The older boar will eat the feed to prevent the pig from getting it. Skim milk and buttermilk are good feeds, but are not absolutely necessary to put a hog in show condition. At times there may be some advantage in using milk when fitting a boar.

The change in conditions and surroundings from the farm to the fairgrounds sometimes causes a boar to refuse his feed, which of course tends to make him show at a disadvantage. Milk is generally a most appetizing feed for a hog and can be procured on most fairgrounds. The hog that has not been fed milk while being fitted and refuses to eat on the fairgrounds can usually be induced to drink milk in liberal quantities.

FEED FOR SOWS

The methods of feeding and the feeds to be used for the sows are very much the same as for the boars. If the junior and senior yearling sows do not farrow a litter before they are shown, they can be carried along with very little or no corn and easily be in good condition by fair time.

If the junior or senior yearling sows farrow in the spring before the fall in which they are shown, they must necessarily be better fed than if they are carried along without being bred. With aged sows a liberal amount of corn should be used in the ration when necessary to get them in good condition. It is generally advisable to give the feeds in the form of a slop rather than dry.

FEED FOR BARROWS

The barrows may be fed very much the same as the boars, except that corn can safely constitute a greater percentage of the ration.

SEGREGATION OF ANIMALS

The junior boar pigs should be separated from the herd when they are about 4 months of age and placed in a pasture by themselves. Generally, senior boar pigs, junior and senior yearlings, and aged boars can run together. There are, however, instances in which boars placed in the same enclosure with other boars, especially older ones, become nervous and restless and do not eat their feed as they should. When cases of this kind occur these boars should be put in a lot or pasture by themselves. If it is found necessary, a creep may be made where the pigs can be fed by themselves.

The fitting of a yearling or aged boar is often a difficult problem. Some boars are nervous and irritable and do not take on flesh readily. The time for fitting should be of considerable duration. Most breeders do not breed many sows after the middle of January. As

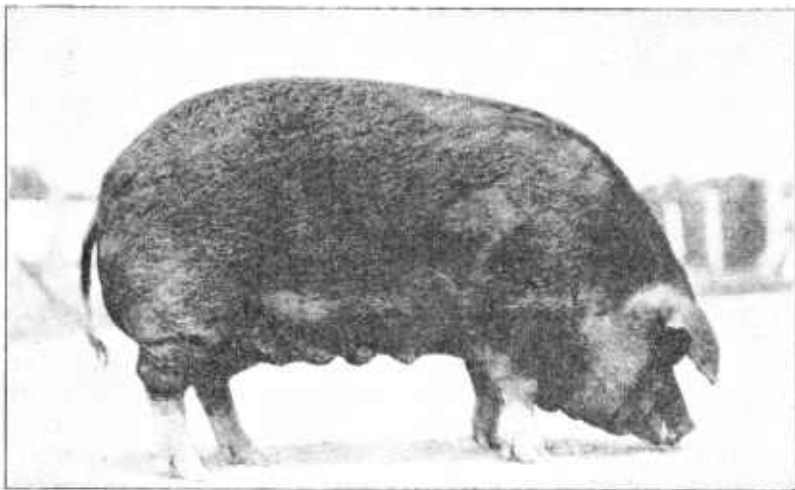


FIGURE 7.—If the coat has not shed or has not been clipped it may begin to shed just before show time, as in this case.

soon as the breeding season is over, the fitting of the boar should begin. All boars being fitted for show should be placed on good pasture and if possible at some distance from other hogs, especially sows.

SHEDDING THE COAT

In order that a boar or sow may show with a good coat of hair, the old coat should be shed before July. If the hair does not begin to shed by about the middle of May, it is advisable to use some artificial means for starting shedding. The following method is suggested: Wash the body of the hog thoroughly with soft water and naphtha soap, then, after drying, grease it with petrolatum or melted lard. A cheap grade of grease or discolored or rancid lard is satisfactory for the purpose. Let this remain for three or four days, then remove it by washing and grease again. Repeat this operation once or twice. For a short time before washing and greasing, feed liber-

ally, as when "flushing" an animal. By following the method described the hair will generally shed. If by the latter part of June the hair has not shed, clipping is advisable. If the old hair does not shed or is not clipped, it may begin to shed just before or about fair time and ruin the appearance of the hog (fig. 7).

