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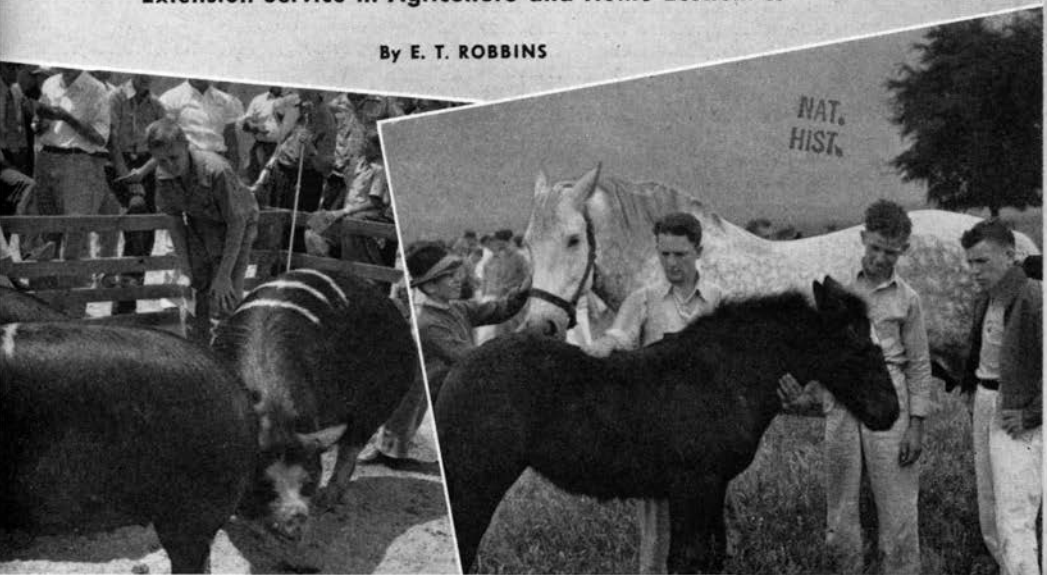
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

JUDGING LIVESTOCK

A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

Number 579 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS · COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics

By E. T. ROBBINS



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JUDGING LIVESTOCK

By E. T. ROBBINS, Professor of Animal Husbandry Extension

EVERY 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 his less judicious competitors. 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 its resemblance to the ideal of its class.

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

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 docile 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 degree of 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 malformations due to disease, accident, or heredity.

Feet, legs, and action

Feet, legs, and action are considered together. If the feet and legs are correct, the action is likely to be straight and graceful. While these features are of most importance in horses, they deserve some attention in all breeding animals. In a close decision they may even influence the placing of fat stock.

(Continued from page 3)

Nor should you ask any exhibitor questions. He naturally wants *his* animal to win. If he is dishonest, he may not tell you the truth. If he is honest, his answers may confuse you.

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 systematic, 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 the order of decreasing merit.

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 skilful 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 following the same procedure you will know that you have not neglected any important details.

Understand the judging outline. The outline given on page 4 follows the University of Illinois judging blank. Be sure that you know and can remember what each term means.

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 be descriptive as well as comparative. 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 significant and obvious. And, above all, do not become overenthusiastic about an animal and blindly praise it for merits it may not possess. The first-place animal, tho 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. Tho 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 distinguishing merits and faults 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.¹

¹The author used these abbreviations for many years when reporting large stock shows. Sometimes a week would elapse between a show and the opportunity to write it up, and the notes helped to recall not only characteristics recorded but others not recorded.

BEEF CATTLE

Beef cattle¹ 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.

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 in preference are 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 are particularly insistent 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 sides 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

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

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. Squeeze the hide on the ribs lightly between your thumb and forefinger; if it is soft, reasonably thin, and loose, it indicates quality and fattening ability. Also feel how thick the under edge of the flank is.

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.

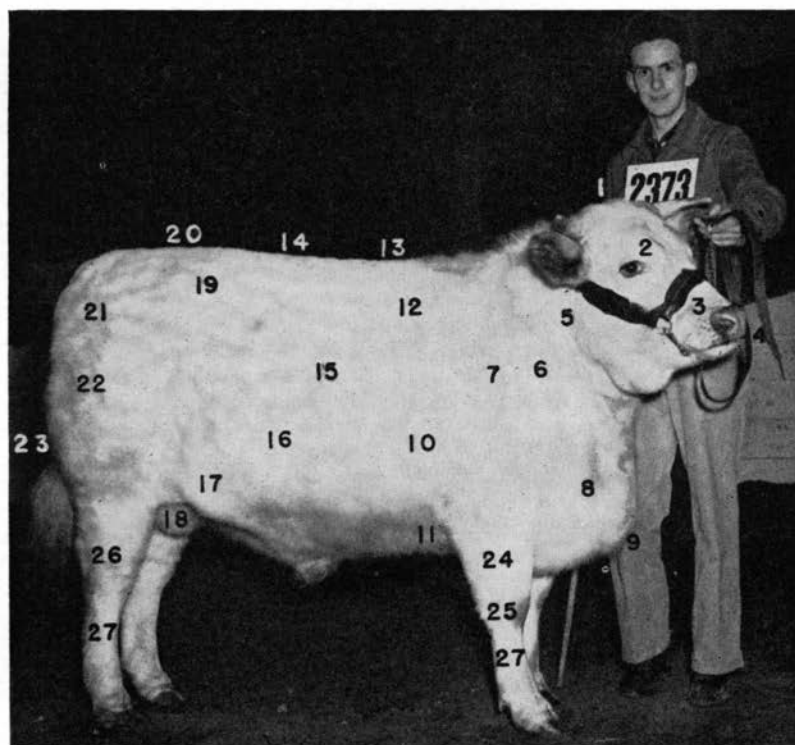
Use the Judging Blank

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*). Altho 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 thru the middle, has too much weight of abdominal organs and consequently a low dressing percentage).



Parts of a Fat Steer

This steer was the reserve champion steer of the Junior Livestock Feeding Contest, 1940 International: a Shorthorn shown by Herbert Rees, Marion County, Iowa.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Poll | 10. Chest and heart girth | 18. Cod |
| 2. Forehead | 11. Foreflank | 19. Hooks or hips |
| 3. Face | 12. Crops | 20. Rump |
| 4. Muzzle | 13. Back | 21. Pin bones |
| 5. Neck | 14. Loin | 22. Thigh or round |
| 6. Shoulder vein | 15. Ribs | 23. Twist |
| 7. Shoulder | 16. Paunch | 24. Forearm |
| 8. Brisket | 17. Flank | 25. Knee |
| 9. Dewlap | | 26. Hock |
| | | 27. Shank |

(Judging Blank)

FAT CATTLE FOR MARKET

	1	2	3	4
Weight				
General appearance				
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.....				
Conformation				
Head—proportionate to 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.....				
Condition				
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.....				
Quality				
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.....				
FINAL PLACING				

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.

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

A sample set of reasons for the placing of four Angus steers follows:

"I place this ring of fat Angus steers **2-1-4-3**. The best balanced steer in general appearance, condition, and quality is **2**. It is true that **1**, which is placed second, is the fattest steer in the class and he has a more level rump than **2**. However, **2** is lower set, blockier, deeper and thicker in the flank, and less wasty, and should dress a higher percentage than **1**. **2** has a shorter neck, straighter, broader back, and is more thickly covered over the back and loin than **1**. **2** is also thicker in the rounds, which also are especially well filled out behind. **2** is nearly as fat as **1** and carries satisfactory finish. He has more quality, as indicated by his smoother, more mellow flesh and more pliable hide.

"I place **1** second and over **4**, altho **4** has a somewhat straighter topline and is larger in the rounds and filled more deeply in the twist. **1** is considerably blockier, more thickly covered over the shoulders and thru the crops, wider across the back and loin, and is fatter than **4**. **1**'s flesh is also as smooth and firm as any excepting the first-place steer. It is a rather close decision, but **1**'s greater width in the valuable parts,

more finished condition, and higher dressing percentage entitle him to beat 4.

"4 is placed third even tho 3 does have a straighter back and a somewhat wider rump. 4 is lower set, deeper bodied, thicker in the rounds, fuller in the twist, and more thickly covered with flesh. He is fatter and has more general smoothness of form and flesh than 3. 3 is clearly the poorest steer in the class because he is leggy, shallow-bodied, and is rather thin and rough compared with the others."

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, capacious middles, and general vigor, indicated in the judging blank (*page 13*).

Sex characters and temperament. The masculine bull is bold and aggressive, with rather heavy shoulders and a thick crest on the top of the neck. He has a larger head than a cow, often with curly hair on the forehead, heavier horns, narrower rump, 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, and 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.

(Judging Blank)

BEEF CATTLE : BREEDING COWS

	1	2	3	4
Weight				
General appearance				
Type. General outline broad, deep; compact, low-set, blocky.....				
Size for age. Large, rugged; proper height, width and depth for age and breed. Undersized or stunted animals to be avoided.....				
Symmetry. Straight top and bottom lines; deep roomy middle, uniform in width; full hindquarters; smooth, stylish.....				
Sex characters and temperament. Feminine in appearance; refined head and horn. Mild and matronly expression. Neck free from crest. Temperament, active and vigorous but gentle.....				
Breed type. Color, shape of body, head and horn characteristic of breed; proper size.....				
Conformation				
Head—proportionate to 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.....				
Condition				
Good breeding condition; moderately fat with pronounced tendency to deep, thick fleshing if fed liberally.....				
Quality				
Hair, hide, bone, and flesh—as in steers; refined features.....				
Substance				
Ample bone, heavy muscle.....				
Feet, legs, and action				
Feet normal; legs straight; action free and easy.....				
FINAL PLACING				

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

Characteristics of Different Breeds

Beef breeds are easily distinguished by their color, head, and 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.

