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# JUDGING LIVESTOCK

## A Guide for Beginners

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CIRCULAR 752

A 4-H CLUB JUDGING CONTEST



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This circular replaces Circular 579. The revisions are primarily intended to give the reader information about breeds of livestock, and to bring the discussion of various types of livestock, especially of hogs, in line with present judging trends. These revisions are by G. R. Carlisle, Associate Professor of Animal Science Extension. Circular 579 was by E. T. Robbins, former Professor of Animal Husbandry Extension.

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# JUDGING LIVESTOCK

**E**VERY TIME a stockman buys or sells an animal he judges — or misjudges — livestock. The successful stockman, therefore, is a keen judge. He can tell for himself whether his animals are developing as they should for show or sale. He is also able to buy animals at different times and places and still assemble a uniform group.

Owning the best animals, he has found, is a source not only of pride but of profit. The stockman who selects superior animals to breed or show makes more money than the stockman who does not. This is true too of the stockman who raises meat animals. It takes no more feed to raise a good animal than a poor one, and the good one sells higher.

## How to Begin

**Have an ideal.** Before you start to judge any animals, try to make a mental picture of a perfect animal. You can do this by recalling the most desirable features of the fine animals you have seen and thinking of them as belonging to one animal. Then compare the animals you have to judge with your ideal and decide which ones are most like it. Be sure to take into consideration not just the general appearance but every detail of parts as well.

Livestock judging requires continual practice, so take a critical look at every farm animal you see. Decide as quickly as you can which is the best animal in some group or how nearly one animal measures up to your ideal. Whenever you have the opportunity, compare your decisions with those of other judges.

**Be an independent judge.** Do not ask for advice. If you want other people to have confidence in you, you must have confidence in yourself. And you can develop self-confidence only by making your own decisions.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## A TYPICAL JUDGING OUTLINE

### **Weight**

Weight is one indication of size. It is greatly influenced by condition, or fatness.

### **General appearance**

**Type** is the pattern of the animal and how closely it comes to the ideal of its class.

**Size for age** is important because rapid growth is economical and early maturity is wanted.

**Symmetry** is the blending of the different parts of an animal in such a way as to make it useful, attractive, and stylish. For example, a short neck adds to the attractiveness of a sheep, whereas a long neck improves the style of a horse.

**Sex characters and temperament.** In a breeding class the male should be dominantly masculine and the female definitely feminine; such individuals are considered better breeders. A temperament that is calm and gentle but energetic is desired in farm animals; nervous or vicious individuals should be avoided.

**Breed type.** A registered animal should have the accepted standard characteristics of its breed with respect to conformation, color, and other distinguishing features.

### **Conformation**

Conformation is the form of build of an animal as determined by the shape of its various parts.

### **Condition**

Condition and finish denote fatness.

### **Quality**

**General quality** is shown by fine hair, pliable skin, smooth hard bone, and general smoothness even when an animal is thin.

**Quality of flesh** refers to the firm yet mellow flesh on a fat animal.

### **Substance**

Substance refers to size of bone, size of frame, and amount of muscle.

### **Soundness**

Soundness indicates freedom from irregular or abnormal body parts caused by disease, accident, or heredity.

### **Feet and legs**

If breeding animals are to have long, useful lives, they should be sound and correct on their feet and legs. Feet and legs are not usually considered very much in placing market animals.

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*(Continued from page 3)*

**Begin by judging fat stock.** Fat animals, those ready for slaughter, are easiest to judge. As the degree of condition varies among the different classes, you also get a good idea of how animals of similar types change in appearance with more or less flesh. This is a big help when later you judge thin animals and have to guess how they will look when fattened.

Hardest to judge are breeding animals. Besides the utility features of fat animals they must have the distinguishing shape, color, marking, and coat of their particular breed. They should also show promise of being good breeders and long-lived.

**Have a system.** The keen judge of livestock is always orderly, never haphazard. First he notes the general appearance and important details of each animal. He decides which animal most nearly measures up to his ideal. And then he rates the other animals in order from the top downward.

To get the best idea of the general appearance of an animal, stand 10 or more feet away and look at it from the sides and in front and behind. Step up closer to examine the details and, if judging cattle or sheep, to feel the thickness and quality of flesh.

Some judges become so skillful that they can examine the entries one by one in a rather large class and then line them up with little or no change to make afterwards.

**Analyze each animal.** Even the most experienced judge analyzes each animal part by part and in definite order. By doing the same thing you will know that you have not neglected any important details.

**Know how to give decisions.** Have reasons for your decisions. You should be able to support every one of your decisions with reasons. It is not enough to "like" one animal more than another. You must know — and be able to tell others — why the animal you "like" excels.

**Use descriptive terms.** The terms should describe as well as compare. Avoid "good," "better," and "best." For example: Do not say that one steer's back is better than another's. Say it is straighter or wider or more thickly finished.

Also, do not quibble over points that are nearly equal or of little importance. Call attention only to differences that are important and plain. And, above all, do not become overenthusiastic about an animal and blindly praise it for qualities it may not possess. The first-place animal, though best in most respects, usually has a few faults.

**Be tactful.** In student judging it is necessary, of course, to criticize animals freely and to state the defects of the animal placed last in the class. In discussing the entries in a show or commenting on livestock on a breeder's farm, however, this is not good policy. Though a stockman may graciously accept the verdict that another animal is superior to his own, he will likely resent it if a judge implies that an animal of his is inferior.

**Make concise notes.** Sometimes a judge has to remember the clearly good and poor points of animals for several hours or days. If there is time only to make brief notes, some system of abbreviations is helpful. For example:

*ls* means low-set; *ll*, long-legged; *ba*, reasonably straight back; *ru*, long wide rump; *thi*, plump thigh; *fat*, fairly fat; *tw*, full twist; *q*, fine quality; *dr*, drooping; *nar*, narrow; and so on.

Gradations in merit may be indicated by one or more underlines to indicate degrees of superiority and by circling the abbreviations one or more times to indicate degrees of inferiority. Thus, *q* underlined equals very fine quality, and *q* circled means rough or coarse.

Further suggestions for taking notes in judging contests are given on pages 43-44.

## BEEF CATTLE

Beef cattle<sup>1</sup> are the easiest livestock to judge. They can be trained to lead and stand so that they can be seen, compared, and handled easily. Their hair does not mask their shape, as does the fleece of a sheep, and their greater size makes them less difficult to study than hogs.

<sup>1</sup> Instructions for judging dairy cattle are given in Circular 486, "Selecting Dairy Cattle," and Circular 495, "Teaching Dairy-Cattle Selection."

## Fat Steers

The beginner who makes himself a good fat-steer judge is on the way to becoming a good judge not only of beef cattle in general but of all other stock too. Most judging instruction, therefore, begins with fat steers.

The premium fat steer is one that has a high percentage of popular cuts. Consumers like the loin best. Next they prefer the rib (largely back), the rump, and the round. The blocky low-set steer supplies the highest percentage of this high-priced beef and also yields the highest percentage of total dressed beef.

Breeders, for this reason, select animals which are wide and thickly covered with flesh along the back, loin, rump, and round. This conformation is naturally associated with a wide, deep body, short legs, and a short head and neck. Feeders particularly insist on the deep body, because it indicates a large digestive capacity, and also on a wide chest, which denotes a strong constitution.

**Use hands as well as eyes.** To judge a steer, first stand not less than 10 feet away and look at it from the side and in front and behind. While you are sizing up its general appearance, notice also the conformation. Then step closer to make certain of the width and the thickness of back, loin, and rump, the plumpness of thighs, and the fulness of twist.

With your hand, press on the steer's shoulder and ribs and along the back and loin. On the back and loin feel for the smoothness and "mellow" texture, the firm but elastic resistance to pressure which indicates good flesh.

By examining the steer this way you will discover most of its important characteristics. The next step is to compare it with the ideal fat steer and the other animals shown in the same class.

### Use the Judging Blank

Until you have a clear mental picture of the ideal fat steer, it is advisable to compare the steer you are judging with the ideal steer described in the judging blank (*page 10*). Although it may be inconvenient to use the blank in practical judging at a

farm or sale or show, it is almost indispensable for a beginner. The following outline will help you to use the judging blank more intelligently.

**Weight.** Practice estimating how much different animals weigh — later checking your estimate with the actual weight — until you become adept.

**General appearance.** A choice fat steer has a symmetrical and stylish appearance (style in posture and movement indicates health and vigor). It is large for its age — some steers weigh as much as 1,000 pounds by the time they are 12 months old — and has a blocky build and short legs (blocky build and short legs usually are found together). The outline of the body, viewed from the side, is nearly rectangular, with great depth and medium length. The topline is level and nearly parallel with the underline.

Viewed from in front and behind, the choice fat steer is wide, the width being nearly equal from topline to underline. The thighs carry their full width down low. The paunch does not bulge (a “paunchy” steer, wide through the middle, has too much weight of abdominal organs and consequently a low dressing percentage).

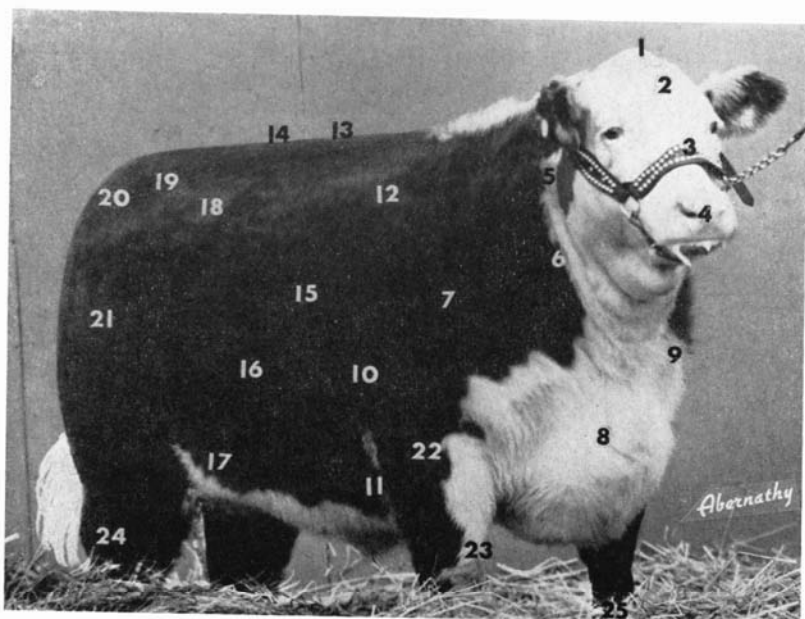
**Conformation.** The head is short and broad; the muzzle, wide (a wide muzzle is a mark of an efficient feeder and a generally vigorous animal). The neck is short, neat at the throat, and tapers to a full shoulder vein or union with the shoulder. The sloping shoulder is smooth, not prominent, and covered with flesh. The crops (the area behind the shoulders on each side of the back) are full. The level topline includes a straight back, which is wide and thickly fleshed. The loin is level, wide, and thick.

The hipbones (hooks) are smooth and well covered with flesh. The rump is long, level, and wide, especially at the rear. The tailhead is level with the forward topline.

Thighs (rounds) are especially wide and plump below on the sides and rear. The twist, where the thighs join, is low and full.

