

Breeds of Swine



Picture Provided by Prairie State

Berkshire

The Berkshire breed has long been known for its efficiency in gaining weight. Berkshire hogs have possessed their excellent carcass quality since the early 1800's. The meat quality of the Berkshire is unique because it has a greater proportion of lean meat intermixed with streaks of fat. This intramuscular fat gives more marbling in comparison to other breeds. When cooked the increased marbling produces a juicer pork product with more flavor for the consumer.

Like all the swine breeds that end in "shire", Berkshires have erect ears. In fact, the word "shire" means erect. The Berkshire breed standard requires a pig to have a color pattern consisting of only black and white hairs. The white points must appear on the nose, feet, and tail. These white points can be missing and any additional white points may appear on the body of the animal. Animals that are ineligible for registration would possess hair colors other than black and white, have less than 12 teats, have one or more swirled hair patterns, show signs of blindness, contain rectal or uterine prolapse, be born with hermaphroditism, be born with anal atresia, be born with cryptorchidism, or develop a scrotal or umbilical hernia.



Picture Provided by Jack Rodibaugh and Sons

Chester White



The Chester White breed is known for its mothering ability, durability, and structural soundness. For many years, Chester Whites have been popular with pork producers because of their extreme longevity. Packers prefer Chester Whites because of their white colored skin is easily removed during the harvesting process.

The Chester White breed standards require a pig to be solid white and have medium sized d ears that point downward. Chester Whites are ineligible for registration if any other color pigmentation is larger than a silver dollar or shows any signs of ear tampering.



Picture Provided by Guy Jackson and Family

Duroc

The Duroc breed is known for being red in color and having floppy ears. Duroc hogs are very prolific, have good longevity, and are noted for outstanding terminal sireing ability. Durocs have been utilized as terminal sires by commercial producers for many years. Duroc hogs are known for their lean gain efficiency, carcass yields, and muscle quality. Their popularity has made Durocs the second most recorded breed of swine in the United States.

Durocs can vary in color from a very golden, almost yellow appearance, to a deep mahogany color. The Duroc breed standard requires floppy ears, a red color pattern, and at least six functional teats on each side of the pig's underline. Durocs cannot have white feet or other white spots anywhere on the body except their nose. Durocs may not possess more than three black spots, which must be smaller than two inches in diameter.



Picture Provided by Maddox Hampshires

Hampshire

The Hampshire breed is black with a white belt extending over the front shoulders and down the front legs. Hampshires have erect ears and are known for being heavy muscled, lean, aggressive hogs with large loin eye areas, and possess less back fat. As a result, Hampshire boars make good terminal sires. Hampshires are the third most recorded breed in the United States. Hampshires are packer preferred because of their carcass quality and thin skin, which makes processing easier.

The Hampshire breed requirements state that Hamps must have at least six functional teats on each side of their underline, must be black in color with a white belt totally encircling the body, including both front legs and feet. Hamps can have white on their nose as long as the white does not break the rim of the nose and when the animal's mouth is closed, the white under the chin can not exceed what a United States quarter will cover. White is allowed on the rear legs of a Hamp as long as it does not extend above the tuber calis bone, which is better known as the knob of the hock. As of January 2005, Hampshires with a swirl hair pattern may be registered. Hampshires classified as "off belts" may be used for breeding purposes and their offspring eligible for registration. "Off belts" are not eligible for show in breeding swine classes or shows.



Hampshire must have at least six functional teats on each side of their underline.



White on the nose cannot extend outside the nose or onto the chin.



White on the rear leg of a Hamp may not extend above the knob of the hock.



“Off belts” can be used for breeding purposes but are ineligible for exhibition in breeding shows.



Picture Provided by Prairie State Semen Inc.

Hereford

The Hereford breed originated in the 1900’s when a swine breeder crossed a Duroc, Chester White, and Poland. The Hereford breed was developed for its type, color, conformation, and superior feeding qualities.

The Hereford breed standard requires a white face, and no less than two thirds of the pig’s body to be red, exclusive of the face, ears, and at least two white feet. The white hair above the white feet must be extended at least one inch above the hoof. Hereford hogs are known for having a long neck, moderate jowl, medium sized floppy ears, and a medium length face. Herefords with more than one third white hair (except for the head and feet) cannot be registered. Herefords that contain any type of swirled hair pattern cannot be registered.





Picture Provided by Todd Harris and Family

Landrace

Landrace are white hogs with large floppy ears that hang parallel to the bridge of their nose. Landrace are known for their mothering ability, large litter sizes, and good milking ability. Landrace cross well with other breeds and produce long bodied offspring. When harvested, Landrace are known for producing a high percentage of carcass weight.