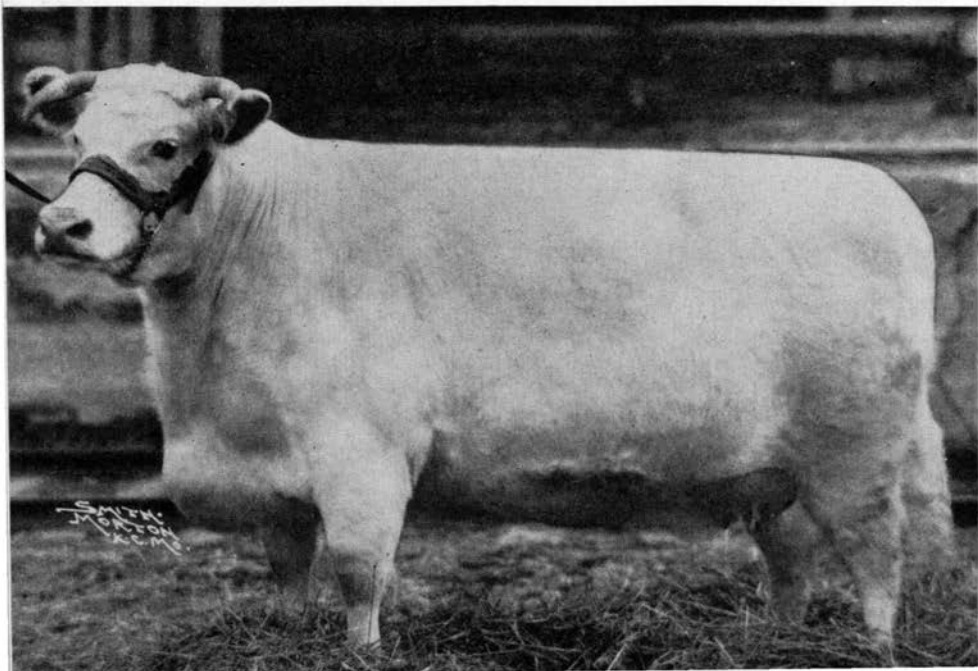
Horns are rather short and flat and curve forward and down. There is also a hornless strain called Polled Shorthorn.

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. One strain, Milking Shorthorns, excels in milk.

A Typical Champion Shorthorn Cow, Belle of Leveldale

(Courtesy American Shorthorn Breeders' Association)



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 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.”

A Typical Champion Hereford Cow, Donlette Jordan

(Courtesy of American Hereford Association)



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 actually is. The loin, rib, rump, and round are well developed, and the flesh is smooth and firm.

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

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, bears some resemblance to 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. In New England Devon steers are trained to work as oxen.

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

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

(Courtesy American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association)



KEY TO BREEDS OF BEEF CATTLE

Breed	Color	Size of mature show animals		Head features	Milking ability	Killing qualities	Constitution	General type
		Bull	Cow					
Shorthorn	Red, white or roan	2200 up	1700 up	Medium length; slightly dished; light horns	Good	Good; sometimes patchy	Good	Somewhat up-standing
Hereford	Red, white face and underline	2100 up	1600 up	Wide, moderately short; slightly dished; heavy horns	Poor	Good; sometimes patchy and soft flesh	Excellent	Low-set
Angus	Black	1900 up	1500 up	Polled, short, clean-cut, slightly dished	Fair	Very good	Good	Low-set
Polled Shorthorn	Red, white or roan	2100 up	1650 up	Same as Shorthorn but no horns	Good	Good, sometimes patchy	Good	Rather up-standing
Polled Hereford	Red, white face and underline	2000 up	1600 up	Same as Hereford but no horns	Poor	Good, sometimes patchy	Very good	Medium low-set
Galloway	Black	1900 up	1450 up	Polled; medium length	Fair	Fair	Very good	Somewhat rangy
Brahman	Reddish brown or gray; often almost white			Rather long; ears horizontal or drooping; horns curve up	Fair	Fair	Very good	Upstanding

SHEEP

Sheep are harder to judge than cattle because they are smaller and the various parts not so readily seen. The principal difficulty, tho, is that long wool masks the shape. The judge has to feel an unshorn sheep very thoroly 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, an attendant 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 attendant 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) and never by the wool.

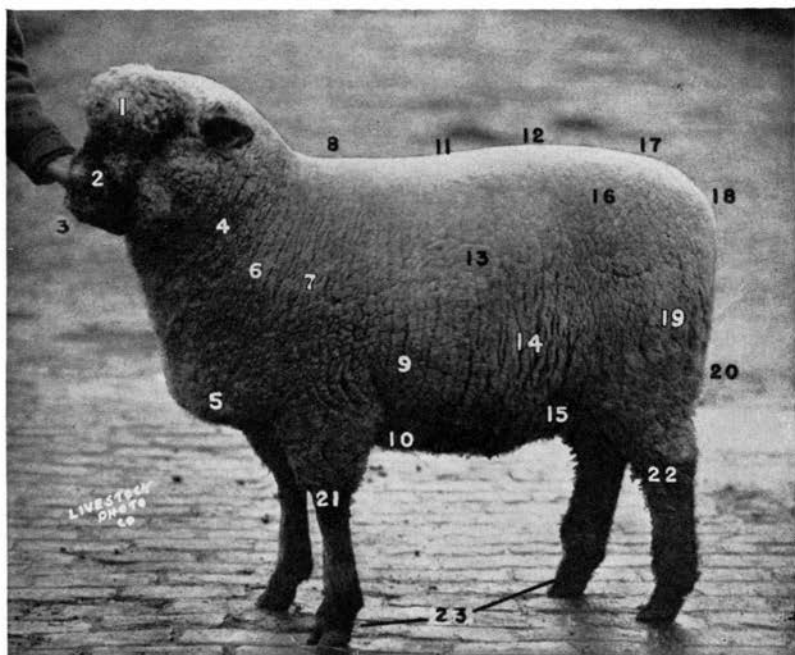
Fat Sheep

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 24*).

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.



Parts of a Fat Sheep

This animal, bred and shown by the University of Illinois, was the 1924 International Champion Oxford wether.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 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 | |

(Judging Blank)

FAT SHEEP FOR MARKET

	1	2	3	4
Weight				
General appearance				
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				
Conformation				
Head—proportionate to 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—proportionate in width, not prominent				
Rump—long, wide to dock, level, smooth				
Thighs—deep, wide, plump				
Twist—deep, not cut up				
Legs—straight, short, strong				
Condition				
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				
Quality				
Bone medium in size; features of head clean-cut, refined but not delicate; ears not coarse; shoulder not prominent				
Flesh smooth, firm, not flabby				
FINAL PLACING				

Tho the front parts are less important, in a close decision choose the animal with a smooth, well covered shoulder and shoulder vein.

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 20*).

Weight. Estimate the weight and, whenever possible, check your estimate with scales. Altho 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. The side-lines are straight; the 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. Altho 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 Sheep

A sample set of reasons for placing four fat lambs follows:

"I place this ring of fat lambs **4-1-2-3**.

"The first place is easy. There is one outstanding fat lamb in this class, and that is **4**. He is the fattest of all, should dress the highest percentage of carcass, and is nearly as good as any of the others in all other respects. **4** is wider, deeper, and lower set than **1**; shorter in neck;

smoother at the top of the shoulder; straighter in back; wider in rump; thicker in the thigh; and lower in twist. **4** is also distinctly fatter, as shown by a thicker, firmer covering of flesh over loin, back, and ribs.

"I place **1** above **2**, altho the latter is lower set and has somewhat larger thighs. **1** excels **2** in weight. **1** also has a deeper body, more level rump, straighter hind legs, and somewhat higher condition as shown especially by the thicker covering of loin and back.

"**2** and **3** are very similar in general appearance. I place **2** third in the class and over **3** in spite of the fact that **3** has a thicker covering of flesh on the ribs. **2** is just as thickly fleshed over the loin and back as **3** and is also straighter in topline, wider thruout, and especially thicker in thighs and lower in twist. **3** has the lightest thighs of any lamb in the class. It is a rather close decision between these last two lambs."

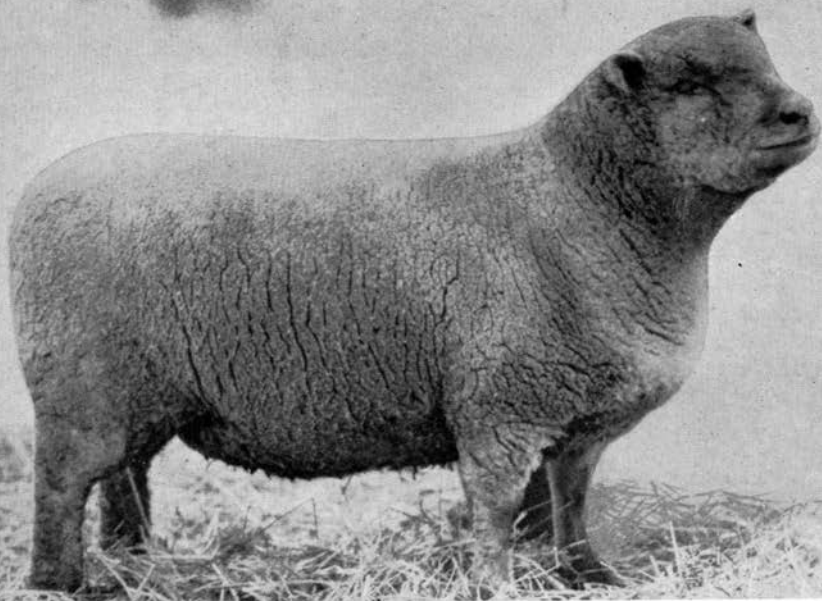
Mutton-Type Breeding Sheep

Mutton-type breeding sheep have much the same general appearance as sheep for market. Altho 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

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)*



wool covering even tho 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 that no breeder should keep 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; his rump, narrower. 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, altho 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 thoro 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.

