

# STEER CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

version 2017-2022

## BRITISH TYPE

This group includes cattle that appear to be purebred Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford, Red Angus, and Shorthorn.

### Angus:

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Angus
- Solid Black
- Polled
- Needs to have a tight sheath that is round and perpendicular to the ground
- Angus-type ear set, small to moderate ear size high on the head

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Continental breed type structure (being coarse about his joints, not to be confused with big-boned cattle) and head
- Bumps where horns would be on a horned animal
- Birthmarks or white hair in the switch should be reviewed for the skin color (black skin color is acceptable; white or pink skin is a disqualification)
- Non-Angus-type ear set (ear set and excessive ear size as in Continental breeds)
- Large navels and angular sheaths

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- White skin resulting in white hair above the underline or in the front of the navel (White on the navel is acceptable)
- White skin resulting in white hair on the leg, foot or tail
- Horns or scurs
- Brindle
- Diluter color pattern
- Dehorning scars
- Double muscling

### Hereford:

#### Ideal Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Hereford
- Some white on the back of both ears
- Red body with white face, white underline, and white-marked legs
- Traditional feather on crest
- Horned Herefords must show evidence of being dehorned

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

*These characteristics are not necessarily desirable and in combination may be discriminating.*

- Dark red color
- Red neck
- Solid red ear(s)
- Excess white on legs
- Excess white above the underline
- Eye pigment
- Black hair in tail, or ear of animal
- Freckling on the nose
- White above switch in tail
- White across rump above the twist

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Solid white ear(s)
- Questionable ear size and shape
- Straight-line white markings on legs or tail above the switch
- White above the hocks, on the outside and back side of rear legs
- Excess pigment or color around the eyes
- Red neck in combination with excess white on legs
- Line back
- Coarse joints, head, or ribs

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Solid black nose
- Diluter color pattern
- Streaking of white from the feather off the shoulder
- Brindles
- Double muscling; extreme muscle definition
- Any color pattern other than red or white (birthmarks excluded)

### Polled Hereford:

#### Ideal Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a pure-bred Polled Hereford
- Some white on the back of both ears
- Red body with white face, white underline, and white-marked legs
- Traditional feather on crest
- Must be polled or have loose scurs

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Solid white ear(s)
- Questionable ear size and shape
- Straight-line white markings on legs or tail above the switch
- White above the hocks, on the outside and back side of rear legs
- Excess pigment or color around the eyes
- Red neck in combination with excess white on legs
- Line back
- Coarse joints, head, or ribs

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

*These characteristics are not necessarily desirable and in combination may be discriminating*

- Dark red color
- Red neck
- Solid red ear(s)
- Excess white on legs
- Excess white above the underline
- Eye pigment
- Black hair in tail, or ear of animal
- Freckling on the nose
- White above switch in tail
- White across rump above the twist

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Horn attachment to the skull
- Evidence of tampering with horns, or dehorning scars
- Solid black nose
- Diluter color pattern
- Streaking of white from the feather off the shoulder
- Brindles
- Double muscling; extreme muscle definition
- Any color pattern other than red or white (birthmarks excluded)

### Red Angus:

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a Red Angus
- Solid red (shades may vary)
- Polled
- A blond, light red, or mixed switch
- Cattle may have black hair on the tail, muzzle, face, neck, and legs

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Coarse joints (not to be confused with big boned cattle)
- Solid White Switch

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Horns or scurs breaking through the skin
- White skin resulting in white hair above the underline or in front of the navel (white on navel is acceptable)
- White skin resulting in white hair on the leg
- Black pigmentation of the skin. Not to be confused with freckling on the nose or anus
- Roaning
- Dehorning scars or evidence of dehorning
- Black Noses

### Shorthorn:

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Shorthorn
- Solid red; solid white with red hair or red pigment on ear, muzzle, anus or tail; or any combination of red and white, with the red and white color pattern bleeding together

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Motley face or brockle face
- Orange or light red color
- Black nose pigment
- Coarse head
- Coarse joints

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Diluter color pattern, such as yellow or yellow roan
- Blacks, blue roans, or grays
- Brindle
- Solid white with no red pigment on the ears, tail, or anus
- Double muscling

## BRAHMAN TYPE

This group is sometimes called American Breeds. Physical evidence of Brahman background is important (ear length and shape, amount of hide, hump/crest).