For a period of about two months before the time of the show the bodies of all hogs to be exhibited should be washed thoroughly every 10 days or two weeks.

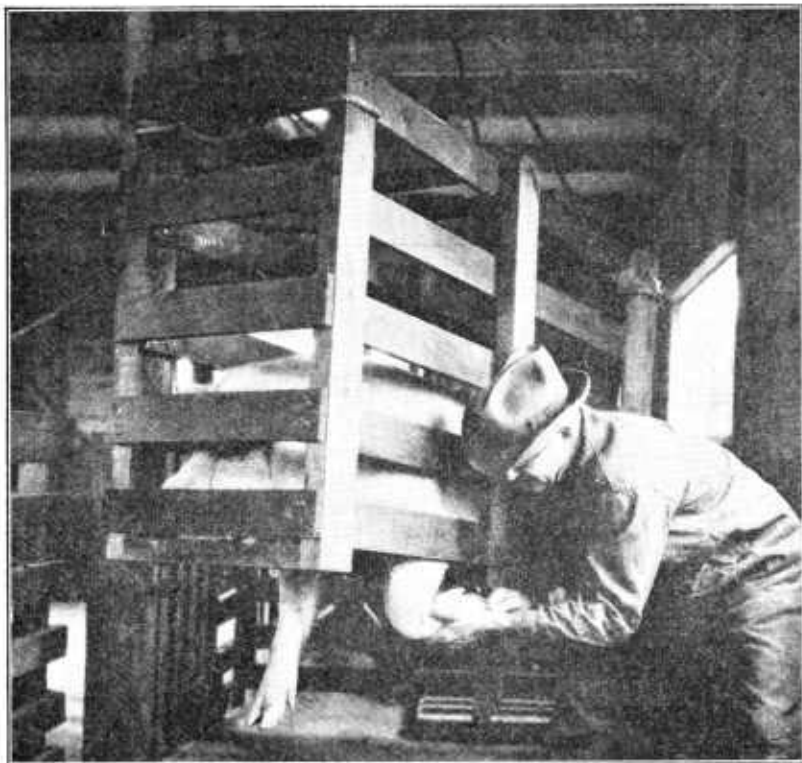


FIGURE 8.—Trimming a hog's feet in a crate which is suspended by rope and pulleys.

TRIMMING FEET AND TUSKS

The feet of hogs intended for exhibition should be given careful attention. The feet of practically any hog can be helped by trimming. Trimming those of a large boar may be a difficult task. Some boars are quiet and can be approached and their legs securely tied when they are lying down, making the work of trimming easy. Sometimes crates are used which have plenty of room for the feet and legs to protrude through the bottom (fig. 8). These crates can be suspended by means of ropes and pulleys, and the feet may then be trimmed from below. The pigs and the sows of all ages can be easily held and tied for this purpose.

If possible, trim the hog's feet after a rain or keep the animal for several days in a place where its hoofs will be in mud or water. When the hoofs are soft, they can be readily trimmed with a sharp pocket-knife having a heavy blade, or a farrier's knife. A rather fine rasp is useful for finishing and smoothing the edges of the hoof. Trim the soles of the feet nearly flat, pulling the knife blade from the back of the hoof toward the toe, leaving the inside of the toes of the hoof slightly lower than the outside. The toes should be closely trimmed, but not close enough to cause lameness. Pressure with the thumb on the trimmed surface will generally indicate when to stop. Trimming should be begun early in the spring and continue during the fitting season at intervals of from four to six weeks.

Most boars are perfectly quiet when at home, but on the fairgrounds, with strange animals around, they must be closely watched. They may attack anyone at any time. Boars of all ages, except spring pigs, should have their tusks closely clipped before starting for the fair.

