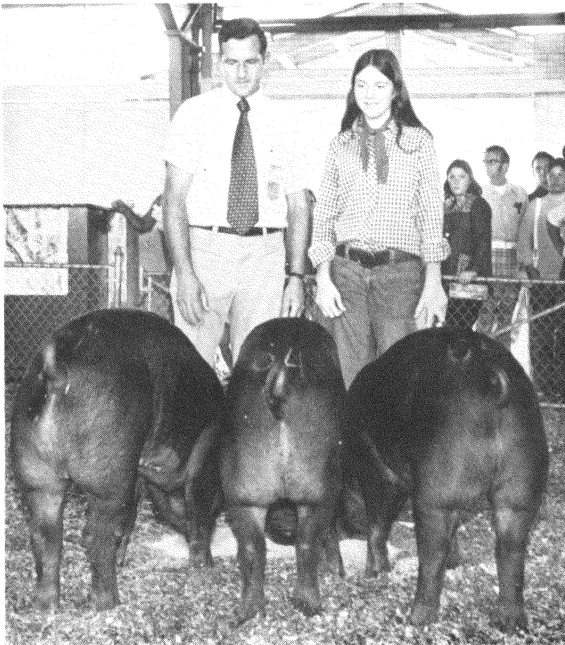
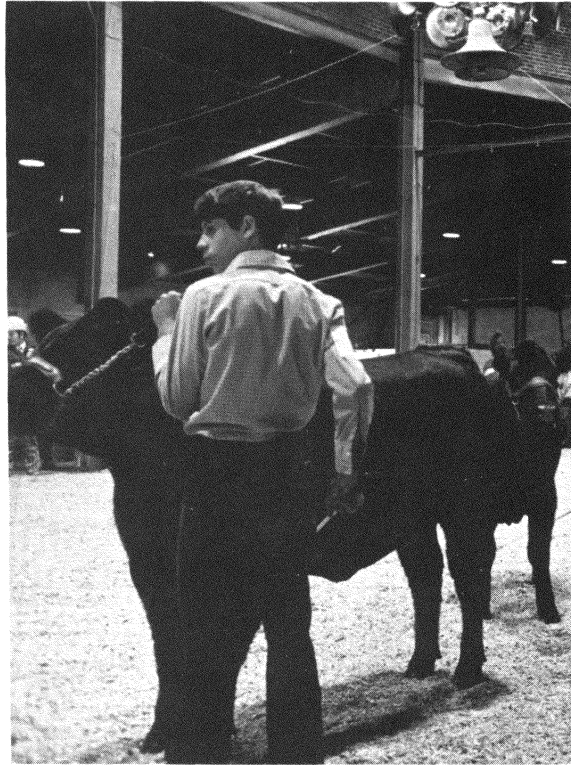
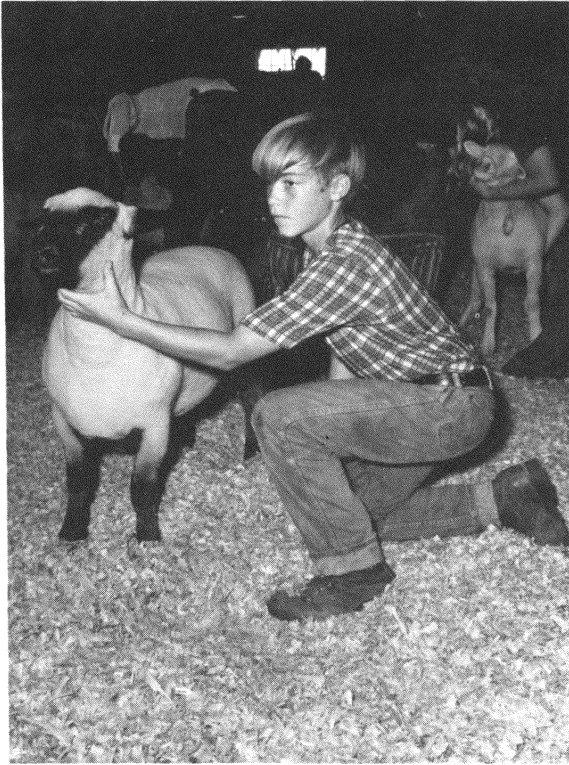


Introductory 4-H LIVESTOCK EVALUATION GUIDE



Look
Compare
Place
Explain

REPRINTED NOVEMBER 1975 PUBLICATION 67
EXTENSION DIVISION
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Livestock Judging

How to Begin—Before you start judging livestock, 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. Or you can study pictures of champions, or ideal-type pictures available from the various breed associations.

In our contest system, we use four animals in each class. As you judge, you divide them into three pairs: a top pair, a middle pair, and a bottom pair. You make comparisons between the various pairs. Really, as you look at any class, you have five animals in mind: the four in the class, and the ideal animal.

Make your easiest placing first. This may be the top animal. It may be the bottom animal. Or, it may be any of the pairs.

You can place the class better from a distance of about 25 feet, or far enough away to see all four animals at one time. You should become skilled in placing the classes from a distance and handle the animals only to check your observations. It is a mistake to place a class only with the hands, except for market lambs, which are placed almost entirely on handling.

Learn to study the animals carefully. Look especially at the parts where we get the high-priced cuts. Learn to develop a system. A keen judge of livestock is orderly, never haphazard. You should note the big things, and make your placings accordingly.

In any contest or practice period, **DO YOUR OWN WORK**. You should learn to depend upon your own judgment and not someone else's. If you want other people to have confidence in you, you must have confidence in yourself.

You can improve your judging ability only by making your own decisions.

Entering a Judging Contest

In a livestock judging contest you will judge classes of beef cattle, sheep, and swine and occasionally horses. You may judge either market or breeding classes, or both. If you place the class correctly, you will receive a score of 50 points for placing. If you miss one pair, or two pairs, or make other placing errors, your score is determined in proportion to the seriousness of the error made.

In many judging events, you will have the opportunity to give reasons (explain your placings to the judge). He will score you on organization, presentation and accuracy of your reasons. A score of 50 points is the highest that can be awarded for oral reasons. Detailed information on reasons can be found in the "reasons" section of this guide.

In any official 4-H Judging Contest, you will be given a card for each class. It will have your group and contestant number on it; or you will be given instructions on this point.

Be sure each card that you turn in for each class is marked, and that you have listed the name of the class. Always carefully follow the instructions of your group leader.

Giving Reasons

You give reasons to compare the differences in the animals you have judged. You want your reasons to be impressive, interesting, and sincere. You will want to present them in a pleasing and confident manner, one that is easily understood and easy to follow. Your reasons should be brief. Place emphasis on the **BIG THINGS**. The main objective of reasons is to let you tell why you placed the class as you did.

Giving Reasons Will Help You To:

- Develop a system for analyzing a class of livestock.
- Think more clearly on your feet.
- State your thoughts more clearly.
- Improve your speaking poise and presentation.
- Improve your voice.
- Develop your memory.

How Good Are Your Reasons?

The judge will determine the value of your reasons by:

COMPLETENESS—Bring out all the major differences in your reasons. Omit small things that leave room for doubt.

LENGTH—A well-organized, properly delivered set of reasons should never be over 2 minutes in length.

PRESENTATION AND DELIVERY—Present your reasons in a logical, well-organized manner that is pleasant to hear, and clear and easy to follow. If reasons are poorly presented, the value of accuracy may be lost because most of what you say doesn't "get through" to the listener. Speak slowly and clearly in a conversational tone. Speak loudly enough to be understood, but avoid talking too loudly and too rapidly. Use well-organized statements. Be sure to use *correct grammar*. Emphasize the important comparison.

ACCURACY—You must tell the truth. This means that you need to see the big things in the class correctly. *Accuracy is very important*. You will lose points for incorrect statements.

TERMS—Use correct terms. Incorrect terms greatly detract from the value of your reasons. Study and use the terms in this guide.

Other Rules for Giving Reasons

Do not claim strong points for one animal unless it has them. Claim the points where one is superior, and then grant to the other animal its points of advantage.

Emphasize the major differences strongly. *Present the big differences first on each pair.*

Be concise and definite. Don't hunt for things to say. If you don't remember, go on to the next pair you are to discuss.

Talk your reasons with confidence and without hesitation. Talk with enough vim and vigor to keep the judge interested, but do not yell or shout.

End reasons strongly. Give a concise final statement as to why you placed the last animal last.

Be sure you have your reasons well-organized, so you will not hesitate when you present them to the judge.

Stand 6 to 8 feet away from the judge as you give your reasons. Stand erect with your feet spread apart, hands behind you, and look him straight in the eyes.

Organizing Your Reasons

The organization of a set of reasons largely determines how easily your reasons follow. There are many different systems of organizing reasons. The system presented here is logical and clear, and easily understood. Below is listed the basic organization outline for an entire set of reasons, followed by comments on specific steps.

Outline for a Set of Reasons

In giving reasons, a class of four animals is divided into three pairs; a top pair, a middle pair, and a bottom pair. So the basic outline for an entire set of reasons (for a placing of 1-2-3-4) is as follows:

1. Give name of class and how you placed it.

TOP PAIR

2. Reasons for placing 1 over 2 using *comparative* terms.

3. Faults (criticisms) of 1, if any. *Only* the most glaring faults should generally be mentioned on this, the top animal in the class. Comparative or descriptive terms may be used.

4. Grants (admissions) for 2 over 1, pointing out advantages of 2 over 1 in *comparative* terms.

MIDDLE PAIR

5. Reasons for placing 2 over 3.

6. Faults of 2, if any.

7. Grants for 3 over 2.

BOTTOM PAIR

8. Reasons for placing 3 over 4.

9. Faults of 3.

10. Grants for 4 over 3.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

11. Reasons for placing 4 last.

12. Faults of 4.

Using the outline above, we shall break a set of reasons down into detail in the following paragraphs.

Step 1: For purposes of discussion, assume that a class of market steers is being judged. Our opening statement is, "I placed this class of market steers 1-2-3-4."

Step 2: In our reasons for placing 1 over 2, we might say, "I placed 1 at the top of this class and over 2" completing the sentence by giving two to four reasons why 1 was placed over 2. A clear, strong opening statement is very important.

a. For example, "because 1 is a more heavily muscled, thicker, meatier, and higher yielding steer."

b. Don't use too many terms together; it may become difficult for a listener to evaluate all you have said.

c. Develop a good opening statement for each pair. Like the lead sentence in a good news story, it should give the main points first.

d. After giving your general opening statement, go into more detail on the top pair. About three complete sentences are desirable. Be specific. In market classes, (steers, barrows, wethers) point out differences in carcass cutout value between the higher and the lower animal.

Step 3: The fault statement should follow your reasons for placing 1 over 2. "I fault 1 for being somewhat patchy in his finish--."

Step 4: The grant statement may be combined into a single sentence with the fault statement above by saying, "--and I will admit that 2 is a larger and smoother-finished steer than 1."

Step 5: The next step is to introduce the middle pair by saying, "Now, coming to my middle pair, I placed 2 over 3 because--."

a. After a strong opening statement on this pair, go into detail as suggested above for the top pair.

Steps 6 and 7: Then give the faults (if any) of 2 and the grants or admissions of 3 over 2. For example, "I fault 2 for being low-fronted and wasty in the brisket and I will grant that 3 is a trimmer, cleaner, and more stylish steer than 2."

Steps 8, 9, and 10: The same procedure is used on the bottom pair as on the top and middle pairs. For emphasis, the bottom pair might be introduced as follows, "Now, in regard to my bottom pair, 3 and 4, I placed 3 over 4 because--."

Steps 11 and 12: Complete your reasons with a strong closing statement. For example, "I placed 4 last and at the bottom of this class because he lacked muscling, quality, and the desired degree of finish in a market steer." One or two more sentences giving specific reasons for placing 4 last could be concluded by saying, "I fault 4 severely for being a narrow, flat-quartered steer which will hang up the least desirable carcass in this class."

You may wish to conclude your reasons by saying, "For these reasons, I placed this class of market steers 1-2-3-4." This is not essential but may be helpful until you develop skill in giving reasons.

Notice in the above examples that complete sentences are used. Reasons must be given in sentences rather than phrases. A principle to keep in mind is if a statement isn't grammatically correct, it isn't correct in a set of reasons.

Don't Use These Words and Phrases in Oral Reasons

There are, of course, differences of opinion regarding the use of some of these words and phrases in reasons. Several of those listed below are not considered objectionable by all people. However, each of them is considered undesirable by some people, and all of them can admittedly be replaced with better words and phrases. You will have a better set of reasons if you eliminate all of them.

- ANIMAL OR INDIVIDUAL. Instead, say "barrow," "gilt," "wether," "ewe," "steer," "heifer," etc.
- IT. Use, instead, either "he" or "she."
- I WOULD LIKE TO SEE. For example, instead of saying, "I would like to see 2 wider topped," point out the fault directly. Say "I criticize 2 because he is narrow over the top."
- CARRYING OR CARRIES. Example: instead of "carries down into a thicker quarter," say "is thicker through the quarter," or "has a thicker quarter."
- KIND OF STEER, BARROW, OR LAMB. For example, instead of "a smoother kind of a barrow," say "a smoother barrow."
- IS A HEIFER THAT IS. For example, "1 is a heifer that is smoother and typier." The phrase, "is a heifer that is," adds unnecessary words and emphasizes that 1 is a heifer. Say instead, "1 is a smoother, typier heifer."
- I PLACED NUMBER 1 STEER OVER NUMBER 2 STEER. Certainly the words "steer" and "number" may be omitted. It is sufficient to say, "I placed 1 over 2."
- I PLACED THIS CLASS OF ANGUS STEERS IN THE ORDER OF 1-2-3-4. Leave out "in the order of" because the phrase adds nothing to the meaning.
- LEAVING OR LEFT. Example: "I left 4 third because . . ." Say "I placed 4 third because . . ."
- I AM PLACING. It is more correct to say "I placed . . ."

VIRGINIA TECH	P _____
ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPT.	R _____
Date	<u>October 31</u>
Name	<u>John Smith</u>
Class	<u>Polled Hereford Heifers</u>
Placings:	
1st	<u>4</u>
2nd	<u>2</u>
3rd	<u>3</u>
4th	<u>1</u>

Use of Placing Card


Remember that sheep and cattle are always assigned a number with the number 1 being the animal on the left as you stand behind the class. In a class of four animals, the animal on the right is the number 4 animal.

Hogs will usually have numbers placed on their backs.