### American Breeds Cross:

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Any color or color pattern
- Progression of importance to include Bos indicus influenced head, eye, and ear (of moderate length, slightly pointed, drooping and opening down and forward); showing Bos indicus influenced sheath
- Crest or evidence of hump
- With adequate Bos indicus head, eye, and ear characteristics; sheath score is of less importance

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Bos taurus head
- Bos taurus short ear
- Bos taurus eye
- Sheath score of 1
- Slick neck (lack of crest or evidence of hump)

#### Absolute Disqualifications

A combination of a Bos taurus head, eye, and ear

### Brahman:

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a half-blood Brahman
- A prominent hump beginning at the shoulder and going forward but must angle back down to the neck to create a hump – not a crest
- Any color or color pattern
- With adequate Bos indicus head, eye, and ear characteristics; sheath score is of less importance

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Sheath score of 1

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- A crest with an inadequate hump
- Lack of hump or presence of hump
- A combination of a Bos taurus head, eye, and ear

### Brangus:

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred black Brangus
- Solid black with no white above the underline or in front of the navel
- Polled
- Progression of importance to include Bos indicus influenced head, eye, and ear (of moderate length, slightly pointed, drooping and opening down and forward);
- With adequate Bos indicus head, eye, and ear characteristics; sheath score is of less importance
- Shows some evidence of a crest

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Scurs or slick spots
- Excessive, pendulous sheath
- Inadequate Bos indicus-influence head, eye, and ear characteristics
- Brown dilution over ribs, fore flank, twist and muzzle
- Sheath score of 1

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Horns
- Dehorning scars
- White above the underline or in front of the navel
- White on the legs, feet, or tail
- Any brindle

### **Santa Gertrudis:**

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a half-blood Santa Gertrudis with adequate Bos indicus head, eye, and ear characteristics.
- Any color pattern of black, red, yellow or orange
- Moderate crest, no definite hump
- Moderate dewlap development
- Moderate length of ear, slightly drooping and opening forward
- Sheath score of 2-5

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Straight, pendulous sheath
- Slight brindle color
- Sheath score of 1

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Absence of any visible Santa Gertrudis characteristics
- Absence of Bos indicus-influence head, eye, ear, or sheath
- Smoke, silvers, grays or tiger-stripes

### **Simbrah:**

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Simbrah (3/8 Brahman and 5/8 Simmental)
- A sheath score of 2 or greater
- With Bos indicus head, eye, and ear characteristics; sheath score is of less importance
- Stocking legs
- Bald, blaze, or streak face or mottled face
- Solid black, solid red or solid dun/tan/yellow combination with white or any of the previously listed colors
- Brindle color pattern preferably with white markings

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- A sheath score of 1
- A Bos taurus head
- A Bos taurus ear
- A Bos taurus eye
- Solid yellow

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- A combination of a Bos taurus head, ear, eye, and sheath
- Roans
- Grays
- Silver
- Smut
- Diluter color pattern

### **CONTINENTAL or EXOTIC TYPE**

Included here are Charolais (half-blood and higher), Limousin, Maine-Anjou (half or higher), and Simmental (purebred).

### **Charolais:**

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a half-blood purebred Charolais
- White, yellow gray, or silver (moderate dappling allowed)
- Expression of diluter gene
- Minimal painting or spotting less than 20%
- Skunk tail, line back, baldy

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Excessive painting or spotting (over 20%)
- Double muscling
- Brindles
- Frail bone work and frail general appearance
- Light red color or orange
- Short, stubby head
- Overly refined, narrow head
- Excessive dark pigmentation (eyes, nose, ears, and anus)
- Excessive dappling

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Black, red, dark smuts
- Showing no diluter gene, unless solid white
- Excessive painting or spotting

### **Limousin:**

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a Limousin
- Solid black, red/orange, light red, charcoal black, chocolate black, orange or brockle-face
- Brindle color pattern will be allowed providing it does not extend below the mid-rib of the body
- Bald face
- Tend to be smooth shouldered
- Head
  - » Eye – Deeper socket, prominent brow, light pigment around eye on reds
  - » Poll – Needs to have a wide poll
  - » Ear – Tends to be smaller and rounder
  - » Muzzle – Tends to be short
- Sheath - Tends to have a forward angle
- Legs/feet
  - » Tend to be smooth jointed
  - » Tend to be flat boned

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Coarse joints, skeleton, and head
- Course open shoulders
- Pencil sheath, hanging straight down
- Pointed poll
- Excessive crest
- White Switch

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Stocking legs
- Spotting above the underline
- Brindle below the mid-rib
- Roans
- Yellow, Blonde, Grey, Silver
- Diluter Gene
- Red Cattle with Black noses
- Monkey/Parrot mouth

### **Maine Anjou:**

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Solid red
- Solid black
- Red and white
- Black and white
- Heavy skeletal structure

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- None

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Brindle
- Roan
- Diluter color pattern
- Appears to be more than 50% of any other breed

### **Simmental:**

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Appear to physically exhibit characteristics of a purebred Simmental
- Solid black, red, red and white, yellow and white, black and white
- Some painting or spotting above the underline
- Bald, blaze, or streak face
- Typically longer head, larger ears

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Motley/Brockle face
- Excessive white above the underline

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Brindle
- Roans
- Smut or gray, white, smoky, silver or any combination of these
- Skunk tail

