

JUDGING

Market Hog Terminology

no. 1.622

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Quick Facts...

The terminology on this and the next page will help youth develop their livestock vocabulary.

Priorities for judging market hogs are: degree of muscling, degree of leanness, growth (performance), design (structural correctness and balance).

If you are uncertain about a term, ask your coach, parent, 4-H leader, volunteer or Colorado State University Cooperative Extension county agent.

The following terminology will help youth develop their livestock vocabulary. As you look over the terms, try too picture an animal with the described characteristics. When you have an understanding of these terms, you will be able to completely describe all of the important points of a class of market hogs. If you are uncertain about a term, ask your coach, parent, 4-H leader, volunteer or Colorado State University Cooperative Extension county agent.

Priorities for Judging Market Hogs

- Degree of Muscling
- Degree of Leanness
- Growth (Performance)
- Design (Structural Correctness and Balance)

Muscling Terminology

Advantages

Heavier muscled
More muscular (forearm, top, ham)
Wider skeletoned
Expressively muscled
Wider based (tracking)
Bolder (wider) bladed
Has more of a meat animal shape
Has more top (more squareness of loin)
Takes a squarer, more expressive turn from shoulder to hip
More expressive at his ham loin junction
More flare and dimension to his rump
Greater volume of muscle through all portions of his ham

Criticisms

Light muscled
Narrow chested
Narrow tracking
Flat rump
Shallow ham

Leanness Terminology

Advantages

Leaner design
Leaner (barer) bladed
Revealed more blade action on the move
Cleaner, squarer top
Has a deep groove design
Freer of fat along his loin edge
Has a more prominent mid-line groove and distinct dimple
Reads leaner down a more correctly turned top
Cleaner is his lower body and jowl region
Freer of fat in his lower third
Firmer at the base of his ham

Criticisms

Fattest
Heaviest conditioned
More nondescript
Reads with more waste
Soft underneath
Wasty in the lower third
Heavy jowled

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Carcass Terminology

Advantages

More carcass oriented
Higher percent muscle (lean, cutability)
Potentially go to the rail with less fat trim
Should yield a heavier muscled carcass
Should hang a longer (meatier, more muscular) carcass
Likely rail the carcass with the larger LEA
More pounds of lean product
More pounds of ham and loin

Criticisms

Less packer acceptable
Less industry acceptable
Lowest percent lean
Light muscled
Least pounds of product
Lower % of lean cuts

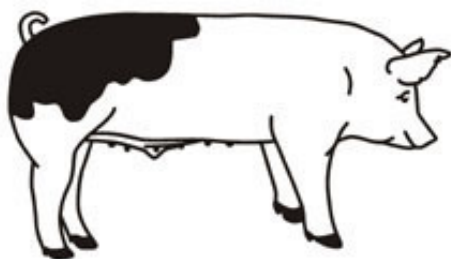
Growth (Performance) Terminology

Advantages

Larger scaled
Bigger in his kind
Profiles bigger in his outline
Appears to be heavier weight
Taller fronted
Appears to have a higher W.D.A. in class
Longer sided (necked, bodied, hiped)
Wider sprung
Deeper sided
Longer cannon
Later maturing

Criticisms

Small scaled
Small framed
Short structured
Short necked (fronted)
Short bodied (rumped)
Short cannon
Quickest in her kind
Early maturing



Structural Correctness Terminology

Advantages

Looser structured
More structurally correct
Easier striding
Sounder moving
More cushion off both ends
More correct in his movement
More mobile
More desirable angle to his shoulder
Stood down and traveled wider behind
More even in his toe size

Criticisms

Most off quality hog in the drive
Ill structured
Straight front knees (pasterns)
Straight shouldered
Hard striding behind
Short, choppy stride
More restricted in his movement
Narrow tracking
Short inside rear toes

Balance Terminology

Advantages

Complete
Attractive profiling
More correctly designed
More problem free
Stronger behind his shoulders
Deeper set spine
Longer and leveler topped
Leveler and looser hip
Higher tail set
Heavier boned (more durable)

Criticisms

Poor balanced
High topped
Steep rumped
Tight structured
Frail
Fine boned

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. No endorsement of products mentioned is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.