EXERCISE

Hogs of all classes and ages being fitted for exhibition purposes should have plenty of exercise. Junior pigs usually take sufficient exercise if they are allowed to run in a pasture. Some senior pigs voluntarily move around enough, but some do not, especially during hot weather and near the end of the fitting period. Practically all animals in the aged classes must be forced to take exercise by being driven.

It is best to exercise the hogs in the morning or late in the evening; they should not be moved about in the heat of the day. Every animal should be driven by itself, the herdsman using a short whip or cane and teaching the animal to stop or turn to either side as desired. Complete control of every animal in this way is very necessary that it may be shown properly at the show.

Generally the driving during the fitting period need not begin until about six weeks or two months before the fair. It should be done daily and should last from 30 minutes to an hour.

The practice of exercise should continue while the hogs are on the fairgrounds. Every hog should be driven at least 30 minutes each day.

PREVENTION OF DISEASE

The principal disease with which hogs may come in contact at fairs is hog cholera. Most breeders who follow the practice of showing hogs keep their herds immunized, which, of course, prevents this disease and is the only safe plan. Practically all fairs and expositions require that hogs be immunized before they come on the grounds.

Hog "flu," a respiratory disease, is one to which hogs on exhibition are sometimes exposed. Very little is known of the disease, and there is no known preventive. When the hogs become affected reduce the feed and keep them as quiet as possible.

When hogs are returned to the farm from the fair they should always be placed in quarters some distance from the remainder of the herd and as strict a quarantine as possible maintained for at least three weeks.

SHIPPING THE HOGS

Shipment should be made so that the hogs will arrive at the fair at least two days before the showing begins; three days would be better. An ordinary boxcar should be used rather than a stock car. If possible, get a boxcar with end doors. The regular stock car with slatted sides and ends permits the wind and rain to blow over the animals, possibly causing pneumonia. Any cars in which hogs are shipped to the fair should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before loading, because disease germs may be present. The side

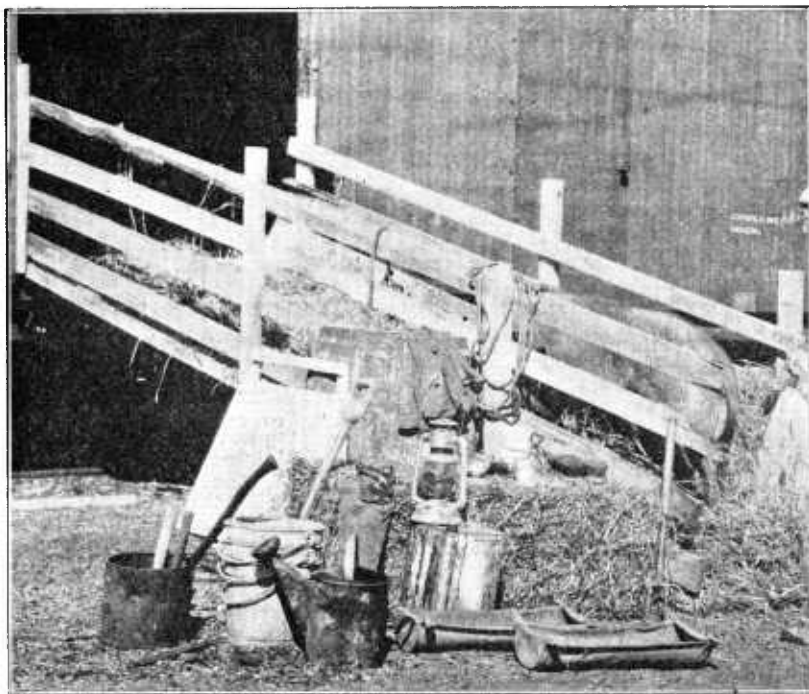


FIGURE 9.—Equipment and other articles necessary during shipment and at the fair.

doors of a boxcar should be left open and the opening protected with a slatted panel.

Hogs to be shipped for exhibition should not be crated if this can be avoided. Partitions may be placed in the car to divide the different animals. Only such boars as have been fitted together can be shipped in the same pen. The junior and senior sow pigs should be penned together, and the junior and senior yearlings and aged sows together.

