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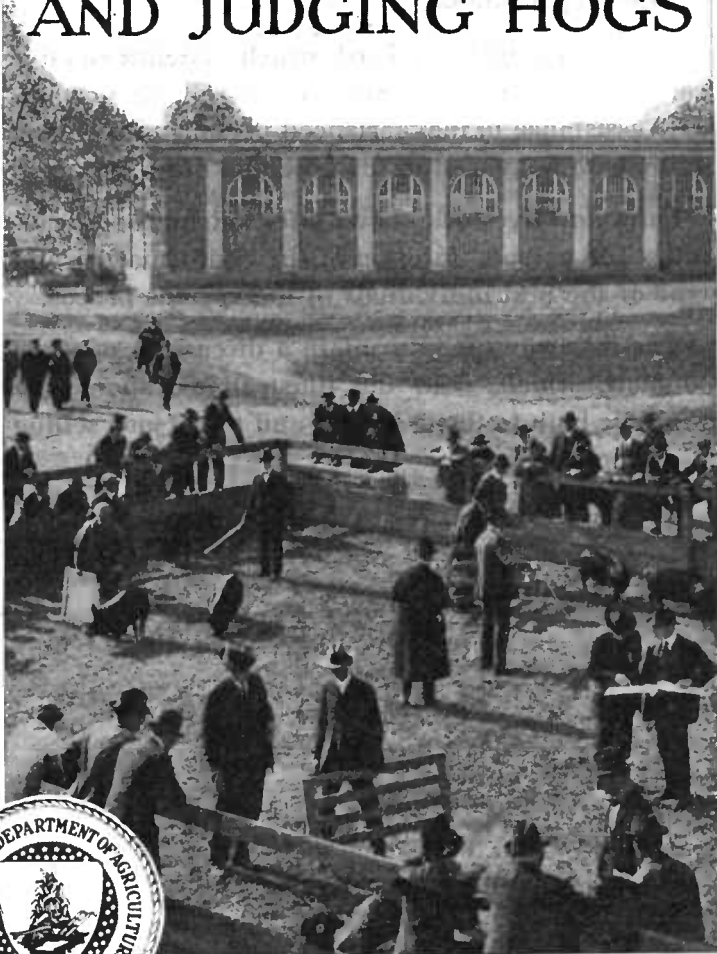
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# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMERS' BULLETIN No. 1455

## FITTING, SHOWING, AND JUDGING HOGS



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

A study of the score card, which attaches relative values to the different points of the hog, is of valuable assistance to inexperienced persons in selecting animals to be placed in the breeding herd.

Fairs and livestock shows offer splendid opportunities for persons to observe the conformation and type of the best individuals of the various breeds.

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.

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# FITTING, SHOWING, AND JUDGING HOGS

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## ENTERING HOGS FOR EXHIBITION

**A**BOUT two or three 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, 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 years of 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 the suggestions in this bulletin are given to assist persons who are inexperienced in fitting.

The time has passed when it was thought to be 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, alert, and should fully display all their qualities. They should not be fat to the extent of being logy, nor 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 to be exhibited: Pigs, including both fall and spring farrow; sows ranging in ages from junior yearlings up; and boars of like ages.

## DEFINITIONS OF AGES AND CLASSES

## BREEDING ANIMALS

The usual classification of hogs in the premium lists 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 classification for barrows is usually the same as for breeding animals, so far as dates from which ages are calculated is concerned. Most premium lists do not provide for aged classes. Some 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 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 Shows for the five-year period from 1920 to 1924, inclusive, 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, 1920–1924, inclusive

