

2024-2028 TEXAS SHOW STEER BREED CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

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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.

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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.

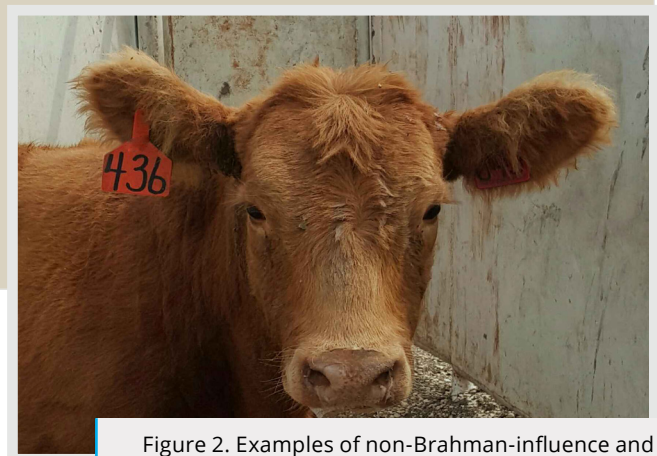


Figure 2. Examples of non-Brahman-influence and Brahman-influenced ears for American breeds cross.

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).

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.

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

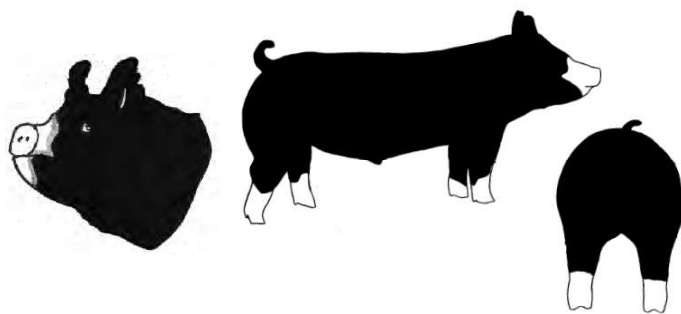
A collaboration by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, Animal Industries Committee, Texas FFA, Texas 4-H and Texas Pork Producers Association.

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

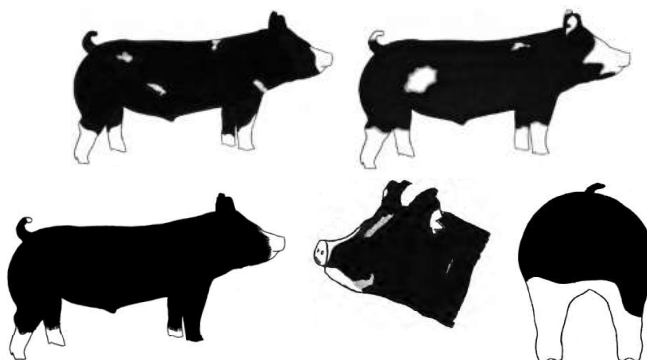
Ideal Characteristics

- 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).



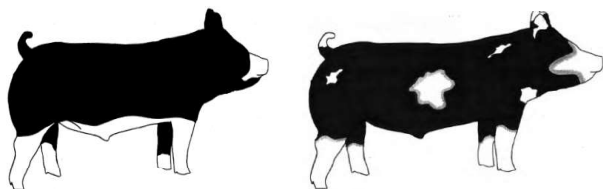
Acceptable Characteristics

- 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.