## **CROSS DIVISIONS**

### **Black Cross Division:**

- Must have a black body cavity. Defined as the area behind the top of the shoulder blade down to the point of the shoulder and above the belly line.
- White in the body cavity is only acceptable in the following instances:
  - » White is a continuation of the feathering.
  - » White is at the fore and/or rear flanks similar to Hereford color pattern.
  - » White spotting not collectively larger than 9in(basketball size) in diameter per side (cannot be all on the same side)
- Skunk tail cattle are permitted provided the white above the rectum does not exceed the amount of white spotting allowed (basketball size).
- Absent of diluter gene.
- Brindle color pattern will be allowed providing it does not extend below the mid-rib of the body.
- No roan cattle permitted.

### **Red Cross Division:**

- Must have a red body cavity. Defined as the area behind the top of the shoulder blade down to the point of the shoulder and above the belly line.
- White in the body cavity is only acceptable in the following instances:
  - » White is a continuation of the feathering.
  - » White is at the fore and/or rear flanks similar to Hereford color pattern.
  - » White spotting not collectively larger than 9in(basketball size) in diameter per side (cannot be all on the same side)
- Skunk tail cattle are permitted provided the white above the rectum does not exceed the amount of white spotting allowed (basketball size).
- Absent of diluter gene.
- Brindle color pattern will be allowed providing it does not extend below the mid-rib of the body.
- No roan cattle permitted.

### **Other Cross Division:**

- Steers of any coloration pattern are acceptable.

### **Classification Glossary:**

- American breeds: Breeds created in the US by interbreeding existing breeds, including at least one tropically adapted breed (most often American Brahman).
- Bald face: Appearance when white covers most of the face.
- Blaze or streak face: A wide strip of white down the face to the muzzle.
- Bos indicus (zebu): Subspecies of cattle originating in south Asia; has a prominent hump on top or in front of shoulder.
- Bos taurus: Subspecies of cattle; originated in west Asia but is usually called European.
- Brindle: A streaking of black, brown, or white on the body of the steer (tiger stripe).
- British/English: Cattle originating in the British Isles; Angus, Hereford, and Shorthorn are most numerous in the US.
- Brockle or motley face: Red or black spotting on a white or bald face.
- Continental: Breeds originating in Continental Europe; sometimes called European or Exotic.
- Diluter gene: A gene that determines color. Cattle that carry both copies of the gene will appear white. Non-diluter cattle will appear black or dark red, whereas those carrying a single diluter gene will appear gray or yellow.
- Discriminatory Breed Characteristics: Characteristics that are not reason for absolute disqualification but in combination with other discriminatory visual characteristics could lead to disqualification.
- Horned: Horns are solidly attached to the skull, or there is evidence of dehorning.
- Painting: Large white markings covering a major portion of the steer.
- Pigmentation: Dark skin coloring on the points of the steer (eyes, nose, ears, anus, tail).
- Polled: Naturally hornless.
- Purebred: Showing visual characteristics of a particular breed and none of any other breed.
- Scurs: Horny tissue or rudimentary horn attached to skin but not the skull.
- Sheath score: Scoring system from 1 to 5 based on the length of the sheath (1 = little sheath; 5 = excess sheath).
- Smut: Dark gray color pattern.
- Spotting: White spots on the steer.

### **Summary:**

Steers should be selected and shown based only on their visual appearance as that is how they will be evaluated for classification. Classifiers are asked to exercise their judgment. If your steer is classified out, it doesn't mean that the classifier or anyone else is accusing you of lying, cheating, or being unethical. Nor does it mean that the steer cannot be the breed you say it is. Look at breed classification as the first stage of judging. Don't be too upset if the classifier makes (or you think he or she has made) a mistake. It's all a matter of judgment.

## BARROW CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

updated July 2019

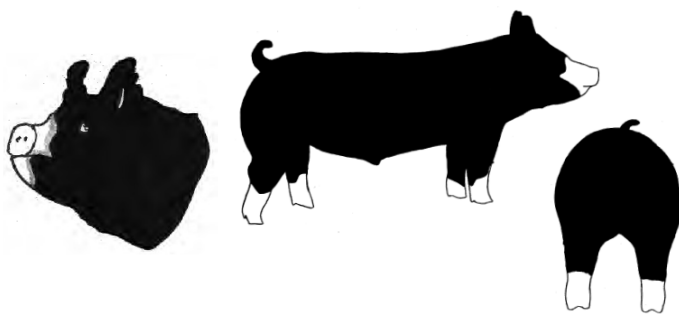
A collaboration by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, Animal Industries Committee, Texas FFA, Texas 4-H and Texas Pork Producers Association.