There are two types of placing cards. On all placing cards there will be a space to write your name or your number. You should do this when you first receive your cards so they can be identified as your cards. There will also be space to write in the class of animals being judged. Do this before you judge the class.

On the one card there is a space to write in the numbers of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place animals. If a class is placed 4-2-3-1 you would fill in the card as shown. This designates the number 3 animal as your first place animal and number 1 animal as your fourth place animal.

On the other type of card all the possible placings are listed on the right hand side of the card. You only mark an "X" beside the placing which you have decided upon. Suppose your placing is 4-2-3-1, then you would mark your card as shown.

 <h3 style="text-align: center;">Judging</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Breed <u>Polled Hereford</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Class <u>Heifers</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name or Number <u>John Smith</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reason Score _____</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1234</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1243</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1324</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1342</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1423</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1432</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2134</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2143</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2314</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2341</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2413</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2431</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3124</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3142</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3214</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3241</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3412</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3421</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4123</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4132</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4213</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4231</td><td style="text-align: center;">X</td></tr> <tr><td>4312</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4321</td><td></td></tr> </table>	1234		1243		1324		1342		1423		1432		2134		2143		2314		2341		2413		2431		3124		3142		3214		3241		3412		3421		4123		4132		4213		4231	X	4312		4321	
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Mark your placing with an x score

REASONS FOR PLACING	ADMIT OR GRANT	FAULTS
4/2 thicker breed character wide top long rump	2/4 trim front correct in rear legs	2 weak top lacks depth and thickness
2/3 balance heavy muscle smooth shoulder longer rump bone	3/2 deeper middle	3 coarse shoulder lacks style
3/1 bigger thick top thick quarter	1/3 smoother shoulder	1 small narrow front light muscle

How To Take Notes

Make a set of short, simple notes that will help you with your oral reasons. Notes are to be used to study before giving oral reasons to the judge, not to read to him. They should help you recall or re-make a mental picture of the class. Do not refer to your notes while giving reasons.

Use a small spiral notebook for note taking.

A flexible back notebook that is about 9 by 6 inches is large enough for your notes and can be easily carried. The following is an example of the notes taken on the Polled Hereford Heifer class that is discussed in this guide.

Class:
Polled Hereford Heifers

Placing:
4-2-3-1

Judging Beef Cattle

The first thing you must know in judging beef cattle is the names of the various parts of the animal and their location on the animal's body. This is necessary so you will know what to look for and can tell someone else what you have seen.

You should also be familiar with the wholesale cuts and their location. Some are much more valuable than others.

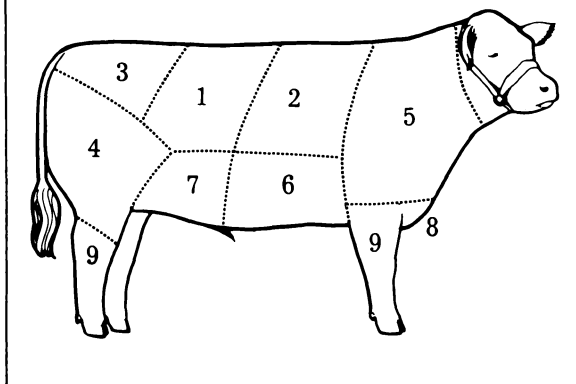
Give high priced cuts first and most consideration when judging.

High-Priced Wholesale Cuts

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. Loin | 3. Rump |
| 2. Rib | 4. Round |

Low-Priced Wholesale Cuts

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 5. Chuck | 8. Brisket |
| 6. Plate | 9. Shank |
| 7. Flank | |



After you know the names and locations of the important parts and wholesale cuts, you need to know three more things:

First, the main points to consider in judging beef cattle.

Second, how to evaluate the important parts of beef cattle.

Third, how to develop a judging system to compare whole animals.

You must learn all this before the contest. At the contest you use this knowledge as you observe, evaluate, compare, and place a class.

Main Points in Judging Steers

Important factors to consider in judging steers are type, muscling, finish, carcass merit, yield, quality, balance, style and smoothness.

TYPE—Beef type is often used in a general way to refer to that combination of characteristics which makes an animal useful for the production of beef.

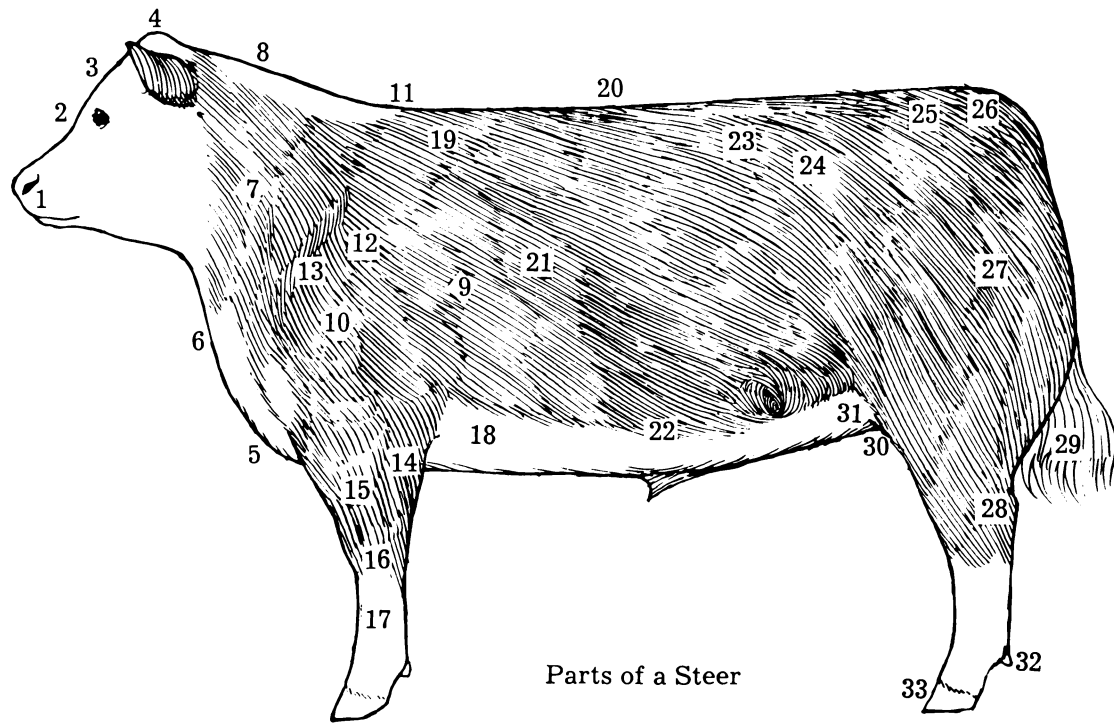
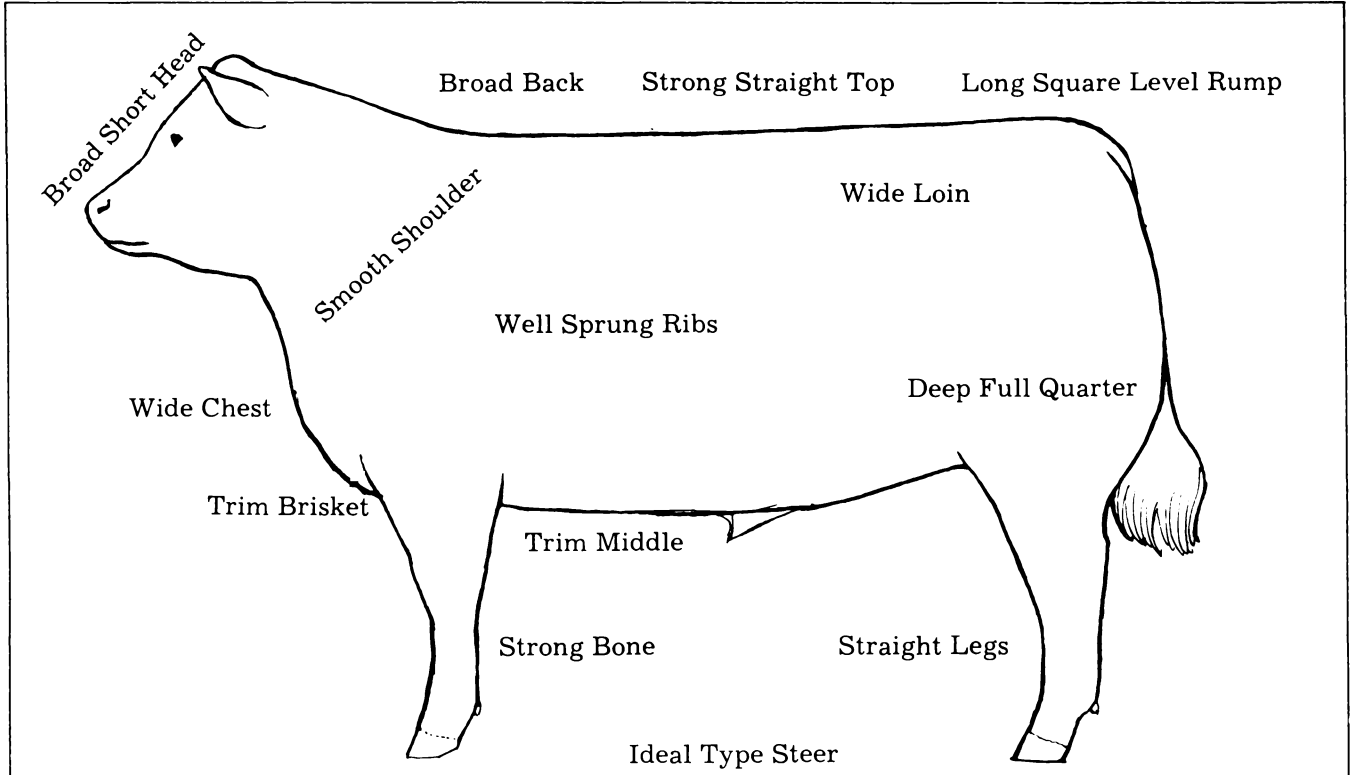
However, that definition is too broad for our purposes in judging. Type, as used here, simply refers to general conformation.

A steer of good type is heavily muscled, straight lined, and well-balanced. It should be emphasized that the modern-type steer is moderately long bodied and tall but need not be extremely so. An extremely tall, shallow-bodied, light-muscled, or narrow steer is no more correct in this type than a very low-set, compact, small-sized one.

MUSCLING—Thickness, depth, and fullness of quarter and width (without excessive fat) of back, loin, and rump are indications of muscling. Muscling or natural fleshing is inherited through the sire and dam.

FINISH—Finish refers to the amount of fat cover and should be used in market classes only. Finish should be smooth and uniform over the animal, not patchy or uneven. It should be springy to the touch—neither too hard nor too soft. You can estimate the kind and amount of finish by both observation and handling. A moderate, evenly finished animal is more desirable than one that is too fat or too thin.

CARCASS MERIT—Market beef animals should be judged from the standpoint of the carcass they will produce. Give preference to those steers which should produce thick, meaty, correctly finished carcasses that are well-muscled in the regions of high-priced cuts.



Parts of a Steer

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Muzzle | 8. Crest | 15. Arm | 22. Paunch or Belly | 29. Switch |
| 2. Face | 9. Forerib (Heart Girth) | 16. Knee | 23. Loin | 30. Cod |
| 3. Forehead | 10. Point of Shoulder | 17. Shank | 24. Hip or Hook | 31. Hind Flank |
| 4. Poll | 11. Top of Shoulder | 18. Fore Flank | 25. Rump | 32. Dew Claw |
| 5. Brisket | 12. Shoulder | 19. Crops | 26. Tailhead | 33. Hoof |
| 6. Dewlap | 13. Shoulder Vein | 20. Back | 27. Thigh or Round | |
| 7. Neck | 14. Elbow | 21. Ribs | 28. Hock | |

DRESSING PERCENT— Dressing percent is the proportion of the carcass weight to the live weight of the animal. It is determined by dividing the carcass weight by the live weight. Market beef animals having a high dressing percentage are worth more to the packer because they will yield more pounds of carcass. The factors which affect dressing percent are: conformation, finish, quality, and the amount of “fill” or paunchiness. Cattle with a trim middle will dress out higher than cattle having a paunchy or wasty middle because less weight is removed in the paunch, leaving a greater percent of the live weight in the carcass. Dressing percent is also increased by good conformation, finish, and refinement of head, hide, and bone. Overfat cattle will have a high dressing percent but will be lacking in cutability.

CUTABILITY— Cutability refers to the proportion of the carcass weight that can be sold as closely trimmed retail cuts. Muscular, trim, correctly-finished cattle produce carcasses with a high cutability percentage. Wasty, overfinished animals have lower cutability.

QUALITY—Quality refers to refinement of head, hide, hair, and bone. We want a steer with medium bone, a moderately refined head, a thin pliable hide and a fine, soft hair coat.

BALANCE—This implies correctness of structure and a desirable proportion of body parts.

STYLE—A stylish animal is attractive and displays alertness and shows to its best advantage.

Main Points in Judging Breeding Cattle

When you judge breeding cattle, you need to consider several important points in addition to those listed for judging steers or market classes. These are: condition, size, feet and legs, bone, breed character, and sex character.

CONDITION—This term refers to the amount of fat cover. In breeding classes, the term “condition” should be used rather than “finish.” In judging breeding cattle, muscling is primary and condition is secondary.

SIZE—Adequate size for age is very important. A good, big beef animal has a definite advantage over a good, small one. On the other hand, do not sacrifice everything else for size alone and do not confuse height alone with size. Keep in mind that size is one of several important judging factors.

FEET, LEGS AND BONE—Strong straight legs with ample bone are a must in breeding cattle. The legs should be set out on the corners of the body. The feet should be of ample size and depth to form a strong foundation. The animal should be able to move well without any evidence of unsound feet and legs.

BREED CHARACTER—This describes head shape and general appearance or markings of a particular breed. You should learn from breed pictures the characteristics of the different beef breeds.

SEX CHARACTER—This is the appearance that distinguishes male from female. The bull should be masculine as evidenced by increased development of the fore quarters, a thick neck, a bold, strong head and a massive, powerful appearance. The female should be more refined with a lighter shoulder and neck and more refinement of head and bone.

Develop a Judging System

As you judge beef cattle (also sheep and swine), have in mind a definite system that fits your needs and lets you analyze the class more effectively.

Remember, the animals in a class are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4. These numbers are to identify them. As you look at the class from the rear, No. 1 is on the left and No. 4 is on the right.