MUTTON SHEEP : BREEDING EWES

	1	2	3	4
Weight.....				
General appearance				
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.....				
Sex characters and temperament. Refined head, roomy middle, sound udder. Not strong in head or coarse in shoulders. Rugged in appearance, vigorous carriage.....				
Breed type. Head, markings, conformation, and fleece characteristic of breed; proper size.....				
Information				
Head—proportionate to 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.....				
Condition				
Good breeding condition; thickly covered, especially over shoulders, ribs, back, and loin. Not bare along backbone.....				
Quality				
Clean, smooth bone; clean-cut head. Not coarse in shoulders or heavy in ears. Not peltly. Flesh firm; no soft gobby fat on ribs or around dock.....				
Substance				
Ample bone; full heart girth; thick muscular development, especially in thigh. Not light in bone.....				
Soundness				
Strong straight ankles; not low in pasterns.....				
Feet, legs, and action				
Straight even toes; short straight legs with strong ankles. Action prompt, easy, and graceful. Not low in pasterns or crooked in hocks.....				
Fleece				
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.....				
FINAL PLACING				

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 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.

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. Altho 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 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 rather long.

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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 goatly 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; upheaved and stylish. (*Continued on page 31*)

KEY TO BREEDS OF SHEEP

FINE-WOOL BREEDS: RAMS USUALLY HAVE HORNS

White face, head and legs well covered with wool

American Merino—small, very wrinkly.

Delaine—medium size, nearly free from wrinkles.

Rambouillet—good size, upstanding, medium mutton form, a few small wrinkles under neck.

MEDIUM-WOOL BREEDS: MUTTON TYPE

White face

Dorset—horns on rams and ewes, little wool on face and shanks.

Cheviot—no horns, no wool on head or shanks. Stylish.

Corriedale—no horns, wool to eyes and to ankles.

Grayish-brown face, no horns

Southdown—face, gray or mouse brown. Small, very blocky. Short fleece; short neck; broad muzzle; small ears.

Oxford—face, dark gray or brown. Large, rugged. Not dense fleece; moderate amount of wool on face; topknot of wool on many show specimens.

"Black" face, no horns

Shropshire—face dark brown. Medium size. Head usually covered with wool to nostrils; legs woolled to ankles. Ears small.

Hampshire—face very dark brown. Large sheep. Considerable wool on face. Ears large, dark, straight out from head or drooping.

Suffolk—black face; bare face and shanks.

LONG-WOOL BREEDS: MUTTON TYPE

White face, long coarse wool, no horns

Leicester—face often a bluish white with some black spots; body rectangular; head level with back; small tuft of wool on forehead.

Border Leicester—no wool on head; otherwise like Leicester.

Cotswold—face often a grayish white, sometimes with black spots. Large, rather leggy, stylish. Fleece curls in locks, often wool hangs over face.

Lincoln—largest breed of sheep, rugged, rather blocky. Long fleece in locks.

Romney—strong head, heavy bone, short legs and neck. Fleece not curly or open like other long wools.

(Continued from page 29)

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.

SWINE

While not all breeders agreed about correct fat swine type in the past, most now prefer the medium type, which experiments at the UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS prove to combine economy of production with superior carcass. This medium-type hog is deep-bodied, uniformly wide, fairly long, with large hams and medium length of legs.

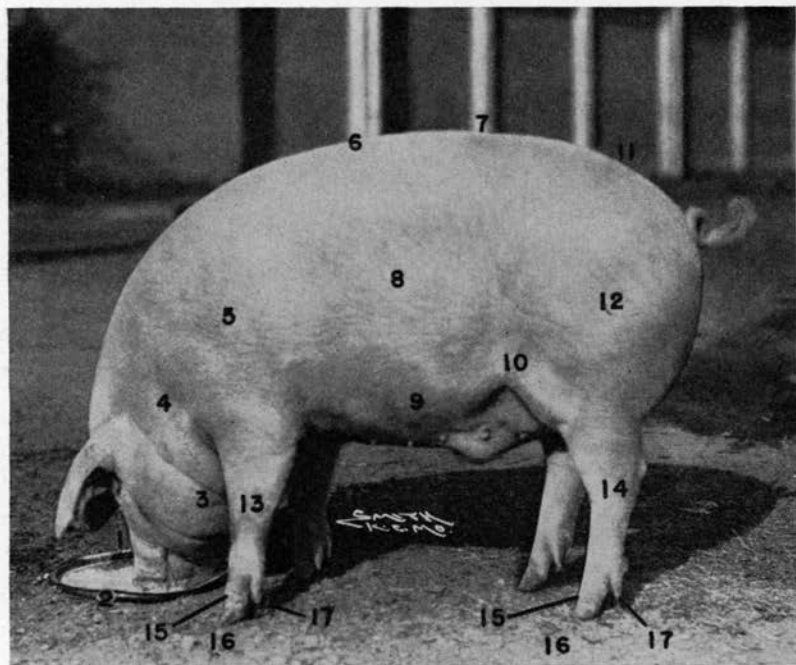
Fat Swine

Fat barrows are the chief market product of the swine raiser. As they yield a high percentage of dressed carcass, they have a relatively low dressed-cost per pound. To rate high in the show ring or to sell at a premium they must be thickly fleshed.

(Judging Blank)

FAT HOGS FOR MARKET

	1	2	3	4
Weight				
General appearance				
Type. Deep throat, 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.....				
Conformation				
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 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 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.....				
Condition				
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.....				
Quality				
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.....				
Dressing percentage				
High as shown by trim middle, approved form, high condition, and superior quality.....				
FINAL PLACING				



The Parts of a Fat Pig

This pig was grand champion barrow at the 1940 Oklahoma and Texas State Fairs; a Chester White shown by Wendall Powell, Beckham County, Oklahoma.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| 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 | |

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 barrow in the class and which is the worst.

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.

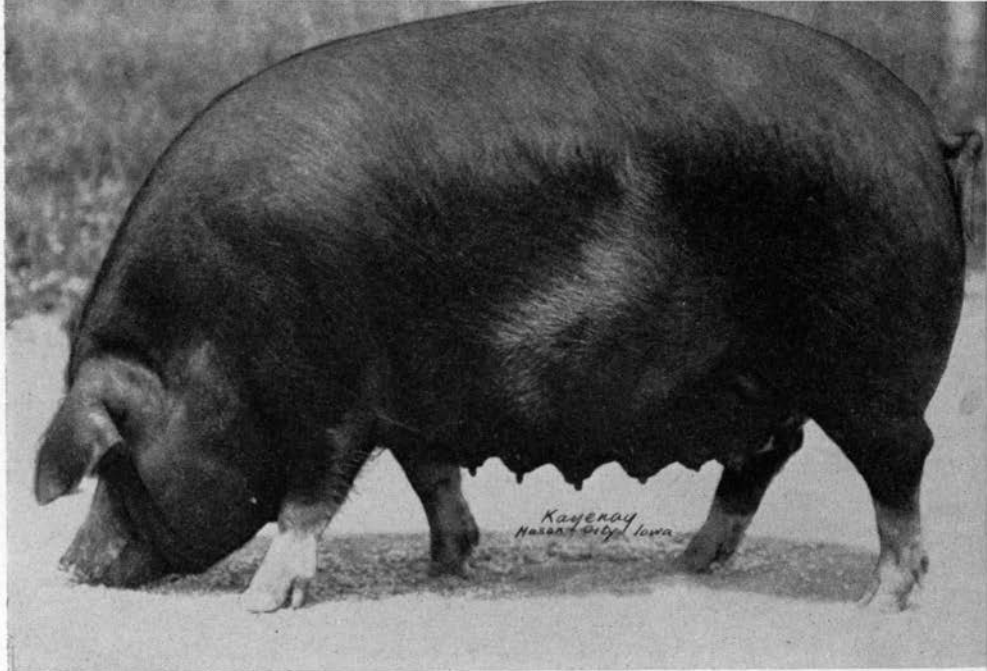
Use the Judging Blank

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 32*).

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

General appearance. The choice fat barrow is large for its 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 wide spring of rib. The belly is neither pendulous nor wide thru the middle but carries its width down

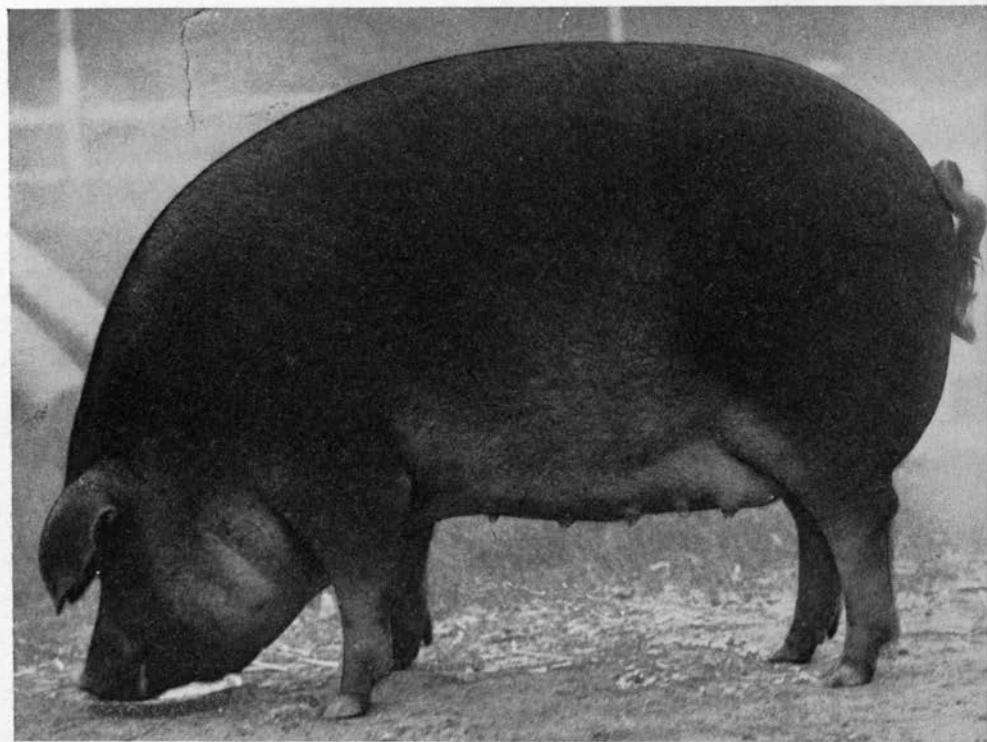


A Typical Champion Poland-China Sow, Balance Maid

*(Courtesy American
Poland-China Record
Association)*

A Typical Champion Duroc Sow

(Courtesy United Duroc Record Association)



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. High finish shows, generally, in all-over plumpness and, particularly, in width high on the back and loin.