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.....	859	856	977	726	1,056	814	789	749
Low.....	667	656	787	554	838	690	558	534
Average.....	749	744	877	640	939	782	680	641
Senior yearling boars:								
High.....	661	708	792	594	902	734	587	559
Low.....	568	574	587	424	610	544	421	476
Average.....	613	629	688	507	750	658	504	527
Junior yearling boars:								
High.....	597	635	772	493	867	639	510	484
Low.....	448	474	573	399	622	451	384	387
Average.....	517	552	684	446	737	548	438	432
Senior boar pigs:								
High.....	483	480	591	422	588	490	349	415
Low.....	319	339	430	282	440	294	243	277
Average.....	393	391	506	337	507	382	297	304
Junior boar pigs:								
High.....	259	254	264	180	304	260	201	222
Low.....	165	184	206	134	212	175	139	131
Average.....	202	220	234	158	251	210	173	181
Aged sows:								
High.....	755	726	851	641	866	779	652	683
Low.....	536	552	611	499	701	559	503	508
Average.....	618	642	721	565	781	677	575	592
Senior yearling sows:								
High.....	650	645	742	559	762	673	618	543
Low.....	484	501	591	435	582	497	434	396
Average.....	571	579	666	497	677	584	507	460
Junior yearling sows:								
High.....	614	606	641	396	705	598	492	485
Low.....	458	479	515	305	601	448	358	379
Average.....	530	531	584	432	638	520	421	412
Senior sow pigs:								
High.....	456	473	503	360	542	497	386	376
Low.....	326	346	409	256	443	352	294	244
Average.....	357	418	451	305	474	403	336	304
Junior sow pigs:								
High.....	217	262	261	213	292	239	224	225
Low.....	164	190	202	152	238	177	163	139
Average.....	181	222	230	182	263	208	188	184

## 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 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.

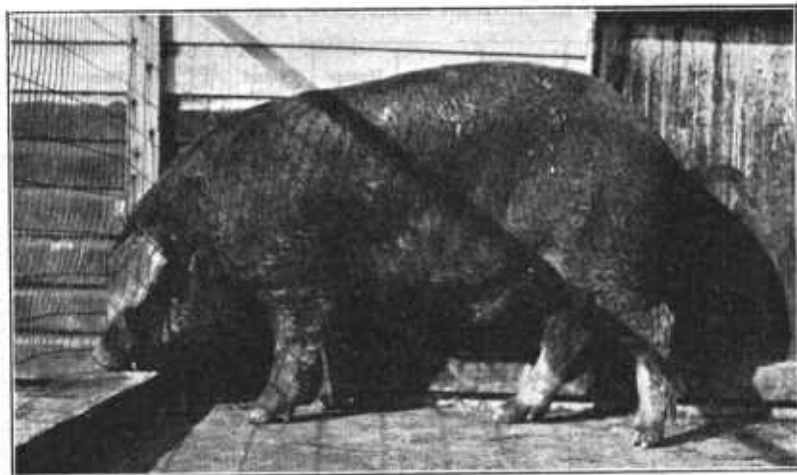


FIG. 1.—A hog with low back, long, weak pasterns, or crooked legs should not be selected for show purposes. This animal is deficient in these points

(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 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 to show well should have a well-arched back, though not one ex-

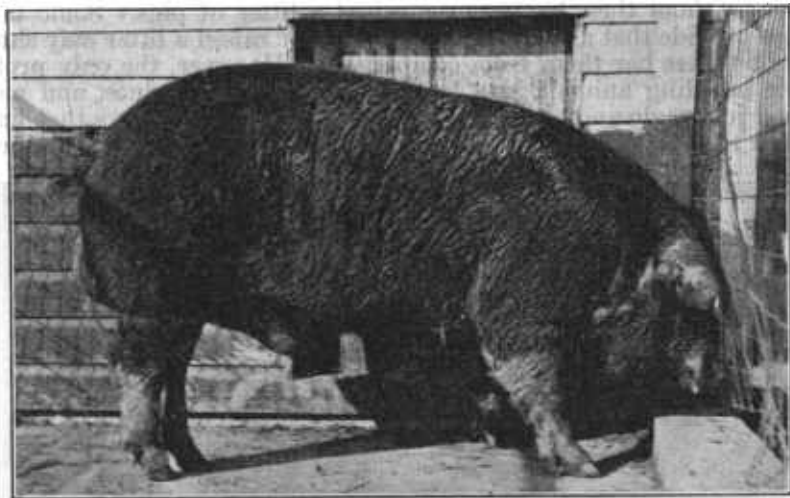


FIG. 2.—A hog with a good back, good pasterns, and straight hind legs

tremely so. 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



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



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



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 profitable 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