Your first impression of the class is usually the best one.

Study the cattle for three or four minutes and get a good impression of the class as a whole. You will be given three views (side, rear, and front view). Also, the cattle will usually be walked, and you will be allowed to handle the class.

Be sure you are far enough from the class to see all four animals at once. About 25 feet is a good distance.

As the class is walked: As cattle walk you should check especially for soundness of feet and legs. This is also an excellent time to size up the class because cattle usually look most natural when walking.

You will have an opportunity to study the individual animals at a close-up view and to handle each one. This will help you make better comparisons for finish in fat classes and for condition or natural fleshing in breeding classes.

Remember it takes both careful observation and correct handling to do the best job of determining the degree and smoothness of finish or condition.

In handling, start at the rump or shoulder and feel with one hand over the rump, loin, back, shoulders, and ribs.

It is best to use good manners and not crowd out other contestants. It is important to win a judging contest, but more important to win fairly.

In addition to determining finish or condition, use your eyes and hands to check these points:

Length of rump and body (on animals with considerable finish or fleshing and with a long hair coat, handling will allow you to locate the hip bone to determine length of rump and body);

Thickness at the rump and in the lower quarter;

Smoothness at the shoulders;

Quality—quality of hide—bloom and condition of hair coat.

Beef Cattle Terms

Terms printed in heavy type refer to important, over-all factors. Terms in ordinary type are considered as being more or less details.

The terms are not necessarily listed in any order of importance. For simplicity, they are presented in only one manner, but can be modified and used in a variety of ways. For example, the term thicker quarter can be used in at least three ways:

- (1) 2 is thicker through the quarter.
- (2) 2 has a thicker quarter; and (3) 2 is a thicker-quartered heifer.

General Terms for Breeding and Slaughter Cattle

<i>Favorable</i>	<i>Unfavorable</i>
Growthier	Small
Heavier muscled (meatier)	Light muscled
Thicker (beefier)	Narrow
Higher quality	Coarse; low quality
More nicely balanced	Poorly balanced
More stylish	Plain
Smother	Rough
Stretchier	Tall; long legged
More stretch	Upstanding; tall; rangy
Deeper rib	Shallow rib
Wider (thicker) top	Narrow top
More spring of rib	Pinched in the forerib
Fuller behind the shoulders	Narrow behind the shoulders
Wider (thicker) back	Narrow back
Thicker (wider) loin	Narrow loin
Thicker (wider, fuller) rump	Narrow rump
Longer rump	Short rump
More level rump	Drooping rump
Deeper twist	Shallow twist
Deeper quarter	Shallow quarter
	Light muscled quarter
Thicker quarter	Narrow quarter
More bulging quarter	Flat quarter
Smother handling	Rough handling
Thinner hide	Thick hide; heavy hide
Smooth shoulders	Rough (coarse) shoulders
Smother top	Rough top
Smother hooks	Hooky; rough hooks; out at the hooks
Smother tail head	Rough tail head
Stronger top	Weak top
Tighter frame	Slack frame
Straighter lined	Uneven in lines
More uniform (more even) width	Uneven in width

Steer Terms

<i>Favorable</i>	<i>Unfavorable</i>
More ideally finished	Over-done, excessively finished; too fat
More desirably finished	Thin; under finished

"Beef Cattle Terms" are concluded on page 14

Comparing Important Parts When Judging Beef Cattle

HEAD—The head should be broad between the eyes and wide down to the muzzle. The distance between the eyes should be as wide as the distance from eye to muzzle. A long, narrow head is undesirable.

NECK AND SHOULDERS—The neck should be short and blend in smoothly with the shoulders. Shoulders that are heavy and coarse or open over the top with the blades standing out from the body are undesirable. The neck and shoulder should be smooth and blend in with the rest of the body. A heavy brisket and a crested neck are undesirable in a steer, and usually mean that he was too old when castrated. In bulls, masculinity and ruggedness are desired whereas in females, femininity is important.

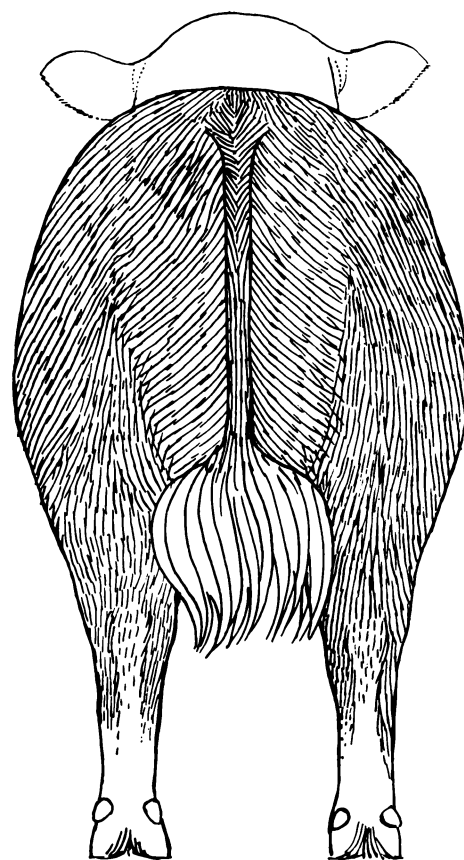
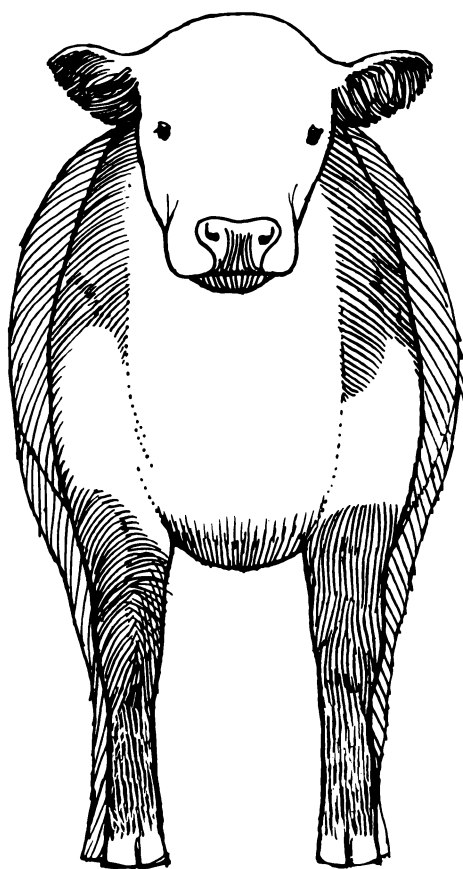
QUARTER—The quarter should be deep and thick.

CHEST—The chest should be deep and full. The forelegs should be set well apart and out on the corners of the body. Good width between the legs permits more chest capacity. An animal with close set forelegs will always lack chest capacity and usually lacks meatiness.

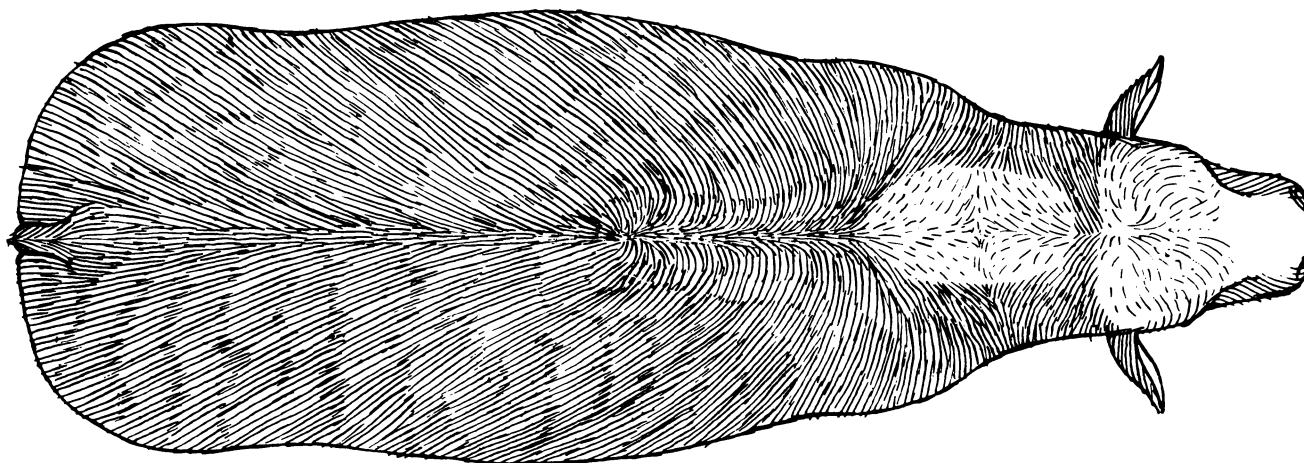
BACK AND LOIN—The back, loin, and rump should be broad, straight, and uniform in width. An animal with a narrow or weak top is objectionable.

DEPTH OF BODY—The body should be deep, rectangular and well-balanced. The fore-rib region should be deep with a good spring of rib and with fullness behind the shoulder. A flat-ribbed, shallow-bodied beef animal is undesirable.

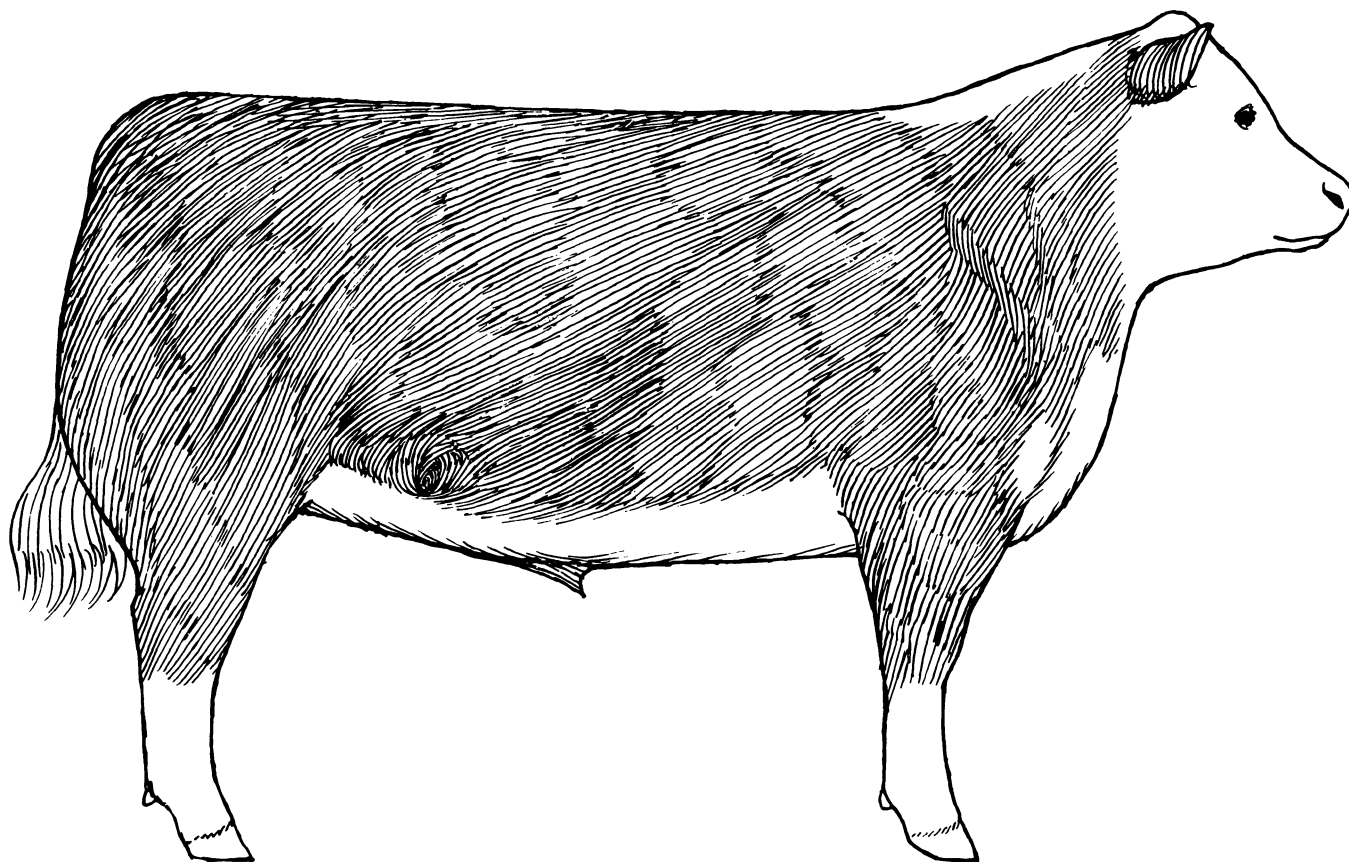
TWIST—The twist should be deep and full.



RUMP—The rump should be long, square, and level. Length of rump contributes to over-all balance in the animal. A short or drooping rump or a high tail head is objectionable.

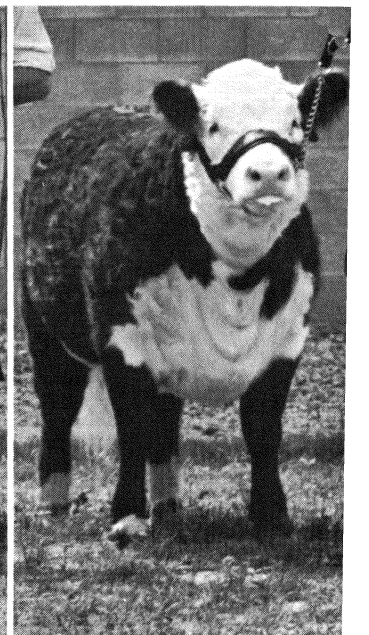
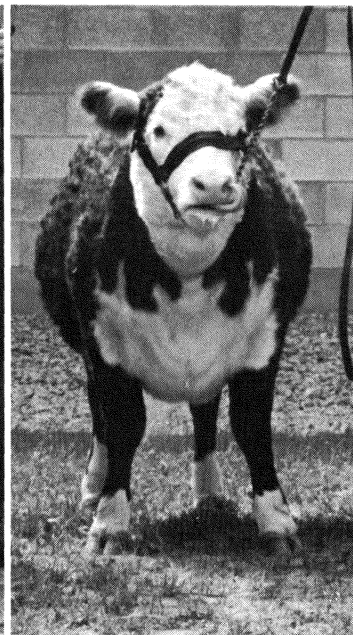
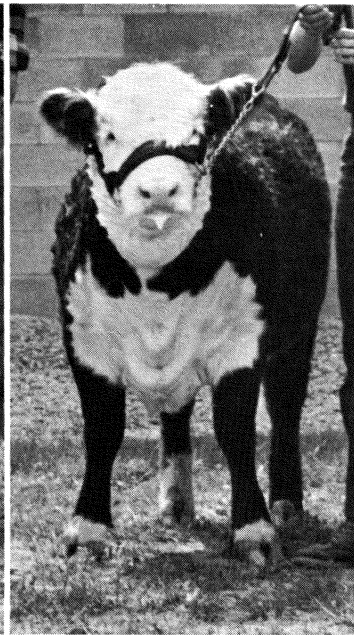


LEGS—The legs should be straight and set squarely under the corners of the body. The hind legs should not be cow-hocked (hocks close together) nor sickle-hocked (too much set to the hock)





As you look at the cattle from the side, you should compare them for important characteristics such as: **type, finish or condition, balance, style, size, straightness of lines, straightness of legs and size of bone.** Also look for: stretch, length and levelness of rump, depth and fullness of quarter, trimness of middle and brisket (for steers), and the length of head and neck.