Quality. The flesh is smooth; shoulders, sides, hams, and forehead are unwrinkled. (The cured shoulders, bacon, and ham of a smooth-skinned hog will have a smooth rind.) Hogs with smooth foreheads are likely to have smooth skin on the rest of the body.

Sample Reasons for Placing Fat Barrows

A sample set of reasons for placing four fat barrows follows:

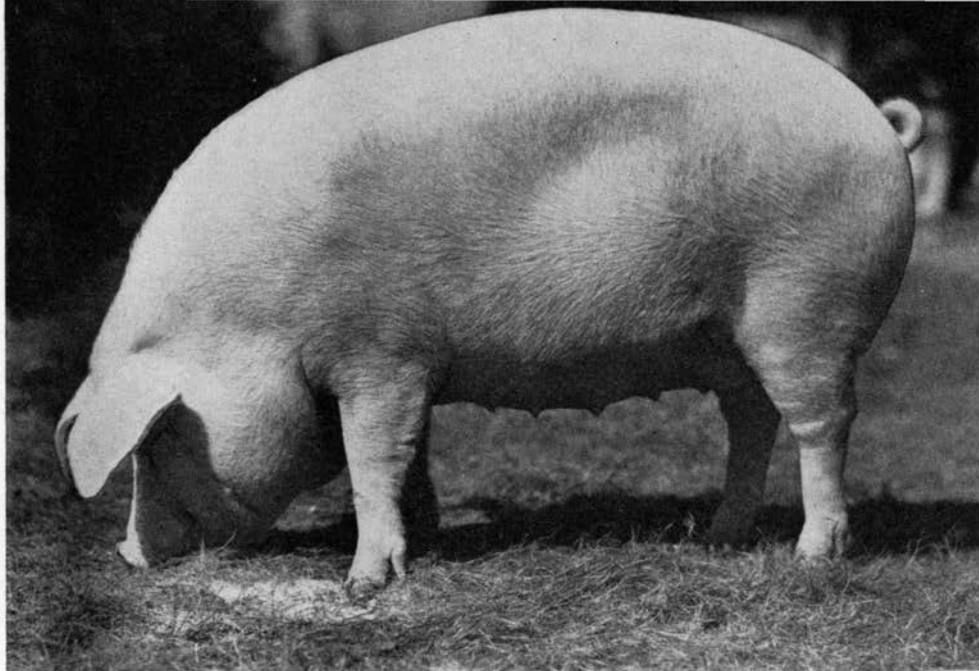
"I place this class of fat hogs **2-4-1-3**.

"**2** should win first, largely because it combines the popular medium type with superior development in the high-priced parts of the body, a high degree of finish, and the smoothest quality in the class. **2** and **4** are very similar in type but **2** is a little longer, more even in width, neater in jowl, finer in shoulders, more level in rump, and deeper in hams. These two hogs are about equally fat but **2** has finer, straighter hair, smoother skin, especially on face and hams, and generally smoother flesh.

"Altho **4** is not quite so long and smooth as **1** and is a little coarse in shoulders, **4** is placed second and over **1** largely because of closer adherence to medium type. **1** is too tall, narrow, and rangy. **4** carries sufficient arch of topline, a straighter underline, and more width generally. **4** also has a shorter neck, wider back and rump, a much plumper ham, and distinctly straighter hocks than **1**. **4** also is fatter and is more trim, less wasty, and so should have a considerably higher dressing percentage of carcass, with a better shape of the valuable cuts.

"**1** is too tall but is placed third in the class and above **3** largely because of more size, greater length, higher condition and less waste. **1** is longer and deeper than **3**, has a neater middle, and will dress a higher percentage of carcass. **1** also has a much neater jowl, finer shoulders, stronger back, and smoother sides. Likewise **1** has smoother flesh and skin, and finer, straighter hair, indicating considerably superior quality.

"**3** is a rather chuffy hog, with a heavy jowl, low back, wide, wasty middle, and short crooked legs. Because of his undesirable type alone he should be the last in the class."

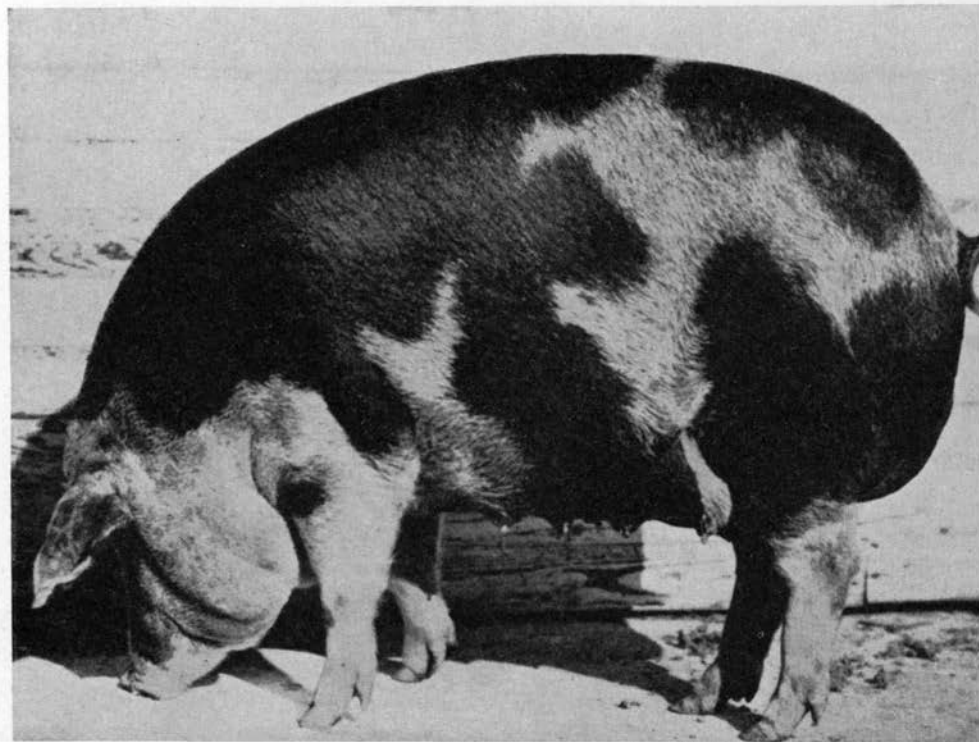


A Typical Champion Chester White Sow, Perfect Lady

*(Courtesy Chester White
Record Association)*

A Typical Champion Spotted Poland-China Sow, Calico

*(Courtesy National
Spotted Poland-China
Record Association)*



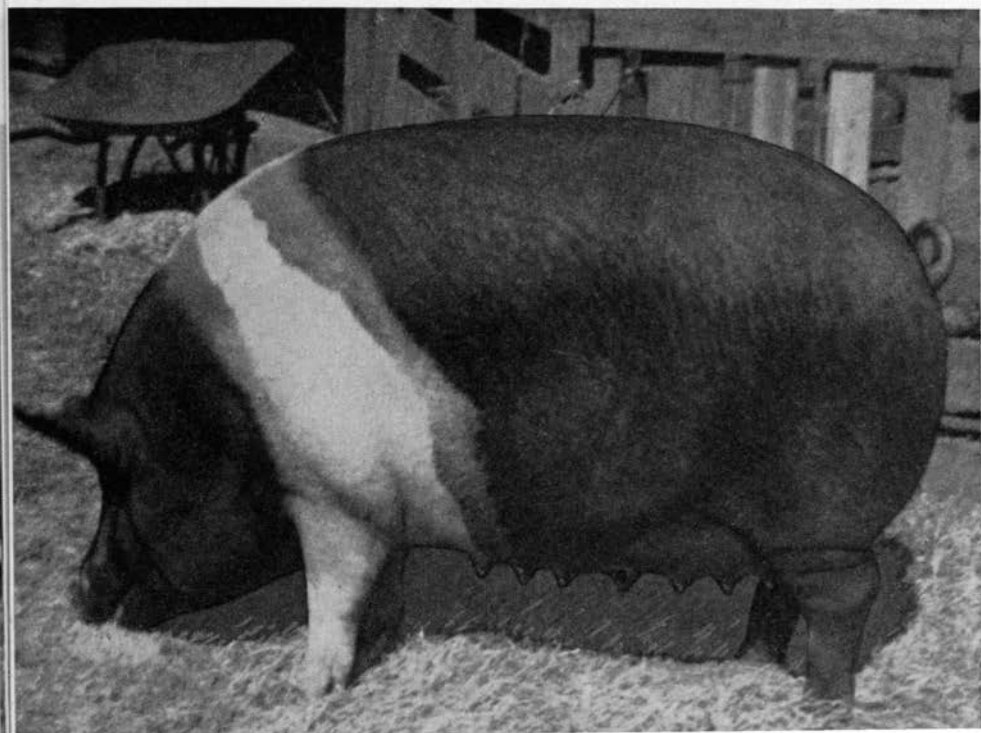


A Typical Champion Berkshire Sow, Eventuation Flo 4th

*(Courtesy American
Berkshire Association)*

All-American Aged Hampshire Sow of 1943

*(Courtesy Hampshire
Swine Record Association)*



Lard-Hog Breeding Sows and Gilts

Mature sows and boars are usually shown as fat as barrows, sometimes as much as 200 pounds more than their weights in breeding condition. Boars and gilts less than six months old, however, are usually shown thinner than barrows of the same age.

