

# 2024-2028 TEXAS SHOW STEER BREED CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

Jason Cleere<sup>1</sup>, David Groschke<sup>1</sup>, Wade Shackelford<sup>2</sup>

Classifying the breed of a show steer in Texas used to be easy. Only three British breeds were shown. Crossbreeding among them was rare and easily recognized, and only Brahman crosses were shown in Texas.

Today, there are as many as 17 breeds and breed-cross classes in Texas shows, among about 75 breeds of cattle in the U.S. that could contribute to the genetic makeup of a steer.

To an outsider or novice, placing a steer in a breed class might appear to be simple. Just read the specifications for a class and then find an animal that meets the criteria, right? Please keep in mind: 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.

## CLASSIFICATION TERMS:

**Ideal Characteristics:** Characteristics in combination that most accurately represent the breed.

**Acceptable Breed Characteristics:** Characteristics that represent the breed.

**Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:** Characteristics that are not reason for absolute disqualification but in combination with other discriminatory visual characteristics could lead to disqualification.

**Absolute Disqualifications:** Unfavorable visual characteristics resulting in removal from a breed division.

**Considerations:** The following will be considered at the discretion of the classification committee: birthmarks or scarring (due to hot iron branding, freeze branding, or injury-caused discoloration).

## 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 (i.e., born without horns).
- ▶ Needs to have a sheath that is round and perpendicular to the ground.
- ▶ Angus-type ear set, small to moderate ear size sitting high on the head and tying horizontally into the poll.

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Continental breed type structure (being coarse about his joints, not to be confused with big-boned cattle) and head.
- ▶ Bumps or a ridge 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.

<sup>1</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<sup>2</sup>Prosper ISD

### 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.
- ▶ A defined ridge/bump running vertically from the center of the skull into the poll (i.e., TH Bump).

## 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, some white on lower 1/3 of leg.
- ▶ Traditional feather on neck.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Eye pigment.
- ▶ Solid red ear(s).
- ▶ Black hair in tail (or ear of animal).
- ▶ Freckling on the nose/face.
- ▶ White above switch in tail.
- ▶ White across rump above the twist.
- ▶ White on legs.
- ▶ White above the underline.

### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Solid white ear(s).
- ▶ Larger ear size.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Excessive line back.
- ▶ Coarse joints.
- ▶ Head:
  - Dish head
  - Excessive long head
  - Roman nose
  - Extreme muscle definition.

### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ Solid black nose.
- ▶ Diluter color pattern.
- ▶ Streaking of white from the feather off the shoulder.
- ▶ Brindles.
- ▶ Double muscling.
- ▶ Any color pattern other than red or white (birthmarks excluded).
- ▶ Excessive black hair on legs.

## Polled Hereford

### Ideal Breed Characteristics:

Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Polled Hereford.

- ▶ Some white on the back of both ears.
- ▶ Red body with white face, white underline, and some white on lower 1/3 of leg.
- ▶ Traditional feather on neck.
- ▶ Must be polled or have loose scurs.

### Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

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

- ▶ Dark red color.
- ▶ Red neck.
- ▶ Eye pigment.
- ▶ Solid red ear(s).
- ▶ Black hair in tail (or ear of animal).
- ▶ Freckling on the nose/face.
- ▶ White above switch in tail.
- ▶ White across rump above the twist.
- ▶ White on legs.

- ▶ White above the underline.

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Solid white ear(s).
- ▶ Larger ear size.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Excessive line back.
- ▶ Coarse joints.
- ▶ Head:
  - Dish head
  - Excessive long head
  - Roman nose
  - Extreme muscle definition.

#### 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.
- ▶ Any color pattern other than red or white (birthmarks excluded).
- ▶ Excessive black hair on legs.

### 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.
- ▶ Needs to have a sheath that is round and perpendicular to the ground.

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Coarse joints (not to be confused with big-boned cattle).
- ▶ Solid white switch.
- ▶ Smut/gray nose pigmentation.

#### 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 or tail/switch.
- ▶ Black pigmentation of the skin (not to be confused with freckling on the nose or anus).
- ▶ Roaning.
- ▶ Dehorning scars or evidence of dehorning.
- ▶ Black skin on the nose.
- ▶ A defined ridge/bump running vertically from the center of the skull into the poll (i.e., TH Bump).

### Shorthorn

#### Acceptable Breed Classifications:

- ▶ Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Shorthorn.
- ▶ Red with white hair in tail switch.
- ▶ White with red hair or red pigment on ear, muzzle, anus, or tail.
- ▶ Any combination of red and white, with the red and white color pattern bleeding together.

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Orange or light red color.
- ▶ Black nose pigment.
- ▶ Coarse head.
- ▶ Coarse joints/structure.
- ▶ Solid red with red tail switch.
- ▶ Round muscle pattern.

#### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ Diluter color pattern (e.g., yellow or yellow roan).
- ▶ Blacks, blue roans, or grays.
- ▶ Brindle.
- ▶ Solid white with no red pigment on the ears, tail, or anus.
- ▶ Motley-face or brockle-face.
- ▶ Black hair (any location).



Figure 1. Examples of sheath scores.

## BRAHMAN TYPE (ABC)

This group is sometimes called American breeds. Physical evidence of Brahman background is important and includes ear length, ear shape, amount of hide, and hump/crest (Figs. 1 and 2).

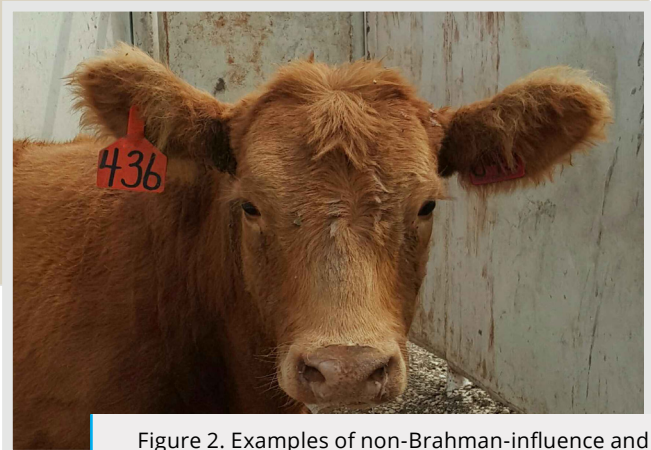


Figure 2. Examples of non-Brahman-influence and Brahman-influenced ears for American breeds cross.

### Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Any color (or color pattern).
- ▶ Progression of importance to include *Bos indicus*-influenced head (longer from eye-to-nose than from eye-to-poll), eye (e.g., almond shaped), ear of adequate length (slightly drooping, slightly tapering at the end, 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 50 percent Brahman.

- ▶ A prominent hump beginning at the shoulder and going forward but must angle back down to the neck to create a hump—the width of the hump base should wrap around the neck or shoulder and not be a crest.
- ▶ Any color (or color pattern).
- ▶ With adequate *Bos indicus* head, eye, ear sheath/ navel should represent Brahman characteristics.

### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Sheath and navel score of 2 or less.

### Absolute Disqualification:

- ▶ A crest with an inadequate hump (or lack of hump).
- ▶ Inadequate *Bos indicus* head, eye, and/or 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 (scurs and slick spots acceptable).
- ▶ Progression of importance to include *Bos indicus*-influence 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 less important).
- ▶ Shows some evidence of a crest.
- ▶ Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:
- ▶ 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 50 percent purebred 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 to 5.

### Discriminatory Breed Characteristic:

- ▶ Straight, pendulous sheath.
- ▶ Sheath score of 1.
- ▶ Brindle coloring.
- ▶ Excessive white.

### Absolute Disqualification:

- ▶ Absence of any visible Santa Gertrudis characteristics.
- ▶ Absence of *Bos indicus*-influenced head, eye, ear, or sheath.
- ▶ Smokes, silvers, grays.