As you view the cattle from the front, compare them for the following over-all characteristics: **smoothness, breed character, width, finish or condition, quality, and the straightness of fore-legs.** Also look for: uniformity of width, width of top, smoothness of shoulder, width of chest, fullness of fore rib, and the shape and size of head.



As you judge the cattle from the rear, compare them for: **thickness and muscling, finish or condition, quality, smoothness, and the straightness of rear legs.** Also look for: thickness across rump, loin and back; uniformity of thickness, depth and thickness of quarter, depth of twist, and the trimness of middle (for steers).

Favorable

Unfavorable

More uniformly covered (finished) Patchy;
 rough handling
 Firmer finished Soft finish
 More finish over the loin
 (rump, back, ribs) Bare over the loin
 (rump, back, ribs)
Will yield (dress) high Wasty; will
 yield low
 Trimmer middled Wasty middle, heavy
 middle
 Trimmer (neater) fronted Wasty fronted
 Trimmer (neater) brisket Wasty brisket

More quality (refinement) of:

Head Coarse head
 Hide Heavy hide; thick hide
 Bone Coarse bone

Will hang up a:

Thicker carcass Narrow carcass
 Meatier carcass Thin, light-muscled carcass
 More shapely carcass Long, narrow carcass
 Neater carcass Wasty carcass

Breeding Cattle Terms

Favorable

Unfavorable

More (Angus, Hereford,
 Shorthorn) breed character
 about the head Lacks breed character
 about the head
 Breedier head Plain head
 Wider muzzle; wider head Narrow muzzle
 Stronger jaw Narrow head
 More feminine head Coarse head
 Stronger head (especially bulls) Weak head
 More rugged (heavier bone) Light bone
 Stronger fronted Weak fronted
 Wider fronted Narrow fronted
 Straighter hind or front legs Cow hocked;
 sickle hocked
 (too much angle or set
 to the hock);
 toed out; close at the knees;
 back at the knees; over
 at the knees
 More correct on the move;
 Easier (freer) walking Walks stiff;
 spraddles

Beef Cattle Reasons

The following reasons refer to the class of Polled Hereford heifers that is pictured.

I placed this class of Polled Hereford heifers 4-2-3-1.

I placed 4 over 2 because 4 is a thicker, beefier heifer. She has more Polled Hereford breed character about her head, is stronger in her top, and wider and more heavily-muscled over her back, loin, and rump. She is longer, more level, and squarer in her rump and has a thicker, more bulging quarter. She has more depth and spring of rib and is more nearly correct on her front legs as viewed from the front. I fault 4 for being somewhat wasty-fronted and I admit that 2 is cleaner about her front, more upheaded, and more ideal on her rear legs as viewed from the side.

Now in my middle pair, I placed 2 over 3, because 2 is a tighter-framed, more nicely-balanced, heavier-muscled heifer that more closely follows the type of the first place heifer. She is smoother in her shoulders and has more spring of rib. She is longer and squarer in her rump, thicker and more bulging in her stifle, more ideal in the set of her feet and legs, and stands on more rugged bone. I fault 2 for being weak in her top and for lacking the thickness of my top heifer. I also grant that 3 is a deeper-middled heifer with more chest and body capacity than 2.

Now in regard to my bottom pair, I placed 3 over 1 because 3 is a bigger, growthier, larger-framed heifer than 1. She is a wider-fronted heifer that is thicker all down her top. Three is wider and meatier in her rump and much deeper, thicker, and heavier in her hind quarter. I fault 3 for being coarse in her shoulder, flat in her forerib, and for lacking style and balance.

I placed 1 at the bottom of this class because she is the smallest, most low-set heifer in the class. She lacks too much size, scale, and frame to place higher today. In addition, I criticize her for being short, dumpy, narrow-fronted, and light-muscled.

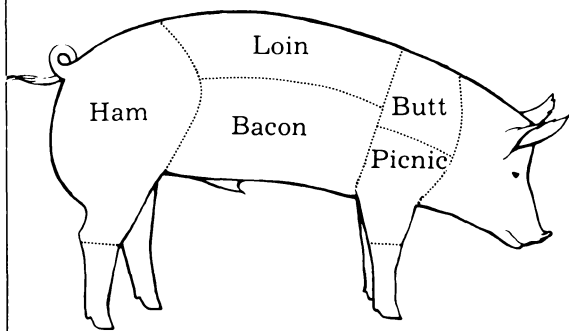
For these reasons, I placed this class of Polled Hereford heifers 4-2-3-1.

Judging Hogs

In judging hogs, you first need to know the names of the major parts. You also need to know the various wholesale pork cuts and their relative values. Both are important in determining the value of the market hog or the potential merit of the breeding animal.

The meat-type hog has been developed to yield a high percentage of lean meat with a minimum amount of fat. A meat-type hog is heavily muscled, correct in finish, firm, well-balanced, and has adequate length of side.

Consider high priced cuts first in the meat-type hog.



Main Points in Judging Market Hogs

Important factors to consider in judging market hogs are type, muscling, finish, fill, quality, balance, style, smoothness and lean cut yield. (Muscling, finish, and fill affect the lean cut yield which largely determines the market value of the hog.)

TYPE—By type in hogs we mean the general shape or conformation of the hog.

Length of side and scale (skeletal) are important factors in swine type. On the live animal, length is estimated by observing from a point in the center of the ham to the forepart of the shoulder. This corresponds to measuring from the front of the aitch bone to the

front of the first rib in the carcass. Length normally ranges from 26 to 33 inches for 200-pound hogs. Pigs of around 29 inches are considered average and acceptable; good, meat-type barrows should be at least this long.

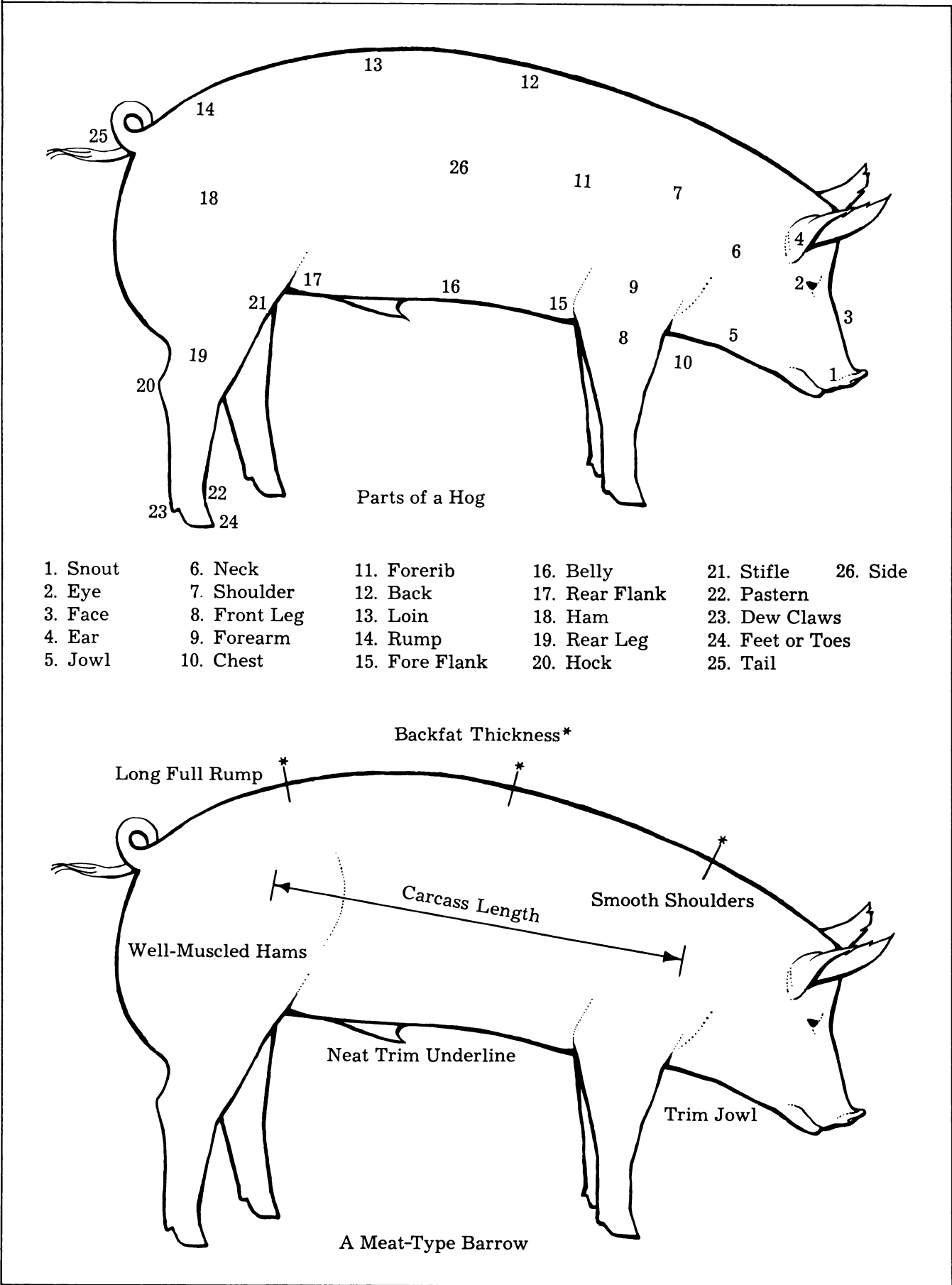
Length is important because of its relationship to growth rate and sow productivity; it does not influence carcass value greatly. (Muscling, finish, and balance may also influence our concept of type, but keep in mind that a short hog can never be considered desirable in type.)

MUSCLING—We get our best indication of muscling from a rear view of the hog. Some of the indicators of muscling are a wide back and loin, a wide rump, a deep, thick, firm ham and a wide chest and shoulders. Look for a pig that walks with its hind legs apart. Width here refers to *natural width*, not width due to fat. As you view the hog from the rear or front, the top should be in the shape of an arc rather than square. A heavily muscled hog will be wider across the rump and through the ham than he is across the back. The ham should be the widest part of the hog.

In contrast, hogs that are narrow over the top and rump, narrow in the ham, and narrow through the chest and shoulders are poorly muscled.

In the carcass, one means of estimating muscling is loin eye area at the tenth rib. The loin eye area is expressed as the number of square inches of muscling in the large muscle of the loin. Loin eye area ranges from 2 square inches to more than 7 square inches. Pigs that have a minimum of 4 square inches or more are acceptable. Outstanding pigs have 5 square inches or more of loin eye area.

FINISH—Although a small amount of finish is desirable in market hogs, a large amount is undesirable. The most commonly used estimate of total fatness is thickness of backfat. Backfat thickness is expressed as an average of measurements taken at three points on the carcass or along the top of the live hog: (1) the first rib (over the shoulder), (2) the last



rib (over the loin), and (3) the last lumbar vertebra (over the rump). Market hogs weighing approximately 200 pounds range in average backfat thickness from 0.9 to 2 inches. The most desirable amount of backfat is 1.0 to 1.3 inches, but measurements of up to 1.5 inches are acceptable.

Although we do not actually measure the backfat thickness when we judge hogs, there are some indications which we can use in estimating it. The best indication of excessive backfat thickness is a soft, square top.

Other indications of excessive fatness are a heavy, wasty jowl, a soft, shaky middle and softness and looseness in the lower ham and crotch region. Often, a roll of fat can be seen or felt behind the shoulder, indicating excessive fat covering.

FILL—Excessive fill or middle is undesirable because it decreases the dressing percent and the percent of lean cuts, thus decreasing the value of the hog.

LEAN CUT YIELD—The ham, loin, and shoulders are the lean cuts of a pork carcass. The shoulder is sometimes divided into the picnic ham and the Boston butt. Hogs will range from 35 to 47 percent lean cuts in terms of the live weight. This means that a barrow that weighed 200 pounds on foot and had a lean cut yield of 40 percent would have 80 pounds of ham, loin, and shoulder. Poor hogs will yield in the low end of the range, while good hogs yield from 38 percent up.

OTHER POINTS—Other important points to consider in judging market hogs are quality, balance, style and smoothness.

QUALITY—By quality, we mean the degree of refinement of head, hide, hair and bone. A high quality hog is moderate in refinement of head and bone, has a smooth hair coat and a smooth, thin hide that is free from wrinkles. Keep in mind that we do not want a coarse hog, nor do we want one that is too refined.

BALANCE—Balance refers to the proportion of body parts. An example of a poorly balanced hog is one that is long necked, coarse shouldered, slack framed and short rumped. A well-balanced hog will be tight framed and all body parts will be in the right proportion. In other words, the front part of the hog should be in balance with the rear part.

STYLE—Style simply means eye appeal. The way a pig carries himself greatly affects his style. A low backed, loose framed pig will not be stylish. A stylish pig will be tight framed and well-balanced and will be attractive.

SMOOTHNESS—Smoothness in hogs refers to smoothness of skin and skeletal structure. For example, a pig that has wrinkles in the skin is coarse or open in his shoulders, or uneven in his arch is said to be rough. A smooth pig will be free of wrinkles and will be smooth through the shoulders and evenly turned in his arch.