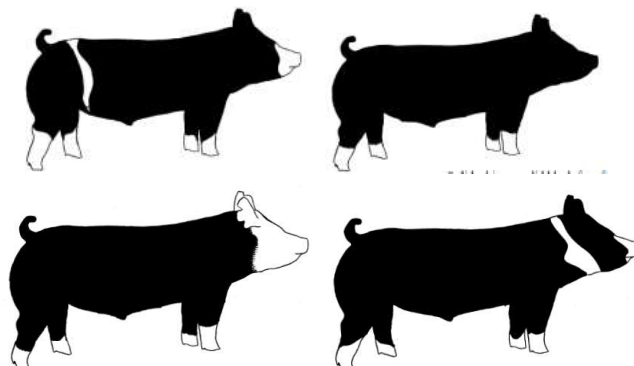
Discriminatory Characteristics

- 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:

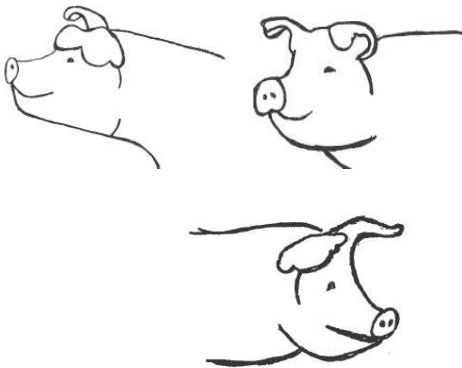
Ideal Characteristics

- 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).

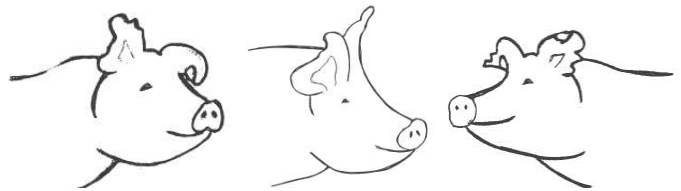


Acceptable Characteristics

- 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

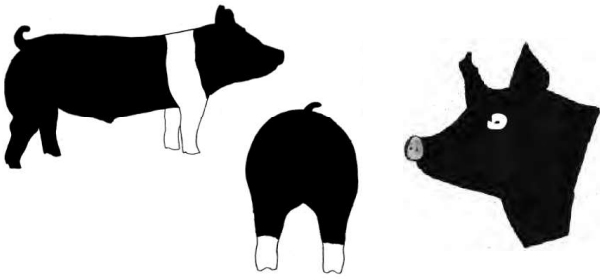
- Excessive amounts of black hair.
- White hair.
- White skin on the body or legs, or that extends over the rim of the nose.
- Four (4) or more black spots on the skin, any of which are larger than two (2) inches in diameter.
- Evidence of a belt.
- Erect ears.
- Any evidence of physical tampering that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



HAMPSHIRE:

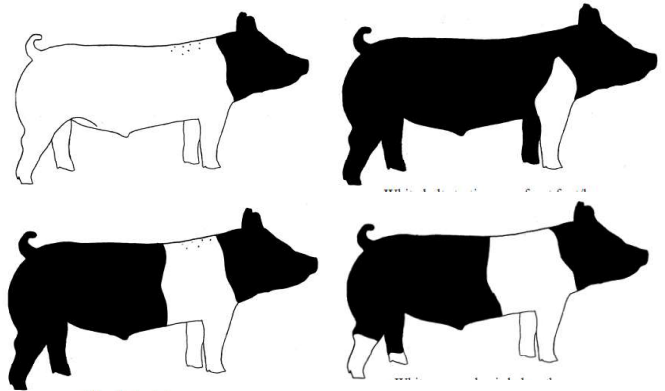
Ideal Characteristics

- 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.



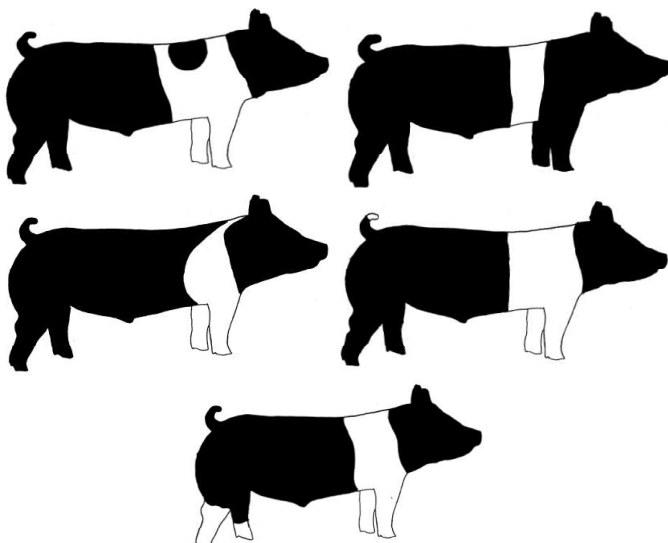
Acceptable Characteristics

- 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.