## Simbrah

### Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ A sheath score of 2 or greater.
- ▶ With *Bos indicus* head, eye, and ear characteristics (sheath score is less important).
- ▶ Stocking legs.
- ▶ Bald, blaze, or streak-face or mottled-face.
- ▶ Solid black, solid red, or solid dun/tan combination with white (or any of the previously listed colors).
- ▶ Brindle color pattern with white markings.

### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ A sheath score of 1.
- ▶ A *Bos taurus* head.
- ▶ A *Bos taurus* ear.
- ▶ A *Bos taurus* eye.
- ▶ Brindle color pattern with no white.

### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ A combination of a *Bos taurus* head, ear, eye, and sheath.
- ▶ Roans.
- ▶ Grays.
- ▶ Smut.
- ▶ Silver.
- ▶ Solid yellow.

## 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 50 percent purebred Charolais.

- ▶ White, yellow, gray, or silver.
- ▶ Expression of diluter gene.
- ▶ Minimal painting or spotting (less than 20 percent).
- ▶ Skunk tail, line back, or baldy.

### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Painting or spotting (more than 20 percent).
- ▶ Double muscling.
- ▶ Frail bone work and frail general appearance.

- ▶ Light red color or orange.
- ▶ Short, stubby head.
- ▶ Overly refined, narrow head.
- ▶ Moderate black pigmentation (e.g., skin around eyes, nose, ears, or anus).
- ▶ Moderate dappling.

### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ Black, red, or dark smuts.
- ▶ Showing no diluter gene (unless solid white).
- ▶ Excessive painting or spotting.
- ▶ Brindles/brindling, roans.
- ▶ Excessive dappling.
- ▶ Excessive black pigmentation (e.g., skin around eyes, nose, ears, or anus).

## Limousin

### Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a Limousin:

- ▶ Head character
  - Eye(s) – Deeper socket, prominent brow, light pigment around eye on reds.
  - Poll – Typically have a wider poll.
  - Ear(s) – Tends to be smaller and set lower on head.
  - Muzzle – Tends to be short.
  - Sheath – Tends to have a forward angle.
- ▶ Legs/foot
  - Tends to be smooth-jointed.
  - Tends to be flat-boned.
  - Tends to be smooth-shouldered.
- ▶ Acceptable color: Solid black, red/orange, light red, charcoal black, chocolate black, orange, bald-face, or brockle-face.
- ▶ Brindle color pattern will be allowed—providing it does not extend below the mid-rib of the body.

### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Head character issues (i.e., roman nose), coarse joints/skeleton.
- ▶ Coarse open shoulders.
- ▶ Pointed poll.
- ▶ Bigger and more elongated ears/high ear set.
- ▶ Pencil sheath (e.g., hanging straight down).
- ▶ Excessive crest.

- ▶ Yellow color.
- ▶ Red cattle with black nose.
- ▶ Diluter gene.
- ▶ Excessive dappling.

#### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ Stocking leg(s) with white extending above the dew claw.
- ▶ Brindle below the mid-rib.
- ▶ Spotting above the underline.
- ▶ Roans, gray, silver, or white.
- ▶ Monkey/parrot mouth.
- ▶ Shows an excessive influence of another breed other than Limousin.

### Maine Anjou

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Solid red.
- ▶ Solid black.
- ▶ Red and white.
- ▶ Black and white.
- ▶ Heavy skeletal structure.
- ▶ Cattle may have black hair on the tail, muzzle, face, neck, and legs.

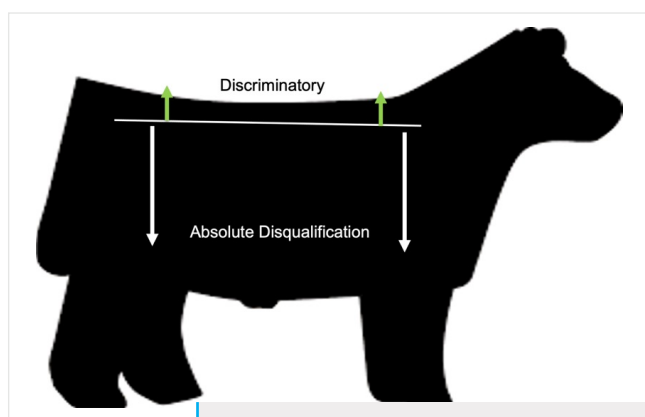


Figure 3. Maine Anjou brindling guidelines.

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Slight brindling on topline and down toward the loin edge (Fig. 3).
- ▶ Signs of feathering on the neck.

#### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ Brindle (down past the topline, extending onto the rib and down).
- ▶ Roans.
- ▶ Diluter color pattern (e.g., yellow, orange, gray).
- ▶ Appears to be more than 50 percent of any other breed.

### Simmental

#### Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Simmental:

- ▶ Typically, longer head and larger ears.
- ▶ Lower ear set.
- ▶ Heavy skeletal structure.
- ▶ Acceptable colors and patterns:
- ▶ Solid black or red.
- ▶ Red and white, black and white, or yellow and white.
- ▶ Bald, blaze, or streak-face.
- ▶ Some painting above the underline (no bleeding of colors) (i.e., spotting).

#### Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ Excessive spotting.
- ▶ Excessive white above the underline.
- ▶ Motley, brockle, star, or diamond-shaped white in the head.
- ▶ Excessive white on the tail above the switch.
- ▶ Refined skeletal makeup.

#### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ Shows excessive influence of another breed type other than Simmental.
- ▶ Silver, smoke, white, smut, gray, or any combination of these.
- ▶ Solid yellow or orange.
- ▶ Brindle.
- ▶ Roans.
- ▶ Skunk tail.