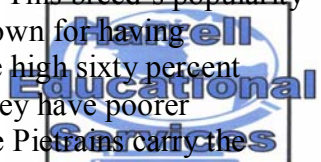
A Landrace cannot be registered if they possess any hair color rather than white on their body. Landrace are ineligible for registration if they have upright ears, less than six functional teats on either side, contain inverted teats, have extra dewclaws, or large black spots on any part of the body.



Picture Provided by Oklahoma State University

Pietrain

The Pietrain breed originated from Belgium in the 1950's and was later exported to other countries. Pietrains are moderate in size, have black spots with white pigmented hair around the black spots, and have moderately erect ears. Pietrains have shorter legs than most breeds, are low fronted, stockier in build, and are extremely heavy muscled. This breed's popularity has been up and down depending on market trends. Pietrains are known for having extremely high lean to fat ratios, with percent lean calculations in the high sixty percent range. Pietrains possess doubled muscled or bulging ham shape. They have poorer mothering ability and lower milk production than other breeds. Some Pietrains carry the



stress gene. Since this breed originated in Belgium, no breed association has been developed to classify its breeds standards. In the United States, Pietrains are used as terminal commercial sires or crossbred show pig sires.



Picture Provided by Masters Polands

Poland

Poland China's originated in the early 1800's and were bred to have sound movement. During the 1800's, producers walked Polands to market, so they had to be sound enough to travel several hundred miles. Polands are known for being big framed, long bodied, lean, muscular hogs that lead the pork industry in pounds of hogs produced per sow per year.

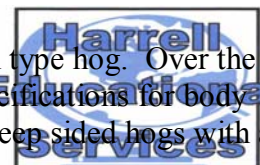
The Poland breed standard requires all animals to be black with six white points. These white points must be located on the face, feet, and tip of the tail. The Poland breed requires a pig's ears to be down and not show any evidence of belt formation. Polands must not possess more than one solid black leg or they will be disqualified for registration. Other breed disqualifications include red or sandy hair color, tail docking, or any evidence of ear tampering.



Picture Provided by Anthony Mosley and the Tamworth Breeders Club

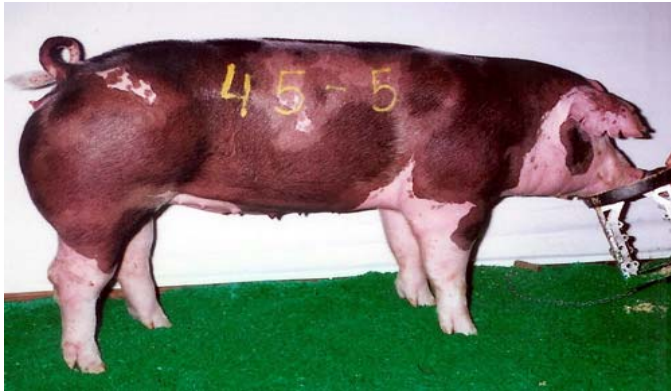
Tamworth

Tamworth hogs originated in England and are known for being a bacon type hog. Over the years, breeding and selection decisions have established Tamworth specifications for body type, coloring, and temperament. Tamworths are thrifty, rugged, and deep sided hogs with a



long neck, long legs, and a long nose. Tamworth females make good mothers in spite of the fact that they lack body depth. Tamworth hogs typically walk and stand with an arch in their back and they have medium sized erect ears.

A Tamworth is ineligible for registration if it has a swirl hair pattern, floppy ears, or black spots. Curly hair coats are undesirable on a Tamworth. This breed should be golden red to dark red in color, with straight hair.



Picture Provided by Farrer Stock Farms

Spot

Spots are known for being fast growers, with good feed efficiency, and high quality carcasses. Spots are popular among commercial hog farmers for producing fast growing crossbred offspring.

The breed requirement for Spots, states that they must be black and white in color. Breed disqualifications include erect ears and red tinted or brown colored spots. Solid black hair from the ears forward is unacceptable as are belt patterns over the shoulder, and tampering with the set of the ears so they don't appear to be erect.



Picture Provided by Harrell Family Farms

Yorkshire

The Yorkshire breed is white in color, with erect ears. Yorkshires are the most recorded breed in the United States and Canada. Yorkshires are popular because of their muscular, low back fat, high percent lean carcasses. More importantly, Yorkshires are durable, sound hogs



that are excellent mothers. Yorkshires are known as “the mother breed” because of the outstanding milking and mothering abilities.

The Yorkshire breed requirement states that animals are ineligible for registration if they possess less than six teats on either side of their underline, have any hair color other than white, blind, have extra dewclaws or possess a hernia, rupture, hermaphroditism, cryprochidism, or any black spots in the skin larger than a quarter. However, small amounts of black pigmentation are allowed on the body of the animal.



Yorkshires with extra dewclaws are ineligible for registration.