Do not confuse smooth shoulders with narrow, light-muscled shoulders. We want a pig to be thick and meaty through the shoulders but still not open or rough shouldered.

Main Points in Judging Breeding Hogs

Breeding swine must have all of the desirable body conformation qualities of market hogs. In addition, they must have adequate bone with strong feet and legs, desirable breed character and sound, broody underlines.

BONE, FEET AND LEGS—Breeding swine must have adequate bone and straight, strong legs for a long productive life. Many commercial swine operations are on concrete floors, which increases the need for strong feet and legs.

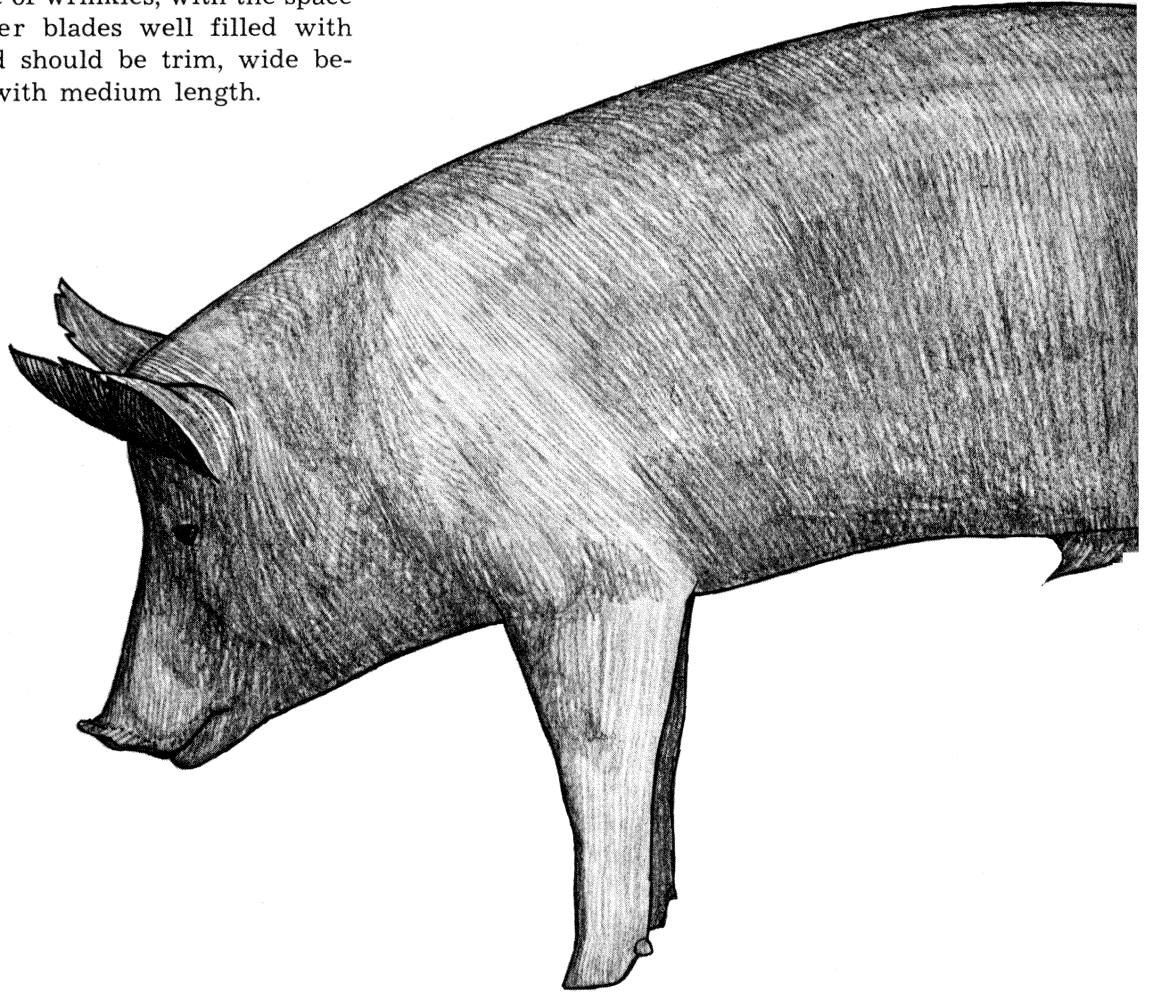
BREED CHARACTER—Breed character is a combination of masculinity or femininity with the desired features of a particular breed. The head is an important clue to breed character. Since all breeds have different characteristics, you will need to study pictures of ideal hogs of the major breeds to learn more about breed character.

UNDERLINES—Mammary development is highly important. Gilts should show evidence of good mammary development and have at least six well-spaced, functional nipples on each side of the underline. Boars should also have at least six evenly spaced nipples on each side. They will not be developed but should be in evidence, as the boar will transmit this trait to his daughters. *Blind or inverted nipples* are a disqualification in most swine breeds. Always look carefully for this point in judging classes of breeding swine.

Comparing Important Parts When Judging Hogs

HEAD, NECK, JOWL AND SHOULDERS—The jowl should be firm and trim. The neck should be of medium length. The shoulders should be muscular and free of wrinkles, with the space between shoulder blades well filled with muscle. The head should be trim, wide between the eyes, with medium length.

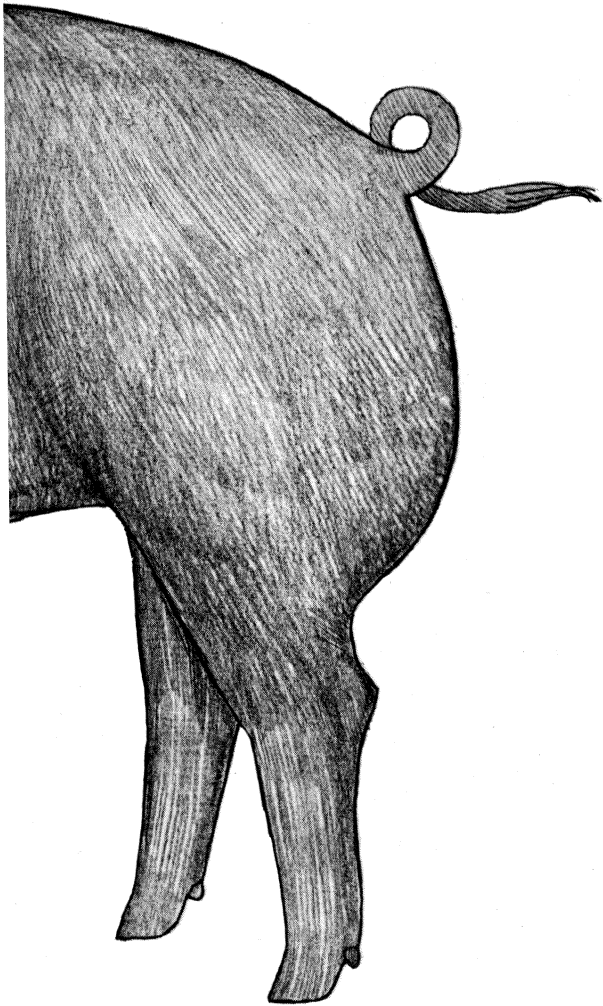
ARCH—The back of a meat-type hog should be strong, with a gradual arch. You see this from the side as the hog walks.



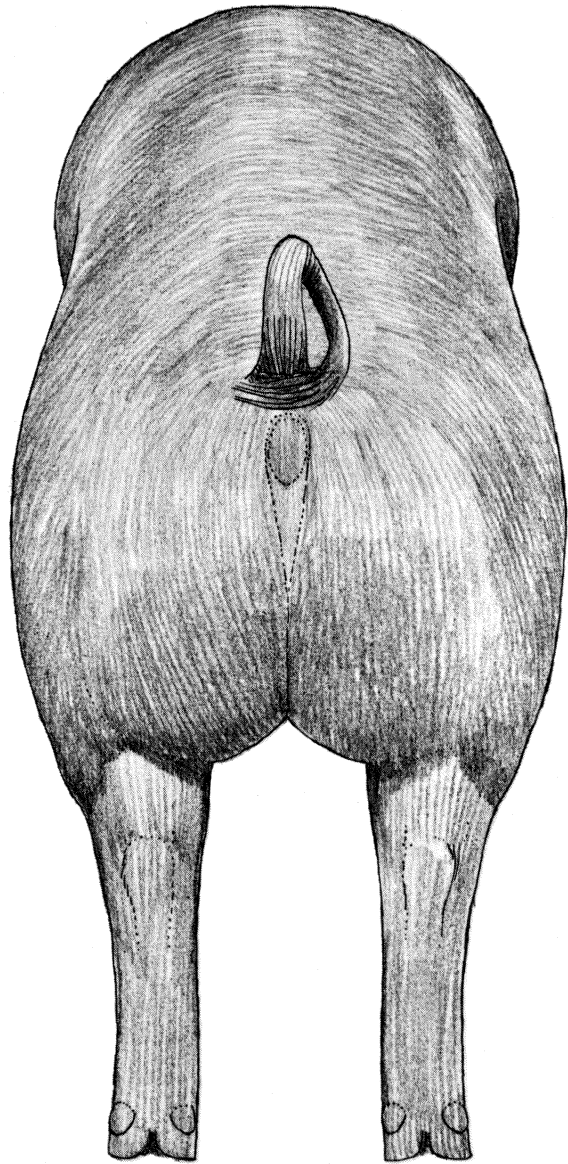
DEPTH—The meat-type hog should have moderate depth of body. His rear flank should be deep. The fore-flank should be clean, free of wrinkles, and deep. The underline should be firm, trim, and free from wrinkles. Breeding animals must have at least 12 evenly-spaced, well-developed teats.

LEGS—The legs are very important in breeding animals. The pasterns should be sturdy; the legs straight and set well out on the corners.

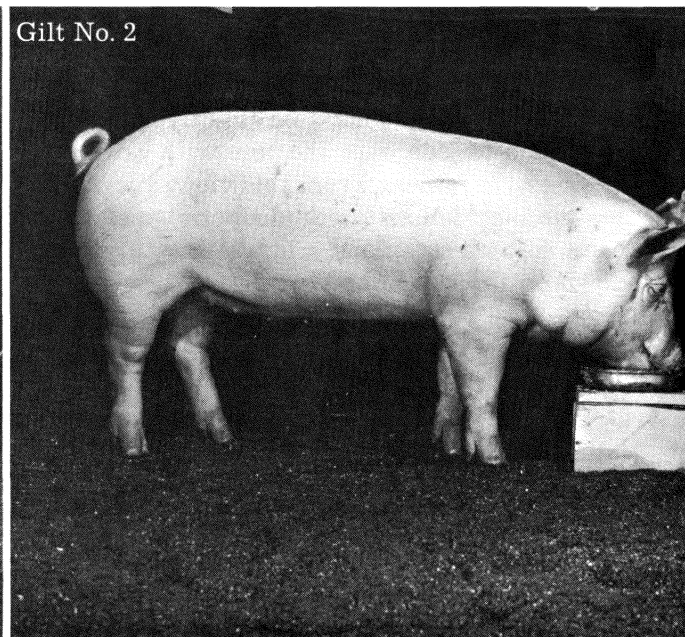
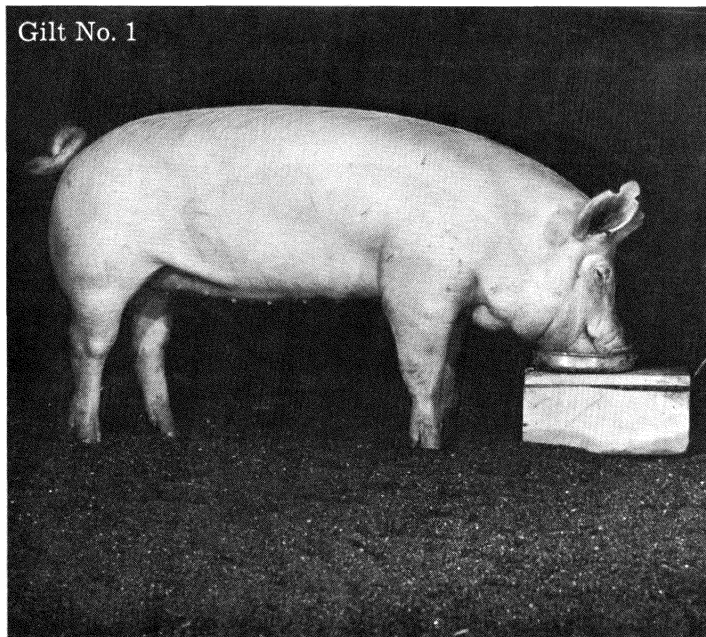
RUMP—The meat-type hog's rump should be long, with a gradual slope toward the tail setting. The rump should be slightly rounded from side to side over the top, with no sign of excessive fatness. From this view, you also see the high tail setting and the bulge of the ham. A steep rump and a low tail setting cut down on the size of the ham.



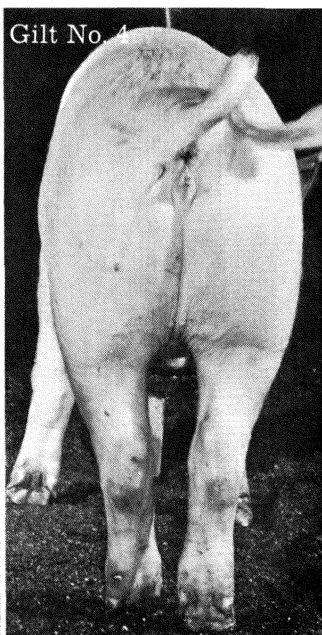
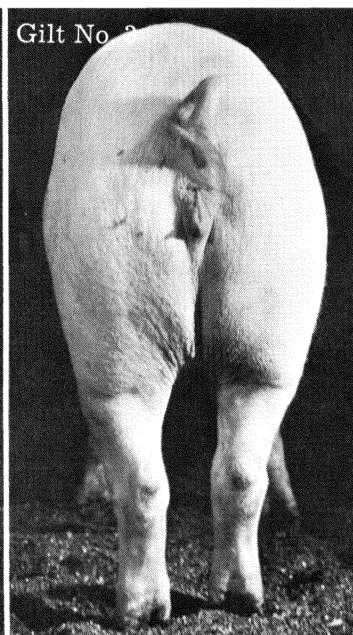
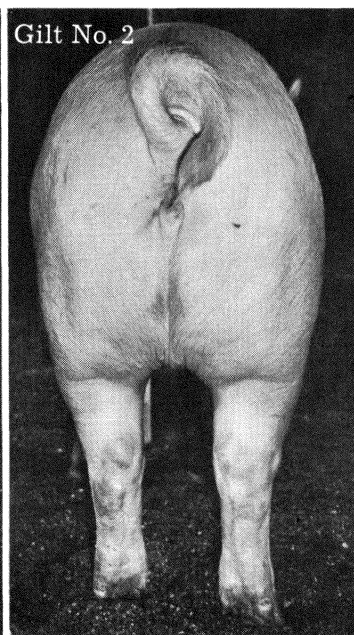
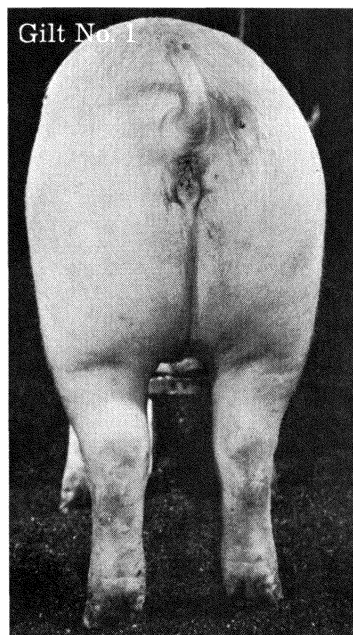
HAM—The ham, which is the most valuable wholesale cut on a hog, should be deep, thick, and firm. We do not want a soft, wasty ham on a meat hog. As shown in the drawing, the ham should be wider than the back and should be thickest in the lower part.