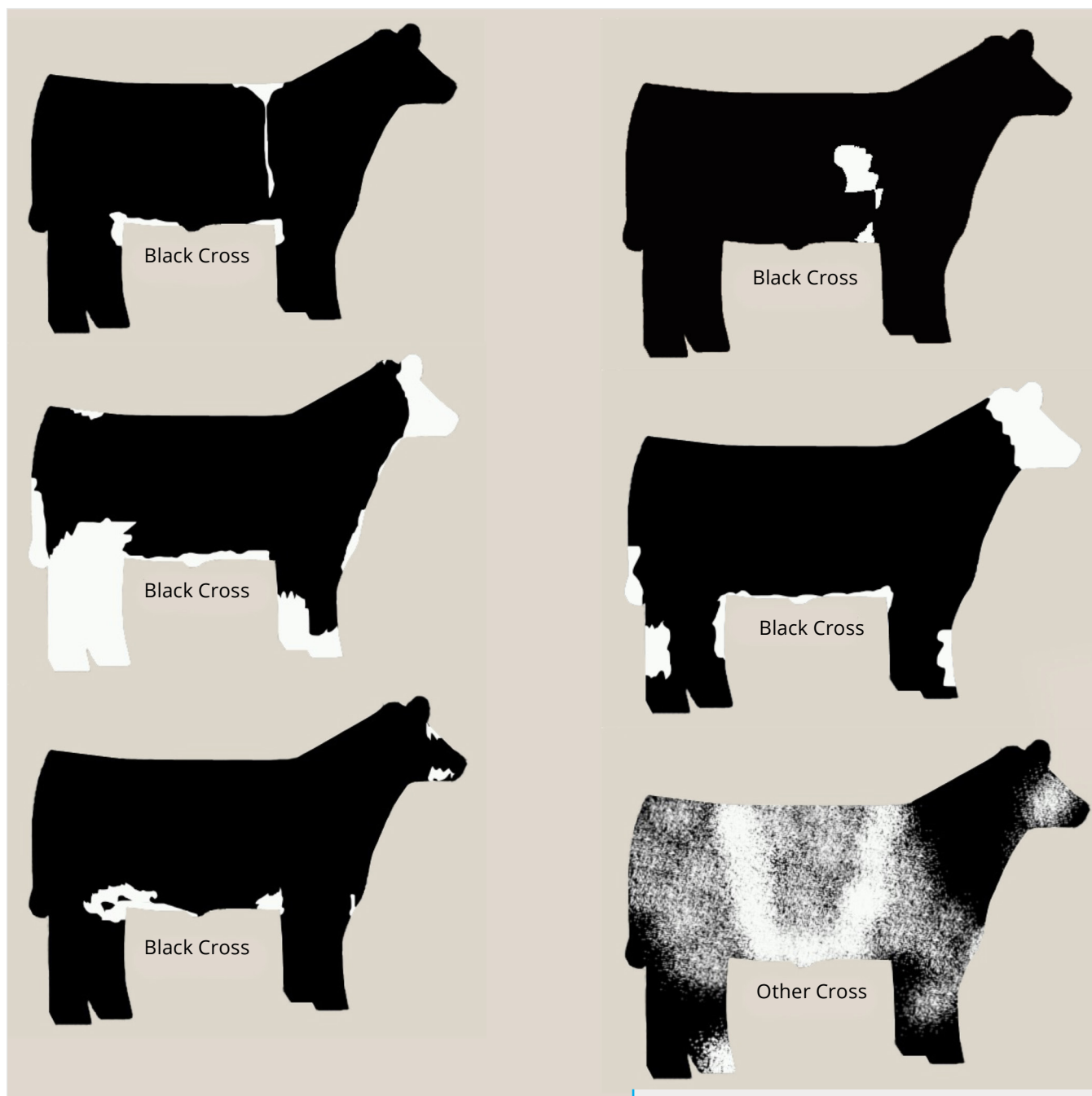


Figure 4. Black cross cattle (and other cross examples).

## Cross Divisions

### Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ 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 9 inches (e.g., 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 (e.g., basketball size).
- ▶ Absent of diluter gene.



### Discriminatory Characteristics:

- ▶ Slight brindling is allowed, provided it does not extend below the fore and rear flanks.

### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ Roans.
- ▶ Excessive white in the body cavity collectively larger than 9 inches (e.g., basketball size) in diameter per side—cannot be all on the same side.

### Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

- ▶ 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 9 inches (e.g., 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 (e.g., basketball size).
- ▶ Absent of diluter gene.
- ▶ Black hair outside the body cavity and below the anus is permissible.

### Discriminatory Characteristics:

- ▶ Slight brindling is allowed, provided it does not extend below the fore and rear flanks.

### Absolute Disqualifications:

- ▶ Roans.
- ▶ Excessive white in the body cavity collectively larger than 9 inches (e.g., basketball size) in diameter per side—cannot be all on the same side.

### Other Cross Division

- ▶ Steers of any coloration pattern are acceptable.

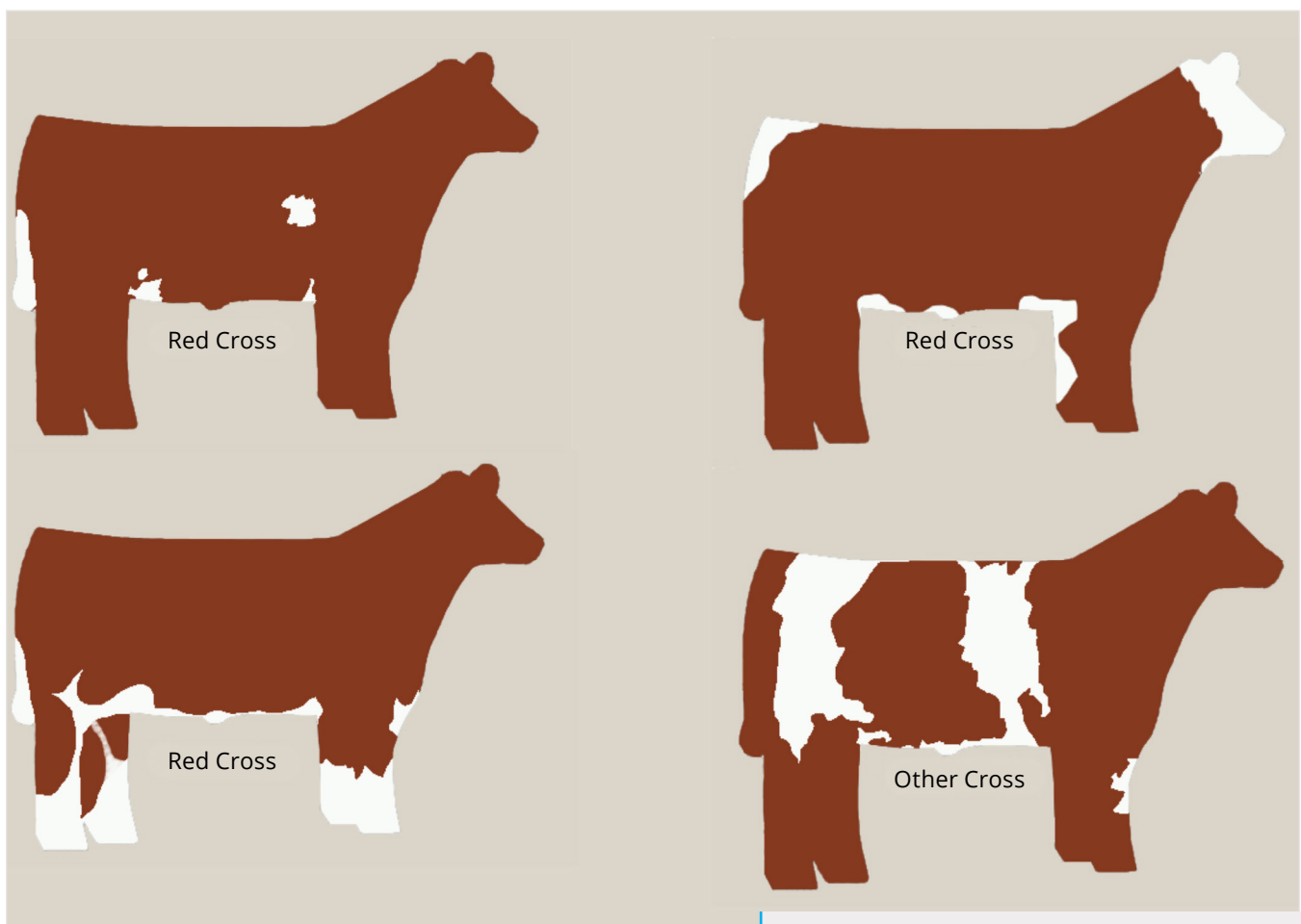


Figure 5. Red cross cattle (and other cross examples).

## CLASSIFICATION GLOSSARY

**American breeds:** Breeds created in the U.S. 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):** Sub-species of cattle originating in South Asia—has a prominent hump on top or in front of shoulder.

**Bos taurus:** Sub-species 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 (i.e., tiger stripe).

**British/English:** Cattle originating in the British Isles—Angus, Hereford, and Shorthorn are most plentiful in the U.S.

**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 (e.g., 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(s) attached to skin but not the skull.

**Sheath score:** Scoring system from 1 to 5 based on the length of the sheath (i.e., 1 = little sheath; 5 = excess sheath).

**Smut:** Dark gray color pattern.

**Spotting:** White spots on the steer.

## SUMMARY

In the commercial beef industry, most cattle are sorted by visual characteristics into numerous groups for marketing purposes. Similarly, during livestock shows, participating steers are sorted into breed classes based on visual characteristics. In most classes there are few factors that will absolutely disqualify an animal, which are usually easily identified. Instead, most disqualified animals have more than one subjectively evaluated discriminatory characteristic.

