

# SWINE

## Bannock County 4-H

By Ashley Tolman

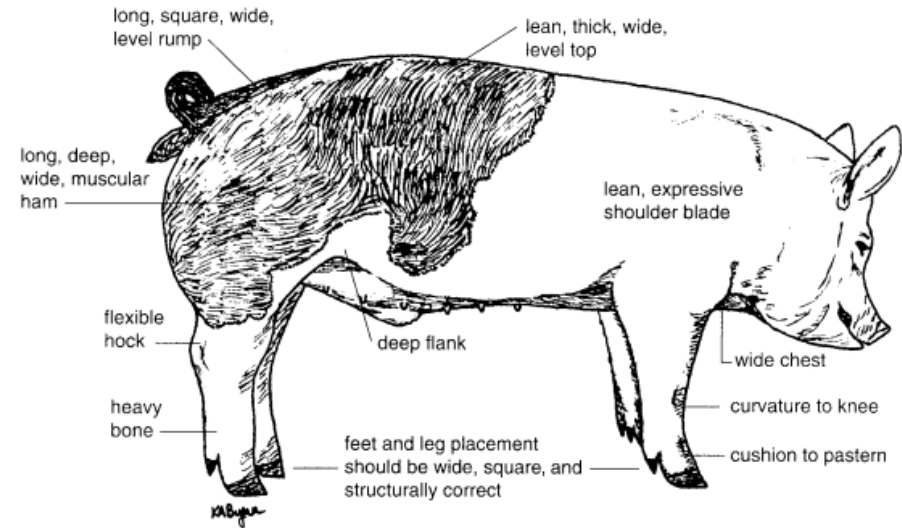


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# Animal Selection

- What are the Priorities?
  - Structure
  - Muscle
  - Condition (fat or lean)
  - Balance (eye appeal)
  - Volume
  - Quality
  - Travel

## The Ideal Hog



	NORMAL RANGE	AVERAGE	IDEAL
Live weight (lb)	210 - 270	245.0	245.0
Dressing percent	68 - 77	72.0	75.0
Average backfat (in)	0.7 - 2.0	1.5	1.0
Carcass length (in)	28 - 34	30.5	32.0
Loineye area (sq in)	3.0 - 7.0	4.5	5.8
Percent muscle	45 - 65	51.0	54.0

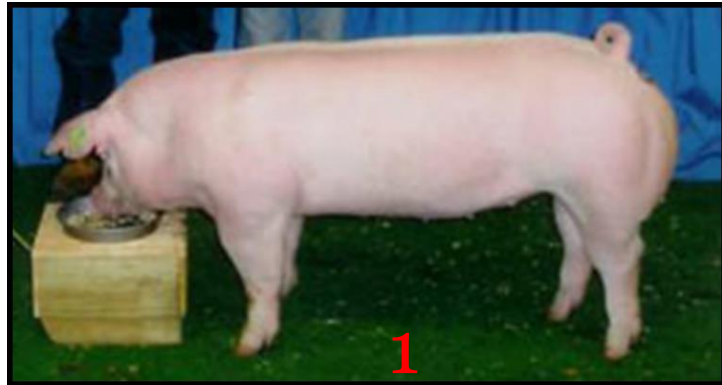
Adapted from *Live Animal Carcass Evaluation and Selection Manual*, 4th edition, 1993, Donald L. Boggs and Robert A. Merkel.

# Animal Selection(cont.)

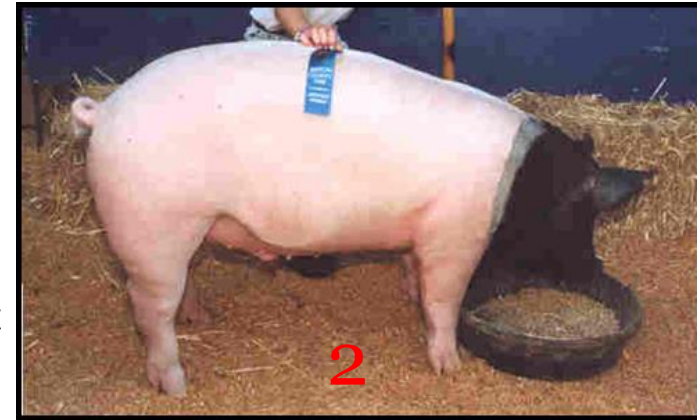
**Compare #1 vs. #2  
and #3 vs. #4**

Which market hog is more muscular and is more like the picture below?