WIDTH—You can study width best as you stand a few feet behind the hog. The first thing you see is the slight bulge of the hams and shoulders. Then you see the turn over the top, which gives you thickness of the back and loin. A gradual turn indicates meatiness. A square top indicates excessive fatness. A sharp, narrow top indicates a lack of muscling. The loin should be wide and strong. A thick rump is desirable as it indicates meatiness and muscling.

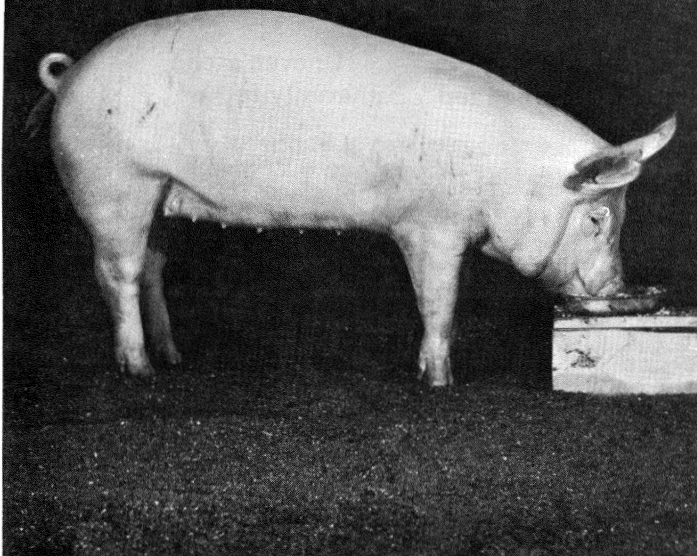


As you judge a class of hogs from the side, compare the animals for: **type and general balance, indications of muscling and excess fat, length and depth of side and firmness.** Also look for trimness and firmness of side, trimness and firmness of underline, muscling and smoothness of shoulder (free from wrinkles), uniformity of arch, meatiness, firmness, depth of ham; straightness of legs and strength of pasterns, and quality (the ideal hog is moderately refined in head, hide, and bone). When judging hogs from the side, stand at least 15 feet away.

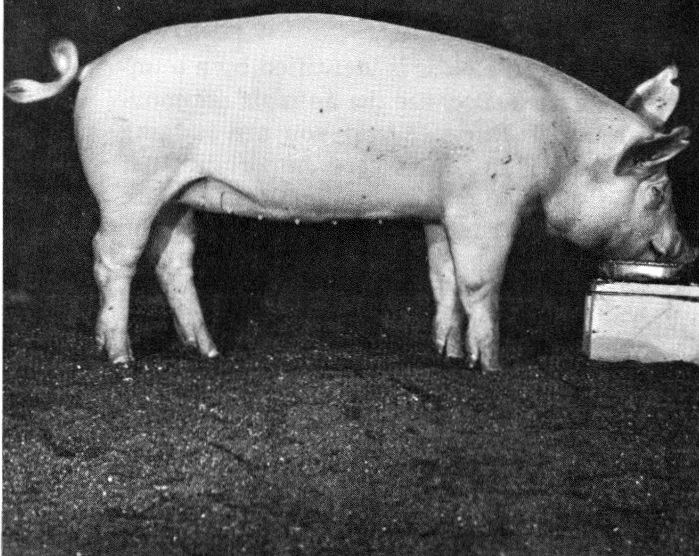


As you judge hogs from the rear, stand near the animals and compare them for: **correctness of turn over back and loin, indications of muscling and freedom from excess fat, and width, firmness, and meatiness of ham and shoulder.** Also look for: quality, location of tail setting and the amount of fat around it, depth and plumpness of ham, straightness of legs and pasterns, and uniform width of back and loin.

Gilt No. 3



Gilt No. 4



As you view hogs from the front, compare the animals for: indications of muscling and freedom from excess finish, breed character, straightness of front legs, and width and depth of chest (no photo).

Swine Reasons

The following reasons refer to the class of Yorkshire gilts that is pictured.

I placed this class of Yorkshire breeding gilts 1-2-3-4.

I placed 1 over 2 because 1 is a smoother, more nicely-balanced gilt. She has a more uniform arch, is tighter in her shoulders, more ideal in her spread of top, and more muscular in her loin and rump. She is much thicker through her stifle, cleaner and firmer at the base of her ham, and stands on more rugged bone. I would like 1 to be a bit cleaner in her jowl and I grant 2 is a longer-sided gilt.

In regard to my middle pair, I placed 2 over 3 because 2 is a longer, deeper-ribbed gilt with more capacity. She is meatier down her top, more bulging and heavier in her ham, and much tighter at the base of her ham. She stands more nearly correct on heavier bone. I fault her for lacking the balance, firmness, and

muscling of the top gilt and I admit that 3 is cleaner in her jowl, smoother in her shoulder, and more prominent in her underline.

In coming to the bottom pair, I placed 3 over 4 because 3 is a deeper, growthier gilt. She is more ideal in the arch to her top, more heavily muscled over her loin, longer in her rump, and much deeper, thicker, and heavier in her ham. I fault 3, however, for being narrow-topped, hocked-in on her rear legs and over on her knees in front. I admit 4 is a bit firmer and freer of wrinkles at the base of the ham than 3.

I easily placed 4 last because she is shallow-bodied, tight in her rib, flat in her loin, short in her rump, and very narrow and light in her ham. She is a fine-boned gilt that is very incorrect on her rear legs.

For these reasons, I placed this class of Yorkshire breeding gilts 1-2-3-4.

Judging a Class of Hogs

Each animal in a class is identified by a number on its back. Because the animals are moving around in the pen and you are judging while they walk, it is very important that you see and evaluate each animal to compare it with others. To do this, someone moves the hogs while you and other contestants look at them from outside the pen. To compare the animals, you must see them from a distance, not directly above them.

Swine Terms

*General Terms for
Breeding and Market Hogs*

<i>Favorable</i>	<i>Unfavorable</i>
Typier (or more desirable type)	Off type
Meatier (heavier muscled)	Light muscled
Trimmer finished	Over finished
Higher quality	Coarse; low quality
More nicely balanced	Poorly balanced
More stylish	Plain
Smoother	Rough
Firmer	Soft; flabby
Firmer, heavier muscled ham	Soft ham; Flabby ham
Longer side, stretchier side	Short side
Cleaner top	Too fat over the top
Smoother side	Wrinkled side
Deeper side	Shallow side
Deeper rib	Shallow rib
Deeper flank	Shallow flank
More muscling (natural width) over the top	Light-muscled (narrow) top
More uniform width	Uneven width
Bolder spring of rib, wider chest	Narrow forerib
Thicker loin; heavier muscled loin; wider loin	Narrow, light-muscled loin
Longer rump	Short rump
Wider rump; more spread (muscling) over the rump	Narrow rump
More nearly level rump	Steep rump
Higher tail setting	Low tail setting
Heavier muscled ham	Light-muscled ham
Deeper ham	Shallow ham
Thicker ham; wider ham	Narrow ham
Plumper ham	Flat ham

Favorable

Unfavorable

More uniform arch, more nicely turned top	Uneven arch, unevenly turned top
Stronger top	Weak top
Tighter frame	Loose frame; slack frame
Heavier muscled shoulders	Light-muscled shoulders
Shorter neck	Long neck
Trimmer jowl	Wasty jowl; soft, flabby jowl
Trimmer about the base of the ham	Wasty or soft about the base of the ham

Market Hog Terms

Favorable

Unfavorable

Will yield a higher percentage of lean cuts	Will have a low yield of lean cuts
Will yield higher;	Will yield low will dress higher
Trimmer middle	Wasty middle
Trimmer underline	Wasty underline
Trimmer flank	Wasty flank; flabby flank
Will hang up a: trimmer carcass	Will hang up a: wasty carcass
meatier carcass	light-muscled carcass

Breeding Hog Terms

Favorable

Unfavorable

Broodier	Lacks broodiness
More prominent underline	Lacks prominence (development) of underline, had blind nipples
More evenly spaced nipples	Nipples unevenly spaced
A larger number of nipples	Doesn't have enough nipples
More (Hampshire, etc.) breed character	Plain head; coarse head; heavy ear
More rugged, heavier bone	Light bone; fine bone
Straighter front	Cow hocked; sickle hocked (or hind) legs (too much angle or set to the hock); toed out; close at the knees; back at the knees
Stronger pasterns	Weak pasterns
Wider fronted	Narrow fronted

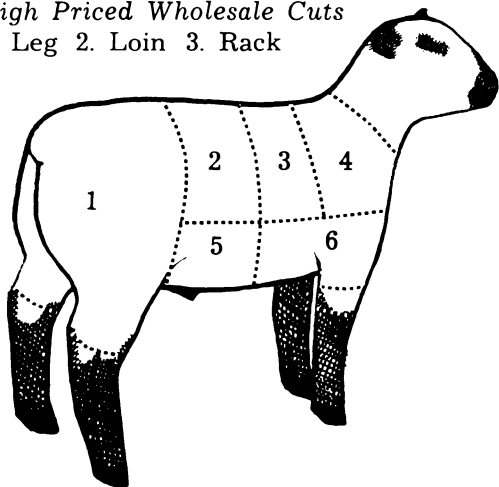
Judging Sheep

As in judging cattle, you need to learn the names and locations of the various parts and wholesale cuts. This is fundamental in judging sheep. Except for differences in the names of certain parts, the judging procedure is identical to that mentioned in judging cattle.

These animals are covered with wool. The only way you can be sure what is under the wool is to handle the sheep. In judging a class of sheep, you must observe, handle, evaluate, compare and place; therefore, you not only get to use your eyes but also your hands. If you are a beginner at judging sheep, start with market lambs. They are easier to judge than breeding sheep.

High Priced Wholesale Cuts

1. Leg 2. Loin 3. Rack



Low Priced Wholesale Cuts

4. Shoulder 5. Flank 6. Breast

Main Points in Judging Market Lambs

In judging market lambs some of the main points to consider are type, muscling, finish, carcass merit, yield, quality, balance, style, and smoothness.

TYPE—Type refers to the conformation of the lamb. A good market lamb is straight-lined and well-balanced, blocky and heavily muscled in general appearance. He is moderately deep bodied, but need not be extremely so.

MUSCLING—Meaty, heavy-muscled lambs are desired in contrast to over-fat or light-muscled ones. Indications of muscling are thickness and firmness through the leg, and natural thickness over the top and through the shoulders with only a moderate degree of finish.

FINISH—Finish refers to fatness. Correctness of finish is a very important factor in judging lambs. The ideal lamb is fat enough to have a high grading carcass but not excessively or wastefully fat. A lamb with this degree of finish will measure 0.15 to 0.25 inch backfat or fat covering over the ribeye muscle at the 12th rib in the carcass. To determine the amount of finish, you must handle the lamb over the backbone and rib. Excessive prominence of the backbone and ribs indicates a lack of finish. A soft, mellow touch indicates too much finish.

CARCASS MERIT—Give preference to those lambs on foot which should produce thick, meaty, correctly finished carcasses.

YIELD—Yield influences the value of market lambs in the same manner as it affects the live value of steers. In addition to conformation, finish, quality and fill, the weight of the pelt (fleece plus skin) also influences the dressing percent of sheep. Heavy muscled, trim-middled, high quality lambs usually yield high. A high degree of finish increases yield, but excessive fatness will actually decrease the value of a lamb and its carcass.

OTHER POINTS—Other points to consider include quality, balance, style, and smoothness. (These terms are defined in the beef cattle section.)

Main Points in Judging Breeding Sheep

You have more points to consider in judging breeding sheep than market lambs. Again, be guided by what you see. Handling is a greater necessity in placing breeding sheep than in placing breeding cattle. Most breeding sheep are shown in full fleece so the only way you can verify differences in conformation is by handling.

Additional points to consider are condition, size, feet and legs and bone, breed and sex character, and fleece.

CONDITION—This term refers to the amount of fat cover. In breeding classes, the term “condition” should be used rather than “finish.” In judging breeding animals muscling is primary and condition is secondary.

SIZE—Size is an important factor and varies with the breed. Some are more compact and lower set than others. The Southdown is low set and compact. Hampshires and Suffolks are much larger, stretchier sheep. Dorsets and Shropshires are intermediate in size. Avoid extreme smallness within any breed. Large animals are not objectionable as long as they maintain quality, balance, and smoothness.

FEET, LEGS AND BONE—Strong, straight legs with heavy bone are a must in breeding sheep. The legs should be set out on the corners of the body. The feet should be of ample size and depth to form a strong foundation. The animal should be able to move without any evidence of unsound feet and legs.

BREED AND SEX CHARACTER—Rams should be rugged with strong bone; ewes more refined in their features. Each medium wool breed has certain characteristics about its head, ear, and color markings that help you identify it.

Obtain and study pictures of the breed characteristics of the Hampshire, Southdown, Shropshire, Suffolk, Cheviot, and Dorset breeds.