If possible, the attendant should sleep in the car while the hogs are in transit. The space in the middle between the doors may be used for this purpose and for the storing of necessary feed and utensils. The following tools will be found necessary or useful in the car and at the fairs: A large-sized sharp hatchet or an ax, a hammer, saw, short-

handled fork, spade or shovel, flashlight, sprinkling can, currycomb, two or three brushes, two or three slop pails, barrel of water, at least two strong, light hurdles, hinged hurdle, soap, can of disinfectant, light troughs for feeding in transit and at the fair, pair of clippers, supply of nails of different sizes, and from 20 to 30 feet of good quarter-inch rope (fig. 9).

The car should be well bedded, so that the animals may lie down in comfort. Sand free from gravel is probably best for this purpose. If sand cannot be obtained use wheat or rye straw or wild hay. If the weather is at all warm, the bedding should be thoroughly wet before loading begins.

Moving the hogs from the farm to the car should be done with as little discomfort to the animals as possible. The moving should be done early in the morning or late in the evening. If they are moved in the heat of the day they must be watched and, if necessary, sprinkled freely with water to keep them cool. Before the hogs are loaded a barrel of water should be placed in the car ready for use if needed.

At the regular feeding time just preceding loading, the quantity of feed given should be reduced about one-half. A sufficient quantity of the same feeds which have been used in fitting should be taken along in the car, to supply the hogs while in transit. Feeding in transit should be at the same regular periods as when fitting, but the quantity should be reduced about one-half.

If the weather is warm during shipment, the bedding should be kept wet. If this is not sufficient to keep the hogs comfortable they should be sprinkled.

Hogs that are exhibited at fairs within a distance of about a hundred miles from the farm are sometimes transported by trucks. The trucking preferably should be planned to avoid the heat of the day. Show animals that are trucked long distances should be crated individually to lessen the danger of injury en route.

MANAGEMENT AT FAIR

On arrival at the fairgrounds the hogs should be unloaded as soon as possible. If the car is placed within a reasonable distance of the pens it is better to drive the hogs than to have them hauled. They must be driven slowly and not hurried. After they are in the pens give them plenty of water, then a light feed, and let them rest. It is best not to disturb them until the next day, except to feed them and to bed the pens.

After the animals have rested a day, each one should be thoroughly washed. Each morning, after the hogs have been fed and the pens cleaned, they should be given a good brushing. This helps to give the hair a good glossy appearance.

Feeding show hogs on the fairgrounds and keeping their appetite good is sometimes a difficult problem. Junior and senior yearlings and aged boars are the ones that generally quit eating. It is, therefore, advisable to take enough of the same feeds the boars have had while being fitted to last them until the fair is over. When a circuit of shows is being made this cannot be done, but if enough is taken to last them through the first fair it will generally be found that a change in feed can then readily be made. There is usually not much

trouble in getting the younger animals and the sows to eat on the fairgrounds. After the first day the feed can be gradually increased to full feed, but each individual must be watched to see that its appetite is good.

Before the day for showing, the edges of the hog's ears should be gone over with the clippers just enough to make them look smooth.

The appearance of the coat of most black and red hogs will be improved by the use of a small quantity of paraffin oil of light quality. The oil may be applied with a brush or by saturating a cloth and rubbing it over the hair. For black hogs a limited amount of lampblack may be added to the oil. Talcum powder may be sprinkled over the bodies of white hogs and their appearance improved by brushing.

IN THE SHOW RING

Pigs under 6 months and sows of all ages that have been trained during the fitting period to be driven by a whip or cane can be readily



FIGURE 10.—Hogs accustomed to being driven during the fitting period are more easily controlled in the show ring.

handled in the show ring in the same manner. (See fig. 10.) If any of them appear nervous a small, light hurdle will be of assistance. There is always danger that boars of all ages over 6 months will get together in the ring and fight. A cane is much better than a whip for handling a boar. There should be two attendants, each with a cane and a light hurdle to handle boars.