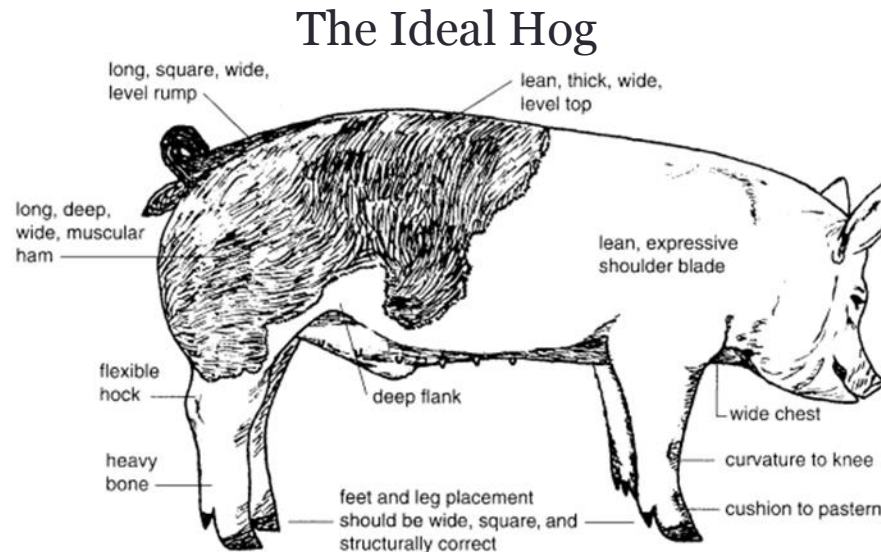
When selecting a project try to find one that closest resembles the ideal hog.



Not the same hog.



Not the same hog.



# Swine Daily Care

- Some items to consider include
  - Feeding
  - Watering
  - Exercise/walking
  - Washing with soap
  - Applying fly spray
  - Clipping
  - Worming/ vaccinating
  - Skin care
  - Practice showing

# Feeding



- Pigs should be fed using a self feeder. A self feeder will allow your market hog to eat as much as it needs and grow as quickly as possible.
- Feed -There are two types of feed that you will most likely need to feed your market hog from the time of purchase until you sell it.
  - The first is a grower ration and the second is a finishing ration.
    - Growing rations have more protein, calcium, and phosphorous than finishing rations to allow the young pig to develop bone and muscle.
- Pigs typically need to eat 4 to 5 lbs of feed for every 1 lb of gain. Your pig will need to eat a minimum of between 5 and 6 lbs of feed to ensure a gain of 1.2 lb per day.
- Pigs also need free choice fresh water to keep them hydrated and cool so they will eat and gain.

# Exercise



- Exercising your market hog not only helps tone and strengthen your hog's muscles, but it also allows you to identify your market hogs strengths and weaknesses.
- You should start an exercise program one month before your show. Your market hog should get a minimum of 30 minutes of exercise per day.
- The exercise may include walking your hog or playing with your hog. Be sure to exercise your market hog in a safe area free of harmful sharp edges and wires that might bruise or cause damage to your hog.

# Grooming



- Brush hair daily
- Griddle brick help hair and skin
- Check for lice, mites and other pests
- Don't let hair get stained
- Wash once a week using a mild soap.
- Light oil can help condition skin and hair.
- Clip to current showing trends
- Use sunscreen after clipping to protect skin.
- Don't clip too often.

# Health



- Check daily (or twice a day) for injuries, sickness, unusual things or changes in behavior.
  - Provide shade from the sun and protection from wind, snow and rain.
  - De-worm and treat hogs for external parasites (fly spray).
  - Signs of a sick pig
    - Poor appetite, high temperature, droopy ears, rapid breathing, runny nose, dry and crusty nose, gaunt gut, limping, patchy hair coat, diarrhea, coughing, not drinking and dehydrated.
- Contact your vet if your project has these symptom.
- Normal Vital signs
    - Temperature: 101° F
    - Heart Rate: 60-80 per minute
    - Respirations: 30-40 per minute



# Getting ready for the show

- Practice showing your pig. Try driving your hog to a specific place, turning him around and then going to a different place.
- Practice penning your pig.
- Have a parent or sibling be the judge.
  - They should ask you questions and have you move your pig around a show ring.
- Clip your pig
- Study for any questions the judge might ask during showmanship.
- Show Day Preparation
  - Start your show day preparation by washing your market hog and letting them dry completely.
  - You may want to brush you hog's hair to create a clean look.
  - Be sure to clean your hog's ears.

# Showmanship Tips



- Use a light whip, cane or stick to direct the hog about the arena. The hog should respond to light taps or the mere sight of a show stick.
- Show your hog at a slow to moderate walk constantly keeping him on the move.
- Permit your hog to stand for brief moments if he remains alert. Avoid allowing your hog to root in the ground.
- Keep your hog within a clear view of the judge.
- Carry your brush in your pocket out of sight and only use it when needed.
- Keep your distance from the judge so that he can easily see your market hog.

# Sources



- Health
  - <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/4h/4-h140.pdf>
- Feeding/Exercising
  - [extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002335\\_Rep3430.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002335_Rep3430.pdf)
- Showmanship
  - [pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-4568/ANSI-3684web.pdf](http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-4568/ANSI-3684web.pdf)
- Overall
  - The Incredible Pig :National 4-H Curriculum BU-08065