FLEECE—Fleece is seldom the major consideration in placing a class of mutton-type breeding sheep. However, it should always be inspected, and fleece should be mentioned one or more times in each set of reasons on breeding sheep.

A long fleece has an advantage over a short fleece. In addition, the fleece should be dense, of good character (have distinct crimp), of acceptable grade (fineness) for the breed, uniform in grade from shoulder to breech, clean and bright, and free of black fibers.

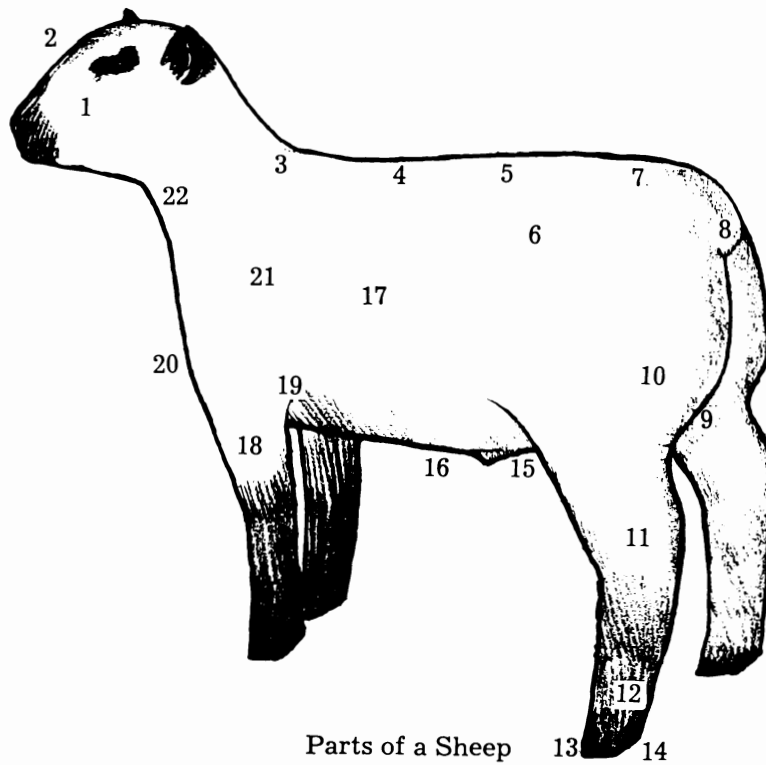
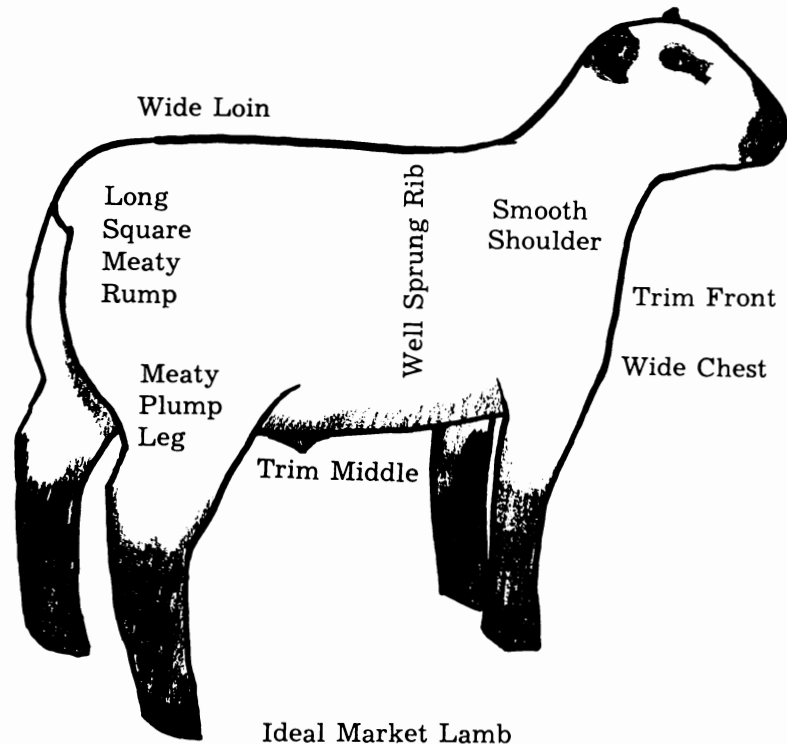
Comparing Important Parts When Judging Sheep

The important parts of sheep are compared in the same manner as they are in judging beef cattle. True, sheep come in a smaller package and the names of certain parts are different than for cattle, but basically the description of the desirable parts of a beef animal also apply to good sheep. Refer to the beef section again.

Develop a Sheep Judging System

As you look at a class of sheep from the rear, remember that No. 1 is on the left and No. 4 is on the right. Be sure you are 25 to 30 feet from the class.

You will need to look at a side view, rear view, and front view the same as in judging cattle. Refer to the cattle section for the various points to consider. Refer to sheep illustration for names of parts.



Parts of a Sheep

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Face | 6. Hip | 11. Hock | 16. Belly | 21. Shoulder |
| 2. Forehead | 7. Rump | 12. Pastern | 17. Ribs | 22. Neck |
| 3. Top of Shoulder | 8. Dock | 13. Foot | 18. Foreleg | |
| 4. Back | 9. Twist | 14. Dew Claw | 19. Foreflank | |
| 5. Loin | 10. Leg | 15. Hind Flank | 20. Breast | |

Handling the Sheep

After you have studied the animals from a distance and have decided on a tentative placing, you are ready to handle each animal. The way the sheep stands as you handle it will affect what you find. The sheep should stand squarely on all four legs while you are handling it.

Each sheep should be handled in the same manner. If you start handling for finish or fleshing on the back from rear to front, handle all sheep that way.

With fingers extended and close together, check the fleshing (amount of fat) over the top. Press firmly with balls of the fingers of one hand (step 1). Check over the rump, loin, back, and ribs. While your hand is on the shoulder (step 2), check the smoothness and width of shoulders. In handling very fat lambs, it is difficult to feel the bones of the spine, ribs, and shoulders. These bones are easy to feel or are very prominent in thin lambs.

You can determine the amount and quality of fleshing on the ribs by pressing firmly with the fingers (step 3). Look for an even cover of firm flesh. In this step, you can also determine spring of ribs and capacity through the middle.

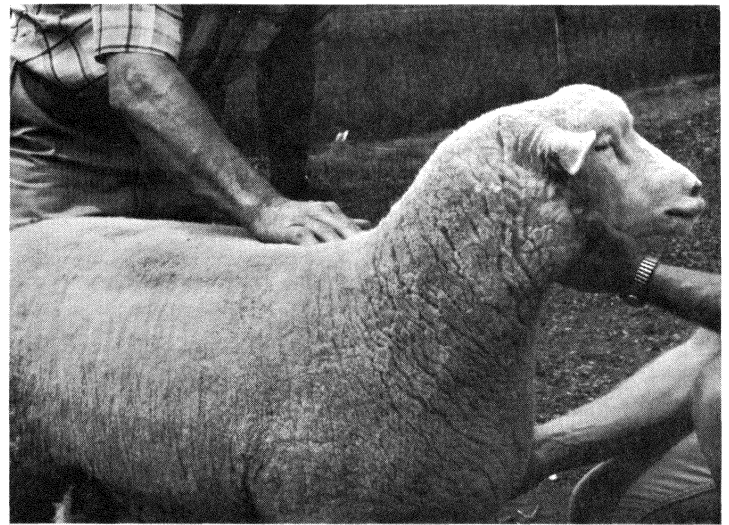
Examine the width and depth of loin. A wide loin is desirable but depth due to muscling is more important (step 4). The loin is one of the more valuable cuts. Look for a thick, deep, firm, well-muscled loin. Check the length of rump (step 5) from hip bones to dock. This area should be long and level.

You can determine the size of leg and the amount and firmness of outside muscling by grasping the leg firmly at the stifle joint (step 6). Use both hands and press firmly, with the fingers meeting on the inside, in order to more accurately determine the size of this important cut. The leg should be firm, plump, and heavily muscled with the muscle extending to the hock.

Legs should be straight and out on the corners with strong pasterns (step 7).

Check density, fineness, and character of fleece (step 8) at shoulders and breech.

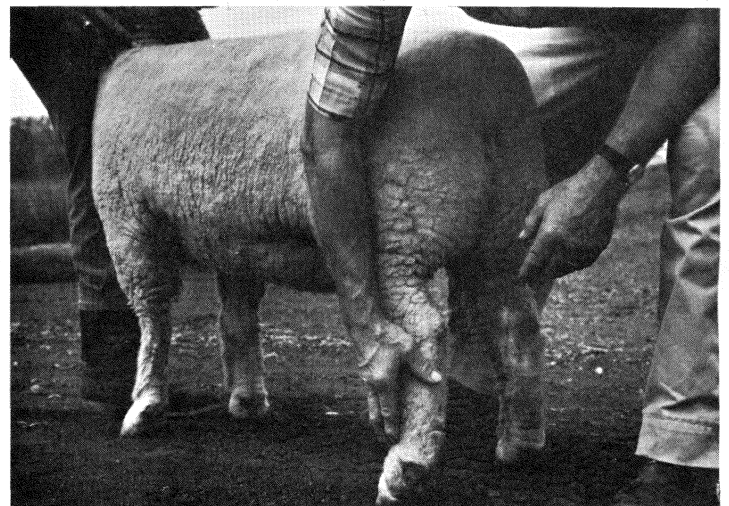
Determine age of sheep and condition of mouth (step 9).



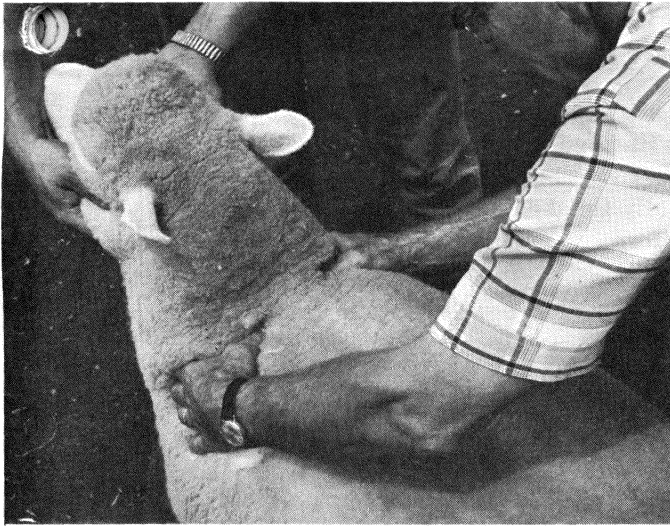
Step 1. Fleshing over top and strength of top



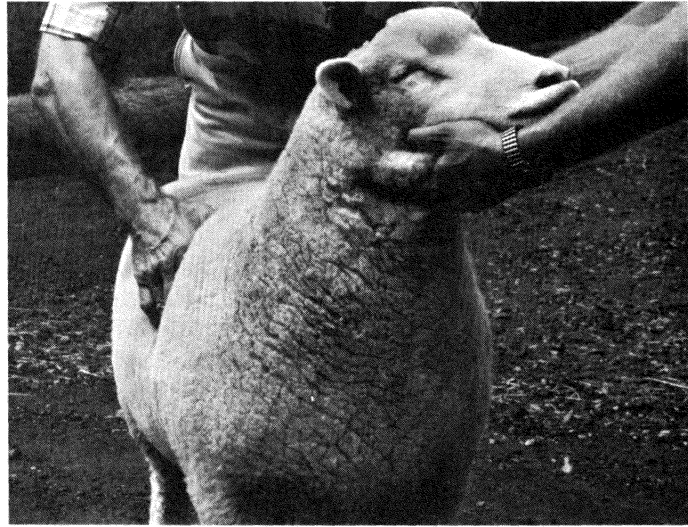
Step 4. Width and depth of loin



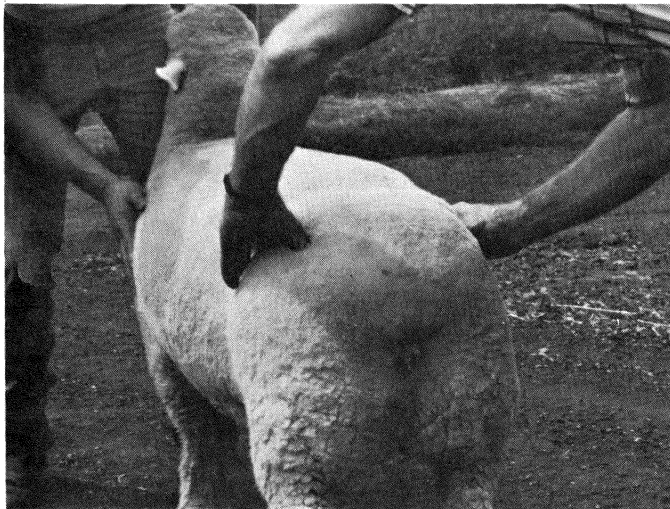
Step 7. Correctness of legs and pasterns



Step 2. Smoothness and width of shoulder



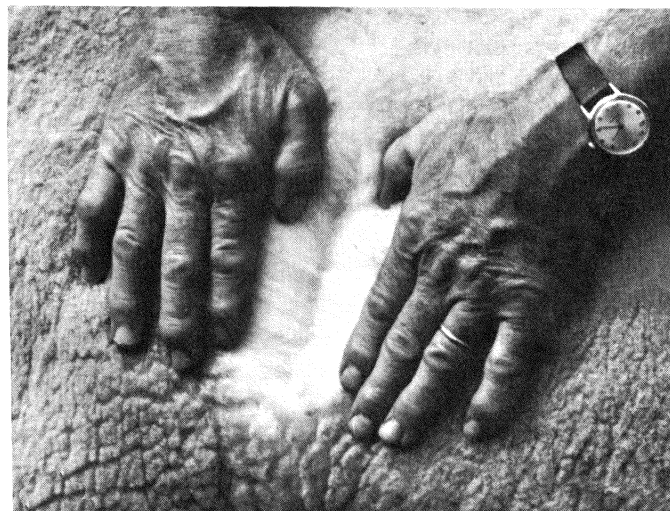
Step 3. Fleshing over ribs and spring of ribs