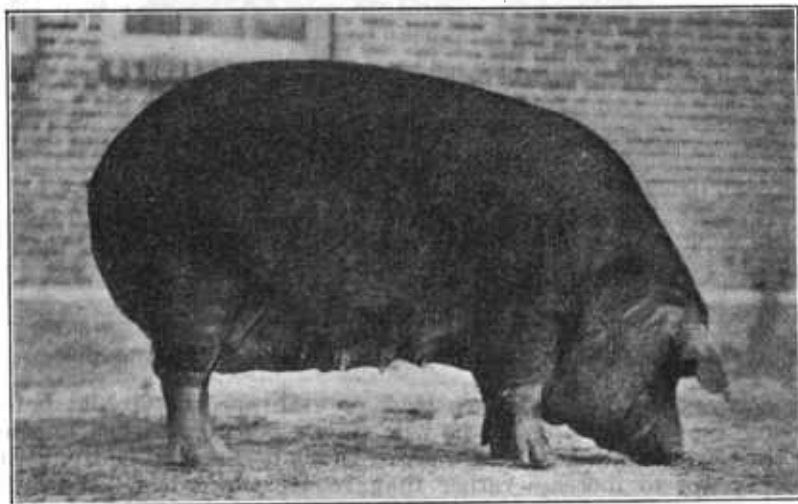


FIG. 5.—A sow showing in the aged class should have produced and suckled a litter

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 drooping 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, their 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

A few of the livestock shows and fairs have classifications for barrows. 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 the body be 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.

## FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF PIGS

Frequent applications of water through the covering, or oil sprinkled on the floor, will prevent dust from accumulating.

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 some hog raisers that pigs can not 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.

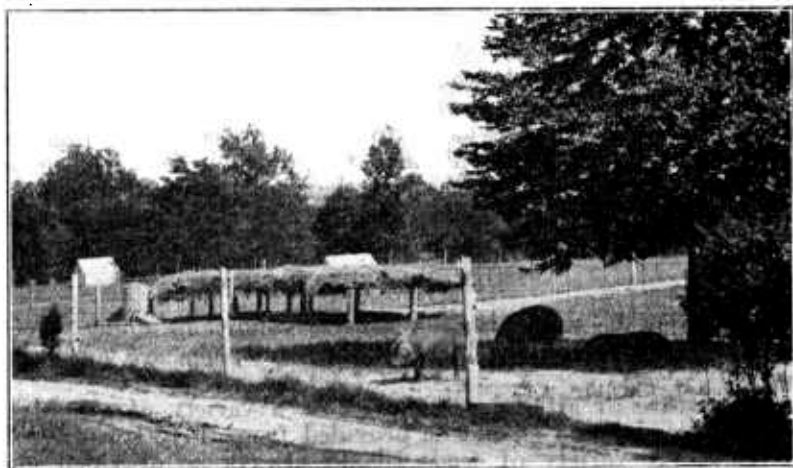


FIG. 8.—Hog lot provided with both artificial and natural shade

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 per cent 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. If it has been used as a part of the ration during the fitting period and the boar refuses it at the fair the herdsman will have practically nothing to offer. 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 sows 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 when boars placed in the same inclosure become nervous and restless and do not eat their feed as they should. When cases of this kind occur they must be kept 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