**Condition.** The choice fat steer is plump and thickly covered with flesh. Usually the fattest steer wins.





### Parts of a Fat Steer

- |                  |                           |                    |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Poll          | 10. Chest and heart girth | 18. Hooks or hips  |
| 2. Forehead      | 11. Foreflank             | 19. Rump           |
| 3. Face          | 12. Crops                 | 20. Pin bones      |
| 4. Muzzle        | 13. Back                  | 21. Thigh or round |
| 5. Neck          | 14. Loin                  | 22. Forearm        |
| 6. Shoulder vein | 15. Ribs                  | 23. Knee           |
| 7. Shoulder      | 16. Paunch                | 24. Hock           |
| 8. Brisket       | 17. Flank                 | 25. Shank          |
| 9. Dewlap        |                           |                    |

**Quality.** Many close decisions in the show ring favor the animals possessing superior quality. When other things are similar, quality of flesh may be the deciding factor.

### Sample Reasons for Placing Fat Steers

I placed the Angus steers **3-2-1-4**.

No. **3** was an easy top because he was both the typiest and the fat-test steer in the class. No. **2** had the advantage in dressing percent

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Judging Blank: FAT CATTLE FOR MARKET

	1	2	3	4
<b>Weight</b> .....				
<b>General appearance</b>				
Type. General outline broad, deep; compact, blocky, low-set .....				
Size for age. Large, early-maturing .....				
Symmetry. Straight top and bottom lines; not paunchy, uniform in width; smooth, stylish .....				
<b>Conformation</b>				
Head—not too large or too small for size of body; well carried; short face; wide muzzle; broad forehead; medium-sized ears .....				
Neck—short, thick; blending smoothly with the shoulder; tapering evenly and uniformly from shoulder to head; light crest and dewlap .....				
Shoulder vein—full, plump, smooth .....				
Shoulder—smooth, compact .....				
Brisket—wide, rounded, neat and trim .....				
Chest and heart girth—wide, full, and deep; foreflank full .....				
Crops—full, thick; even with the sides of shoulder .....				
Back—straight, short, broad, uniform in width .....				
Loin—broad, level, thick .....				
Ribs—widely arched, long .....				
Flanks—low, full .....				
Hooks—smooth .....				
Rump—broad, long, level, straight, square; smooth tailhead .....				
Thighs or rounds—deep, full, thick, broad, bulging .....				
Twist—full, deep, low .....				
Legs—short, straight, set squarely, wide apart; fine shank; full arm .....				
<b>Condition</b>				
Covering—fat, finished; smooth, uniformly covered .....				
Shoulder vein—full, plump .....				
Brisket—plump .....				
Shoulders, crops, back, ribs, loin, rump, and hooks—deeply and thickly covered .....				
Flanks—full .....				
Pinbones and tailhead—thickly covered .....				
Thighs and twist—full, thick and plump .....				
<b>Quality</b>				
Features—refined head, neck, ears; smoothly made .....				
Hair—fine, soft, silky .....				
Skin—loose, pliable, mellow, thin to medium thickness; no excess throat or dewlap .....				
Bone—clean, smooth, medium sized; small horn or neat poll; slim tail; shoulder blades, hooks and tailhead not prominent .....				
Flesh—smooth, mellow yet firm elastic flesh; free from ties, rolls, and patchiness .....				
<b>FINAL PLACING</b> .....				

(Continued from page 9)

because of his trimmer middle and lighter hide, but **3** easily placed over him because he was first of all typier, being lower set, closer and tighter coupled, wider from front to rear, shorter necked, and deeper bodied. He was straighter and stronger topped, and he carried down into a deeper, fuller, and wider round. Then, he was a fatter steer, being more thickly and firmly covered over the shoulder points, crops, loin, and rump.

The No. **2** steer, which I placed second, was more upstanding, uneven in his width, and cut up in the flanks. He was flat in the forerib and peaked over the rump.

Next, my middle pair, **2** and **1**, were close. I will grant that **1** had more covering over the shoulders and ribs, was a wider, thicker steer with more arch of rib and depth of foreflank; but I placed **2** over **1** because he was a higher killing steer that would hang up a higher quality, straighter lined carcass. He was more uniform in his covering, having the advantage in finish over the loin and rump. He was lighter boned, thinner hidéd, and neater about the shoulder, brisket, and neck. He was stronger in his top, more level in his rump, and meated down lower on the round. I did not like the low back, high rump, thick shoulders, and heavy middle on the **1** steer. He also tapered badly from front to rear and was very coarse in his head, hide, and bone.

Coming to my bottom pair, **1** and **4**, I considered this easy. Even though **4** had more quality, was straighter lined, and trimmer middled, **1** placed over him easily because he was a fatter, thicker, beefier steer that was wider and meatier over his top, wider and deeper in his rounds, fuller in the twist, and shorter and thicker in his neck.

No. **4** had to go to the bottom because he was the thinnest steer in the class. He was very narrow over his top, flat in his rib, peaked over the rump, and shallow and narrow in his rounds. He stood high off the ground, was long and thin in his neck, and just lacked the thriftiness, covering, beefiness, and conformation to place anywhere but last in this class.

For these reasons I placed the Angus steers **3-2-1-4**.

**Do not hurry.** In a judging contest state your reasons slowly and distinctly. The two minutes usually allowed will be more than enough time if you confine yourself to essentials.

## Beef Breeding Cattle

When beef breeding cattle are fat, they have much the same general appearance as fat steers. In addition they should have the approved breed type, definite sex characters, roomy middles, and general vigor, indicated in the judging blank (*page 12*).

**Sex characters and temperament.** The masculine bull is bold and aggressive, with rather heavy shoulders and a thick

## Judging Blank: BEEF BREEDING CATTLE

	1	2	3	4
<b>Weight</b> .....				
<b>General appearance</b>				
<b>Type.</b> General outline broad, deep; compact, low-set, blocky.....				
<b>Size for age.</b> Large, rugged; proper height, width and depth for age and breed. Undersized or stunted animals to be avoided.....				
<b>Symmetry.</b> Straight top and bottom lines; deep roomy middle, uniform in width; full hindquarters; smooth, stylish.....				
<b>Sex characters and temperament.</b> Cows and heifers—feminine in appearance; refined head and horn. Mild and matronly expression. Neck free from crest. Temperament, active and vigorous but gentle. <b>Bulls</b> —masculine in appearance; massive head. Bold expression. Pronounced crest on neck. Heavy bone structure. Temperament, active and vigorous...				
<b>Breed type.</b> Color, shape of body, head and horn or poll characteristic of breed; proper size.....				
<b>Conformation</b>				
<b>Head</b> —not too large or too small for size of body; well carried; short face; wide muzzle; broad forehead; medium-sized ears.....				
<b>Neck</b> —short, thick; blending smoothly with the shoulder; tapering evenly and uniformly from shoulder to head; light crest and dewlap.....				
<b>Shoulder vein</b> —full, plump, smooth.....				
<b>Shoulder</b> —smooth, compact.....				
<b>Brisket</b> —wide, rounded, neat and trim.....				
<b>Chest and heart girth</b> —wide, full, and deep; foreflank full.....				
<b>Crops</b> —full, thick; even with the sides of shoulder.....				
<b>Back</b> —straight, short, broad, uniform in width.....				
<b>Loin</b> —broad, level, thick.....				
<b>Ribs</b> —widely arched, long.....				
<b>Flanks</b> —low, full.....				
<b>Hooks</b> —smooth.....				
<b>Rump</b> —broad, long, level, straight, square; smooth tailhead.....				
<b>Thighs or rounds</b> —deep, full, thick, broad, bulging.....				
<b>Twist</b> —full, deep, low.....				
<b>Legs</b> —short, straight, set squarely, wide apart; fine shank; full arm.....				
<b>Condition</b>				
Good breeding condition; moderately fat with marked leaning toward deep, thick fleshing if fed liberally.....				
<b>Quality</b>				
Hair, hide, bone, and flesh—as in steers; refined features.....				
<b>Substance</b>				
Ample bone, heavy muscle.....				
<b>Feet, legs, and action</b>				
Feet normal; legs straight; action free and easy.....				
<b>FINAL PLACING</b> .....				

crest on the top of the neck. He has a larger head than a cow, often with curly hair on the forehead, heavier horns, heavier bone, and heavier thighs. The feminine cow is calm and gentle and more refined, especially about the head, neck, and shoulders.

**Breed type.** Each beef breed has a color pattern and other characteristics which distinguish it and are highly valued by owners of purebred herds. Some of these features are necessary for registration and some are not. For example, an otherwise good Shorthorn cow with coarse, upturned horns might still be given a place in a show-ring rating. If, however, she were any other color than red, white, or roan, she would not be given any rating, nor could she be registered.

**Condition.** Cattle for breeding should not be very fat, so condition is important mainly to indicate the ability to put on flesh of good quality. While most breeders exhibit both bulls and cows as fat as steers, the keen judge appreciates equally the animals that are moderately finished.

**Quality.** Quality is important because the ability to put on flesh smoothly and to develop a high-grade carcass is largely an inherited characteristic.

### Sample Reasons for Placing Breeding Heifers

I placed the Shorthorn heifers **1-2-3-4** and thought that we had an easy top, a close middle pair, and an easy bottom.

No. **1** heifer was outstanding in this class because of her modern type, her straightness of lines, and her all-round symmetry and balance. Although both **2** and **3** had the advantage in size, substance, and depth of chest, **1** was placed at the head of the class because she showed relatively more hindquarter development. She was standing on shorter legs, was much deeper in the flanks, and carried her width and depth more evenly from front to rear. She was more attractive about the front, had a more feminine head than **2**, and stood on straighter hind legs. She was longer and more level in her rump and had a neater tailhead.

No. **2**, the second-place heifer, lacked in development of hindquarter, was cut up in the twist and rear flank, and was rather coarse and heavy through the shoulders, brisket, and dewlap. She was also open in the shoulders and loosely coupled.

In my middle pair, **2** and **3**, I admit that **3** had a more feminine head with more Shorthorn breed character and that she was a smoother shouldered heifer with a bit less brisket; nevertheless, **2** was placed over **3** because she was a deeper fleshed, thinner hided heifer that was shorter

coupled, lower set, and deeper ribbed. She was shorter in her neck and stronger in her top. I faulted **3** for being upstanding, long in her neck, sickled in her hocks, high at the tailhead, and heavy in her hide.

In my last pair, **3** and **4**, even though **4** stood and walked straighter and had a shorter neck and a lighter hide, **3** placed over her easily because of superiority in depth, width, and beefiness. She was much nicer in the head and color and was nearer the type of the heifer I placed above her. No. **4** placed last because she was upstanding, long in her middle, short in her rump, and shallow in her body. She lacked hind-quarter development and was too light in her bone. She had an undesirable color pattern and just lacked the ruggedness, beefiness, and thriftiness of the other heifers in the class.

For these reasons I placed the Shorthorn heifers **1-2-3-4**.

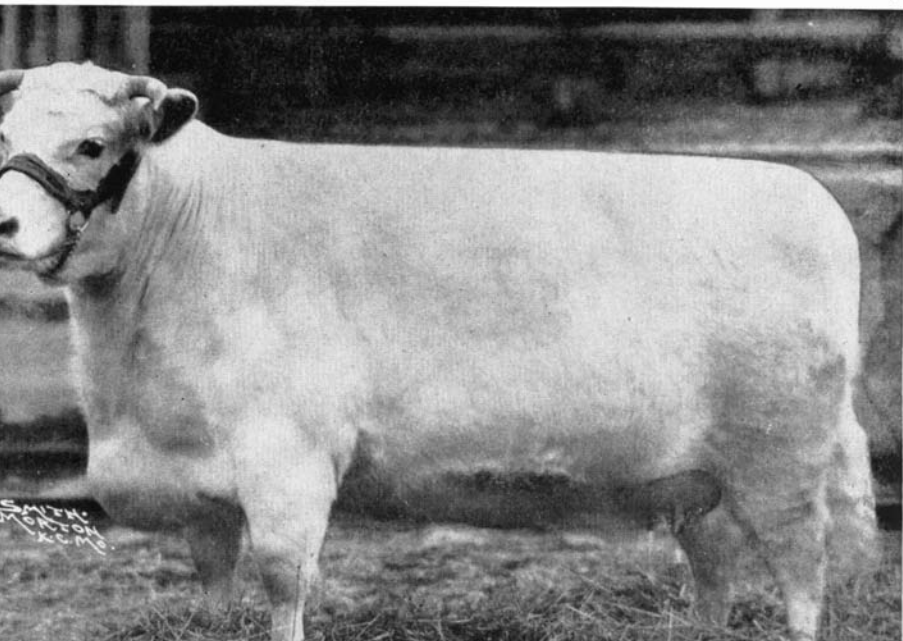
## Characteristics of Different Breeds

Beef breeds are easily recognized by their color, head, and horns or lack of horns.