Step 5. Length of rump



Step 6. Size, muscling, and firmness of leg



Step 8. Density, fineness, uniformity of fleece



Step 9. Age and condition of mouth

Sheep Terms

General Terms for Breeding and Market Sheep

<i>Favorable</i>	<i>Unfavorable</i>
Typier	Off type
Heavier muscled; meatier	Light muscled
Thicker	Narrow
Smoother	Rough
Higher quality	Coarse; low quality
Trim, well balanced	Poorly balanced
More stylish	Plain

Wider (thicker) top (heavier muscled)	Narrow top
Greater spring of rib	Narrow forerib
Fuller behind the shoulder ...	Narrow behind the shoulders
Wider back	Narrow back
Wider rump	Narrow rump
Wider loin	Narrow loin
Deep loin	Shallow loin
More level rump	Droops at the rump low at the pins
Wider dock; squarer dock	Narrow dock
Thicker leg	Narrow leg
Plumper leg	Light leg
Nicer handling	Poor handling
Smoother shoulders	Rough (coarse) shoulders
Stronger top	Weak top
Tighter frame	Slack frame
Straighter top	Low top, low front
Straighter lined	Uneven lines
More uniform (even) depth	Uneven depth
More uniform (even) width ...	Uneven width

Market Lamb Terms

<i>Favorable</i>	<i>Unfavorable</i>
Meatier, heavier muscled	Light muscled
Trimmer finished	Over-done; excessively finished
More ideally finished	Thin, under finished
More uniformly (evenly) finished; more uniformly covered	Unevenly covered
Firmer finished	Soft finished
Trimmer middle	Wasty middle; heavy middle
Heavier muscled leg	Light muscled leg
Firmer leg	Soft leg
Trimmer	Wasty
Trimmer fronted;	Heavy fronted; neater fronted
Will hang up a: thicker carcass	Will hang up a: narrow carcass
heavier muscled, meatier carcass	light muscled carcass
more shapely carcass	long, narrow carcass
neater carcass	wasty carcass; over (trimmer carcass)
Will yield higher	Will yield low finished carcass

Breeding Sheep Terms

<i>Favorable</i>	<i>Unfavorable</i>
More (Hampshire, etc.) breed character about the head; breedier head	Plain head
More feminine head	Coarse head
Stronger head (especially rams)	Weak head
More rugged (heavier bone)	Light bone; fine bone
Stronger fronted	Weak fronted
Wider fronted	Narrow fronted
Straighter	Cow hocked; sickle hocked (back or front) legs (too much angle or set to the hock) toed out;
	close at the knees; back at the knees; over at the knees; post legged
Strong pasterns	Weak pasterns
Longer fleece	Short fleece
Denser fleece	Loose fleece
Finer fleece (for breed)	Coarse fleece
More uniform fleece	Uneven fleece

Sheep Reasons

The following reasons refer to the class of Hampshire ewes that is pictured.

I placed this class of Hampshire breeding ewes 4-2-3-1.

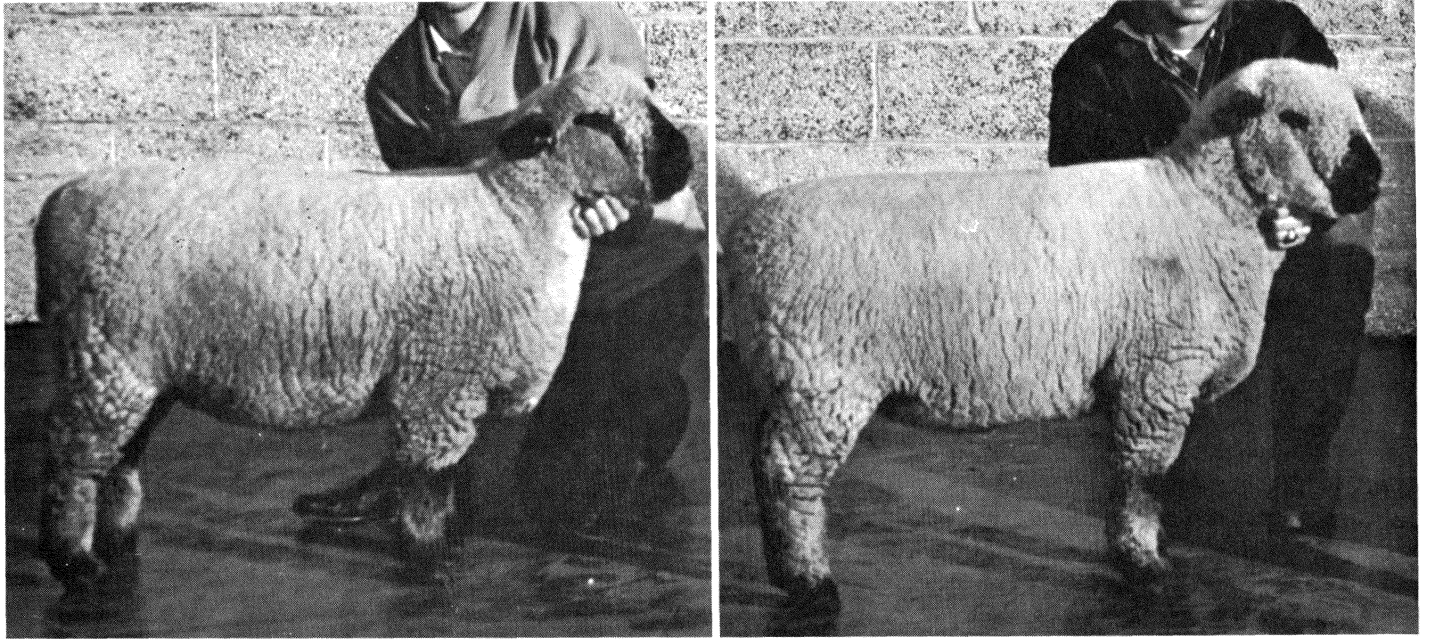
I placed 4 over 2 because 4 is a bigger, growthier, stretchier ewe that has more style and Hampshire breed character about her head. She is wider over her shoulder, back, and loin, smoother and fuller in her heart, longer and more level in her rump, and squarer at her dock. She is thicker and heavier in her leg. I fault her for having a somewhat open fleece and admit that 2 is straighter on her front legs.

In my middle pair, I placed 2 over 3 because 2 is a straighter-lined ewe that has more arch of rib. She is wider-fronted, wider and stronger in her loin, and thicker and more muscular in her leg. She is tighter in her fleece and stands more correctly on her front legs. I fault 2 for being a shorter-bodied ewe that droops in her rump. I admit that 3 is a more open-faced and deeper-bodied ewe.

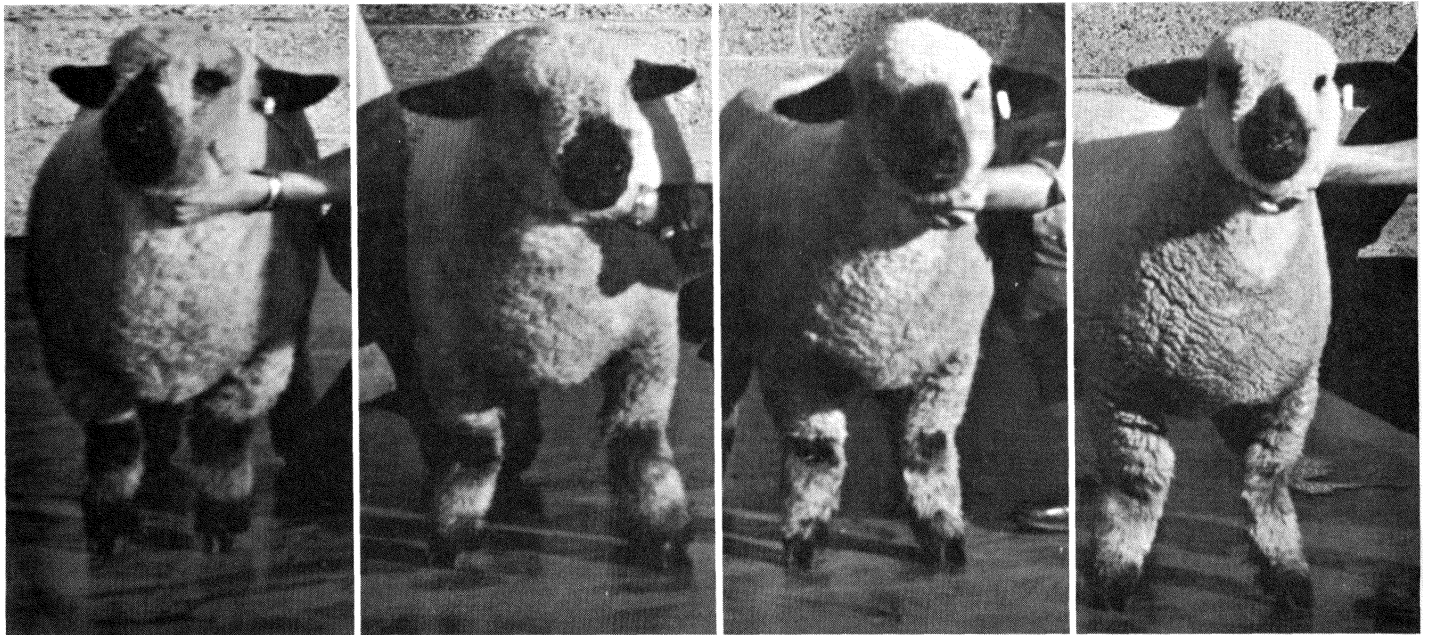
Now in coming to the bottom pair, I placed 3 over 1 because she is a longer-bodied ewe, has more balance, and is more open-faced, and more up-headed. She is a thicker-topped ewe that is longer, more level, and squarer in her rump. She has a more bulging, heavier leg, and stands on more rugged bone. I fault 3, however, for being weak in the loin, narrow-fronted, and short in her rump. I admit that 1 is stronger in her top.

I placed 1 at the bottom of this class because she is the shortest, most compact, low-set ewe in the class. I fault her particularly for standing close both front and rear, for having a wedgy rump, and for being light in the leg.

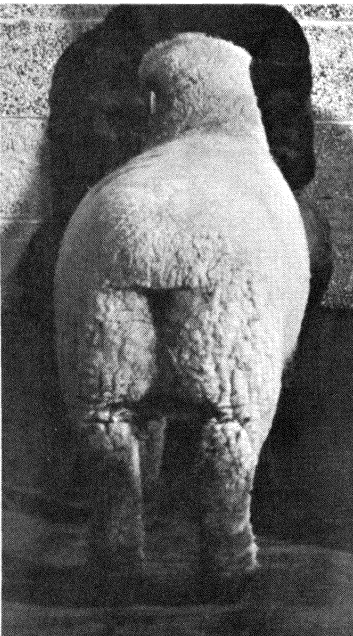
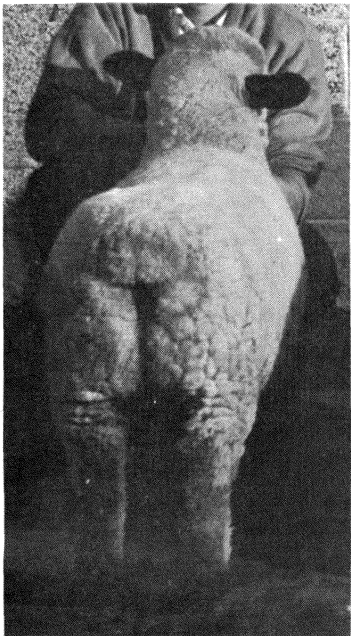
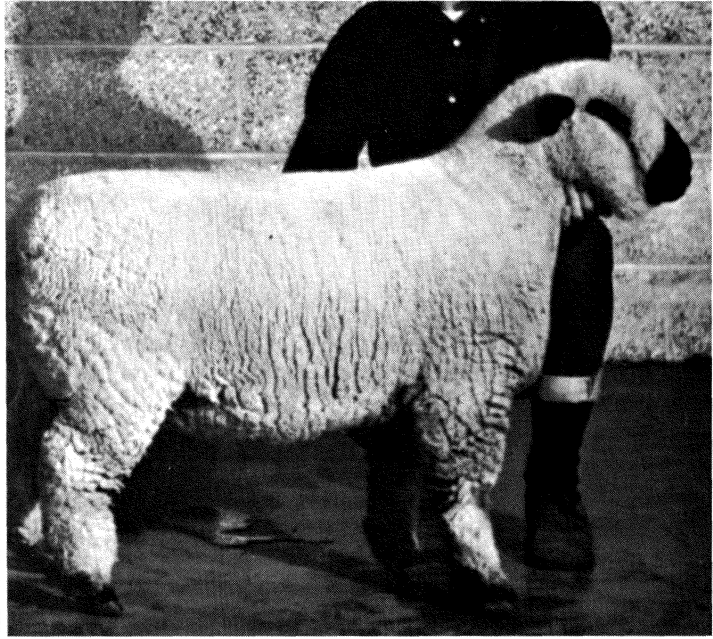
For these reasons, I placed this class of Hampshire breeding ewes 4-2-3-1.



As you judge a class of sheep from the side view, compare the animals for: **finish or condition, balance, style, size, straightness of lines, straightness of legs and size of bone, and quality.** Also look for: depth of body, length and levelness of rump, depth and fullness of leg, trimness of middle (for market lambs), and the length of head and neck.



As you judge sheep from the front view, compare each animal for: **smoothness, breed character, width, finish or condition, quality, and straightness of forelegs.** Also look for: uniformity of width, width of top, smoothness of shoulders, depth and width of chest, fullness of rib, and shape of head.



As you judge a class of sheep from the rear view, compare the animals for: **thickness and muscling, finish or condition, quality, smoothness, and straightness of rear legs.** Also look for: thickness across rump, loin, and back; uniformity of thickness, squareness of rump, depth and thickness of quarter, depth of twist, and trimness of middle (for market lambs).

Livestock Judging

Every 4-H livestock member should have the ambition to become a good judge of livestock. You can learn to judge if you will think and make use of your time in training work. Really, learning to judge livestock is not difficult if you will learn to become a keen, careful observer. You will also need to develop a desire to learn to recognize the big things that make an animal desirable or undesirable.

Through Judging You Learn

- To make accurate observations and see the differences in animals.
- To weigh and evaluate these differences for comparison with an ideal.
- To arrive at a definite decision.
- To make an organized set of notes.
- To explain your decision in a pleasing, well-organized, and convincing manner when giving oral reasons.

4-H CLUB MOTTO

Make the Best Better

4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I pledge
My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service, and
My health to better living for
My club, my community, and
My country.