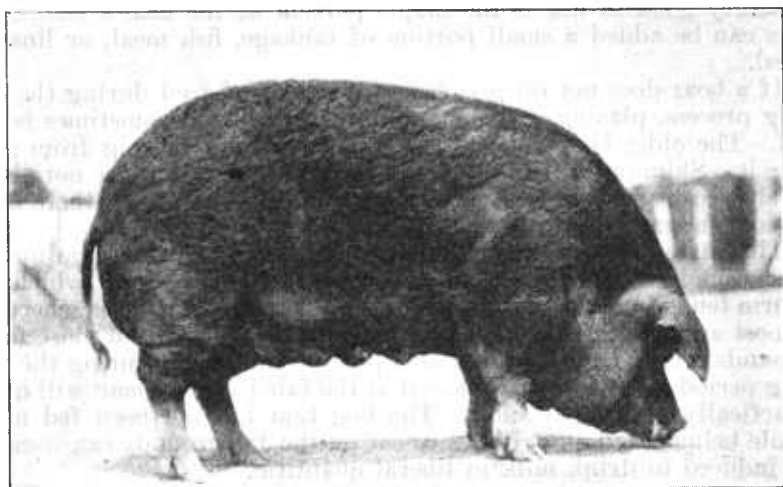


FIG. 7.—If the coat has not shed or has not been clipped it may begin to shed just before show time, as in this case

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 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 liberally, as when "flushing" an animal. By following the method de-

scribed 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 (see 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.

#### TRIMMING FEET AND TUSKS

The feet of hogs intended for exhibition should be given careful attention. The feet of any hog can be helped by trimming. Trimming the feet of a large boar may prove to 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.



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

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

pocketknife 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 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, has been more or less prevalent among hogs on exhibition in recent years. 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 box car should be used rather than a stock car. If possible, get a box car 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 doors of a box car should be left open and the opening protected with a slatted panel.

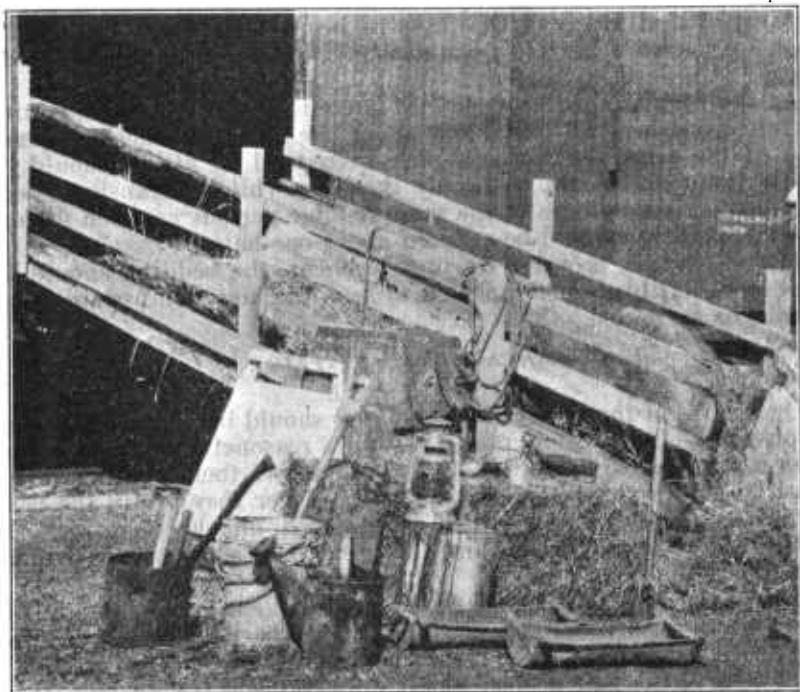


FIG. 9.—Equipment and other articles necessary during shipment and at the fair

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 boards 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 can not 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.