Steers should be selected and shown based only on their visual appearance because that is how they will be evaluated for classification. Remember: Classifiers are asked to exercise their judgment. If a steer is classified out, it does not mean that the classifier or anyone else is accusing someone of lying, cheating, or being unethical—nor does it mean that the steer cannot be the breed that the producer/rancher says it is. Look at breed classification as the first stage of judging. Do not be too upset if the classifier makes (or he or she is perceived to have made) a mistake. It is all a matter of judgment.

---

The authors of this publication would like to recognize the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, the Texas Association of Extension 4-H Agents, the Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association of Texas, and Texas and national purebred cattle associations for their input in preparing this document. The following guidelines were developed by representatives of these organizations during the Texas Steer Classification Workshop that was held May 9-10, 2022, in Waco, Texas.

---

# Swine Breed Classification Guidelines

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.



Please keep in mind, 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.

## CLASSIFICATION TERMS:

**Ideal:** Characteristics in combination that most accurately represent the breed.

**Acceptable:** Characteristics that represent the breed.

**Discriminatory:** Characteristics that are not reason for absolute disqualification but in combination with other discriminatory visual characteristics could lead to removal from a breed division.

**Absolute Disqualifications:** Unfavorable visual characteristics resulting in removal from a breed division.

# Breed Classification Guidelines

## BERKSHIRE

### Ideal

1. Predominantly black possessing Berkshire breed character with regards to skull shape and ear shape.
2. A Berkshire should have six white points: nose, each leg/foot and at end of tail (unless tail is docked).
3. Erect ears.

### Acceptable

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

### Discriminatory

1. Gray pigmentation on the body (spotting or mottling pattern).
2. Moderate amount of white skin splashes.

### Absolute Disqualification

1. Solid white or solid black face from base of ear forward.
2. Solid black nose (white does not break rim of nose).
3. Solid white ear.
4. Excessive white on the body.
  - a. Full coverage of white coming up the lower one-third of the body (not including legs) that extends from the base of the jaw through sternum and lower body through seam of the ham.
  - b. White splash extends from rear leg to upper hip.
5. White skin or hair that continuously encircles the body anywhere between the base of the ear and the base of the tail.
6. Any evidence of belt formation on the body.
7. Lacks breed character with regards to skull and/or ear shape.
8. Any evidence of physical tampering that would alter breed character.

## CHESTER WHITE

### Ideal

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

### Acceptable

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

### Discriminatory

1. Partially erect/level ear.
2. Skin pigmentation.

### Absolute Disqualification

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

# Breed Classification Guidelines

## **DUROC**

### **Ideal**

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

### **Acceptable**

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

### **Discriminatory**

1. Minimal amounts of black hair.
2. Black spots on the skin under two inches in diameter.
3. Partially erect/level ears.

### **Absolute Disqualifications**

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

## **HAMPSHIRE**

### **Ideal**

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

### **Acceptable**

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

### **Discriminatory**

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

### **Absolute Disqualification**

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

# Breed Classification Guidelines

## LANDRACE

### Ideal

1. Must be solid white possessing Landrace breed character.
2. Large ears that droop and slant forward coming to a sharp point.

### Acceptable

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

### Discriminatory

1. Short rounded ears.
2. Short snout mimicking that of a Chester White.

### Absolute Disqualification

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

## POLAND CHINA

### Ideal

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

### Acceptable

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

### Discriminatory

1. Partially erect/level ears.
2. A moderate continuation of white from the legs to the body.
3. Moderate freestanding white, not attached to a leg.

### Absolute Disqualification

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

# Breed Classification Guidelines

## SPOTTED

### Ideal

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

### Acceptable

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

### Discriminatory

1. Partially erect/level ears.
2. Moderate brown spots.

### Absolute Disqualification

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

## YORKSHIRE

### Ideal

1. Must be completely white in color possessing Yorkshire breed character.
2. Erect ears.

### Acceptable

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

### Discriminatory

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

### Absolute Disqualification

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

## CROSSBRED

*Recommendations for Rodeo Austin and the San Angelo Stock Show.*

### Light Cross:

1. Any pigs with white and/or blue only.

### Dark Cross/Other Cross:

1. All other colors (i.e. black, red and sandy).
2. Excluding solid white or blue.

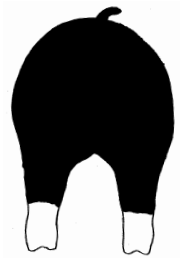
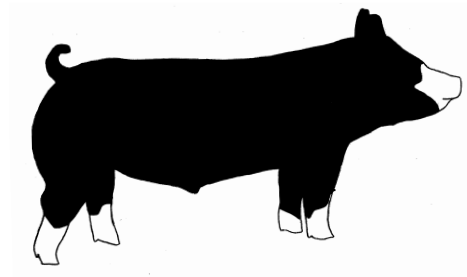
*No recommendations for the Houston Livestock Show, San Antonio Stock Show, Fort Worth Stock Show or State Fair of Texas based upon current breed and class requirements.*



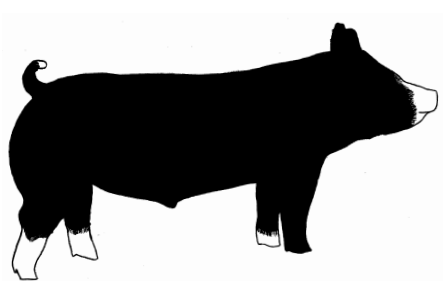
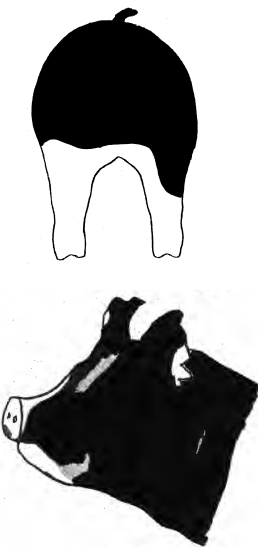
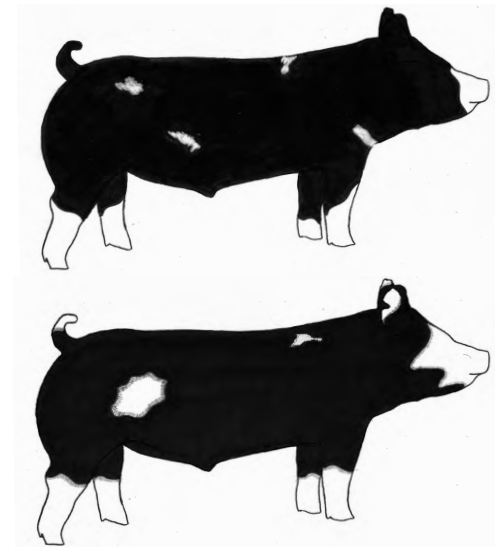
**BERKSHIRE**

**Breed Classification Guidelines**

**Ideal:**



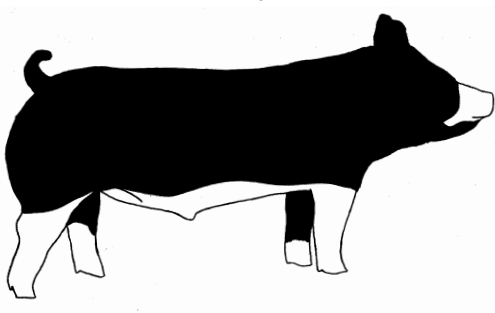
**Acceptable:**



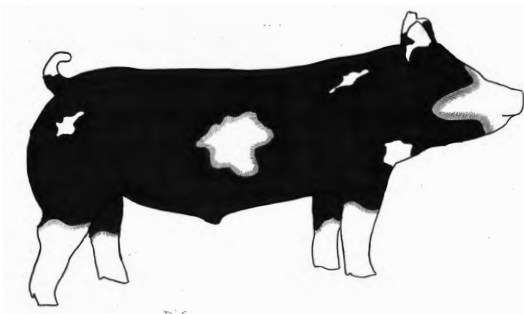
Three of the four legs/feet must be white.