Use judging blank. By altering *sex characters* and *temperament* you can use the judging blank on page 40 to judge boars as well as sows and gilts.

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.

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, tho some breed associations do not officially bar it, is a generally agreed disqualification. Small to medium ears are preferred.

Characteristics of Different Breeds

Swine are divided into two general groups: (1) fat or lard breeds and (2) bacon breeds. The lard breeds supply the medium-type fat hog already described and yield the pork cuts most popular with American meat-eaters. The two bacon breeds, the Tamworth and the Yorkshire, are narrower, longer-bodied, less inclined to fatten, and can be quickly identified by their color and ears.

LARD HOGS : BREEDING SOWS AND GILTS

	1	2	3
Weight			
General appearance			
Type. Moderately long topline; deep thruout; 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. 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.....			
Breed type. Color, markings, shape of head, ear, and body characteristic of breed. Suitable size.....			
Conformation			
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 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 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.....			
Condition			
Moderate amount of flesh; pronounced tendency to deep, thick fleshing if fed liberally.....			
Quality			
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 thruout, especially in head, ear, neck, and shoulders. Smooth forehead.....			
Substance			
Large bone, wide frame, broad chest, wide snout. Robust, rugged, muscular....			
Soundness			
Udder of mature sows must indicate that they have raised pigs. No lumps in udder or other defects which would limit usefulness.....			
Legs, pasterns, feet, and action			
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.....			
FINAL PLACING			

Fat Breeds

Duroc. The Duroc (formerly Duroc-Jersey) is cherry-red without white or black markings. It has drooping ears, a slightly dished face, medium-full jowls, wide deep body, and legs of medium length.

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; the body, wide and deep; the legs, medium in length.

Spotted Poland China. Animals of this breed are black and white spotted (the body, not including legs, must be not less than 20 percent nor more than 80 percent white, with well-defined spots), and they have drooping ears. They are rugged and big-boned.

Chester White. The Chester White is all white with drooping ears. It has a dished face and a smooth, long body, even in width.

Berkshire. The Berkshire is black, preferably with six white points, and has erect ears. It is muscular, with a medium-deep, long body, and medium-short legs. The head is wide and rather short; the face, dished; and the jaws, equal in length.

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; the body, compact; and the legs, medium in length.

English Bacon Breeds

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.

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.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BREEDS OF SWINE

Breed	Size of show animals			Fleshing	Tempera- ment	Prolificacy	Feeding qualities	Killing qualities	Feet and legs	Grazing qualities
	Aged boar	Aged sow	Jr. pig							
LARD BREEDS										
Duroc	905	765	215	Medium-thick, firm	Quiet, fairly active	Breed noted for this point	Good	Good, rather fat	Some criticism of knees and hocks	Good
Poland China	965	795	215	Thick	Very quiet, mild	Fair	Superior	High dressing percentage. Re- quires trimming	Good	Fair
Spotted Poland China	850	720	195	Thick. Tendency to heavy jowls and soft underlines	Very quiet, mild	Fair to good	Excellent	Often coarse and lacks trimness	Good	Fair
Chester White	805	700	205	Fatten readily to market weight. Mostly smooth	Quiet. Sows are good mothers	Most pro- lific of lard breeds	Good	Choice	Good	Fair. White skin sunburns
Berkshire	740	640	185	Much lean. Smooth, firm	Active. Good rangers	Some criticism	Not the best	Choice	Not the best	Good
Hampshire	670	620	160	Finish smooth and firm	Quite active, restless	Good	Not the best	Choice. Much lean. Few trimmings	Often lack sub- stance and have long pasterns	Excellent
BACON BREEDS										
Tamworth	680	615	165	Firm, smooth. Much lean	Active, often nervous	Very good	Do not fatten at early age	Excellent. Close to Yorkshire in English contests	Fair	Good
Yorkshire	670	610	180	Firm, smooth, muscular. Moderate amount of fat	Active	One of most prolific	Do not fat- ten at early age	Fine-grained. Much lean. Ideal Wiltshire side	Fair	Good. White skin sunburns

KEY TO BREEDS OF SWINE

Breed	Color	Type of ears	Disqualifications	Objections
LARD BREEDS				
Duroc	Cherry red	$\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ drooping	Straight or erect ears. Black or white hair or spots. White feet	Stiff ears. Weak pasterns. Light color on legs and belly. Black skin spots on belly. Black or white or coarse hair
Poland China	Black, preferably with six white points	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ drooping	Marked deviation from correct breed type	Straight or stiff ears. Blind or diseased teats. Weak pasterns or spreading toes. Much white on body
Spotted Poland China	Black and white spotted (20-80% white)	Drooping	More than 80% or less than 20% white. Brown or sandy spots. Small upright ears	Stiff ears. Weak pasterns. Coarseness. Black and white intermingling
Chester White	White	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ drooping	Any black hairs	Stiff ears. Weak pasterns. Bluish spots or "freckles" on skin. Curly or wavy hair
Berkshire	Black, preferably with six white points	Erect	More than 20% white. Red hair	Very short or very long snout. Weak pasterns
Hampshire	Black with complete white belt and white front legs	Erect	Solid black. Incomplete belt. More than $\frac{2}{3}$ white. Any white on head or hams. Black on front legs	More than $\frac{1}{3}$ white. White high on hind legs or on underline to hind quarters. Spots in belt. Black and white hairs mixed
BACON BREEDS				
Tamworth	Solid red	Erect	Slouchy or broken ears. Short or turned up snout. Pronounced spotting	Curly coat
Yorkshire	White	Erect	Black hairs	Very obvious black "freckles" on skin

DRAFT HORSES

Horses and mules are harder to judge than other livestock. Much of their excellence depends on legs, feet, and action, and they are subject to unsoundnesses which are not always obvious. They are therefore left until the last in judging instruction.

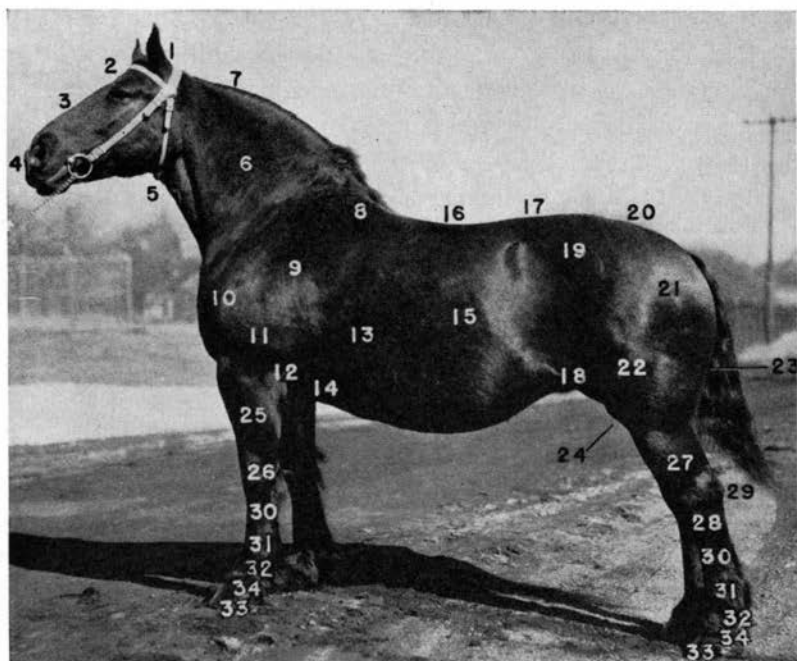
Mules and light horses are omitted here because they are not included in Illinois 4-H Club projects. Mules, however, are judged much like draft horses.

The best mules approach the type, conformation, quality, legs, and action of horses and have the distinctive head, long ears, low withers, and rather narrow feet of their sire. (The mule is a hybrid produced by mating a mare to a male donkey, known as a jack.) They are hardy, durable, and patient, and their disposition is deliberate and calm. They are most popular for farm work in the South.

Showing a horse. Showing a horse requires some skill and should be learned by every horseman. The groom who shows a draft horse to best advantage walks at its left side. (The left side on which horses are regularly approached for leading, harnessing, and mounting is often called the "near" side; the right side, the "off" side.) He holds the lead rein in his right hand about 15 inches from the horse's head. At the trot he keeps step with its front feet and also steps fairly high. To display action he always turns to the right, as in this position the horse is less likely to slip or kick. He sees that it stands squarely on all four feet for inspection, with its head up and the front feet, if possible, on higher ground than the hind feet.

Unsoundnesses. Unsoundnesses are defects that reduce a horse's usefulness. They are usually due to disease or accident, altho poor conformation makes an animal more likely to have them. Always choose a sound horse, unless it is decidedly inferior otherwise, to an unsound one.