The attendant should give the judge all the assistance possible to see the animals. They should be moved around as little as possible, care being taken always to have them in a good position. Some attendants continually direct the judge's attention to the strong points by passing their hands over them and by various other motions. Such practices should never be resorted to. Judges selected for shows are competent to pass judgment and will note both the strong and weak points without having their attention called to them. The exhibitor should accept without complaint the awards of the judges.

AFTER THE FAIR

When the hogs that have been on exhibition are returned to the farm after the fair, they require careful attention and feeding to get them in good breeding condition. Most animals that have been exhibited carry more flesh than they should to be in prime condition for breeding. The exercise they had while being fitted and at the fair should be continued until they are sufficiently reduced. It is best to reduce the quantity of the feed gradually. The quality should be reduced by replacing the shorts or middlings with wheat bran. A good pasture at this time is just as important as during the fitting period.

SCORE CARD FOR SWINE

The use of the score card and the study of the relative value of the various points as shown by the score is helpful in determining the

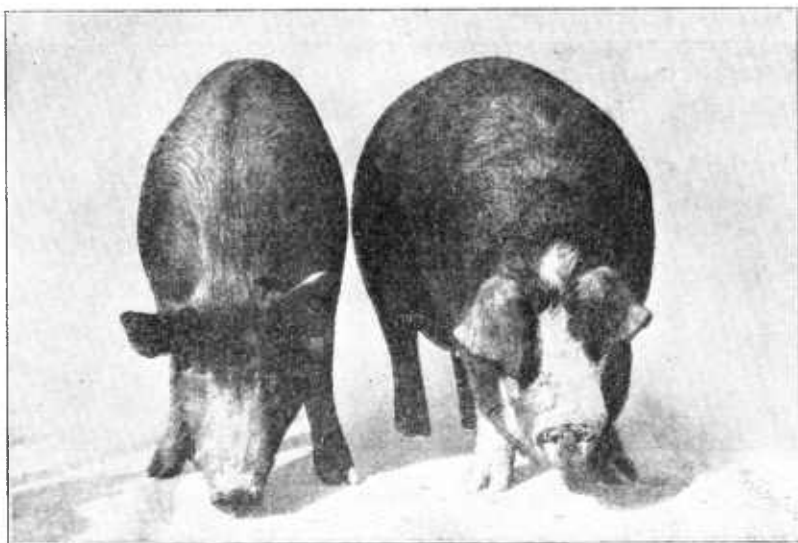


FIGURE 11.—Bacon-type sow (left) and lard-type sow (right).

superiority of one hog over another. The score card, however, is not used by judges in placing the awards in the show ring.

A thorough knowledge of the relative values of the different points of a hog is necessary in determining the value of the animal as a whole. Practice in valuing these points is of great assistance in the proper placing of animals in competition.

There are two distinct types of swine in the United States, namely, the lard type and the bacon type (fig. 11). The breeds of the lard type are Duroc-Jersey, Poland China, Chester White, Hampshire, Berkshire, and Spotted Poland China. Those of the bacon type are Yorkshire and Tamworth.

In the examination of a score card it will be noticed that a considerable difference in value is given to various points in the two

types. At the present time, however, there are some individuals among the lard-type breeds that conform rather closely in some respects to the bacon type.

THE LARD TYPE.—The lard-type hog is fairly thickset, having good length and depth, a well-sprung rib, a good, deep, full, round ham, and full, smooth shoulder, the body throughout being well covered with flesh. The legs should be of medium length and the bone of good size and quality. The face should be broad, of medium length and smooth, the eye clear and open. The neck of the boar should be short and thick, that of the sow rather thin; the back of both should carry up well, never sagging; the chest should be full and smooth. The ears should be of medium size, never breaking close to the head so as to cover the eyes and obscure the sight. A hog should always show a good disposition and be tractable. Cross and nervous animals are discriminated against.