An occasional splash of white skin/hair may appear on the body.

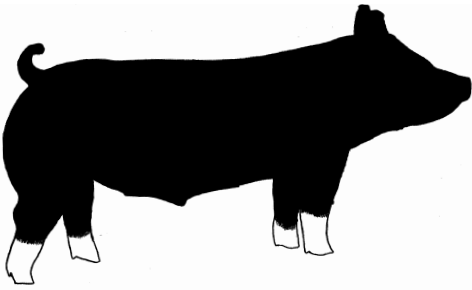
**Discriminatory:**



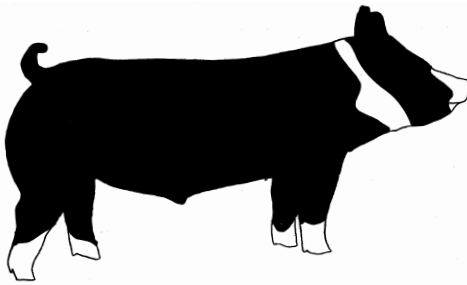
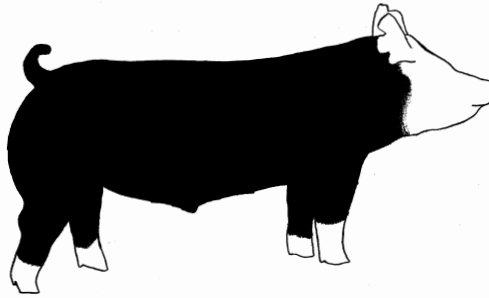
Moderate amount of white skin splashes.



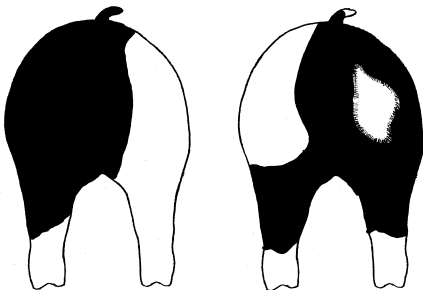
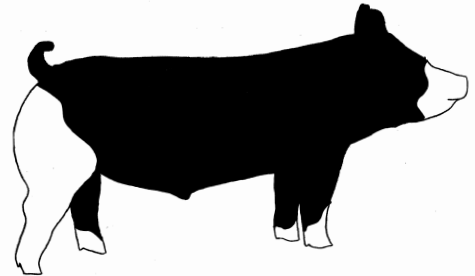
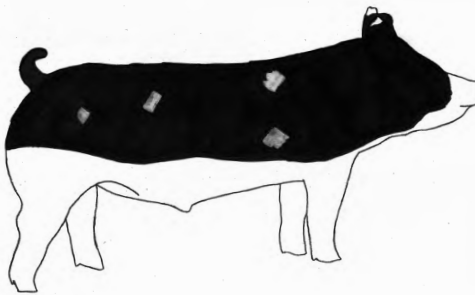
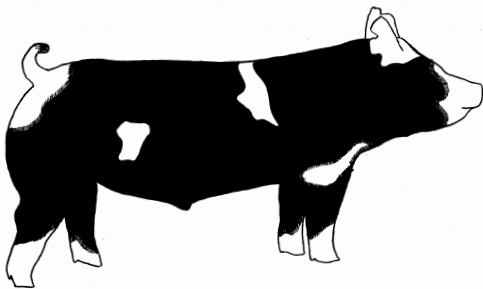
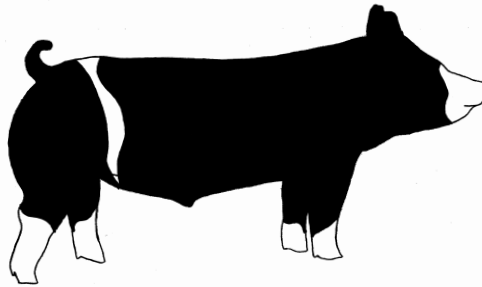
## Absolute Disqualification:



Solid white or solid black face from the base of the ear forward.



White skin or hair that continuously encircles the body anywhere between the base of the ear and the base of the tail.



Excessive white on the body.

- Full coverage of white coming up the lower one-third of the body (not including legs) that extends from the base of the jaw through sternum and lower body through seam of the ham.
- White splash extends from rear leg to upper hip.



Solid white ear.



Solid black nose (white does not break the rim of the nose).



Lacking Berkshire breed character with regards to skull shape and ear shape.

## CHESTER WHITE

Ideal:



Discriminatory:



Absolute Disqualification:



## DUROC

Ideal:



Discriminatory:

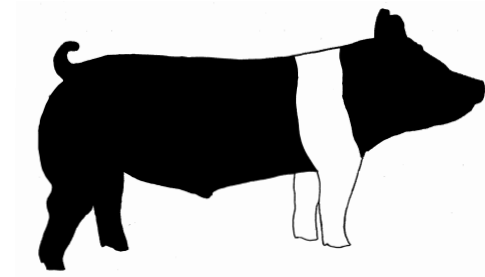


Absolute Disqualification:

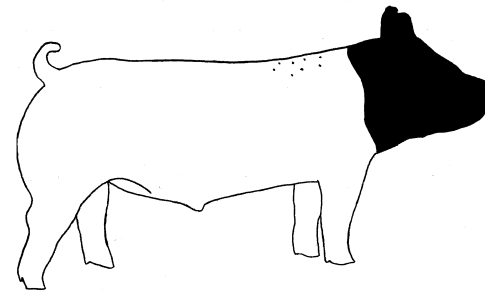


# HAMPSHIRE

## Ideal:

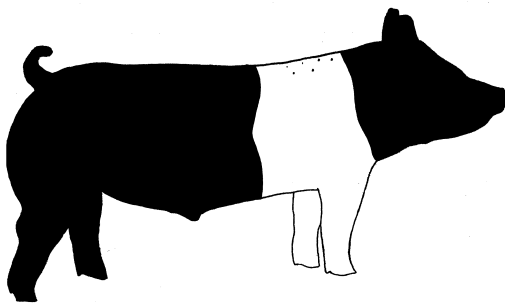
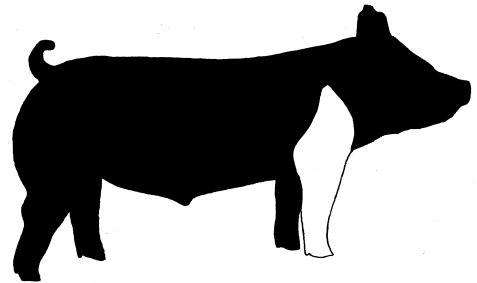


## Acceptable:



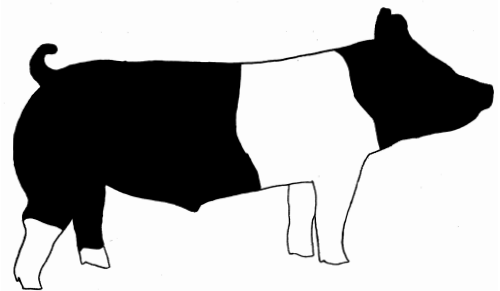
Black head with a white body, with evidence of pigment and freckling down the top.

White belt starting on a front foot/leg; belt partially encircles body extending to at least the chest floor (half belt).

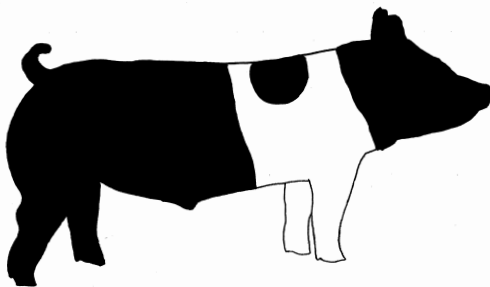


Freckling in the belt.