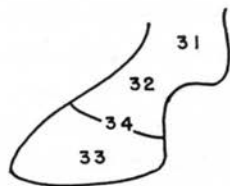
An unsoundness should be distinguished from a blemish which mars a horse's appearance but does not reduce its usefulness. Examples of blemishes are a capped hock, a shallow barbed-



The Parts of a Draft Horse

This Percheron mare, Marilyn, is owned by the University of Illinois.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1. Poll | 15. Ribs | 29. Point of hock |
| 2. Forehead | 16. Back | 30. Cannon |
| 3. Face | 17. Loin | 31. Fetlock or ankle |
| 4. Muzzle | 18. Flank | 32. Pastern |
| 5. Throatlatch | 19. Hip | 33. Foot |
| 6. Neck | 20. Croup | 34. Hoofhead |
| 7. Crest | 21. Buttock | |
| 8. Withers | 22. Thigh | |
| 9. Shoulder | 23. Quarter | |
| 10. Point of shoulder | 24. Stifle | |
| 11. Arm | 25. Forearm | |
| 12. Elbow | 26. Knee | |
| 13. Chest | 27. Gaskin | |
| 14. Foreflank | 28. Hock | |



wire mark or similar scar, and a small splint (a bone enlargement at the inside of the front leg below the knee).

The common serious unsoundnesses which can be detected in a brief inspection are listed below:

Head. *Poll evil* is a persistent running sore at the poll.

Body. *Fistula* is a persistent running sore on the withers. *Sweeny* is (1) a shrinkage of the long muscles on the outside of the shoulder blade; (2) atrophy of the hip muscles.

Feet and legs. *Sidebone* is a bony enlargement of a lateral cartilage of the front foot just above the hoof at the heel. *Ringbone* is a bony enlargement of one or more of the pastern bones.

Bog-spavin is a soft swelling on the front of the hock toward the inside. *Bone-spavin* is an enlargement of one or more of the small bones of the hock (generally at the lower inside front corner). *Thoropin* is a soft swelling in the hollows of the hock. *Curb* is an enlargement low on the back of the hock.

Action. A horse *lame in front* nods his head in time with the steps of the good foot. A horse *lame behind* drops the hip slightly in time with the steps of the good foot. A horse with *stringhalt* (muscular spasms of a hind leg) jerks the affected leg higher than normal. This is especially noticeable in turning and backing.

A horse with *roaring* breathes noisily and with difficulty after brisk exercise. *Heaves* cause a horse's flanks to "heave" when he is breathing out.

Senses. A *blind* horse usually has very erect ears and a hesitant gait. The sightless eye is usually discolored. A *deaf* horse ignores noises and seldom moves its ears.

How to Judge Horses

If you are judging a group of horses by yourself, first have them led out singly. Have each horse walk 30 or 40 yards away from you and back again, and then cover the same route at a trot. Look out for lameness and note the type, size, style, symmetry, and conformation of the legs. Watch at the turns for stringhalt. As soon as it stops trotting, listen for roaring.

From directly in front of the horse observe the head, eyes, and ears, the straightness of front legs, and the size and shape of feet. Then step to the right and walk slowly around the horse.

At the horse's left side opposite the front legs, note the profile of head, neck, and shoulders; the height at the withers; the

front legs; and the relation between depth of chest and length of leg. Note any spavin on the left hock.

Walking on by the horse's left side, opposite the hindlegs, note the back, hips, flank, croup, and the profile of hindlegs.

From the rear, observe the width and muscling and the alignment of hindlegs. Then walk on around to take in the details of the right side.

If, after this, you are undecided, compare the horses from a side view.

Use your eyes, not your hands. The only two good excuses for a judge to touch a horse are to open the lips to determine the age and to feel for a sidebone on a hairy hoof-head. A spavin, for instance, is just as real when seen as when felt, and seeing is safer. Feeling is also objectionable because it calls the attention of bystanders to a horse's faults.

In student judging, of course, the procedure is necessarily different. Usually students keep at a distance of 10 or more feet while the horses are shifted in position to give successive front, rear, and side views. The horses are then walked and trotted one at a time and afterwards lined up together again for a closer inspection and final placing.

How to tell age. To tell how old a horse is, examine its front teeth. A *yearling* or a *two-year-old* has 6 temporary incisors (teeth small, white, and narrow at the base) in each jaw. In a *three-year-old* horse the middle pair of these temporary teeth in each jaw have been replaced by larger, darker permanent teeth. In a *four-year-old* the next pair also have been replaced by permanent teeth, and the outer pair, or "corner" teeth, of the temporary set are now comparatively small and short. A *five-year-old* has all six permanent teeth.

By the time a horse is *six years old*, the biting surfaces of the "corner" teeth show signs of wear. In general, as a horse grows older the angle where the upper and lower teeth meet becomes more acute, and the teeth themselves wear down and darken and become narrower at the base. Horses of fine quality, however, have teeth that resist wear better than coarse-quality horses; and the teeth of horses on soft feed and dirt pasture show less wear than the teeth of horses on hard feed and sandy pasture.

DRAFT HORSES

	1	2	3	4
Height				
Weight				
General appearance				
Type. Broad, deep, low-set, moderately compact, massive.....				
Size for age. Large, early maturing. Mature horses up to 16½ hands and up to 2,100 pounds..				
Symmetry. Balanced blending of parts, stylish, smoothly turned. Not leggy, narrow, rangy, or coachy. Depth of chest equal to one half of height.....				
Sex characters and temperament. Distinct sex features of conformation. Mares refined, matronly, gentle. Stallions rugged, aggressive, bold. Geldings similar to mares. All should be quiet and docile but energetic.....				
Breed type. Distinctive features of type, color, conformation, and quality of breed.....				
Conformation				
Head—proportionate in size, clean-cut, profile straight, not Roman-nosed or dish-faced				
Muzzle—proportionate in size; nostrils large but not dilated; lips thin, closed; teeth sound. Not parrot-mouthed				
Lower jaw—with wide space at angle				
Eyes—large, bright, clear, sound, prominent				
Forehead—broad and full				
Ears—medium-sized, pointed, carried alertly.....				
Neck—long, clean-cut, well muscled; tapering from shoulder to head; head attached at proper angle; crest developed and arched according to sex; throatlatch fine; windpipe large, not ewe-necked or staggy				
Shoulder—oblique, long, smooth, well covered with muscle; withers well finished, moderate in height and breadth, smooth, well defined collar bed. Not thick or flat at withers, not excessively wide.....				
Arm—short, well muscled; elbow close to the body.....				
Chest—deep, low; girth large; width of breast in proportion with other parts.....				
Ribs—long, well sprung. Not short or flat				
Back—straight, short, broad, well muscled. Not long or low.....				
Loin—wide, short, heavily muscled, neatly joined to hips.....				
Underline—long; low. Not cut up in flank.....				
Hips—smooth, level, width in proportion with other parts but not prominent.....				
Croup—long, wide, muscular. Not too steep. Tail attached high, well carried.....				
Thighs—long, muscular, thick, wide, well muscled over stifle.....				
Quarters—heavily muscled, deep.....				
Substance				
Bone ample; cannons wide; joints broad, proportionate in size; muscles thick				
Soundness				
Free from malformations, due to disease or accident or heredity, which would reduce usefulness.....				
Legs and feet				
Foreleg—viewed from front, straight and perpendicular. From the side, straight and perpendicular from body to pastern joint.....				
Forearm—heavily muscled, long, wide				
Knees—large, clean, wide, flat, straight, and strongly supported.....				
Cannons—short, wide, clean; tendons large, set well back, distinct. Not tied in below the knee.....				
Fetlocks—wide, straight, free from puffiness.....				
Pasterns—of medium length, angle with the ground 45 degrees, clean, strong. Not steep or rough.....				
Feet—squarely placed, medium to large in size, even; hoof dense; heel wide, high; hoofhead large, frog large, elastic; bars strong; sole concave; wall at toe having same slope as pastern. Feet not small or cracked; not pigeon-toed or nigger-heeled.....				
Hindleg—viewed from behind, straight and perpendicular from hock to pastern joint; points of hocks turned in slightly. Viewed from the side, the cannon perpendicular; the point of the hock perpendicularly below the point of the buttock				
Gaskins or lower thighs—wide and well muscled; tendons large				
Hocks—large, strong, deep, clean. Not puffy or meaty				
Cannons—short, broad, flat and clean; tendons distinct and set back. Not light below the hock.....				
Fetlocks—large, wide, straight, free from puffiness. Not cock-ankled.....				
Pasterns—medium length, slope not so great as fore pasterns, strong and smooth				
Hindfeet—medium to large in size, toes pointing out slightly, even; hoof dense; heel wide, high; frog large, elastic; bars strong; sole concave; wall at toe having same slope as pastern. Feet not small or narrow at heel. Not "flat iron" shape.....				
Action				
Walk—easy, prompt, balanced; step long, each foot carried forward in a straight line. Feet lifted clear of ground				
Trot—powerful, rapid, straight, regular, elastic with joints well flexed. No winging, forging, or interfering.....				
FINAL PLACING				

Height standard. Knowing a horse's height helps to determine its weight. Also, if you can estimate the height of a horse by your height standard—as experienced horsemen do—it is easy to select horses from different places and at different times and have them match in height as well as in general appearance.

Your height standard is the distance from the ground to your eyes when you stand straight, with your head up. The average man who is 5 feet 8 inches tall with shoes on has a height standard of 5 feet 4 inches, or 16 hands (a hand is 4 inches), which does not vary. A woman's height standard, if she wears heels of different heights, varies proportionately. To estimate the height of a horse by your height standard, just look on the level toward the withers and decide how many inches your line of vision is above or below the top of the withers.