**Shorthorn.** The Shorthorn may be only "red, red and white, roan, and white. No other colors are acceptable for registration." Breeders prefer solid colors, especially the rich red and the dark even roan, and dislike prominently spotted animals. They also prefer the bare skin of the muzzle to be pink with no dark color.

### A Typical Champion Shorthorn Cow, Belle of Leveldale

*(Courtesy American Shorthorn Breeders' Association)*



Horns are rather short and flat and curve forward and down. There is also a hornless strain called Polled Shorthorn.

The Shorthorn is the largest of the beef breeds, and the outline as viewed from the side is rectangular. Most cows combine beef type with fair milk-producing capacity.

**Hereford.** The Hereford is a "medium, deep, rich red with white head, breast, belly, crest, switch, and ankles." There should be no white back of the crops, high on the flank, or high on the legs. Dark muzzles are undesirable.

Horns, of medium size to heavy, curve forward and down. There is also a hornless strain called Polled Hereford.

The Hereford is of medium size, low-set, and compact, and can put on a very thick covering of fat. In winter the coat often becomes long, thick, and partially curly.

**Angus.** The Angus is black. "White is objectionable except on the underline behind the navel, and there only to a moderate

#### **A Typical Champion Hereford Cow, Donlette Jordan**

*(Courtesy of American Hereford Association)*



extent. A white scrotum in the male is undesirable." Animals "red in color or with a noticeable amount of pure white above the underline or on leg or legs or feet or with scurs are not eligible to record."

The head is polled, that is, without horns or scurs.

The low-set type, compact muscular build, and black color make the Angus appear smaller than it is. The loin, rib, rump, and round are well developed; the flesh is smooth and firm.

**Less common breeds.** The Galloway is a black, polled breed resembling the Angus but slower maturing and rangier with longer, curlier hair and a wider, more rounding poll.

The Milking Shorthorn is a dual-purpose breed of Shorthorn cattle, more angular in type and excelling in milk production.

The Red Poll, red and polled, is a dual-purpose breed combining fair beef type with a good milk flow.

The Devon, solid red and horned, is somewhat like the Shorthorn in general appearance. The breed has rather long spreading horns with upturned tips, and is also distinguished for good milk flow, style, and agility.

### **A Typical Champion Angus Cow, Blackcap Bessie 23rd of Page**

*(Courtesy American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association)*





The Brahman, introduced from India for experimental purposes, has become popular in some localities in the South and Southwest because of its ability to stand the heat.

## High Points of Judging Beef Cattle

To help you remember the most important things you have learned about judging beef cattle, study these questions on fat steers and those on breeding stock.

### Fat Steers

1. Does the steer have a thick, smooth, uniform covering (condition) over his ribs, back, loin, and rump?
2. Is the steer *typy*? That is, is he relatively low set, wide, deep, thick, and beefy?
3. Does the steer carry a deep, plump, bulging round, a wide, thick-fleshed loin, and well sprung ribs?
4. Is the steer a quality steer — smooth in his shoulders and hooks with uniform side lines?
5. Is the steer trim enough? Would he yield a meaty, well balanced carcass?

### Beef breeding cattle

1. Is the animal short legged, short necked, and *typy*?
2. Is the animal beefy, wide, deep, and thick?
3. Is the animal a quality animal? That is, does it have neat shoulders, neat hooks, a strong back, and uniform lines?
4. Does a heifer have a *breedy* head — a feminine head? A bull, a masculine head?
5. How are the leg placements? What about substance of bone?
6. Does the animal have good balance? What about general over-all appearance?

## SHEEP

Sheep are harder to judge than cattle because they are smaller and the various parts not so easily seen. The chief trouble, though, is that long wool masks the shape. The judge has to feel an unshorn sheep very thoroughly to determine the true shape and covering of flesh; cleverly trimmed fleece may be hiding a low back, a sloping rump, and slender thighs. He must also estimate the value of the wool.

**Showing a sheep.** As a sheep does not halter well, someone has to hold it while it is being judged. He usually stands at its left side, with his left hand under its neck and his right, when necessary, behind its ears. Some sheep will also lead this way. More often, however, the person leading a sheep has to push it along at the tail with his right hand. To catch it he grasps it under the neck (or under the flank if the neck is out of reach) — never by the wool.

### Fat Lambs

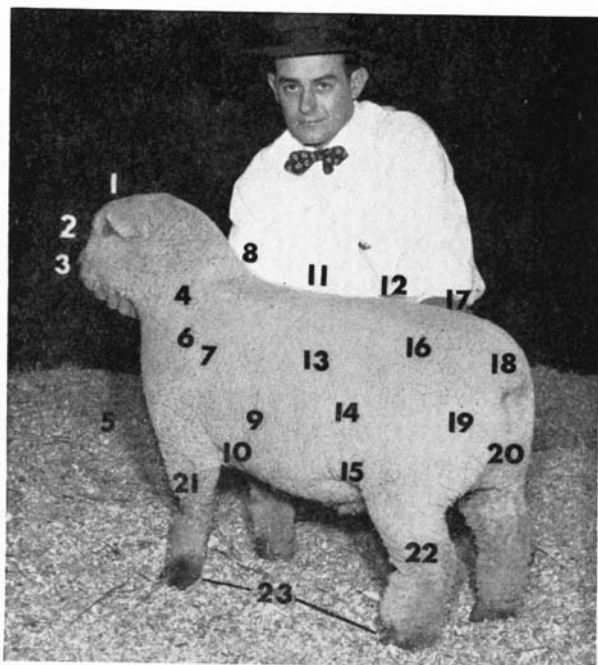
Fat sheep resemble fat cattle in shape. The most popular cuts of both are the back, loin, rump, and thigh. The highest priced mutton cut, however, is the rump and thigh together, called "leg of lamb."

**Ages of fat market sheep.** The fat sheep in stock shows and judging contests are usually wether lambs, seldom yearlings. If you cannot tell by looking at a sheep whether it is a lamb or an older animal, inspect its front teeth (*page 22*).

**Judging procedure.** To judge a class of fat sheep, stand not less than 10 feet away and look at the animals from in front, the sides, and behind, and compare their general appearance. From in front note the width, especially between the forelegs.

You will probably find it more convenient to handle each sheep from the left side. Keeping your fingers straight and close together so they will not muss the fleece, feel (1) the thigh,

(2) the twist, (3) the rump, loin and back, and (4) the ribs. Though front parts are less important, in a close decision choose the animal with a smooth, well covered shoulder and shoulder vein.



*(Courtesy of Purdue University)*

### Parts of a Fat Lamb

- |                    |               |             |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Forehead        | 9. Chest      | 17. Rump    |
| 2. Face            | 10. Foreflank | 18. Dock    |
| 3. Muzzle          | 11. Back      | 19. Thigh   |
| 4. Neck            | 12. Loin      | 20. Twist   |
| 5. Brisket         | 13. Ribs      | 21. Knee    |
| 6. Shoulder vein   | 14. Paunch    | 22. Hock    |
| 7. Shoulder        | 15. Flank     | 23. Pastern |
| 8. Top of shoulder | 16. Hip       |             |

## Use the Judging Blank

Until you have a clear mental picture of the ideal fat sheep, it is advisable to compare the sheep you are judging with the ideal sheep described in the judging blank (*page 21*).

**Weight.** Estimate the weight and, whenever possible, check your estimate with scales. Although show lambs often weigh more, usually highest prices are paid for lambs at about 90 pounds and yearling wethers at not much over 100.

**General appearance.** The ideal fat sheep, like the ideal fat steer, has style. It is blocky, low-set, and symmetrical. Side lines are straight; topline and underline are level and nearly parallel.

**Conformation.** The legs are short, straight, and far apart. (Straight hind legs make the thighs appear larger; crooked hocks standing out behind make them appear smaller.)

**Condition.** Condition is more important than any other single characteristic. The loin and back of a choice sheep are so thickly fleshed that the ridge of the backbone can scarcely be felt (such an animal, in good slaughter condition, is preferable to a better-shaped animal bare on the back).

**Quality.** The flesh is smooth and firm, and no flabby fat is accumulated on any part. Although lambs seldom get too fat, objectionable loose shaky fat can sometimes be felt along the ribs and rump of an older sheep.

## Sample Reasons for Placing Fat Lambs

I placed the Southdown fat lambs **1-2-3-4** and considered **1** an easy top because of his excellent finish and handling qualities.

I grant that **2** was a typier, blockier lamb showing more quality but I placed **1** at the top because he was a fatter, stronger topped, firmer handling lamb, carrying more finish throughout; a meatier lamb with more natural fleshing, a larger leg, and greater depth of twist.

I would like to have seen my second-place lamb carrying more finish, especially over the loin.

In placing the close middle pair, **2** and **3**, I must admit that **3** carried more finish over his shoulder, ribs, and back, but I placed **2** over **3** because **2** was a typier lamb, being lower set, shorter coupled, and more compact. He was trimmer middled, showing more quality of bone; and he will be a higher dressing lamb that will hang up a more balanced carcass.

*(Continued on page 22)*

## Judging Blank: FAT LAMBS FOR MARKET

	1	2	3	4
<b>Weight</b> .....				
<b>General appearance</b>				
Mutton type. General outline broad, deep; compact, blocky, low-set.....				
Size for age. Large, early maturing.....				
Symmetry. Straight topline, trim underline, uniform width; not paunchy, leggy, or rangy; smooth, stylish.....				
<b>Conformation</b>				
Head—not too large or too small for size of body, short; forehead broad, wide between the ears.....				
Neck—short, thick, full at junction with shoulder.....				
Brisket—wide, rounding, moderately prominent.....				
Shoulders—compact on top, smoothly joined with neck and body; shoulder vein full, not open or rough.....				
Chest—wide, deep, full behind shoulder and in foreflank.....				
Back—broad, straight, short, strong.....				
Loin—wide, level, thick.....				
Ribs—well sprung, long, close together.....				
Flank—low.....				
Hips—smooth, not prominent.....				
Rump—long, wide to dock, level, smooth.....				
Thighs—deep, wide, plump.....				
Twist—deep, not cut up.....				
Legs—straight, short, strong.....				
<b>Condition</b>				
Brisket—plump, wide; full between shoulder and brisket.....				
Shoulder vein—full.....				
Shoulders, back, loin, ribs, and rump—deeply covered with firm, springy flesh.....				
Flank—full.....				
Dock—large, thick.....				
Leg of mutton and twist—thick, plump.....				
<b>Quality</b>				
Bone medium in size; features of head clean-cut, refined but not delicate; ears not coarse; shoulder not prominent.....				
Flesh smooth, firm, not flabby.....				
<b>FINAL PLACING</b> .....				