All animals must be properly ear notched within seven (7) days of birth with a litter notch in the right ear and individual notch in the left ear to be eligible for the Texas 4-H and FFA Swine Validation Program. Animals not properly notched in both ears will be disqualified. Registration papers, breeder affidavits, or other paperwork is not considered in the classification process. Eligibility for the class is determined only by visual appraisal, as evaluated by classifiers appointed by show management.

### BERKSHIRE

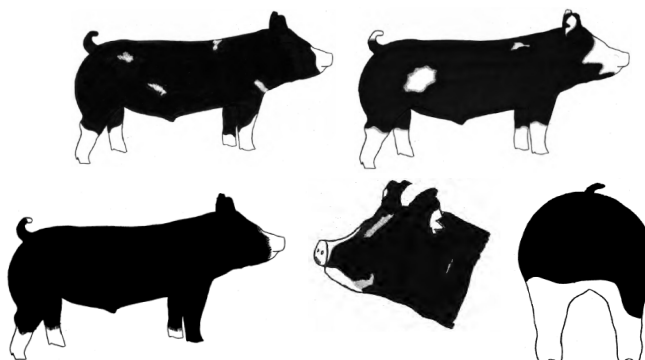
#### Ideal Characteristics

- Predominantly black with erect ears, possessing Berkshire breed character with regards to skull shape and ear shape.
- Six white points: nose, each leg/foot and at end of tail (unless tail is docked).



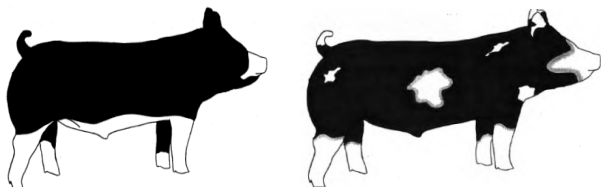
#### Acceptable Characteristics

- Occasional splash of white skin/hair may appear on the body.
- Three of the four legs/feet must be white.
- Ear can have white on it (not full coverage).
- Red or fawn hair, if over black or white skin pigmentation.
- Ear deformity/ear folded in a backwards position towards hog's body/crinkled ear.



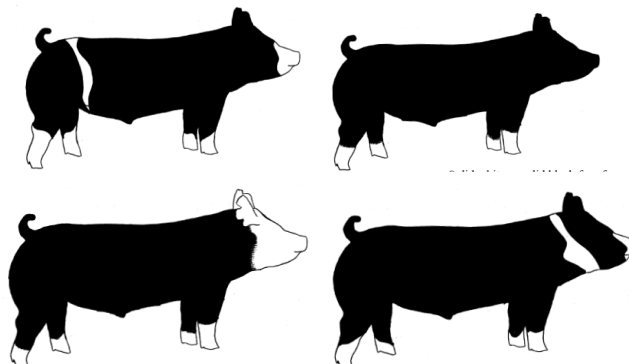
#### Discriminatory Characteristics

- Gray pigmentation on body (spotting/mottling pattern).
- Moderate amount of white skin splashes.



#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Solid white or black face from base of ear forward.
- Solid black nose (white does not break rim).
- Solid white ear.
- Excessive white on body.
- Full coverage of white coming up the lower 1/3 of the body (not counting legs) that extends from the base of the jaw thru sternum and lower body through seam of the ham.
- White splash extends from rear leg to upper hip.
- White skin/hair that continuously encircles the body anywhere between the base of the ear and the base of the tail.
- Any evidence of belt formation.
- Lacks breed character (skull and/or ear shape).
- Any evidence of physical tampering.





## DUROC:

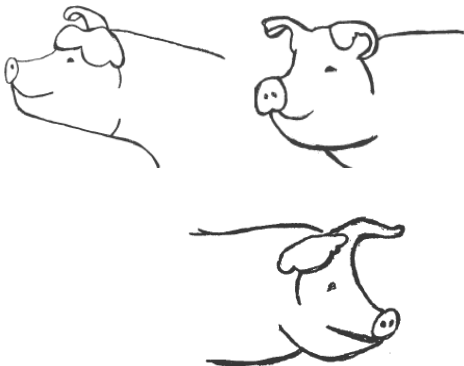
### Ideal Characteristics

- Must be red in color, possessing Duroc breed character.
- Ears are down when hog is in a relaxed position.



### Discriminatory Characteristics

- Minimal amounts of black hair.
- Black spots on the skin under two inches in diameter.
- Partially erect/level ears (flighty).



### Acceptable Characteristics

- Acceptable colors range from light red to dark brown.
- Ear deformity/ear folded in a backwards position towards hog's body/crinkled ear.

### Absolute Disqualifications

- Excessive amounts of black hair.
- White hair.
- White skin on the body or legs, or that extends over the rim of the nose.
- Four (4) or more black spots on the skin, any of which are larger than two (2) inches in diameter.
- Evidence of a belt.
- Erect ears.
- Any evidence of physical tampering that would alter breed character.