Use the Judging Blank

Until you have a clear mental picture of the ideal draft horse, it is advisable to compare the horse you are judging with the ideal draft horse described in the judging blank (*page 48*).

Height and weight. Draft horses are often shown 200 to 300 pounds heavier than they need to be for breeding and working. Extreme size and weight, however, are not desirable now that horses are no longer used for very heavy hauling. A stallion or gelding is large enough at a height of 16 to 16¾ hands and a weight of 1,900 to 2,100 pounds. A mare is large enough at a height of 16 to 16½ hands and a weight of 1,750 to 1,900 pounds. Work horses of 16 hands and 1,600 pounds are popular now.

General appearance. A fine draft horse, like a fine light horse, is valued for its beauty as well as its utility. It is deep-bodied, thick, low-set, massive, and muscular. Symmetrical lines, a long arched neck, and a well-carried head enhance its style.

Sex characters and temperament. The mare has a more refined head and neck, roomier middle, and wider hindquarters than the gelding or stallion. The stallion is bigger-boned and more massively built; he has a larger head, wider face, heavier lower jaw, thicker and deeper neck, and heavier shoulder than the gelding or mare.

The mare is mild and gentle; the gelding, stolid and indifferent; the stallion, bold and aggressive. All three should be docile and energetic.

Breed type. The purebred draft horse has the type, conformation, quality, and color that distinguish its breed.

Conformation. The horse with a long oblique shoulder usually has a high springy stride and is less likely to stumble. Long forearms and short cannons contribute to the length and ease of stride; long, sloping pasterns give greater elasticity to the stride and ease the shock on the hoofs; and cannons wide enough so that the tendons are set well back from the bone give maximum leverage of action. If each front leg stands directly under its own half of the body, as viewed from the front, and the toes point straight forward, the action will likely be straight also.

Large, deep, round feet, with ample hoofheads and wide heels, usually stay sound. Smooth, dense, shiny, deep hoofs that wear smoothly at the edges are most durable and need least shoeing. (Flat feet, low at the heels and very sloping at the toe, often develop sidebones, frequently need shoeing during hard work, and sometimes become bruised and tender. Extremely low heels and turned-up toes may result from founder.)

Withers high as the hips, or a trifle higher, improve style.

Sample Reasons for Placing Draft Geldings

A sample set of reasons for placing four draft geldings follows:

"I place this class of draft geldings **4-1-3-2** and consider it a difficult group to place because the animals are all excellent. All are big drafty rugged horses of acceptable type and possessing heavy bone, fairly straight legs and deep round feet.

"I place the white horse, **4**, first altho the black horse, **1**, which is placed second, does have somewhat deeper feet and tougher hoofs. **4** has somewhat the most symmetrical proportions and the most stylish appearance of any horse in the class either standing or going. **4** has larger, brighter eyes, longer neck, deeper flank, and deeper thighs than the black, **1**. Also, **4** has straight front legs, while **1** is slightly calf-kneed. **4** has more muscular forearms, larger bone in front, straighter hocks, and somewhat more sloping pasterns than **1**. As might be expected from the

conformation, **4** has a longer stride and flashier action. Each horse has a straight walk and trot.

"**1**, which is placed second, is a shade longer-legged and has more crook to the hocks than the light gray horse, **3**, which is placed third. However, **1** has a neater throatlatch than **3**, and a longer neck, more sloping shoulder, shorter back, longer croup, thicker stifles, and more muscular gaskins. The bone of **1** is larger, pasterns longer, feet larger, heels wider, and the action higher and straighter than **3**'s.

"The dark dappled gray, **2**, which is placed last, has more style than any of the others except the first horse, **4**. However, **3**, which is third is somewhat deeper bodied and more thickly made. **3** also has a shorter broader head than **2**, somewhat more sloping shoulders, more muscular arms, forearms, stifles, and gaskins, straighter hindlegs, deeper hocks, and denser hoofs. **3** likewise has somewhat finer quality and harder-appearing joints than **2**. **2** is slightly filled in both hocks, rather shallow-bodied, and light in muscle, and should clearly be last in this class in spite of having slightly straighter action than **3**."

Characteristics of Different Breeds

There are five breeds of draft horses in this country. The Percherons, from La Perche, France, are popular, but some farmers prefer the Belgians, from Belgium; the Shires,¹ from England; the Clydesdales, from the valley of the River Clyde in Scotland; or the Suffolks, from Suffolk county in England.

Percheron. The purebred Percheron is blocky, muscular, symmetrical, and stylish both in motion and at rest. The body is deep and wide, the bone ample, and the quality excellent. The head is of moderate size, clean-cut, and broad; the neck, of medium length and not too heavy. Eyes are bright. The thighs are powerful; the legs, strong; the hoofs, round, deep, and tough; the fetlocks, comparatively free from long hair.

Color. Desirable Percherons are gray or black. The gray varies from almost black in foals to a light gray, sometimes with gorgeous dappling, in mature horses, and fades to nearly white in extreme age. The Percherons of other colors may be registered, breeders do not favor them. Small white markings, as a star on the forehead or a white foot, are acceptable.

Size. Stallions should stand 16 to 16¾ hands and weigh 1,900 to 2,100 pounds. Mares should stand 16 to 16½ hands and weigh 1,750 to 1,900 pounds in good condition.

¹"Shire" is the old English word for county.

Temperament. The typical Percheron is kindly, energetic, and alert but not excitable. It is an easy keeper and usually in good flesh.

Action. Action is free and efficient.

Belgian. The purebred Belgian is massive, low-set, and very blocky. The body is deep and roomy; the head, large; and the neck, thick. Bone is ample. The hindquarters are wide and powerfully muscled; the hoofs, deep and tough.

Color. The most popular colors are chestnut, roan, bay, and brown. Other colors, tho allowed for registration, are not favored by breeders. Sometimes there is white on the forehead, or one or more white feet, or a white strip down the face.

Size. Belgians are very heavy for their height. Stallions should stand 16 to 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ hands and weigh 1,900 to 2,300 pounds. Mares should stand 16 to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ hands and weigh 1,800 to 2,200 pounds.

Temperament. The typical Belgian is calm, persistent, and obedient. It eats generously, fattens easily, and holds its flesh well during hard work.

Action. The action suggests power and determination.

Shire. The purebred Shire is a burly, big-boned horse. Tho rugged, it has symmetry and style. Eyes are bright. The head is large; the face, prominent; the neck, long and clean-cut. Shoulders are fairly sloping; the back, straight; and the croup, fairly level. Hocks are deep; legs, well set; and feet, large. The breed is famous for its feather, or thick long hair behind the legs below knees and hocks.

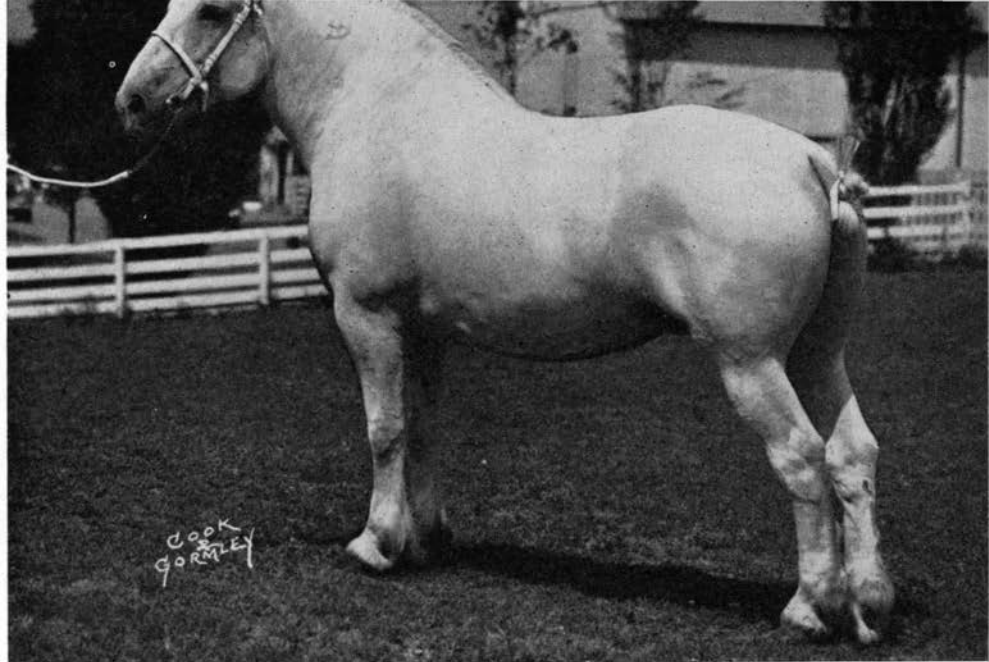
Color. Bay and brown are the commonest colors. White occurs often on the legs and feet and occasionally on the forehead and face.

Size. Stallions should stand 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 17 hands and weigh 1,900 to 2,300 pounds. Mares should stand 16 to 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ hands and weigh 1,800 to 2,200 pounds.

Temperament. The typical Shire is spirited and vigorous.

Action. The stride is straight, long, and powerful.

Clydesdale. The purebred Clydesdale is tall, symmetrical, and very stylish, with a slender head and a long, clean-cut neck. Eyes are bright and large. Shoulders slope, and the croup is nearly level. Breeders are very proud of the straight legs with long pasterns and hocks close together. Feet are wide, especially at the heel; joints and cannons are hard and lean. The feather behind the cannons and fetlocks is fine, straight, and silky.