I faulted **3** for being uneven in his finish and for lacking the compactness and lowsetness of **2**.

I placed **3** over **4** in the bottom pair although **4** was a stronger typed, firmer handling lamb showing more quality of bone. However, I easily placed **3** over **4** because **3** was a much fatter lamb; a much meatier lamb with a deeper, thicker loin, a plumper leg, and carrying out squarer at the dock. He was typier, lower set, and shorter coupled with greater depth and thickness.

I placed **4** at the bottom of the class because he was an upstanding, shallow, narrow bodied lamb lacking finish and natural fleshing.

For these reasons I placed the Southdown fat lambs **1-2-3-4**.

## Mutton-Type Breeding Sheep

Mutton-type breeding sheep have much the same general appearance as sheep for market. Although they need not be so fat as sheep for slaughter, they are usually exhibited in very high condition.

**Importance of breed type.** In judging breeding sheep give preference to the sheep that most nearly approaches the breed's ideal in general appearance, horns, color of face and legs, and wool covering even though it may not be quite so good in mutton form and fleece as its competitors. Place low, if at all, any animal differing much from the correct breed type no matter how excellent a slaughter animal it may be.

Breed associations list the official disqualifications (usually of horns, color, or fleece), which bar an animal from registration and should keep it from placing in the show ring; also the official objections, lesser faults of breed type but still serious enough to prevent a breeder from keeping an animal that has them. Coon-footed sheep (with low hind pasterns) are objectionable in any breed, as animals so affected nearly always become sluggish and, if rams, useless as breeders.

**Sex characters and temperament.** The desirable ram is bold, aggressive, and sometimes stubborn. He is bigger-boned and holds his thick neck more rigidly than the ewe. His face is wider; his muzzle, larger; his shoulders, heavier. If he has horns they are thick and spirally curved.

**How to tell age.** The age of a sheep can be readily estimated by its incisors or lower front teeth:

A lamb large enough to show in a *fat-mutton class* has 8 temporary incisors well developed. In a *yearling* the middle pair of these temporary front teeth have been replaced by a pair of wider and usually whiter permanent teeth.

In a *2-year-old* sheep the middle 2 pairs of front teeth (1 tooth on each side of the first pair) have been replaced by larger permanent teeth. A *3-year-old* has 3 pairs of permanent front teeth; the fourth pair of temporary teeth are comparatively small. A *4-year-old* has a "full mouth" or 4 pairs of permanent teeth, although there are many exceptions.

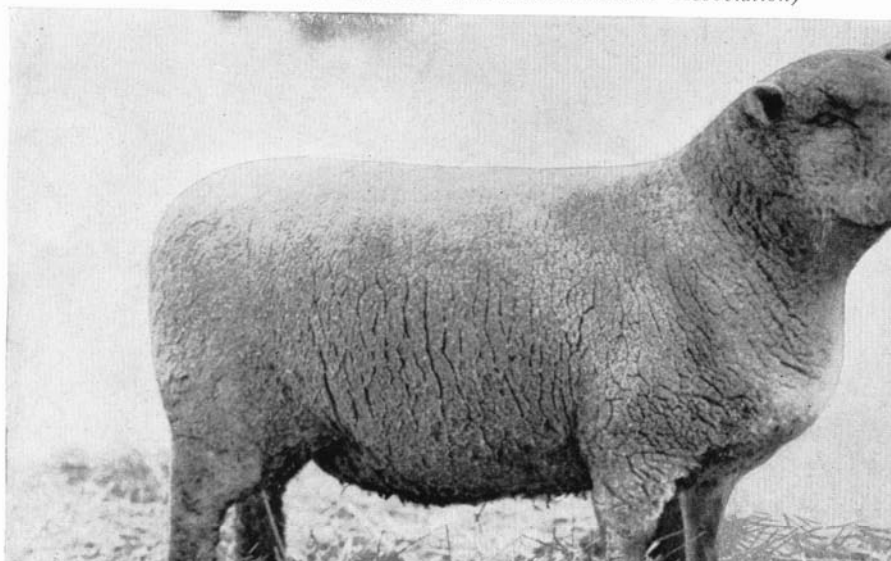
In *older sheep* the front teeth become gradually darker, shorter from wear, and narrower at the base.

**Examining the fleece.** You will, of course, have some idea of the length and density of the wool from feeling the sheep for its condition. For a more thorough examination press your hands, with palms together and fingers straight, into the fleece. Then move them slightly apart, flattening them out as you do so, to open the fleece and reveal its interior appearance.

Never, however, part the fleece on the topline, as that would leave an opening there. Open it only on the side of the shoulder (where the best wool is), on the side, and on the outside of the

### A Typical Champion Southdown Ewe

(Courtesy American Southdown Breeders' Association)





**A Typical Champion Shropshire Ewe**

*(Courtesy American Shropshire  
Registry Association)*

**A Typical Champion Hampshire Ewe**

*(Courtesy American Hampshire  
Sheep Association)*





## Judging Blank: MUTTON BREEDING SHEEP

	1	2	3	4
<b>Weight</b> .....				
<b>General appearance</b>				
Type. Blocky, compact, mutton type; broad, deep with roomy middle, low-set				
Size for age. Proper development for age and breed; not necessarily ranked according to weight.....				
Symmetry. Straight lines, smooth shoulders, well-developed leg of mutton, deep twist. Not light in middle or rangy.....				
<b>Sex characters and temperament.</b> Ewes—refined head, roomy middle, sound udder. Not strong in head or coarse in shoulders. Rugged in appearance, vigorous carriage. Rams—strong, masculine head. Heavy, rugged bone. Temperament, active and vigorous.....				
<b>Breed type.</b> Head, markings, conformation, and fleece characteristic of breed; proper size.....				
<b>Conformation</b>				
Head—not too large or too small for size of body, short; forehead broad, wide between the ears.....				
Neck—short, thick, full at junction with shoulder.....				
Brisket—wide, rounding, moderately prominent.....				
Shoulders—compact on top, smoothly joined with neck and body; shoulder vein full, not open or rough.....				
Chest—wide, deep, full behind shoulder and in foreflank.....				
Back—broad, straight, short, strong.....				
Loin—wide, level, thick.....				
Ribs—well sprung, long, close together.....				
Flank—low.....				
Hips—not prominent.....				
Rump—long, wide to dock, level, smooth.....				
Thighs—deep, wide, plump.....				
Twist—deep, not cut up.....				
Legs—straight, short, strong.....				
<b>Condition</b>				
Good breeding condition; thickly covered, especially over shoulders, ribs, back, and loin. Not bare along backbone.....				
<b>Quality</b>				
Clean, smooth bone; clean-cut head. Not coarse in shoulders or heavy in ears. Not pety. Flesh firm; no soft gobby fat on ribs or around dock.....				
<b>Substance</b>				
Ample bone; full heart girth; thick muscular development, especially in thigh. Not light in bone.....				
<b>Feet, legs, and action</b>				
Straight even toes; short straight legs with strong ankles. Action prompt, easy, and graceful. Not low in pasterns or crooked in hocks.....				
<b>Fleece</b>				
Wool dense, reasonably long, even in fineness, clean, covering all parts consistent with correct breed type. Yolk or oil moderate in amount and evenly distributed. No kemp (hair) or black fibers. Nearly free of foreign material. Not mushy, stained, or dead in appearance.....				
<b>FINAL PLACING</b> .....				

thigh (where the coarsest wool is). Fibers should be white, with a slightly yellowish tinge from the yolk. The desirable, relatively fine wool also has a close, distinct crimp. And if the skin is pink, the sheep is healthy and vigorous.

Kemp and hair are objectionable. So are black fibers, which may occur on the neck and body of the black-faced breeds. The only use of all-black sheep is as "counters" in range flocks, where one black is commonly put with each 100 white.

### Sample Reasons for Placing Breeding Ewes

I saw this class of placeable Hampshire breeding ewes **2-3-4-1**.

The No. **2** ewe was an easy top in this class because of her size, ruggedness, and Hampshire breed type.

It is true No. **3** was a shorter, thicker necked ewe with straighter body lines; but I placed **2** over **3** because **2** was typier, being wider down her top, especially over the loin, deeper bodied, wider through the chest floor, and she had more spring and spread of rib. No. **2** was also stronger topped, straighter on her hind legs as viewed from the rear; she was standing on more bone, and was wooled down further on her legs. I would like to see No. **3**, my second place ewe, straighter on her hind legs, standing on more bone, wooled down below the knees and hocks, and with more size for a Hampshire.

In my middle pair, **3** and **4**, I will concede that No. **4** was straighter on her hind legs, and was a larger, more rugged ewe standing on more bone; however, I placed **3** over **4** because **3** had much more mutton type, being more compact, lower set, shorter necked, wider over the top, and thicker and deeper over the loin. No. **3** was also stronger topped, straighter lined, and had a deeper, thicker, larger leg which carried into a deeper, fuller twist. She had a denser fleece which was free from black fibers. I would like to see No. **4** with a larger leg, deeper twist, and free of black fibers in her fleece.

In my bottom pair, **4** and **1**, I considered this a close placing and will grant that **1** was a larger, more rugged ewe with more Hampshire breed character about the head; but I placed **4** over **1** because **4** had more balance and symmetry, more natural fleshing, a thicker loin, carried out squarer at the dock, and had a larger leg. **4** also was showing more condition and had a much denser fleece.

I placed **1** at the bottom of this class and would criticize her for being a plain ewe that lacked balance, width over the top, development in her leg, and twist. She was open fleeced, and lacked the natural fleshing of the other three ewes in the class.

For these reasons I placed the class of Hampshire breeding ewes **2-3-4-1**.

## Characteristics of Different Breeds

Sheep are divided into three general groups: fine-wool breeds, medium-wool breeds, and long-wool breeds.

### Fine-Wool Breeds

The fine-wool breeds are raised mainly for their very thick, very fine fleece, which is also shorter and oilier than that of the other two groups. Mutton type is of minor importance. The outstanding breeds are the American Merino, the Delaine, and the Rambouillet.

**American Merino.** This breed has the most wrinkles on the neck and body; the densest, shortest, oiliest wool; and the most pronounced defects of mutton form (flat rib, slim thigh, and high twist). It is also the smallest of the fine-wool breeds.

**Delaine.** Although it may have one or two medium-sized folds on the neck, the Delaine has almost no wrinkles on the body. The wool grows long (3 inches, compared with 1½ for the American Merino) and is not so dense and oily. It is superior to the American Merino as a mutton sheep, since it is larger, more nearly symmetrical, wider in spring of ribs, fuller in thigh and twist, and not so heavy in pelt.

**Rambouillet.** Largest of the fine-wool breeds, the Rambouillet (French Merino) is noted for its fair-quality mutton. The body is smooth with a few small wrinkles under the neck. The wool varies in length and fineness, being sometimes as long as the Delaine's and other times as short and fine as the American Merino's.

### Medium-Wool Breeds

The medium-wool breeds are most popular with Illinois farmers. They are raised both for wool and mutton. Their fleeces are of moderate thickness, length, and fineness; their compact muscular form makes the very best carcasses. The outstanding breeds are:

#### Southdown

**Size.** Rams, 175 to 225 pounds; ewes, 125 to 150 pounds.

**Type.** Low-set, compact; outline rounding, not rectangular; very short neck.

**Color of face and legs.** Uniform gray or mouse brown.

**Head features.** Ears short; eyes prominent; face short and wide.

**Wool.** Extends below cheeks and over forehead to below the eyes, on forelegs below the knees, and on hind legs to pasterns; finer than other Down breeds; grows 2 inches or more in 12 months; shears 6 to 7 pounds.