White on rear leg is below the base of the ham.

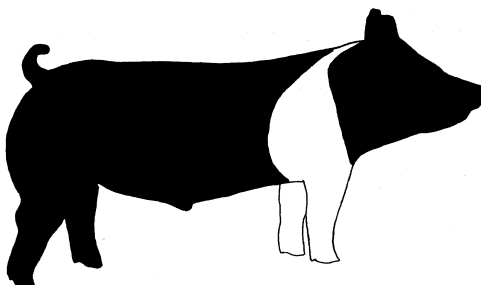
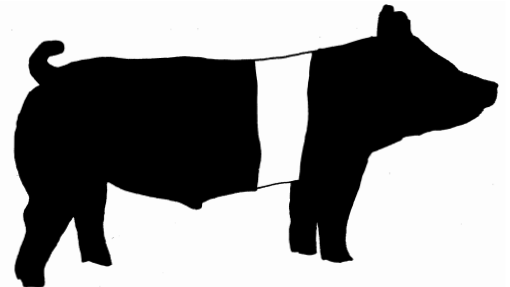


## Discriminatory:

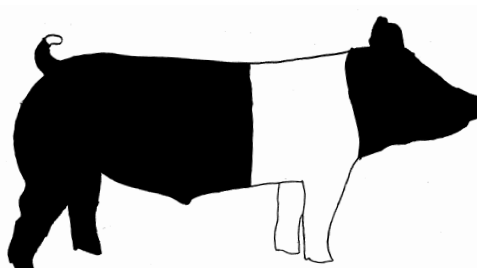


Large spots within the belt.

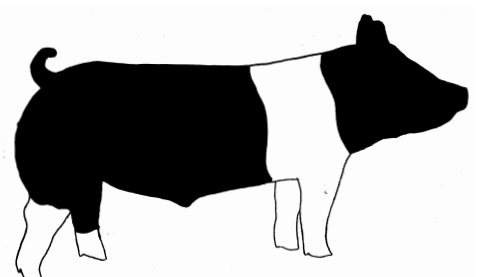
Belt is in front of or behind a solid black front leg.



If belt v's and progresses towards the poll (base of the ear).



White tip on tail, if docked.



White on rear leg extends to the base of the ham.

## Absolute Disqualification:



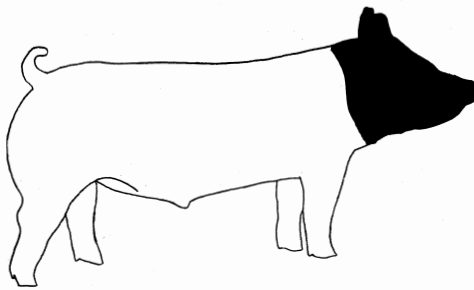
Streaking or evidence of white on forehead.



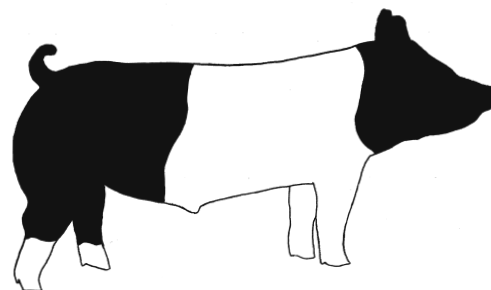
White skin extends over the rim of the nose.



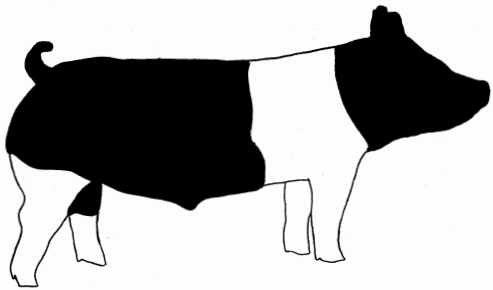
White under the chin cannot exceed what a U.S. minted quarter will cover.



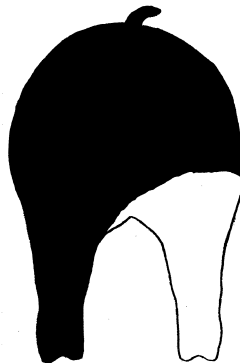
Black head with a white body without freckles or pigmentation.



Belt extends past the sheath (sheath must be black).



White on rear leg extends above the base of the ham.



## **LANDRACE**

**Ideal:**



**Discriminatory:**

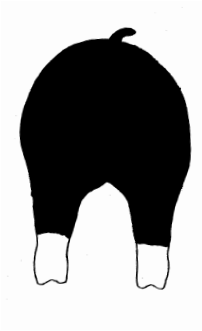
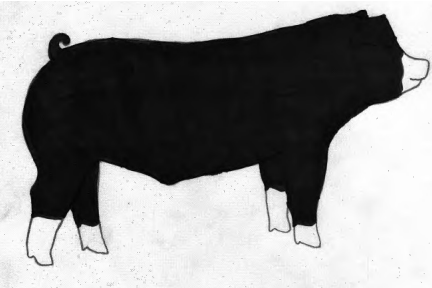


**Absolute Disqualification:**

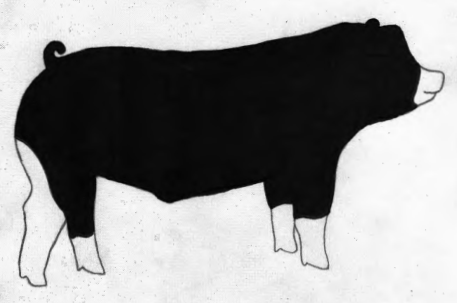


**POLAND CHINA**

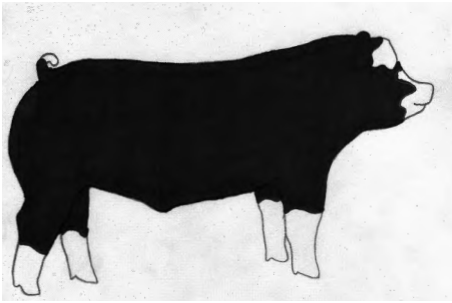
**Ideal:**



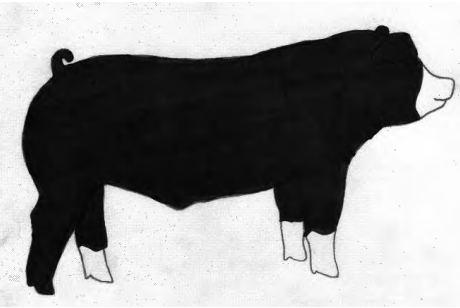
**Acceptable:**



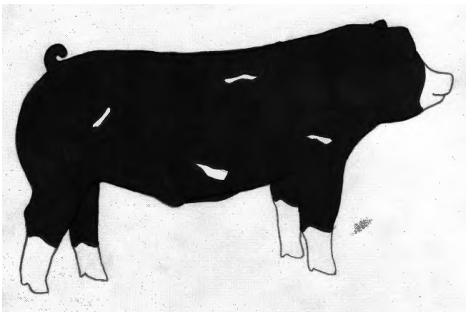
A slight continuation of white from the legs to the body.



Ear may have white on it.