THE BACON TYPE.—As indicated by the name, animals of the bacon

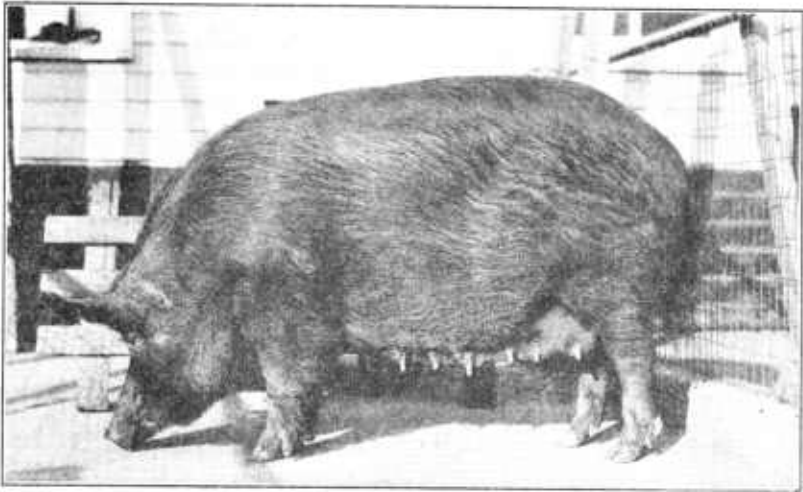


FIGURE 12.—A bacon-type hog illustrating good back, deep, long, smooth sides, good feet, and showing good udder development.

type are grown chiefly because of their superior characteristics for the production of bacon, and in consequence are different in conformation from hogs of the lard type (fig. 12). A bacon hog should have a long, deep, smooth body and a back that carries up well. The hams should be smooth, but not so full and rounded as in the lard-type hog. The legs should be rather long, bones of medium size, neck long and thin, nose pointed, ears upstanding, eyes open and clear. As a whole the bacon hog is smoother than the lard hog.

SIZE OF HOGS

There is no definite standard of size set for the different breeds in the two types. Hogs of all breeds up to about 10 months of age when

fattened for market show very similar weights. Market pigs of different ages should weigh approximately the following:

Pigs 10 to 12 weeks of age.....	30 to 45 pounds.
Pigs 5 to 6 months of age.....	100 to 175 pounds.
Pigs 8 to 10 months of age.....	200 to 275 pounds.

Breeding animals over 2 years of age in good condition should weigh about as follows:

Duroc-Jersey:	
Boars.....	650 to 1,000 pounds.
Sows.....	500 to 700 pounds.
Poland China:	
Boars.....	650 to 1,000 pounds.
Sows.....	500 to 700 pounds.
Chester White:	
Boars.....	600 to 900 pounds.
Sows.....	500 to 700 pounds.
Berkshire:	
Boars.....	600 to 850 pounds.
Sows.....	450 to 650 pounds.
Hampshire:	
Boars.....	550 to 850 pounds.
Sows.....	450 to 650 pounds.
Spotted Poland China:	
Boars.....	650 to 1,000 pounds.
Sows.....	500 to 700 pounds.
Yorkshire:	
Boars.....	600 to 850 pounds.
Sows.....	500 to 700 pounds.
Tamworth:	
Boars.....	550 to 850 pounds.
Sows.....	500 to 700 pounds.

In all breeds, individual animals of extra quality may show a greater weight than that given above.

HOW TO SCORE

The scale of points given herewith and illustrated in figure 13 indicates perfection in a hog. The scale as shown is for breeding animals in good condition, yet it may be applied to market hogs.