**Official disqualifications.** "Horns or evidence of them, dark poll, speckled markings on face, ears, and legs; color of face and legs approaching black; open or coarse wool; only one testicle down in scrotum; dark colored skin; black or brown fleece."

## Shropshire

**Size.** Rams, 200 to 275 pounds; ewes, 150 to 185 pounds.

**Type.** Low-set, blocky, stylish.

**Color of face and legs.** Dark, soft brown; nose sometimes grayish brown.

**Head features.** Ears short and carried almost straight out from head; face straight and short; pronounced breadth between ears.

**Wool.** Covers all of head except muzzle; often appears on ears; extends over legs to pasterns; attains 2½ to 3 inches in 12 months; shears 9 to 10 pounds.

**Official disqualifications.** "Such lack of type as to render it doubtful to a breeder what the breed is; horns or stubs (not scurs); head quite bare of wool."

## Hampshire

**Size.** Rams, 250 to 300 pounds; ewes, 180 to 220 pounds.

**Type.** Moderately low-set; body outline inclined to be rectangular; neck of medium length.

**Color of face and legs.** Very dark brown which to casual observer seems black.

**Head features.** Head large; profile sometimes Roman; ears large, covered with hair, set straight out from side of head or drooping slightly.

**Wool.** On lambs extends over face, on sheep, over cheeks and over head to line level with eyes; extends over legs to knees and to hocks; grows 2½ inches in 12 months; shears 7 to 8 pounds.

**Official objections.** "Prominent scurs; white specks on face, ears or legs; black wool; excessive coarseness; loose skin under neck."

## Oxford

**Size.** Rams, 275 to 325 pounds; ewes, 180 to 225 pounds.

**Type.** Moderately upstanding; body outline more nearly rectangular than Hampshire.

**Color of face and legs.** Varies from dark gray to brown.

**Head features.** Ears and head of moderate size; often a topknot of wool.

**Wool.** Moderate covering on face and legs; grows  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 inches in 12 months; averages 10 to 12 pounds.

**Official objections.** "Spur horns, black fibers, coal black legs without wool, entirely bare face, hairy fleece."

### Dorset

**Size.** Rams, 175 to 225 pounds; ewes, 135 to 175 pounds.

**Type.** Moderately low-set and blocky.

**Color of face and legs.** White.

**Head features.** Both rams and ewes have curved horns.

**Wool.** Belly sometimes bare; slight extension of fleece on forehead and cheeks; little below knees and hocks; about 3 inches long; shears 6 to 8 pounds.

**Official objections.** "Low behind the shoulders; long legs, narrow head with goaty horns."

**Official disqualifications.** "Absence of horns, black spots."

### Cheviot

**Size.** Rams, 160 to 200 pounds; ewes, 120 to 160 pounds.

**Type.** Moderately low-set, compact, and blocky; head carried high.

**Color of face and legs.** White; muzzle dark; face free of reddish tinge.

**Head features.** Erect ears of medium length; slightly Roman profile in rams; alert expression.

**Wool.** No wool on head or below knees and hocks; 3 to 5 inches long; shears 7 pounds or more.

### Corriedale

**Size.** Rams, 185 to 250 pounds; ewes, 125 to 185 pounds.

**Type.** Medium low-set; long, level topline; body rectangular; no wrinkles.

**Color of face and legs.** White, but "black spots on face, ears or legs allowable."

**Head features.** Medium-sized head and ears; clean-cut.

**Wool.** A good topknot of wool; cheeks wooled even with the eyes; extends below knees and hocks; grows 4 to 5 inches in 12 months; dense, medium fineness; shears 10 pounds or more.

**Official objections.** Brown spots on any part; black or brown wool on legs, wool blindness.

**Official disqualifications.** Scurs or horns.

## Suffolk

**Size.** Rams, 250 to 300 pounds; ewes, 175 to 225 pounds.

**Type.** Broad, deep, smooth; big leg of mutton.

**Color of face and legs.** Black.

**Head features.** Slightly Roman nose in rams; long ears carried horizontally.

**Wool.** Usually no wool on head; none on shanks; 2 inches long; shears 6 to 7 pounds.

## Long-Wool Breeds

The long-wool breeds are raised mainly for their large size and easy fattening ability when mature. Their coarse, long open fleeces are of minor importance. They have an upstanding, rectangular conformation and white faces and legs. The outstanding long-wool breeds are:

### Leicester (or English Leicester)

**Size.** Rams, 250 to 300 pounds; ewes, 175 to 200 pounds.

**Head features.** Head rather fine, carried about level with back; white often has a bluish tinge; small tuft of wool on forehead.

**Wool.** Finest of long wools, very lustrous; 6 to 10 inches long; shears 10 pounds.

### Border Leicester

**Size.** Rams, 225 to 300 pounds; ewes, 175 to 200 pounds.

**Head features.** Face rather long and profile inclined to the Roman; upheaded and stylish.

**Wool.** None on head or on legs below knees and hocks; grows 6 inches or more in 12 months.

### Cotswold

**Size.** Rams, 275 to 325 pounds; ewes, 200 to 225 pounds.

**Head features.** Profile of face straight; features clean-cut.

**Wool.** Extends down over face in long locks; grows 7 to 12 inches or more in 12 months.

### Lincoln

**Size.** Rams, 325 pounds and up; ewes, 200 to 250 pounds.

**Head features.** Coarser than Cotswold; profile of face straight.

**Wool.** Tuft of wool on forehead, making more wool on head than Leicester, but less than on Cotswold; grows 8 to 12 inches or more in 12 months.

### Romney

**Size.** Rams, 225 to 250 pounds; ewes, 175 to 200 pounds.

**Head features.** Head rather large; ears carried straight out from head.

**Wool.** Light tuft of wool on forehead; fleece shorter and not so curly as the other long wools; appears more like medium wool; about 5 to 6 inches long.

## High Points of Judging Sheep

To help you review the most important things to remember about judging sheep, study these lists of questions.

### Fat lambs

1. Is the lamb fat, firm, uniform and smooth in condition?
2. Is the lamb plump and heavy in the leg?
3. Is the lamb full in the rack and wide and thick over the loin?
4. Is the lamb of high quality with smooth shoulders, a strong back, and uniform side lines?
5. Will the lamb yield a meaty, well balanced carcass?

### Breeding sheep

1. Is the animal lowset, short necked, and typy?
2. Is the animal blocky, wide, deep, and thick?
3. Is the animal strong backed, smooth, and of good quality?
4. How are the leg placements? What about substance of bone?
5. Does the head show breed character?
6. Is the fleece long stapled, dense, lustrous, and clean?

## HOGS

While in the past breeders were not all in agreement on the best type of hog, most now prefer the meat type. Experiments at the University of Illinois have proved the meat type combines economy of production with superior carcass. This type is deep-bodied, medium wide, long. It has large hams and legs of medium length.

Market hogs are the chief market product of the swine raiser. Because they yield a high percentage of dressed carcass, their dressed cost per pound is relatively low. To rate high in the

show ring or to sell at a premium, market hogs must have a high percentage of lean meat and a minimum of fat.

**Study one pig at a time.** All of the barrows in a good class are likely to be so similar in general appearance that differences may seem few and small. Very close study of the details of conformation may be necessary in making a decision. Then, too, the pigs are never haltered and led into position, and they are seldom separated by hurdles. Since pigs cannot be posed as can other animals, all barrows in the same class are customarily turned together in a pen where they are free to move about. It is especially important, therefore, for you to have an ideal in mind and to compare the barrows one by one with this ideal. Carefully studying each barrow this way will help you to recognize it if it reappears in some other position, and to make a quick decision as to which is the best and the worst barrow in the class.

In the usual student-judging class of four animals, all you have to do then is decide which is the better of the two remaining barrows. In a big class at a show, however, you must, after you have selected the best animal, consider the whole group again to decide which animal is second-best, and so on.

**Don't stand too close.** When close up and looking down on a hog, you can see very little but its width and quality. If possible, then, stand at least 10 feet away to judge barrows. Always keep in mind that bacon (from the side) and ham are the highest-priced pork cuts.

A side view, you will find, is best for observing the size, general type, topline, length, depth, jowl, and ham; a front view for observing the shoulder; a rear view for observing the loin, rump, and ham.

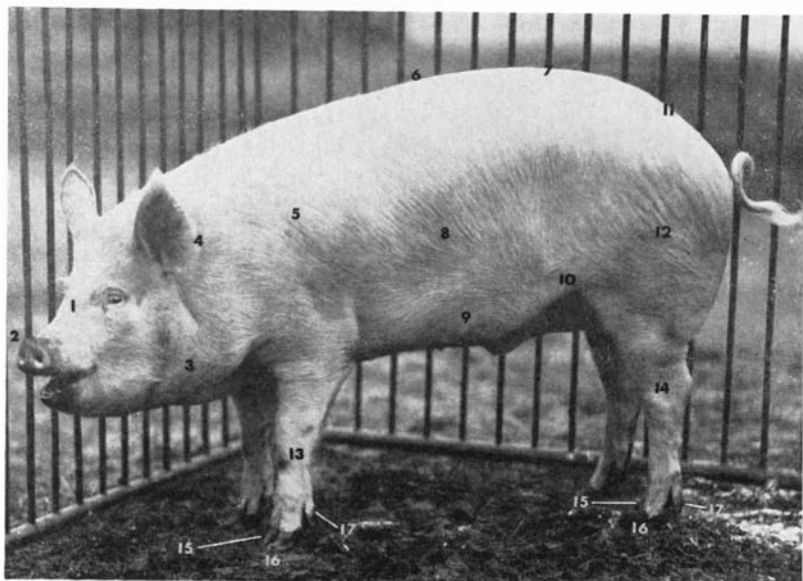
### Use the Judging Blank

Until you have a clear mental picture of the ideal fat barrow, it is best to compare the barrow you are judging with the ideal barrow described in the judging blank (*page 34*).

**Weight.** Estimate the weight and, if possible, check your estimate with scales.

**General appearance.** The choice barrow is large for its





### The Parts of a Market Barrow

- |             |                  |              |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Face     | 7. Loin          | 13. Knee     |
| 2. Snout    | 8. Side or ribs  | 14. Hock     |
| 3. Jowl     | 9. Belly         | 15. Pastern  |
| 4. Neck     | 10. Flank        | 16. Toes     |
| 5. Shoulder | 11. Rump         | 17. Dewclaws |
| 6. Back     | 12. Ham or thigh |              |

age and of the "medium type," with even lines and a symmetrical build.

**Conformation.** The head is wide; the jowl, neat; the neck, short. Shoulders are even with the rest of the body, never wider, and smooth on top, never low. The back and loin carry an even arch of topline and a medium wide spring of rib. The belly is neither pendulous nor wide through the middle but carries its width down toward the underline, giving a flat side and low flank. The rump is long, wide toward the tail, and moderately sloping. Hams are wide, deep, plump, smooth, and not tapering. Legs are straight, wide apart, and stand squarely on the toes.