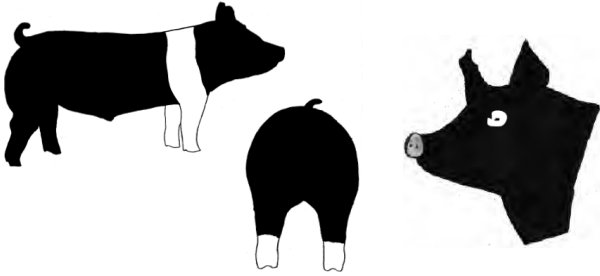




## HAMPSHIRE:

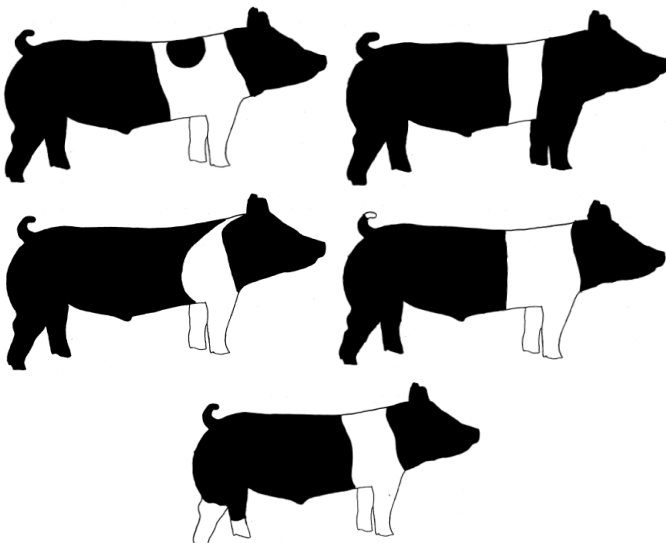
### Ideal Characteristics

- Black in color with a full white belt over the shoulders encompassing both front legs/feet.
- Erect ears.
- Possess Hampshire breed character with regards to skull shape and ear shape.



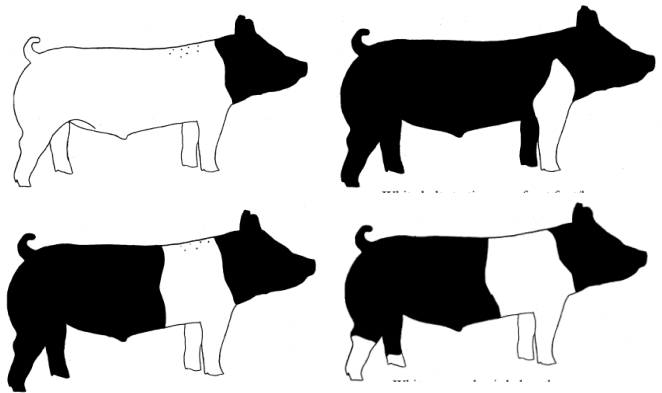
### Discriminatory Characteristics

- Large spots within the belt.
- Belt is in front or behind of a solid black front leg.
- If belt v's and runs towards the poll (base of the ear).
- White tip on tail, if docked.
- White on rear leg extends to the base of the ham.



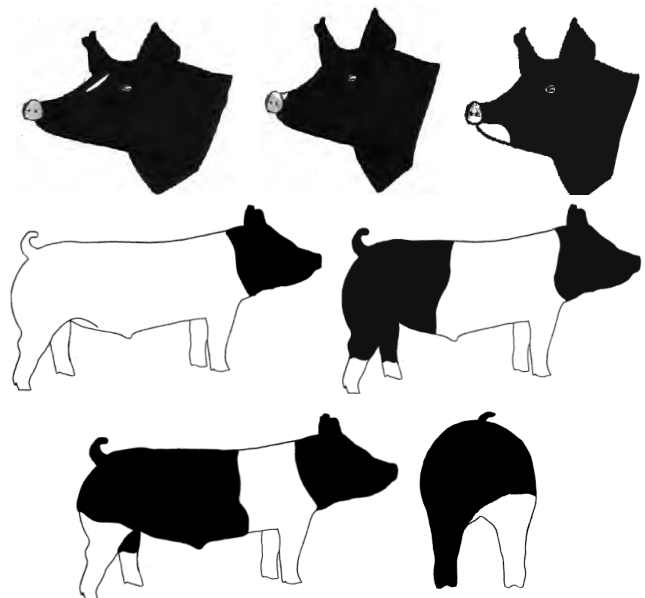
### Acceptable Characteristics

- Black head with a white body, with evidence of pigment and freckling down the top.
- White belt starting on a front foot/leg; belt partially encircles body extending to at least the chest floor (half belt).
- Freckling in the belt.
- Ear deformity/ear folded in a backwards position towards hog's body/crinkled ear.