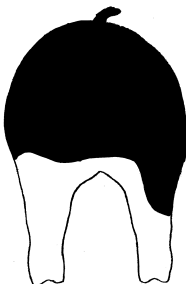
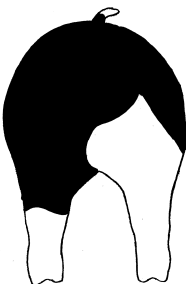
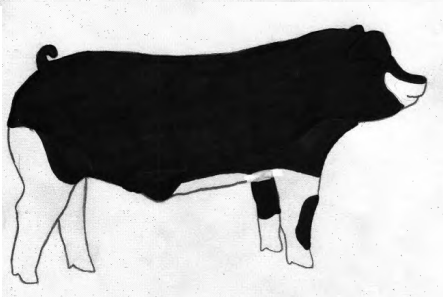
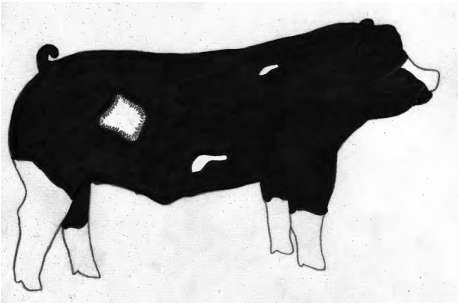
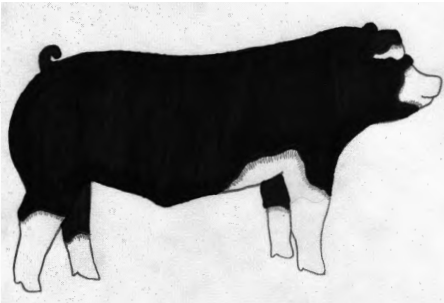
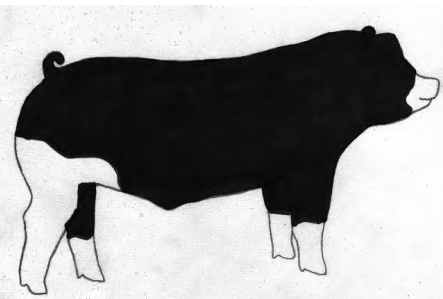


Three of the four legs must be white.



May have an occasional splash of white on the body.

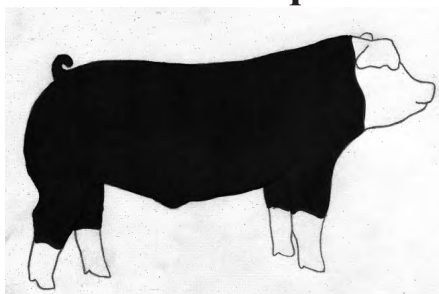
**Discriminatory:**



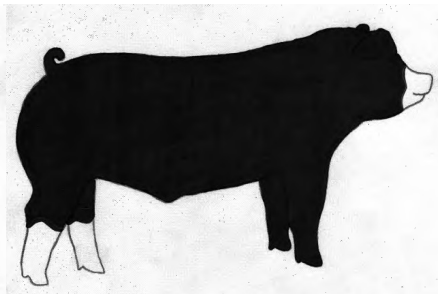
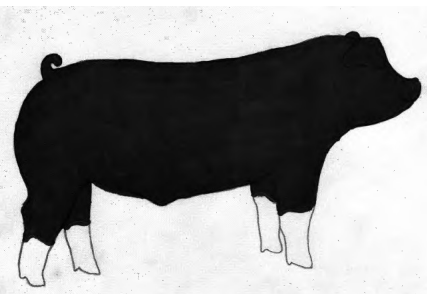
A moderate continuation of white from the legs to the body or moderate freestanding white, not attached to a leg.



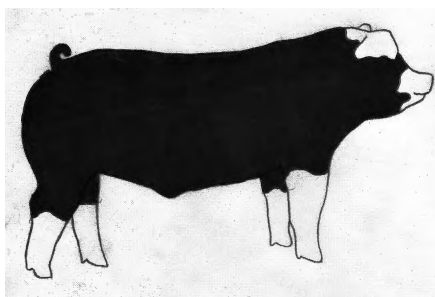
## Absolute Disqualification:



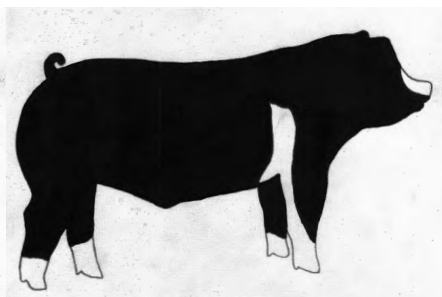
Solid white or solid black face.



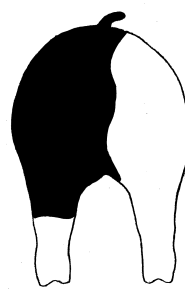
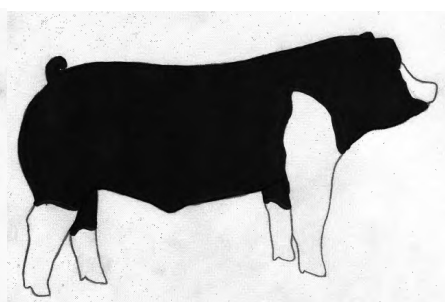
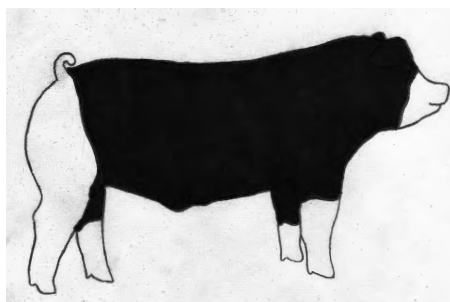
More than one solid black leg.



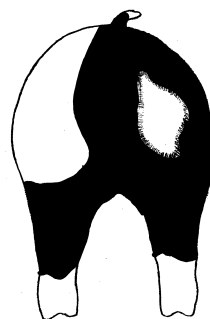
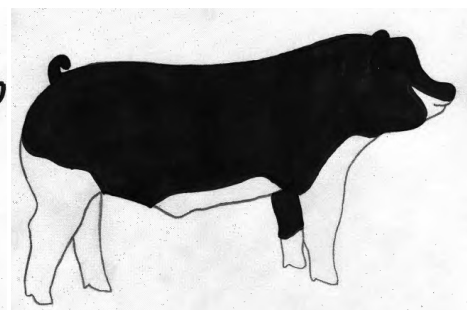
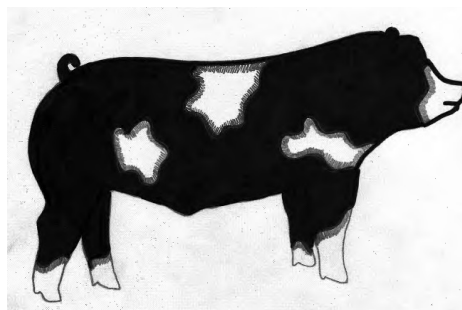
If the white on a solid white ear goes past the base of the ear.



Evidence of belt formation.



An excessive continuation of white from the legs, encompassing the upper hip or shoulder.



Excessive freestanding white, not attached to a leg.

## **POLAND CHINA & SPOTTED**

**Ideal:**



**Discriminatory:**

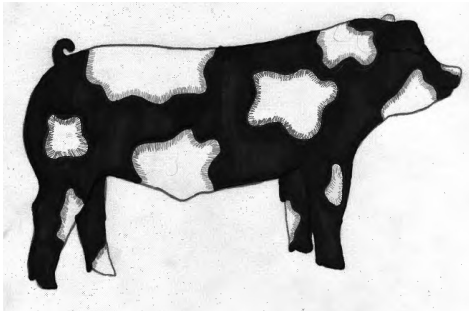
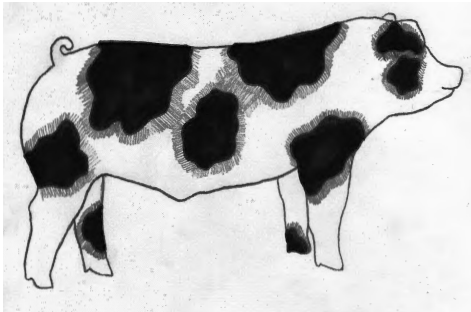