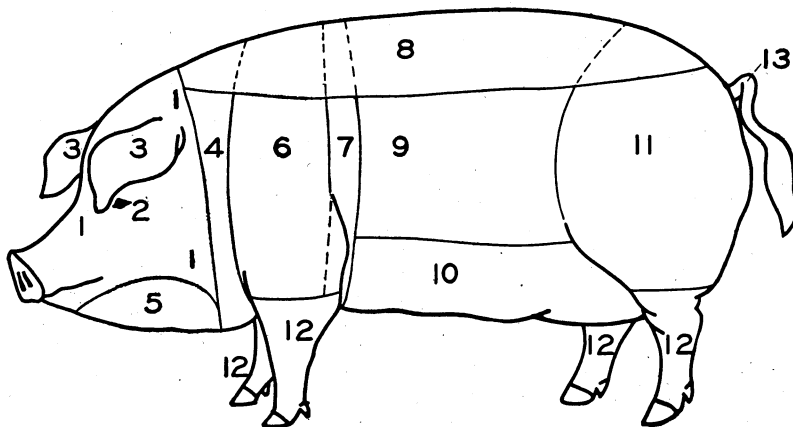


FIGURE 13—Points of swine designated on score card: 1, Head and face; 2, eyes; 3, ears; 4, neck; 5, jowl; 6, shoulder; 7, chest or heart girth; 8, back and loin; 9, side and ribs; 10, belly and flank; 11, ham and rump; 12, feet and legs; 13, tail.

DESCRIPTION OF POINTS

The points given below are those considered by judges when judging in the show ring, when judging with a score card, and when making selections for the breeding herd.

HEAD AND FACE

Duroc-Jersey, Poland China, Chester White, and Spotted Poland China:

Qualifications: Short, good width between eyes, smooth, slightly dished, well tapered down to nose.

Objections: Coarse, narrow between eyes, face straight or decidedly dished.

Berkshire:

Qualifications: Face well dished, snout short and broad.

Objections: Snout long, face too straight.

Hampshire:

Qualifications: Medium length, rather narrow face, nearly straight.

Objections: Large, coarse, crooked nose or too much dished.

Yorkshire:

Qualifications: Moderate length and size, some dish toward snout.

Objections: Short, wrinkled face, decidedly straight.

Tamworth:

Qualifications: Fairly long, wide between ears, slightly dished.

Objections: Short, wrinkled face, too much dished.

All breeds: Clear, bright eyes, wide open.

Objections: Small, sight obstructed by wrinkles or fat.

EARS

Duroc-Jersey, Poland China, Spotted Poland China, Chester White:

Qualifications: Medium in size, moderately thin, set well apart, pointed outward and forward, drooped at tip.

Objections: Large or heavy, breaking close to head, obscuring sight, not under control, too rigid or erect.

Hampshire:

Qualifications: Medium length, thin, slightly inclined outward and forward.

Objections: Large, coarse, drooped and not under control.

Berkshire:

Qualifications: Medium size, set well apart, inclined forward, carried fairly erect.

Objections: Large, coarse, drooped.

Tamworth:

Qualifications: Rather large, carried rigid and inclined forward.

Objections: Too small or drooped.

Yorkshire:

Qualifications: Medium size, inclined out and slightly forward.

Objections: Large, drooped.

NECK

Lard breeds:

Qualifications: Short, thick, deep, well set to shoulders, slightly arched.

Sow's neck not so thick as that of boar. Hampshires should not have neck so thick as other breeds.

Objections: Long, narrow, flat on top.

Bacon breeds:

Qualifications: Fairly long and muscular.

Objections: Short, thick.

JOWL

Duroc-Jersey, Poland China, Chester White, Spotted Poland China, and Berkshire:

Qualifications: Broad and full, flesh not hanging too low; fullness carried to point of shoulders.

Objections: Too large, loose, flabby, rough, thin, and wedging.

Hampshire:

Qualifications: Light, neat, firm, tapering from neck to point.

Objections: Large, broad, flabby, uneven.

Bacon breeds:

Qualifications: Medium, smooth, not carried too far back toward neck.

Objections: Large, flabby.

SHOULDERS

Lard breeds:

Qualifications: Moderately broad, deep, full, smooth, in line with side, not extending above line of back.

Objections: Open, small, extending above line of back, rough, coarse, and shielded.

Bacon breeds:

Qualifications: Large, not massive, smooth, not extending above line of back.

Objections: Open, rough, small, and narrow.

CHEST

All breeds:

Qualifications: Deep, full, and wide, even with shoulders, sides extending down to line of belly.

Objections: Flat, low behind shoulders, tucked in back of forelegs.

BACK AND LOIN

Lard breeds:

Qualifications: Strong, slightly arched, medium breadth, even and smooth from shoulder to ham, full at loin.

