



MARKET SWINE

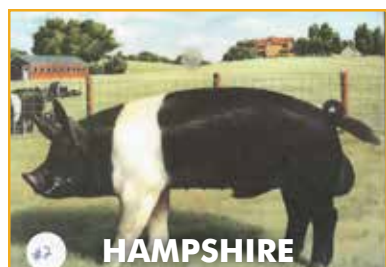
Know Your Pig

LESSON 3



IMPORTANT BEEF SWINE TERMS TO KNOW

- **Barrow** A pig that has been castrated
- **Boar** An uncastrated pig
- **Breed** A group of animals with common ancestry and similar characteristics that are passed on from generation to generation
- **Breeder** The owner of the parent of the pigs when they were mated
- **Castrate** To remove the testicles
- **Crossbred** An animal with parents of different breeds
- **Dam** The mother of a particular animal
- **Farrowing** The process of giving birth to piglets
- **Gilt** A female pig that has not produced a litter of piglets
- **Litter** A group of piglets from the same birthing
- **Piglet** A newborn, infant or young pig
- **Purebred** An animal with same-breed parents and that could be recorded in an association registry
- **Registered** An animal whose name and assigned number have been recorded in record books of its respective breed association; this record also includes the name and assigned numbers of the pig's sire and dam
- **Sire** The father of a particular animal
- **Sow** A female pig that has given birth to at least one litter



WHAT BREED IS MY SWINE?

There are many breeds of hogs, but only about eight of those are commonly produced in the US. Each breed has definite characteristics that distinguish it from other breeds. The most popular breeds are Duroc, Hampshire and Yorkshire.

- **Duroc** Originated in the eastern United States. The Duroc's color is solid with no pattern and ranges from a light golden yellow to a very dark rust red. Durocs have drooping ears medium to large in size and set wide apart. It is one of the larger framed breeds and has high quality muscling. The sows are good mothers, and they often have large litters (12).
- **Hampshire** Originated in England and has a color pattern that consists of black coloring all over the animal's body, except for a white "belt" that completely encircles the pig from one front foot, up the shoulder, over the back and down the other shoulder to the other front foot. Their ears are erect and should not be broken over, bent over, or drooping. Sows are not good mothers and usually have small litters. Although they are more difficult to handle and grow more slowly than most other breeds, they produce carcasses that are lean, heavily muscled and of very high quality.
- **Yorkshire** Originated in England and is solid white with erect ears and a broad, dished face. This is one of the largest framed breeds, but is easy to handle—even the sows and boars. Best known for their outstanding mothering ability and consistently have large litters (12-15).

- **Chester White** This breed was developed in Pennsylvania. They have white bodies and medium-sized, droopy ears. The sows are good mothers.
- **Spotted** This breed was developed in Indiana. They are medium sized, have black and white spotted bodies and droopy ears. They gain weight easily and are aggressive breeders.
- **Landrace** Originated in Denmark and have very long, white bodies and very large floppy ears. The sows are good mothers.
- **Poland China** Originated in Ohio and have black bodies with six white points. The white points are their four legs, tail and nose. They have droopy ears and are lean with heavy muscles.
- **Berkshire** Originated in England and have black bodies with white feet, tails and faces. They have sound skeletons, dish snouts, and short, erect ears.



LANDRACE



POLAND CHINA



BERKSHIRE



KNOWING THE PARTS OF YOUR ANIMAL.

You should be able to identify all of the following parts on your market swine. **Give it a try** on the activity sheet 2! Ear, neck, shoulder, forerib area, back, loin, rump, tail, vulva(gilt), ham, stifle joint, hock, dewclaw, sheath (barrow), rear flank, fore flank, belly, teats, elbow, knee, cannon bone, pastern, foot (toes), jowl, snout, head .



WHERE IS MY BACON?

You should be able to identify where the major cuts of meat come from in your animal.

- **Give it a try** Start with identifying the locations on the activity sheet 2 and then see if you can identify where the wholesale cuts come from.



STARTING THE TRAINING PROCESS

Training a pig and preparing for show should start the day you bring it home.

- Pigs should be exercised at least 15 to 20 minutes each day to achieve and maintain show condition.
- Grooming a pig for exhibition is simple and easy, but like fitting should not start at the show or even during the week of the show; it starts the day you bring it home.
 - Pig grooming consists mostly of washing and then brushing the hair, both of which should be done on a regular basis
 - Wash and bathe the pig at least once a week. Use a soft bristle scrub brush and a mild soap or detergent. Make sure you do not get soap in the eyes or water in the ears. (In spite of what most people think, pigs like being clean, the only reason they get muddy and dirty is to keep cool. Pigs use this method to cool themselves because they don't sweat)
 - Brushing the pig should be a daily task because it results in a clean and shiny hair coat by removing dead and dull skin particles. It also creates a bond between you and the pig!
- Training the pig to work with you should begin the day you bring it home. It will need to trust you first, which is accomplished by you spending time with it. When the pig stops running from you when you enter the pen, it is ready to start the training routine.
 - First, get the pig accustomed to the show stick by letting it smell and chew on it.
 - Start by rubbing the stick on the pigs belly, back and side, then all over the pig.
 - Finally start tapping the show stick on the pig (do not hit the pig; this will make it lose trust in you)
 - After the pig gets used to the show stick, gently use the stick to guide the pig where you want him. You should be walking 2-3 feet away from the rump of the pig. When the pig is responding well, practice with someone acting as a judge and move the pig back and forth in front of the person as well as bringing the pig toward and away from the judge. Keep the pig out of corners and away from the fence.

"Tomorrow's victory is today's practice"—Chris Bradford