#### 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 can not 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 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



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

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

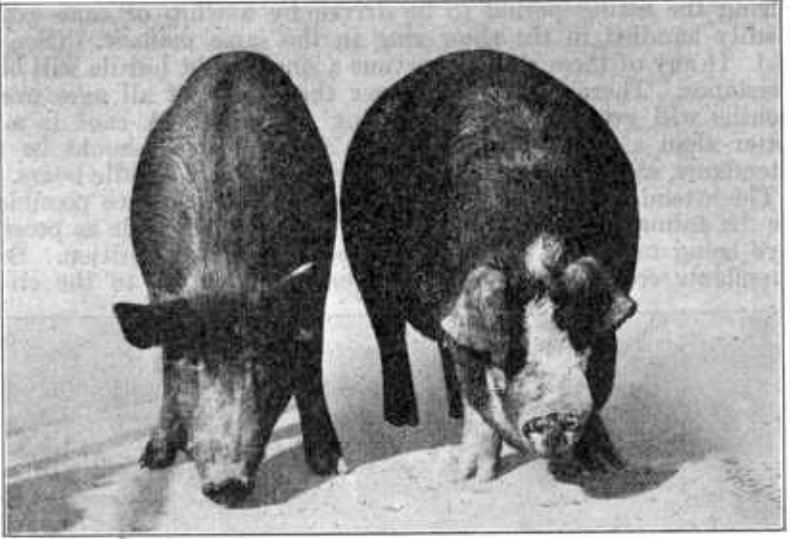


FIG. 11.—Bacon-type sow (left) and lard-type sow (right)

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.

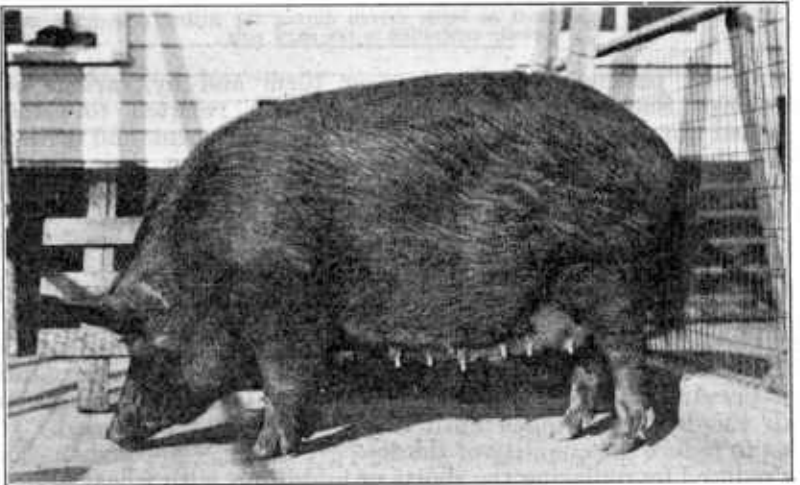


FIG. 12.—A bacon-type hog illustrating good back, deep, long, smooth sides, good feet, and showing good udder development

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 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:

<b>Duroc-Jersey:</b>	
Boars	650 to 950 pounds.
Sows	500 to 700 pounds.
<b>Poland China:</b>	
Boars	650 to 1,000 pounds.
Sows	500 to 700 pounds.
<b>Chester White:</b>	
Boars	600 to 900 pounds.
Sows	500 to 700 pounds.
<b>Berkshire:</b>	
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 950 pounds.
Sows.....	500 to 700 pounds.
Yorkshire:	
Boars.....	600 to 900 pounds.
Sows.....	500 to 700 pounds.
Tamworth:	
Boars.....	600 to 900 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.

A good breeding animal is one that is not overfat nor yet thin. It is best to look the animal over carefully at first to determine its general condition and conformation. Is it too fat or too thin? In what respects does it fall short? To examine a hog critically, stand some distance from it, view it from both sides and from front and behind. Retain a good mental picture of the animal as it stands.