**Condition.** A medium amount of finish as shown by medium width is desirable.

*(Concluded on page 35)*

## Judging Blank: FAT HOGS FOR MARKET

	1	2	3	4
Weight.....				
<b>General appearance</b>				
Type. Deep throughout, medium width, medium low-set. Neither "rangy" nor "chuffy".....				
Size for age. Large, early maturing.....				
Symmetry. Moderately long and evenly arched topline; straight trim underline; uniform width; balanced proportions; smooth. Not low at shoulders.....				
<b>Conformation</b>				
Head—medium in length of snout and face; broad between eyes and ears.....				
Jowl—medium-sized, not pendulous; smoothly joined to shoulder, trim. Free from wrinkles.....				
Neck—short and deep; thickness in proportion, joining head and shoulders smoothly.....				
Shoulders—compact on top, deep, smooth, even with sides; not prominent				
Back and loin—strong, evenly arched; medium, uniform width.....				
Sides—deep, long, straight, full; ribs long, carrying fullness well down.....				
Belly—trim, smooth and firm, without wastiness; underline straight and smooth, not cut up in flank.....				
Rump—long, medium width, rounding slightly from loin to tailhead, not drooping; tail not set too low.....				
Hams—broad, thick, deep, well filled at base, firm and smooth.....				
Legs—medium length, straight, set squarely; well apart; pasterns nearly upright; toes together.....				
<b>Condition</b>				
Body—fat, wide, full, plump, smooth.....				
Jowl and cheeks—light, plump.....				
Shoulders, back, loin, and rump—smoothly covered with flesh.....				
Sides—full and even.....				
Hams and twist—thick, plump, firm.....				
<b>Quality</b>				
Bone—legs smooth, neat, tapering; feet medium-sized; snout not coarse; shoulder not prominent; tail fine.....				
Skin—smooth, free from wrinkles on face, jowl, shoulder, loin, side, or ham; ears fine texture, medium-sized, neatly attached.....				
Hair—fine, straight, lying close to body.....				
Flesh—smooth, even, firm and free from flabbiness at jowl, foreflank, back, belly, and ham.....				
<b>Dressing percentage</b>				
High as shown by trim middle, approved form, high condition, and superior quality.....				
FINAL PLACING.....				

**Quality.** The flesh is smooth; shoulders, sides, hams, and forehead are unwrinkled.

## Sample Reasons for Placing Ring of Market Barrows

I placed this class of market barrows **1-2-3-4**. I thought this class had an outstanding top, a close middle pair, and an easy bottom.

I placed **1** at the top and over **2** because he was the longest, meatiest barrow in the class. No. **1** was trimmer through the jowl, more firm in his middle, and showed more length of side than did **2**. He was also smoother through the shoulders, and more uniform in his width than **2**, and let down into a plumper, more muscular ham than did **2**. While I will grant that **2** showed more quality of hair coat than did **1**, I faulted him particularly for being shorter in the sides and lighter in the hams than **1**.

When I placed **2** over **3**, I considered the placing very close. I will grant that **3** had slightly more length of side and showed more depth of ham than did **2**. I placed **2** over **3** because he was more nearly correct in his finish than was **3**. No. **2** was trimmer through the middle, smoother through the shoulders, and more uniform in width. When viewed from the rear, **2** was much more correctly turned over the top than was **3**. While **3** was fairly desirable in type, I faulted him severely for just carrying too much finish to yield a desirable carcass.

I considered **3** over **4** an easy placing. No. **3** was much longer and meatier than **4**. He was much cleaner through the jowl and shoulder, longer through the side, and showed more quality in hair, bone, and fleshing than **4**.

I faulted **4** for being extremely short, very coarse, wasty, and for being very badly over-finished, carrying far too much finish for a desirable carcass.

For these reasons, I placed this ring of barrows **1-2-3-4**.

## Breeding Hogs

Breeding hogs should be shown with a moderate amount of finish. Formerly, breeding hogs were shown very fat. It is no longer, however, considered desirable to show breeding sows and gilts extremely fat. Furthermore, too much flesh can harm a breeding animal.

**Use judging blank.** The boar, of course, is larger, more ruggedly built, and bigger-boned than the sow or gilt. He has a longer, wider head, a heavier neck (crested), a wider snout, and higher and heavier shoulders. His testicles, of equal and medium size, show clearly and hang evenly.

## Judging Blank: BREEDING HOGS

	1	2	3	4
<b>Weight</b> .....				
<b>General appearance</b>				
Type. Moderately long; deep throughout; medium width; medium low-set. Neither "rangy" nor "chuffy." Young gilts somewhat leggy; mature sows medium in length of leg.....				
Size for age. Large, ample frame; early maturing; proper size at maturity.....				
Symmetry. Moderately and evenly arched topline; uniform width; balanced proportions; smooth. Not low at shoulders.....				
Sex characters and temperament. <b>Sows and gilts</b> —feminine in appearance; refined head; smooth neck and shoulders; good length and depth of body; roomy middle; large sound udder, preferably with 12 to 14 good teats. Not coarse in head and shoulders. Disposition, calm and gentle; not nervous, cross, irritable, or restless. Vigorous walk. <b>Boars</b> —strong, masculine head. Heavy, rugged bone. Temperament, active and vigorous.....				
Breed type. Color, markings, shape of head, ear, and body characteristic of breed. Suitable size.....				
<b>Conformation</b>				
Head—medium in length of snout and face; broad between eyes and ears.....				
Jowl—medium-sized, not pendulous; smoothly joined to shoulder, trim. Free from wrinkles.....				
Neck—short, deep; thickness in proportion, joining head and shoulders smoothly				
Shoulders—compact on top, deep, smooth, even with sides; not prominent.....				
Back and loin—strong, evenly arched; medium, uniform width.....				
Sides—deep, long, straight, full; ribs long, carrying fulness well down.....				
Belly—trim, smooth and firm, without wastiness; underline straight and smooth, not cut up in flank.....				
Rump—long, medium width, rounding slightly from loin to root of tail, not drooping; tail not set too low.....				
Hams—broad, thick, deep, well filled at base, firm and smooth.....				
Legs—medium length, straight, set squarely; well apart; pasterns nearly upright; toes together.....				
<b>Condition</b>				
Moderate amount of flesh; pronounced tendency to muscle instead of fat.....				
<b>Quality</b>				
Consistent with constitution and vigor. Smooth bone; firm flesh free from wrinkles or flabbiness. Straight fine hair. No swirls. Smooth thin skin. Free from general coarseness throughout, especially in head, ear, neck, and shoulders. Smooth forehead.....				
<b>Substance</b>				
Large bone, wide frame, broad chest, wide snout. Robust, rugged, muscular.....				
<b>Soundness</b>				
Udder of mature sows must indicate that they have raised pigs. No lumps in udder or other defects which would limit usefulness.....				
<b>Legs, pasterns, feet, and action</b>				
Straight, strong legs; short, nearly upright pasterns; ample size of bone; straight even toes, not spreading apart; dewclaws not touching the ground. Action straight, free, easy, not stiff or stilted.....				
<b>FINAL PLACING</b> .....				

**Avoid common serious faults.** In judging breeding classes, select only those animals with no serious faults. Look out for lameness, weak ankles, low pasterns, poor hearing, and impaired vision due to wrinkled foreheads or heavy ears. Avoid mature sows with smooth udders like those of gilts or lumpy and enlarged udders, perhaps with a teat or two missing. Avoid also boars which have unusually large testicles, especially if the testicles are uneven in size.

A swirl on the back or sides, though some breed associations do not officially bar it, is a generally agreed disqualification. Small to medium ears are preferred.

### Sample Reasons for Placing Breeding Gilts

I placed the Duroc gilts **1-2-3-4**.

No. **1** was outstanding in this class from the standpoint of length, broodiness, and soundness.

In my first pair, **1** and **2**, I admit that **2** was deeper bodied and carried a plumper ham. No. **1** placed rather easily over **2** because **1** was longer sided, smoother made, and carried her width more uniformly from end to end. **1** was more nearly balanced, showed more breediness and Duroc character about the head, and stood stronger and straighter on more bone. I faulted **2** for lacking enough length of side, for being plain about the head, for being weak in her rear pasterns, and crooked in her hind legs as viewed from behind.

In my middle pair, **2** and **3**, I grant that **3** was stronger on her feet and legs and longer sided; however, I placed **2** over **3** because **2** more nearly followed the type of my top place gilt, No. **1**. No. **2** was deeper sided, wider throughout, and was just a more rugged breedy gilt that carried more balance, symmetry, and quality throughout. I faulted **3** for lacking depth and width of body. She lacked constitution, was somewhat leggy, and was unbalanced.

In my bottom pair, **3** and **4**, I admit that **4** was deeper bodied, shorter legged, and was more nearly balanced. Nevertheless, I placed **3** over **4** because **3** was more medium in her type in that she was longer sided, even lined, and heavier in her ham. I placed **4**, the chuffy gilt, at the bottom of the class because she had the shortest side in the class. She was a small, round bodied type gilt that was light in her ham, that lacked in broodiness, and that was very wasty about the jowl and middle.

For these reasons I placed the Duroc gilts **1-2-3-4**.

## Characteristics of Different Breeds

Some breeds of swine used to be known as lard-type breeds and some as bacon-type breeds. Between the two, there was considerable difference in type. Now, however, the emphasis is on a type that will yield a high percentage of lean meat, or a meat-type hog, and the differences that formerly existed between lard-type hogs and bacon-type hogs have largely disappeared. In other words, a good Yorkshire, for example, and a good Hampshire are not greatly different in type.

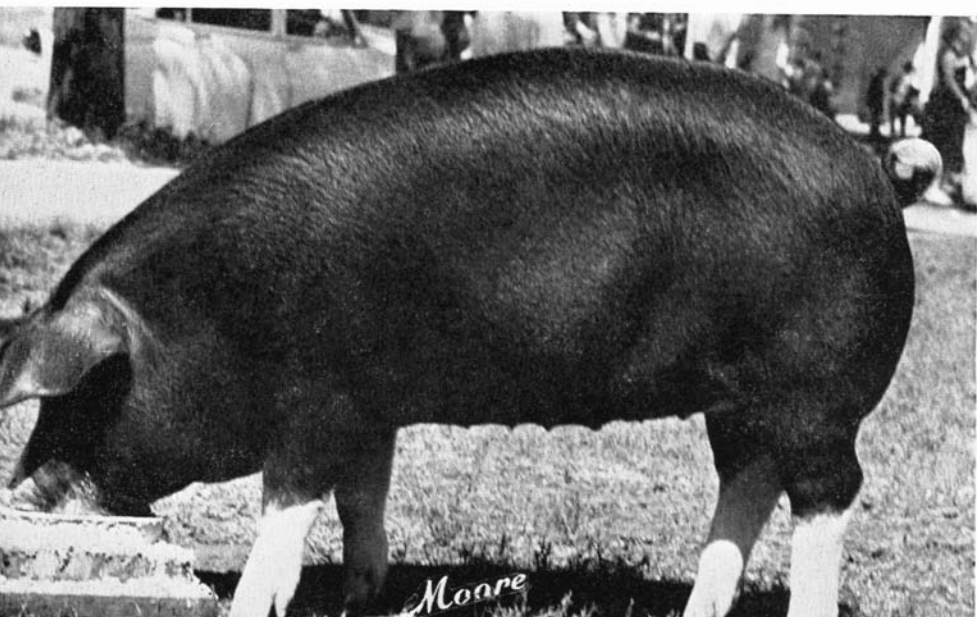
**Duroc.** The Duroc (formerly Duroc-Jersey) is cherry-red without white or black markings. It has drooping ears and a slightly dished face. *(For photo see page 42.)*

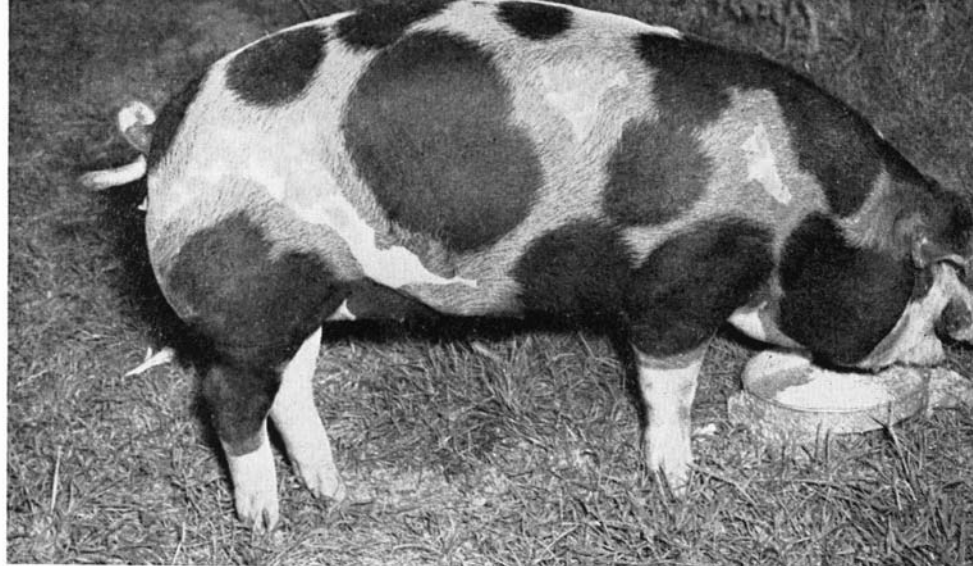
**Poland China.** The Poland China is black with 6 white points — white snout, white tail-tip, and four white feet. Many breeders, however, do not object to a black foot or tail. Most breeders prefer to have very little if any white on the body. Ears are moderately small and drooping. The face is slightly dished.