### Absolute Disqualifications

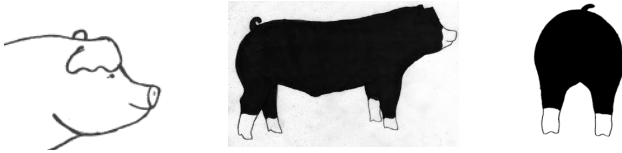
- Streaking or evidence of white on forehead.
- White skin extends over the rim of the nose.
- When mouth is closed, the white under the chin cannot exceed what a U.S. minted quarter will cover.
- Black head with a white body without freckles or pigmentation.
- Belt extends past the sheath (sheath must be black).
- Excessive frosting or white hair outside the belt.
- Red hair.
- Droopy or floppy ears.
- Any evidence of physical tampering that would alter breed character.



## DARK ALL OTHER PUREBREDS (DOPB): POLAND CHINA:

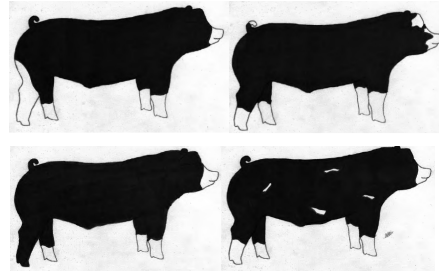
### Ideal Characteristics

- Predominantly black possessing Poland China breed character.
- Six white points: nose, each leg/foot and at the end of the tail (unless tail is docked).
- Ears are down when hog is in a relaxed position.



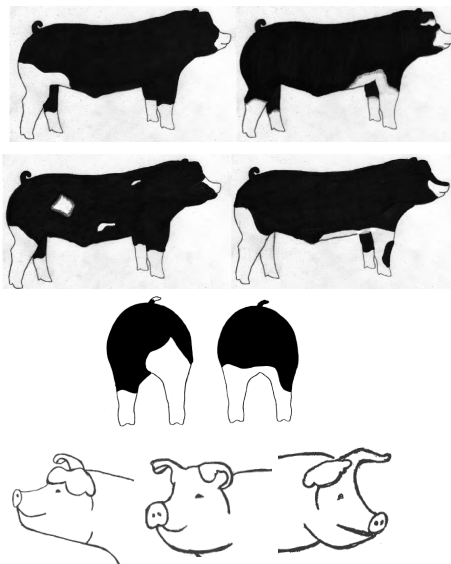
### Acceptable Characteristics

- A slight continuation of white from the legs to the body.
- Ear can have white on it.
- Three of the four legs must be white.
- May have an occasional splash of white on the body.
- Hair and skin texture can vary from coarse to thin, and color can vary from dark black to ashy/pale.
- Ear deformity/ear folded in a backwards position towards hog's body/crinkled ear.



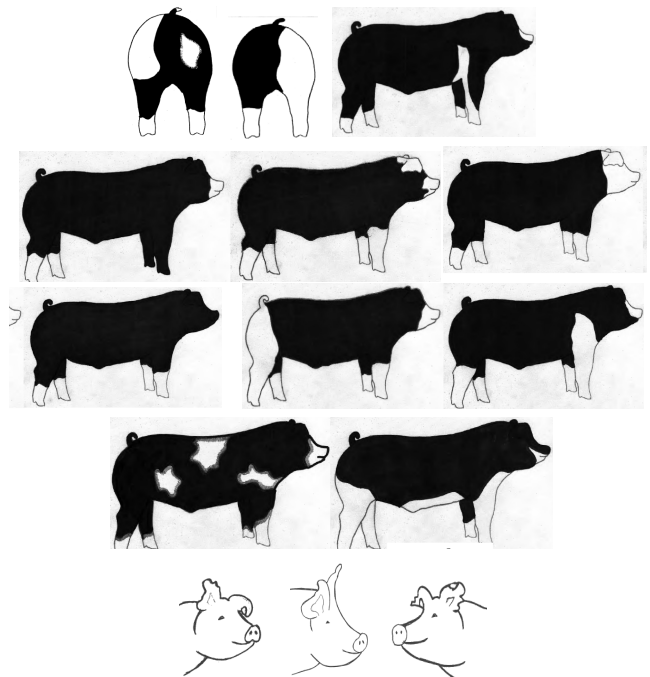
### Discriminatory Characteristics

- Partially erect/level ears (flighty).
- A moderate continuation of white from the legs to the body.
- Moderate freestanding white, not attached to a leg.



### Absolute Disqualifications

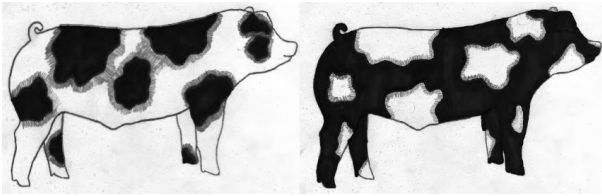
- Erect ears.
- Solid white or solid black face.
- More than one solid black leg.
- If the white on a solid white ear goes past the base of the ear.
- An excessive continuation of white from the legs, encompassing the upper hip or shoulder.
- Excessive freestanding white, not attached to a leg.
- Evidence of belt formation.
- Red or sandy hair.
- Any evidence of physical tampering that would alter breed character.