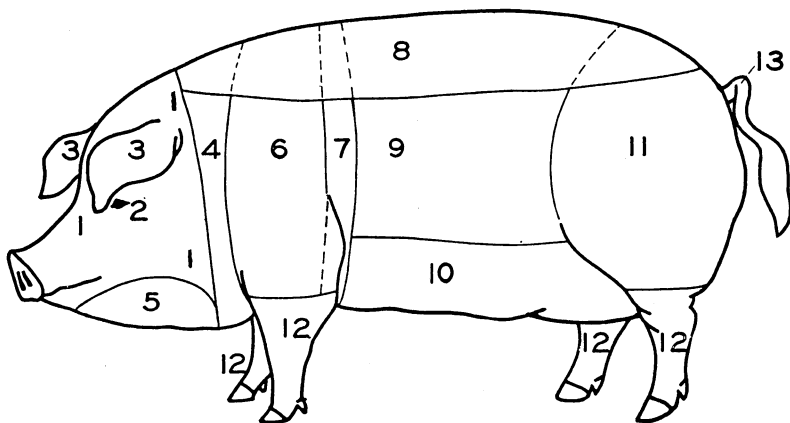


FIG. 13.—Points of swine designated on score card. 1, Head and face; 2, eyes; 3, ears; 4, neck; 5, jaw; 6, shoulder; 7, chest or heart girth; 8, back and loin; 9, side and ribs; 10, belly and flank; 11, ham and rump; 12, feet and legs; 13, tail

Be sure to have it posed as naturally as possible. When the head is held high it may indicate low back; if held low it may show a good back, when in fact the back may actually be low. When the body is not straight, wrinkles may appear which are not true skin wrinkles. If the hind feet stand forward under the belly the legs may appear crooked.

When fitting an animal intended for show or for scoring, it should be driven often, so that it may be easily handled with a whip or cane when shown. It is difficult to score properly a nervous or scared animal.

After carefully noting the animal and getting it well pictured as a whole, use the score card and rate it point by point. From the mental picture of what is regarded as perfect for the various points, make deductions as found necessary in making the score for each particular point. For instance, the eyes are scored 2 points; if there is no defect or blemish, score the 2 points; if the flesh partially covers the eyes, obstructing the sight, deduct one-half or 1 full point, or as much as seems proper. If the shoulder is not smooth or is too coarse, deduct 1 or 2 points or such other number as is deemed best.

Each animal is scored separately and recorded, the points for each are added, and the one standing nearest to 100 is rated first, the one receiving the next greatest number of points is placed second, etc.

The scores shown in the accompanying form of score card for the various breeds are scores recommended by the record associations of these breeds. The points shown in the column under head of Department of Agriculture are the score recommended by the department for general lard-type and bacon-type hogs.

Score cards for the various breeds of hogs as drafted by the respective record associations and the U. S. Department of Agriculture

Points	Lard type							Bacon type		
	Duroc-Jersey	Poland China	Chester White	Spotted Poland China	Hampshire	Berkshire	Department of Agriculture	Tamworth	Yorkshire	Department of Agriculture
Head and face.....	4	4	4	4	4	7	4	5	6	5
Eyes.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Ears.....	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2
Neck.....	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3
Jowl.....	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2
Shoulder.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Chest.....	12	12	12	12	12	6	12	10	8	10
Back and loin.....	14	14	14	14	15	16	14	12	10	12
Belly and ribs.....	9	8	9	8	8	6	8	12	13	12
Belly and flank.....	4	4	4	4	6	5	4	4	3	4
Ham and rump.....	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	15	10
Feet and legs.....	9	10	9	10	10	10	10	8	8	8
Tail.....	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Coat.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3
Color.....	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2
Size.....	8	8	8	8	5	6	8	8	7	8
Action and style.....	3	3	3	3	4	6	3	3	5	3
Condition.....	2	3	2	3	4	3	2	2	2	2
Disposition.....	2	2	2	2	3	-----	2	2	-----	2
Symmetry of points.....	3	2	3	2	-----	-----	3	4	5	3
Total.....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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, medium length.

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 per cent 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 pages 3 and 4 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 clearly shown that animals of the best type and quality make the best 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.