**Spotted Poland China.** Animals of this breed are black and white spotted (the body, not including legs, must be not

Typical Poland China Gilt

*(Courtesy Poland China Record Association)*





**Typical Spotted Poland China Gilt**

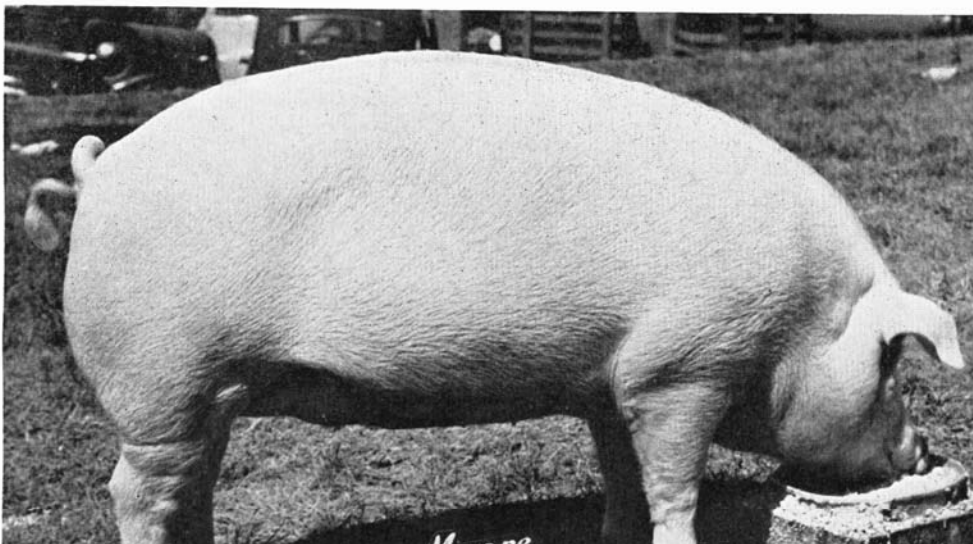
*(Courtesy National Spotted  
Poland China Record Association)*

less than 20 percent nor more than 80 percent white, with well-defined spots), and they have drooping ears.

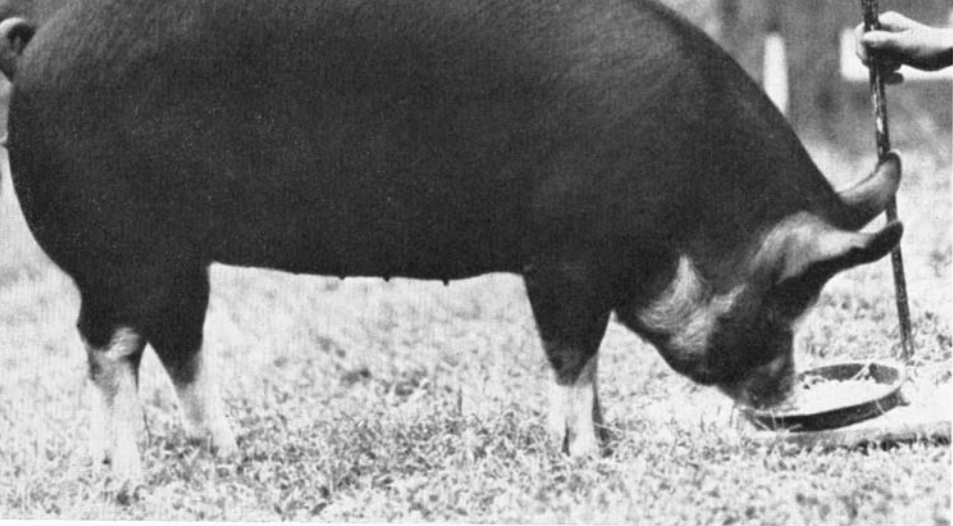
**Chester White.** The Chester White is all white with drooping ears. It has a moderately dished face.

**Typical Chester White Gilt**

*(Courtesy Chester White Record Association)*







**Typical Berkshire Gilt**

*(Courtesy American Berkshire Association)*

**Berkshire.** The Berkshire is black, preferably with six white points, and has erect ears. The head is wide and rather short; the face dished.

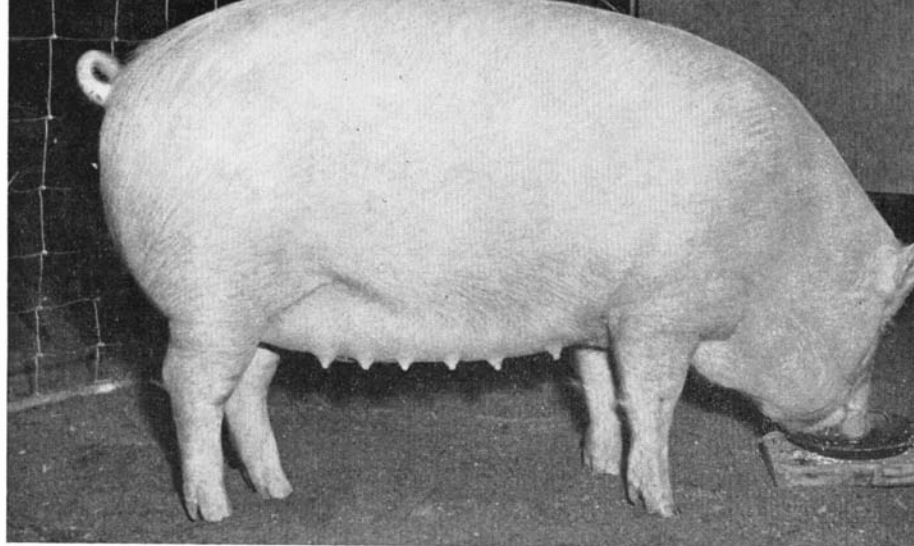
**Tamworth.** Animals of this breed are either golden-red or cherry-red and have erect ears. The body is long, rather narrow, and smooth; the head, long and narrow; the face straight.

**Typical Tamworth Gilt**

*(Courtesy Tamworth Swine Association)*







**Typical Yorkshire Gilt**

*(Courtesy American Yorkshire Club)*

**Yorkshire.** The Yorkshire is white and has erect ears. The body is long, rather narrow, and very smooth. The head is quite short and neat, the face decidedly dished in some animals and straight in others.

**Hampshire.** The Hampshire is black, with an unbroken white belt encircling the body and both front legs and feet. The head is medium in width and length; the face, straight. The ears are erect.

*(For photo, see page 42.)*

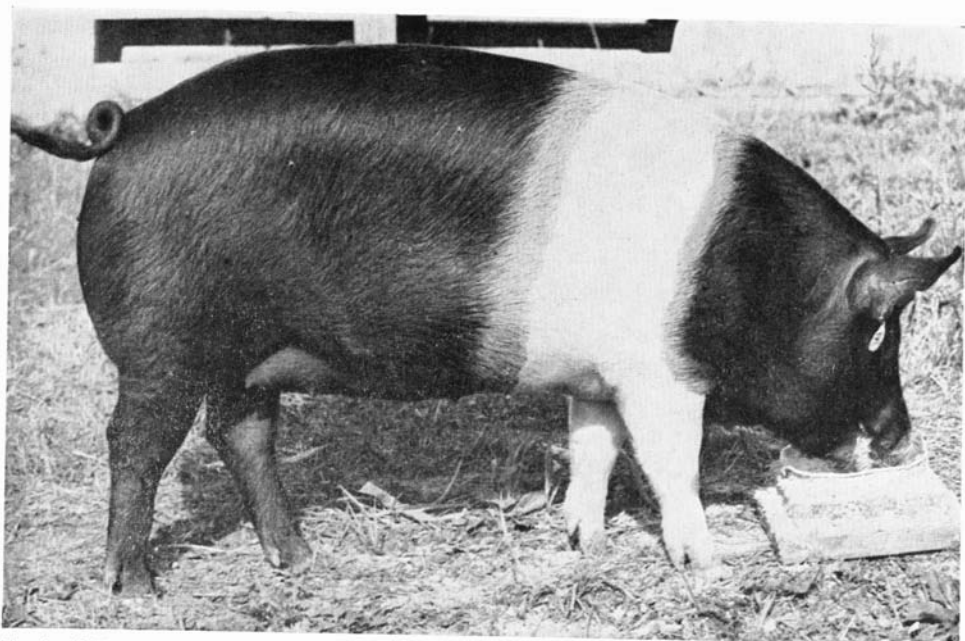
## High Points of Judging Hogs

To help you remember the most important things to check when you are judging hogs, study the questions listed below.

### Market barrows

1. Is the barrow long, trim, and muscular?
2. Is the barrow deep, firm, and relatively free from wrinkles in his side?
3. Does the barrow carry a plump, wide, deep, thick, firm ham? Is the loin wide, or is it tucked?
4. Is the barrow trim enough, smooth enough, straight in his side lines, and of high quality?