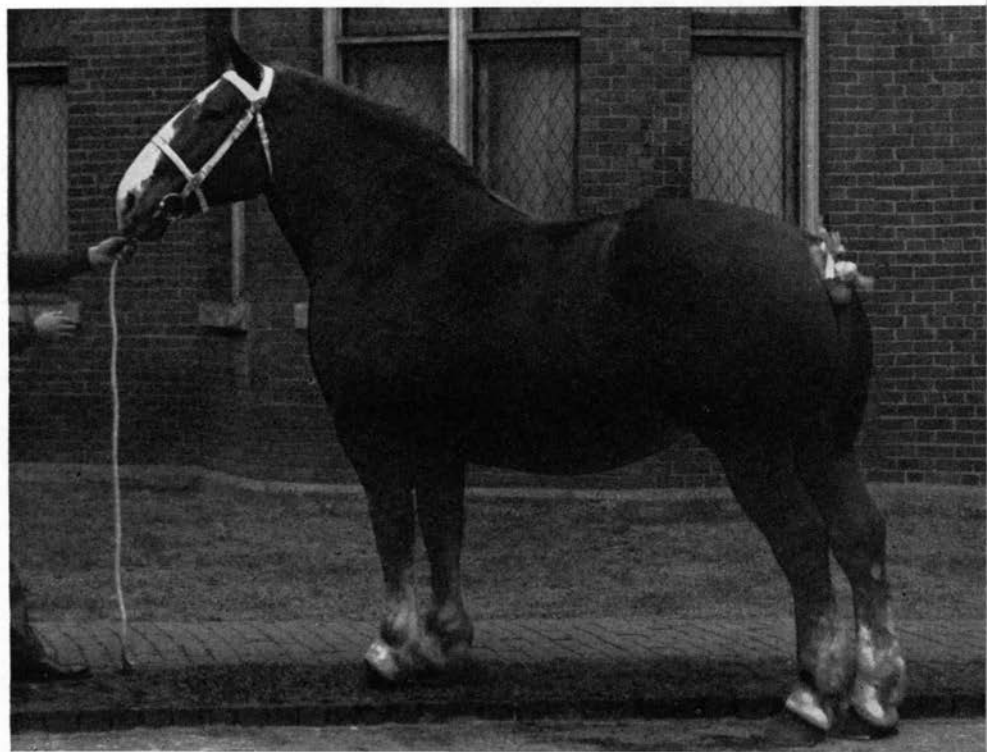


Typical Champion Percheron Mare, Julie

(Courtesy Percheron Horse Association of America)

Typical Champion Belgian Mare, Jeannine

(Courtesy Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America)



Color. Clydesdales are usually bay or brown with much white on the face and legs and sometimes a little white on the body.

Size. Stallions should stand 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 17 hands and weigh 1,800 to 2,100 pounds. Mares should stand 16 to 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ hands and weigh 1,700 to 1,900 pounds.

Temperament. The typical Clydesdale is quick, alert, and ambitious, leading up promptly when shown at a trot. It seldom gets very fat.

Action. The Clydesdale gives a "showy" performance, taking long, straight strides and flashing its white feet high.

Suffolk. The purebred Suffolk, tho still rare in this country, is gaining in popularity. It is stylish, symmetrical, low-set, and compact, and is highly regarded as a farm work horse.

Color. Only chestnut horses may be registered.

Size. The Suffolk is the smallest of the five breeds of draft horses.

Temperament. The typical Suffolk is good-natured and intelligent, and fattens easily.

Action. The walk and the trot are straight and quick.

JUDGING CONTESTS

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.

Personal bearing and deportment. (1) Stand erect and squarely on your feet, and look at the jury. 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) Praise the first animal. Then tell in what respects, if any, the second-place animal is superior. Then state the superior points of the first-place animal (*page 5*).

(2) When the first-place animal is outstanding in a group, first describe and praise it and then discuss the others (*page 6*). Criticize the last animal.

(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.

See sample reasons for placing Cattle, *page 11*; Sheep, *page 21*; Swine, *page 36*, and Horses, *page 50*.

Terms Used in Livestock Judging

The letters before each term show the classes of livestock to which the term applies: C stands for cattle; H for horses; 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.
- H **Blemish**—any mark of deformity or injury in the skin or adjacent tissue which may hurt appearance but not usefulness.
- A **Blocky**—deep, wide, low-set, and compact.
- Sw **Boar**—entire (uncastrated) male of swine.
- H **Bog-spavin**—an unsoundness (*see page 46*).
- H **Bone-spavin**—an unsoundness (*see page 46*).
- 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.
- H **Buck-kneed**—with knees bent slightly forward.
- C **Bull**—entire male of cattle.
- C **Calf**—young animal of cattle; usually under one year.
- H **Calf-kneed**—with knees bent slightly backward.
- H **Cannon**—the part of the leg between the knee (hock) and ankle.
- A **Carcass**—the dressed body of a slaughtered meat animal, offal having been removed.
- H **Chestnut**—(1) a horny growth on the inside of a horse's legs above the knee and below the hock; (2) a name given to sorrel color by horsemen.
- 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.
- H **Colt**—male horse 4 years old or under; also foal of either sex.
- A **Condition**—in meat animals and draft horses this term means degree of fatness; in race horses, state of being fit to race.

- H **Coronet**—hoof-head, the part of a horse's leg at top of hoof.
- Sh **Cotted**—badly matted or tangled fibers of fleece, caused by lack of yolk.
- C **Cow**—mature female of cattle.
- H **Cow-hocked**—hocks closer together than ankles, hocks bent in as viewed from rear.
- 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.
- H **Croup**—the part between hips and tailhead; corresponds with rump in cattle, sheep, and swine.
- H **Curb**—an unsoundness (*see page 46*).
- 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
H } sheep, sometimes, region near tail; (3) in horses, base of 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.
- H **Elbow**—the joint located where the back part of foreleg joins the body.
- H **Ergot**—horny growth at rear of fetlock joint.
- Sh **Ewe**—female sheep.
- H **Feather**—long hair on the rear of the cannons and ankles.
- A **Femininity**—possession of well-developed secondary female sex characters.
- H **Fetlock joint**—the ankle.
- H **Filly**—young mare that has not produced a foal.
- A **Finish**—in meat animals, fatness; in horses, fatness and smoothness, with a good coat of hair.
- H **Fistula**—a running sore on the withers.
- Sh **Fleece**—the wool of a single sheep.
- A **Foot**—horny box and its contents, not the entire leg.
- H **Forging**—overreaching and striking hindfoot against heel or quarter of forefoot of the same side.
- H **Gaskin**—hindleg from stifle to hock.
- H **Gelding**—unsexed male horse, castrated before two years old.
- 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.
- H **Hand**—unit of measure of height of horse; 4 inches.
- 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.
- H **Hinny**—hybrid produced by mating a stallion with a jennet.
- 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 (example, jack × mare = mule); (2) offspring from parents which are pure in certain different characteristics.
- A **Incisors**—front teeth.
- H **Interfering**—striking supporting leg with foot of striding leg.
- 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.
- H **Mare**—female horse.
- A **Masculinity**—possession of well-developed secondary male sex characters in head, neck, and shoulders.
- H **Mule**—a hybrid produced by mating a jack with a mare.
- C **Muley**—naturally hornless.
- A **Muzzle**—lower part of the face; nose.
- A **Natural flesh**—lean meat or muscle.
- H **Near side**—the left side of a horse (a horse is harnessed, mounted, and led from this side).
- A **Offal**—parts removed from the carcass in dressing.
- H **Off side**—the right side of a horse.
- A **Open shoulders**—shoulder blades too far apart at top.
- H **Paddling**—swinging the forefeet outward at the trot, sometimes at walk.
- 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.
- H **Pigeon toed**—standing with the front feet pointing in.
- 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.
- H **Poll evil**—a running sore just behind the ears.
- 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.
- H **Puffy**—having a soft swelling about joints or elsewhere on legs.
- 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.
- H **Quarters**—(1) inside of thighs of horse; (2) rear one-fourth of hoof wall on each side of foot.
- Sh **Ram**—entire male of sheep.
- A **Rangy**—too long in body or legs.
- H **Ringbone**—an unsoundness (*see page 46*).
- H **Roaring**—noisy breathing.
- H **Rolling**—excessive lateral shoulder motion.
- 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 } **Scurs**—in polled animals, small horn "buttons" attached to the
 Sh } 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 } **Shoulder vein**—the line formed by junction of side of neck and
 Sh } shoulder.
- H **Sickle hock**—a hock which is crooked as viewed from the side.
- H **Sidebone**—an unsoundness (*see page 46*).
- Sw **Snout**—the muzzle or nose.
- H } **Soundness**—(1) wool is sound if it has no weak spots; (2) a
 Sh } horse is sound if free from disease and having no alteration of structure which will interfere with its usefulness.

- 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.
- H **Stallion**—entire male horse.
- C **Steer**—male of cattle castrated at an early age.
- A **Stifle**—the joint located just behind the rear flank.
- H **Stringhalt**—an unsoundness (*see page 46*).
- H **Stud**—(1) a horse breeding establishment; (2) stallion.
- A **Stylish**—attractive, possessing a pleasing conformation, animation, and gracefulness of carriage.
- A **Substance**—amount of bone and muscle.
- H **Sweeny**—an unsoundness (*see page 46*).
- 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.
- H **Thoroughbred**—a breed of running horses originating in England and now found in almost all countries (term does not apply to any other animal).
- H **Thoroughpin**—an unsoundness (*see page 46*).
- H **Throatlatch**—place where the throat joins the jaws.
- 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.
- H **Weanling**—a weaned foal.
- 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).
- H **Winding**—placing one front or hind foot directly in front of the opposite one in action.
- H **Winging**—swinging the forefeet out at a trot; sometimes occurs at walk.
- Sh **Yolk**—the secretion in wool, commonly called grease or oil.