## SPOTTED:

### Ideal Characteristics

- Must be black and white, possessing Spotted breed character.
- Ears are down when hog is in a relaxed position.



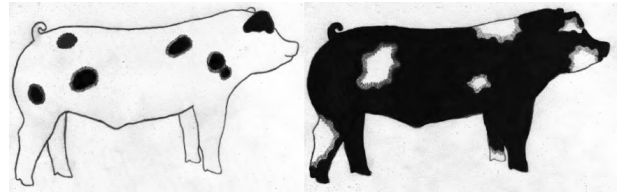
### Discriminatory Characteristics

- Partially erect/level ears (flighty).
- Moderate brown spots.



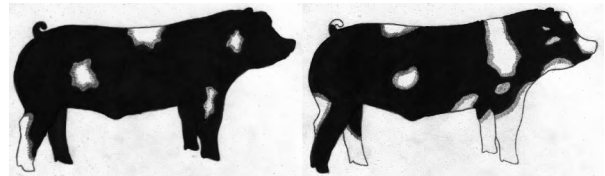
### Acceptable Characteristics

- Predominantly black with white spots or predominantly white with black spots.
- Ear deformity/ear folded in a backwards position towards hog's body/crinkled ear.



### Absolute Disqualifications

- Erect ears.
- Solid black head from base of ears forward.
- Distinct white belt pattern (hair or skin) encircling and extending down and onto each shoulder.
- Red hair.
- Excessive brown spots.
- Any evidence of physical tampering that would alter breed character.



## DARK CROSSBRED:

- Barrows with black and/or red pigmentation (NOT blue, gray, sandy, rusty, orange or roan) comprising at least 20% of the total body area, shall be considered Dark Cross.
- Barrows may be black or red belted, black/red patched or spotted.
- Barrows with only blue, gray, sandy, rusty and orange pigmentation are NOT considered Dark Crosses. Barrows that do not meet the classification requirements for Dark Crossbred will NOT be re-classed.

## YORKSHIRE:

### Ideal Characteristics

- Must be completely white in color with erect ears, possessing Yorkshire breed character.

### Discriminatory Characteristics

- Excessively large or wavy ears.
- Color pigmentation (on body):
  - Two individual pigmentation spots of which neither can be larger than a U.S. minted dime.
  - One pigmentation spot cannot be larger than a U.S. minted quarter.

### Acceptable Characteristics

- Ear deformity/ear folded in a backwards position towards hog's body/crinkled ear.

### Absolute Disqualifications

- Any hair color that is NOT white.
- Broken/down ears.
- Combined pigmentation spots that exceed a U.S. minted silver dollar.
- Any series of dots that indicate masking.
- Any evidence of physical tampering that would alter breed character.

## LIGHT ALL OTHER PUREBREDS (LOPB): CHESTER WHITE:

### Ideal Characteristics

- Solid white in color possessing Chester White breed character.
- Medium sized ears are down when hog is in a relaxed position.



### Discriminatory Characteristics

- Partially erect/level ear (flighty).
- Skin pigmentation.



### Acceptable Characteristics

- Ear deformity/ear folded in a backwards position towards hog's body/crinkled ear.

### Absolute Disqualifications

- Erect ears.
- Colored hair.
- Color on the skin, cumulatively larger than a U.S. minted silver dollar.
- Any evidence of physical tampering that would alter breed character.



## LANDRACE:

### Ideal Characteristics

- Must be solid white and possess Landrace breed character.
- Ears droop and slant forward coming to a sharper point.



### Discriminatory Characteristics

- Short rounded ears.
- Short snout mimicking that of a Chester White.



### Acceptable Characteristics

- Ear deformity/ear folded in a backwards position towards hog's body/crinkled ear.

### Absolute Disqualifications

- Erect ears.
- Any hair color other than white.
- More than 3 spots of skin pigmentation; each individual spot cannot be larger than a U.S. minted quarter.
- Any evidence of physical tampering that would alter breed character.



## LAMB CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

updated January 2020

### DORPER:

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must be a Dorper or White Dorper.
- Conformation - long, deep, wide body with well sprung ribs and excellent muscling.
- Color: Dorper - white sheep with black limited to head, neck and forequarters not extending below the knee to the dewclaw or behind the heart girth. White Dorper - white sheep.
- Must have at least 1/3 hair primarily on belly, forearm, and britch.
- 100% hair below the knees and hocks.
- 100% hair forward of poll.
- Moderate size ear with no wool covering.
- Head should be strong, bold, with a deep jaw.
- Polled or small horns or scurs.
- Spots or speckles in the skin only when shorn.
- Dorper - black spots above the hoof line and below the dewclaw.