**Absolute Disqualification:**

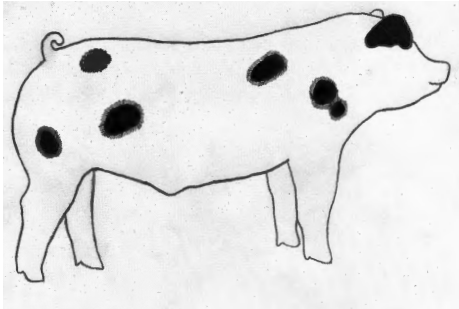


**SPOTTED**

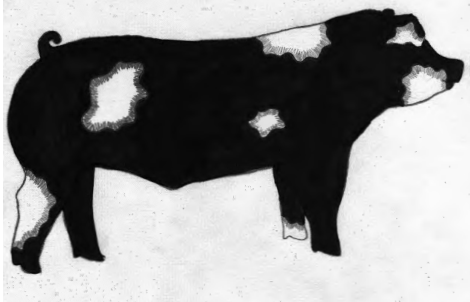
**Ideal:**



**Acceptable:**

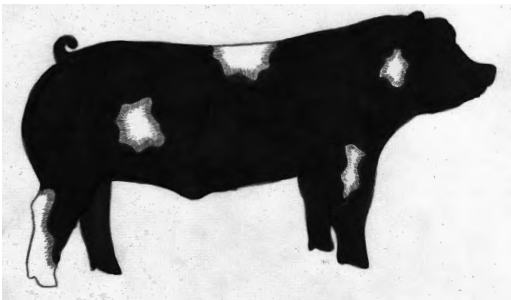


Predominantly white with black spots.

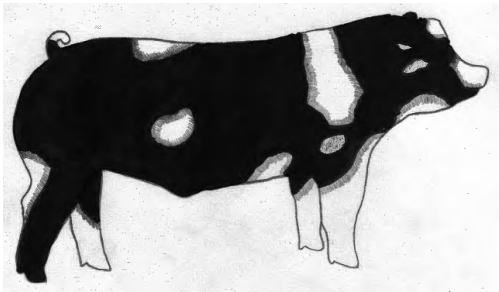


Predominantly black with white spots.

**Absolute Disqualification:**



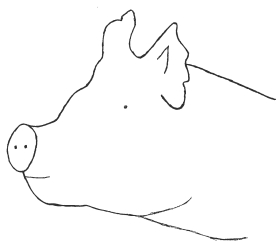
Solid black head from base of ears forward.



Distinct white belt pattern (hair or skin) encircling and extending down and onto each shoulder.

## **YORKSHIRE:**

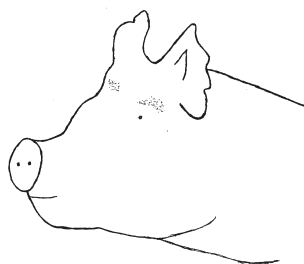
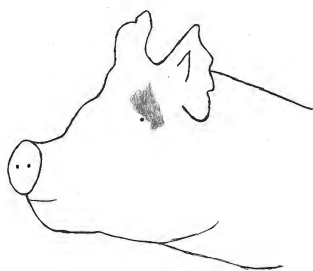
**Ideal:**



**Discriminatory:**



**Absolute Disqualification:**



# Lamb Breed Classification Guidelines

A collaboration by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, TCAAA Animal Industries Committee, Texas FFA Major Livestock Show Advisory Committee, Texas FFA, and Texas 4-H.



Please keep in mind, 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.

## CLASSIFICATION TERMS:

**Acceptable:** Characteristics that represent the breed.

**Discriminatory:** Characteristics that are not reason for absolute disqualification but in combination with other discriminatory visual characteristics could lead to removal from a breed division.

**Absolute Disqualifications:** Unfavorable visual characteristics resulting in removal from a breed division.

**Scur:** Horn growth that is not completely attached to the skull.

**Birthmark:** Dark pigmented skin with dark fiber present within the margins of the pigmentation.

## **FINEWOOL**

### **Acceptable**

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

### **Discriminatory**

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

### **Absolute Disqualification**

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

Finewools classed out will be assigned to either the Finewool Cross or Medium wool breeds at the determination of the classifiers.

### FINEWOOL CROSS

#### Acceptable

1. The standard for Finewool Crosses is a Finewool Ewe (Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet, or a cross between these breeds) bred to a Hampshire or Suffolk Rams only.
2. Soft pelt which is characteristic of ½ blood wool (60's-62's spinning count).
3. Face and ears should be soft and silky.
4. Spotting and/or brown face and ears.
5. Moderate spotting and/or brown legs not extending above the rear flank and fore flank.
6. Wool must be present below the hocks on the rear legs; wool below the knees on the front legs is not necessary.
7. Reddish, rust colored legs are acceptable.
8. Birthmarks.
9. Scurs are acceptable.

#### Discriminatory

1. Excessive black spotting in the skin above the knees and hocks.
2. Moderate black or chocolate brown color on face, ears and legs (including wool).
3. Moderately coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
4. White-faced or ring-eyed crosses.
5. Moderately coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs.
6. Horns are discriminatory on finewool crosses (except classed out finewools with horns indicative of acceptable finewool breeds).

#### Absolute Disqualification

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



## **SOUTHDOWN**

### **Acceptable**

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

#### **10. Birthmarks.**

### **Discriminatory**

1. Solid white color or dark chocolate color on muzzle **and/or head.**
2. Coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
3. Predominately pink nose with few black spots.
4. Excessive black pigmentation on ears.
5. No hair or wool on ears.
6. Scurs.
7. Absence of wool between scur areas.
8. Striped hooves.
9. Reddish, rust colored hair above hoof to pastern.
10. Black fibers in wool outside of birthmark.

### **Absolute Disqualification**

1. Speckled face, ears, or legs.
2. Horns.
3. White hooves.
4. Intentional alteration of hair color or skin pigmentation.
5. Total pink pigmentation of nostrils.
6. Black lambs.
7. Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
8. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge.
9. **Excessive ear size and length not in proportion to head.**
10. **Head, ear shape non-typical to the Southdown breed.**

### DORPER

#### Acceptable

1. Must be a Dorper or White Dorper.
2. Conformation: long, deep, wide body with well sprung ribs and excellent muscling.
3. Color: Dorper – white sheep with black limited to head, neck, and forequarters not below the knee or behind the heart girth; White Dorper – white sheep.
4. Must have at least 1/3 hair primarily on belly, forearm, and britch.
5. 100% hair below the knees and hocks.
6. 100% hair forward of poll.
7. Moderate size ear with no wool covering.
8. Head should be strong, bold with a deep jaw.
9. Polled or small horns or scurs.
10. Spots or speckled pigment in the skin only when shorn.
11. Black spots above the hoof line and below the dewclaw.

#### Discriminatory

1. Tall, leggy, shallow, and/or narrow-bodied lambs.
2. A limited amount of dark fibered spots on body and underline behind heart girth not to exceed a cumulative total of the size of a softball.
3. A white sheep with brown or red colored speckles in the covering, confined to the head and neck.
4. Excessive wool covering more than 2/3 of body (belly, forearm, and britch).
5. Wool forward of poll.
6. Heavy horns.

#### Absolute Disqualification

1. All wool or very little evidence of hair on belly, forearm, or britch.
2. Wool below the knees or hocks.
3. Wool on the ears.
4. Excessive amount of black fibered spots, on the body and underline behind heart girth exceeding a cumulative total of the size of a softball.
5. Black below the knee/hock to the dewclaw.
6. Tri-colored sheep
7. Solid brown, red, rust colored head.
8. Strong breed characteristics of breeds other than Dorper or White Dorper, such as long pendulous ears and long narrow muzzle.
9. Surgical alterations other than re-docking.
10. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.
11. Evidence of color alterations.

## **Breed Classification Guidelines**

### **MEDIUM WOOL**

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