Objections: Back low or weak, narrow, uneven, too broad, and flat.

Bacon breeds:

Qualifications: Long, strong, arched, not wide, smooth and even.

Objections: Back flat or low, short, uneven.

SIDES AND RIBS

Lard breeds:

Qualifications: Good length, deep, even, and full between shoulders and ham.

Ribs well sprung at top and bottom. Sides coming well down to line of belly.

Objections: Sides flat, flabby, creased. Ribs not well sprung, lacking depth.

Bacon breeds:

Qualifications: Long and very deep, even from shoulder to ham. Ribs well sprung and carried well up to flank.

Objections: Sides too fat, rough, not carrying sufficient length and depth.

BELLY AND FLANK

All breeds:

Qualifications: Straight on bottom, carried out full to line of sides. Flank full and let down to line of belly.

Objections: Narrow, tucked up, sagging and flabby.

HAM AND RUMP

Lard breeds:

Qualifications: Ham, good width, full, long, smooth, and fleshed well down to the hocks. Rump, same width as back and slightly rounding from loin to root of tail.

Objections: Hams, narrow, rough, too high in crotch, flabby. Rump, steep, narrow.

Bacon breeds:

Qualifications: Hams, long, smooth, not so wide or well rounded as in lard breeds, coming well down to hocks. Rump not too steep or too narrow.

FEET AND LEGS

All breeds:

Qualifications: Legs medium length, set well apart and squarely under body, straight, nicely tapering, well muscled, and of medium size. Feet short in pastern, strong, toes close together.

Objections: Legs extremely long or short, weak, crooked, coarse, close together. Toes long, weak, and spreading.

TAIL

All breeds:

Qualifications: Set well up. Medium size, tapering from root to end, inclined to curl.

Objections: Extremely slim or heavy, too long or bobbed.

COAT

All breeds:

Qualifications: Fine, straight, smooth, fairly thick, covering body well except belly.

Objections: Bristles, swirls, coarse, curly, very thin.

COLOR

Duroc-Jersey and Tamworth:

Qualifications: Cherry or golden red without any mixtures.

Objections: Very dark or very light, black or white spots in hair or on body.

Poland China and Berkshire:

Qualifications: Black with white on feet, nose, tip of tail, and occasional spots on body; may show tinge of bronze or copper color.

Objections: Numerous large, white spots on body, or white legs.

Hampshire:

Qualifications: Black with exception of white belt encircling body, including forelegs.

Objections: White high up on hind legs or extending more than one-fourth the length of body, or solid black.

Spotted Poland China:

Qualifications: Black with at least 20 percent of body white, which may be in large or small spots.

Objections: Not white enough on body to meet requirements.

Chester White and Yorkshire:

Qualifications: White (dark spots on skin are objectionable, but do not disqualify).

Objections: Any other color than white in hair.

SIZE

All breeds:

Qualifications: Approximate size of aged animals given on page 3 of this bulletin. Other ages should be in proportion.

ACTION AND STYLE

All breeds:

Qualifications: Active, vigorous, graceful, gentle, and easily handled.

Objections: Awkward and wabbling, clumsy, sluggish.

CONDITION

All breeds:

Qualifications: Skin smooth and mellow, flesh evenly distributed over entire body.

Objections: Too fat, skin diseased or harsh to touch, hair coarse and rough.

DISPOSITION

All breeds:

Qualifications: Quiet, gentle, and easily handled.

Objections: Cross, restless, wild, or sluggish.

SYMMETRY

All breeds:

Qualifications: The adaptation of all points combined to make the desired type or model.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing discussion presents the requirements necessary for selecting, fitting, and exhibiting hogs in a way that will display them to best advantage. The section devoted to scoring is intended to assist the less experienced judge in accurately comparing two or more animals.

Experiments have shown that animals of good type and quality usually make efficient use of the feed consumed and consequently are the most profitable. This being true, the ability to judge accurately and quickly the existence of good conformation and to recognize at the same time weaknesses and defects in a hog is a valuable asset to the hog man, whether he is in the business of breeding and showing hogs or producing hogs for market.

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