*(Concluded on page 43)*

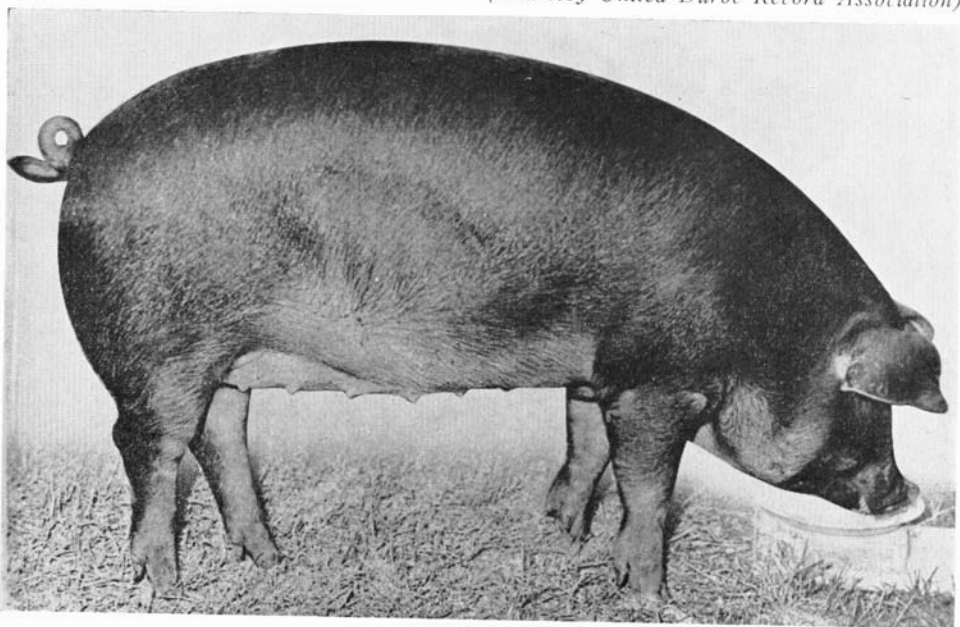


**Typical Hampshire Gilt**

*(Courtesy Hampshire Swine Registry)*

**Typical Duroc Gilt**

*(Courtesy United Duroc Record Association)*



5. Would the barrow yield a meaty, balanced carcass with lots of primal cuts and with very little lard trim?

### **Breeding gilts or boars**

1. Is the animal long enough and deep enough in the side?
2. Does the animal have a deep, plump, firm, heavy ham, a wide loin, full rib, and straight side lines?
3. Does the animal have quality, smoothness, firmness, and trimness?
4. How is the underline of a gilt? Is it broody, long, and trim?
5. Are the animal's pasterns short and strong? How is the leg placement?
6. What about breed character, arch of back, high tail setting, and over-all balance?

## **JUDGING CONTESTS**

### **Suggestions for Participants**

Judging contests in high schools, 4-H Clubs, and colleges are not only popular events but they provide an incentive for students to do their very best work. The contestant who rates animals and then gives his reasons according to a plan learns to organize his thoughts. As time is limited, he also learns to concentrate.

Following are some suggestions for those who wish to enter these contests.

**Judging the class.** (1) Be reasonably aggressive and step up where you can see the animals to good advantage and handle them if necessary.

(2) Work hard at the job from all angles. Do not waste time. Concentrate closely on the study of the individuals in the ring.

(3) Display good workmanship in inspecting the ring. Do not forfeit points because of rough, careless handling of the animals.

(4) Keep clearly in mind the points to be considered in placing the animals. Form a mental picture of the ring which you can recall when giving reasons.

**Taking notes for giving reasons.** (1) Arrange your notes in the order of your placing. Do not follow the usual numerical order of 1-2-3-4.

(2) Make a brief note of the strong points and the weaknesses of each animal.

(3) Stress comparative points of superiority or inferiority of the two animals in each pair; that is, top pair, middle pair, and bottom pair.

(4) Mentally organize your reasons before handing in your placing card. By doing this an incorrect placing can sometimes be corrected in time.

(5) Follow a system of taking notes, as it will save time, both while judging and when preparing the oral reasons.

**Personal bearing and deportment.** (1) Stand erect and squarely on your feet, and look at the judge. Hold the card containing the placing in one hand. Avoid unnecessary movements of the hands and feet.

(2) Talk distinctly and with conviction and confidence. Be specific. Use simple, direct sentences and only those terms which ordinarily are used by stockmen in discussing the class of livestock in question.

(3) Avoid high-sounding language and long, tedious, and involved sentences.

**Discussing placing.** (1) Open with a short, descriptive, highlighting sentence about the first-place animal of the top pair. Then tell in what respects, if any, the second-place animal is superior. Then state the superior points of the first-place animal.

(2) The middle and bottom pairs of animals can be discussed in the same manner as the top pair.

(3) Avoid repeating and backtracking. Say everything you have to say about each topic (a part of the body, breed type, condition, or what not) before you go on to the next topic.

(4) Hit the high spots and hit them hard.

(5) Keep the numbers straight.

For a sample set of reasons for placing fat steers see *page 9*; breeding heifers, *page 13*; fat lambs, *page 20*; breeding ewes, *page 26*; market barrows, *page 35*; and breeding gilts, *page 37*. (A judging blank for these classes of animals is to be found with or near the corresponding sample reasons.)

## Terms for Describing Livestock

The letters before each term show the classes of livestock to which the term applies: C stands for cattle; Sh for sheep; Sw for swine; and A for all meat animals and sometimes for all animals.

- A **Animation** — an abundance of life, opposite of sleepiness or dullness.
- Sw **Barrow** — male hog castrated at early age.
- A **Blocky** — deep, wide, low-set, and compact.
- Sw **Boar** — entire (uncastrated) male of swine.
- A **Breed** — a race of animals possessing certain well-defined distinguishing characteristics and the ability to reproduce these characteristics in their offspring with a reasonable degree of surety.
- A **Breed character** — a combination of masculinity or femininity with ideal breed type features; the head is an important clue to breed character.
- A **Breed type** — characteristic form of the breed together with typical head, color, and markings.
- C } **Brisket** — the front of the breast.
- Sh }
- Sh **Buck** — preferably ram, entire male of sheep.
- C **Bull** — entire male of cattle.
- C **Calf** — young animal of cattle; usually under one year.
- A **Carcass** — the dressed body of a slaughtered meat animal, offal having been removed.
- A **Chuffy** — chubby, chunky, very compact, and blocky.
- A **Clean-cut** — As applied to the head and neck this term means having a finely chiseled appearance with no coarseness; as applied to the bone it means having hard joints as opposed to puffy or meaty ones; also having cannons or shanks free from meatiness, coarseness, or swelling.
- C **Cod** — scrotum of steer with its content of fat.
- A **Condition** — in meat animals this term means degree of fatness.
- Sh **Cotted** — badly matted or tangled fibers of fleece, caused by lack of yolk.
- C **Cow** — mature female of cattle.
- A **Crest** — bulging top of the neck in male animals.
- Sh **Crimp** — the small wave in a wool fiber.
- C **Crops** — the part of a beef animal just behind the upper half of the shoulders, extending from the topline to halfway down the side.
- A **Dewclaw** — horny growth at rear of ankle in cattle, sheep, and swine.
- C **Dewlap** — loose skin on brisket and neck of some cattle.

- Sh **Dock** — (1) stump of tail left after clipping or cutting; (2) in sheep, sometimes, region near tail.
- A **Dressing percentage** — the percent which the weight of the chilled carcass is of the live weight;  $\frac{\text{dressed weight}}{\text{live weight}} \times 100 = \text{dressing percentage}$ .
- A **Early maturity** — (1) reaches full development quickly; (2) reaches market size and finish quickly; (3) tendency to grow and fatten at the same time.
- Sh **Ewe** — female sheep.
- A **Femininity** — possession of well-developed secondary female sex characters.
- A **Finish** — in meat animals, fatness.
- Sh **Fleece** — the wool of a single sheep.
- A **Foot** — horny box and its contents, not the entire leg.
- Sw **Gilt** — young sow, usually under 12 months of age and before she has farrowed a litter.
- C } **Gobby** — lumpy in fleshing.  
Sh }
- A **Grade** — an animal produced by mating a purebred sire with a female of less than pure breeding.
- Sw **Ham** — the thigh.
- C **Heifer** — a female of cattle under 3 years old which has not produced a calf.
- A **High grade** — an animal possessing 87½ percent or more of pure breeding but never 100 percent.
- A **Hock** — the large joint halfway down the hindleg.
- C **Hooks** — the points of the hips.
- A **Hybrid** — (1) offspring obtained by mating two animals of different species; (2) offspring from parents which are pure in certain different characteristics.
- A **Incisors** — front teeth.
- Sw **Jowl** — the cheek.
- Sh **Kemp** — abnormal hairy, white fibers in some fleeces (objected to because they will not take dye).
- Sh **Lamb** — (1) any sheep under 12 months of age; (2) carcass of a sheep under 12 months old.
- A **Leggy** — legs too long.
- A **Loin** — the part between the back and the hips.
- A **Low-set** — having short legs.
- Sh **Luster** — glistening of wool fibers in the light.
- A **Marbling** — an intermixture of fat and lean which gives meat the appearance of marble.

- A **Masculinity** — possession of well-developed secondary male sex characters in head, neck, and shoulders.
- C **Muley** — naturally hornless.
- A **Muzzle** — lower part of the face; nose.
- A **Natural flesh** — lean meat or muscle.
- A **Offal** — parts removed from the carcass in dressing.
- A **Open shoulders** — shoulder blades too far apart at top.
- A **Pastern** — sloping part of the leg just above the hoof.
- C **Patchy** — having lumps of exterior fat which prevent the smooth finish desired.
- A **Paunchy** — having too much belly.
- A **Pedigree** — a written record of an animal's ancestry for three or more generations.
- C **Pinbones** — bony prominence at each side of the tail head.
- A **Point of shoulder** — joint at the lower end of the shoulder blade.
- A **Poll** — top of head.
- C **Polled** — naturally hornless, muley.
- A **Prepotency** — the ability of an animal to make its offspring resemble it and each other more closely than usual.
- A **Prolific** — reproducing regularly and numerously.
- A **Purebred** — an animal of pure breeding, eligible to registration by its breed association.
- Sh **Purse** — scrotum of wether with its content of fat.
- A **Quality** — fineness of texture; freedom from coarseness.
- Sh **Ram** — entire male of sheep.
- A **Rangy** — too long in body or legs.
- A **Roman nose** — a convex profile.
- A **Rugged** — big, strong.
- C }  
Sh } **Rump** — the part between the hips and the tail head.  
Sw }
- A **Scale** — size.
- A **Scrub** — a very inferior animal in breeding and conformation.
- C }  
Sh } **Scurs** — in polled animals, small horn "buttons" attached to the skin but not to the skull.
- A **Shank** — (1) in the *live meat animal*, the part of the leg between the knee and ankle, and between the hock and ankle; (2) in a beef carcass, the arm of the live animal; (3) in a sheep carcass, the forearm and foreshank.
- Sw **Shields** — thick heavy skin on shoulders of some boars.
- Sw **Shote** — a young hog weighing 100 to 150 pounds, destined for market.
- C }  
Sh } **Shoulder vein** — the line formed by junction of side of neck and shoulder.

- Sw **Snout** — the muzzle or nose.
- Sh **Soundness** — wool is sound if it has no weak spots.
- Sw **Sow** — female hog of any age.
- C **Spayed heifer** — a heifer whose ovaries have been removed.
- A **Stag** — a male castrated after reaching breeding age.
- C **Steer** — male of cattle castrated at an early age.
- A **Stifle** — the joint located just behind the rear flank.
- A **Stylish** — attractive, possessing a pleasing conformation, animation, and gracefulness of carriage.
- A **Substance** — amount of bone and muscle.
- C **Switch** — long hair on tail.
- Sw **Swirl** — a whorl in the hair of a hog, the hairs radiating from a central spot.
- A **Symmetry** — balanced proportions, smooth and harmonious blending of parts.
- A **Tail head** — attachment of the tail.
- C **Tail-tie** — a tie on the tail head.
- A **Temperament** — disposition, a natural tendency to act in a certain way.
- C **Tie** — a depression or dimple on the back of cattle, caused by adhesion of hide to backbone.
- A **Type** — the general desired form of an animal which adapts it to a particular purpose.
- A **Typy** — possessing the desired form, typical.
- A **Wasty** — as applied to a carcass this term means having too much fat, requiring excessive trimming; may also be applied to paunchy live animals.
- Sh **Wether** — a male sheep castrated at an early age (a term usually applied to animals over 12 months old but also used to designate the sex of lambs).
- Sh **Yolk** — the secretion in wool, commonly called grease or oil.