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Tall, leggy, shallow bodied, narrow, light muscled lambs.
- A limited amount of spots on body and underline not to exceed a cumulative total of the size of a softball.
- A white sheep with brown or red colored speckles in the covering confined to the head and neck.
- Excessive wool covering more than 2/3 of body (belly, forearm, and britch).
- Wool forward of poll.
- Heavy horns.
- Long, pendulous ears.
- Long, narrow muzzle.

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- All wool or very little evidence of hair on belly, forearm, or britch.
- Wool below the knees or hocks.
- Wool on the ears.
- Excessive amount of dark fibered spots on body and underline behind girth exceeding a cumulative total of the size of a softball.
- Solid brown, red, rust colored head.
- Speckling or spots from knee to dewclaw or from hock to dewclaw.
- Strong breed characteristics of breeds other than Dorper or White Dorper.
- Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.
- Evidence of color alterations.

### FINEWOOL:

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet, or a cross between these breeds.
- Silky, white face.
- Silky ears, medium to moderate in length.
- Soft pelt.
- Yellow to white hooves (neutral).
- Black pads on hooves and black dew claws.
- Minimal amount of black streaking in the hooves. Less than 1/8 of cumulative hoof surface.
- Nose should be neutral to pink in color.
- May be polled or horned. Horns must be indicative of acceptable Finewool breeds.

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Moderate amounts of brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool.
- Moderate freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, nose, and lips.
- Black eyelashes.
- Excessive black streaking in hooves more than 1/8 cumulative of hoof surface.
- Birthmarks.

#### Absolute Disqualifications

- Excessively coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
- Excessive coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs.
- Excessive brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool.
- Excessive freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, nose, and lips.
- Brown or black spots in hairline above the hooves to the dew claw.
- Solid black hooves.
- Black lambs.
- Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.
- Head shape non-typical to the Finewool breeds (Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet, or a cross between these breeds).

## **FINEWOL CROSS:**

### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must be a cross with evidence of at least 50% finewool breeding and the remaining percentage exhibiting predominance of ONLY Hampshire and/or Suffolk breeding.
- Soft pelt which is characteristic of ½ blood wool (60's-62's spinning count).
- Face and ears should be soft and silky.
- Spotting and/or brown face and ears.
- Moderate spotting and/or brown legs not extending above the rear flank and fore flank.
- Wool must be present below the hocks on the rear legs; wool below the knees on the front legs is not necessary.
- Reddish, rust colored legs are acceptable.
- White-faced or ring-eyed crosses are acceptable if pelt is acceptable - as long as no discriminatory characteristics are present.
- Birthmarks.
- Scurs and/horns are acceptable. Horns must be indicative of acceptable Finewool breeds.

### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Excessive black spotting in the skin above the knees and hocks.
- Moderate black or brown color on face, ears and legs (including wool.)
- Moderately coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
- Moderately coarse, chalky, white hair on face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs.

### Absolute Disqualifications

- Excessive black or dark chocolate brown color on face, ears, and legs (including wool).
- Excessively coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
- Excessive coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs.
- Total absence of wool on rear legs.
- Black lambs.
- Evidence of other breeds including but not limited to Dorset and Southdown breed types (head and ear shape of Dorset and/or Southdown)
- Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.

## **SOUTHDOWN:**

### Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Hair color on muzzle should be mouse colored, gray to brown and match color on legs and pasterns.
- Nostril pigmentation may be black to purplish-gray.
- Head and muzzle should be broad and proportional to body.
- Head of moderate length and in proportion to body.
- Ears of moderate length, in proportion to body, and covered with short hair or wool.
- Black hooves.
- Slight chalk around eyes.
- Slight chalk around muzzle.
- Spots or speckles in the skin only when shorn.

### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Solid white color or dark chocolate color on muzzle.
- Coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
- Predominately pink nose with few black spots.
- Long, narrow muzzle.
- Excessive black pigmentation on ears.
- Excessive ear length not in proportion to head.
- No hair or wool on ears.
- Scurs.
- Absence of wool between scur areas.
- Striped hooves.
- Reddish, rust colored hair above hoof to pastern.
- Black fiber in wool outside of birthmark.
- Birthmarks.

### Absolute Disqualifications

- Speckled face, ears, or legs.
- Horns.
- White hooves.
- Intentional alteration of hair color or skin pigmentation.
- Total pink pigmentation of nostrils.
- Black lambs.
- Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.

## **MEDIUM WOOL:**

This class generally includes the Suffolk and Hampshire breeds, plus all lambs that do not fit into the Dorper, Finewool, Finewool Cross and Southdown breed classes.