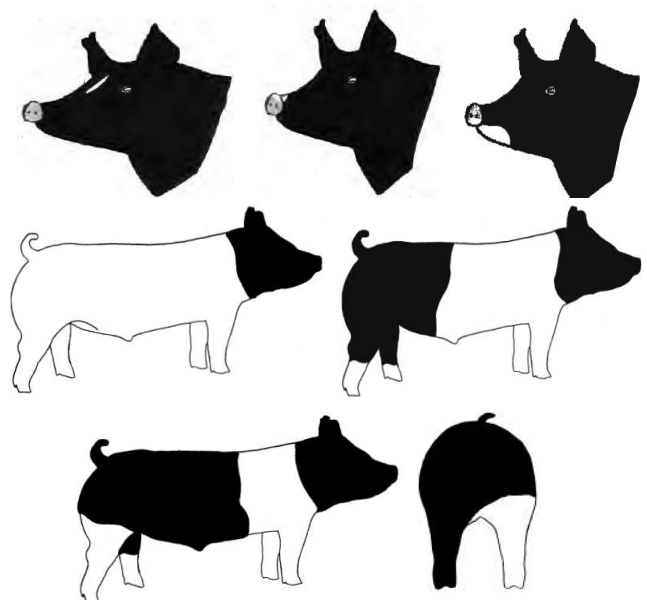
Discriminatory Characteristics

- 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.



Absolute Disqualifications

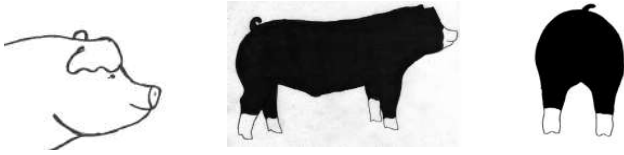
- Streaking or evidence of white on forehead.
- White skin extends over the rim of the nose.
- When mouth is closed, the white under the chin cannot exceed what a U.S. minted quarter will cover.
- Black head with a white body without freckles or pigmentation.
- Belt extends past the sheath (sheath must 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:**

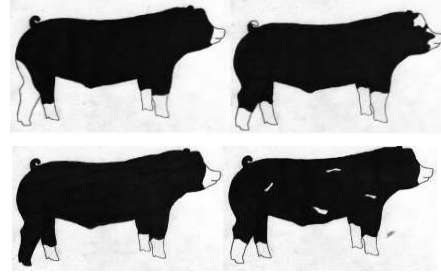
Ideal Characteristics

- 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.



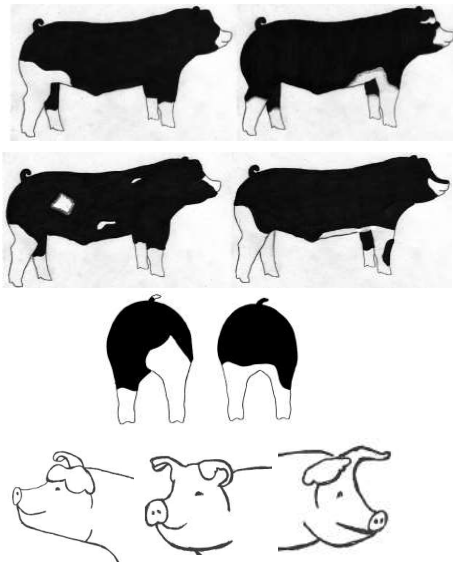
Acceptable Characteristics

- 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.



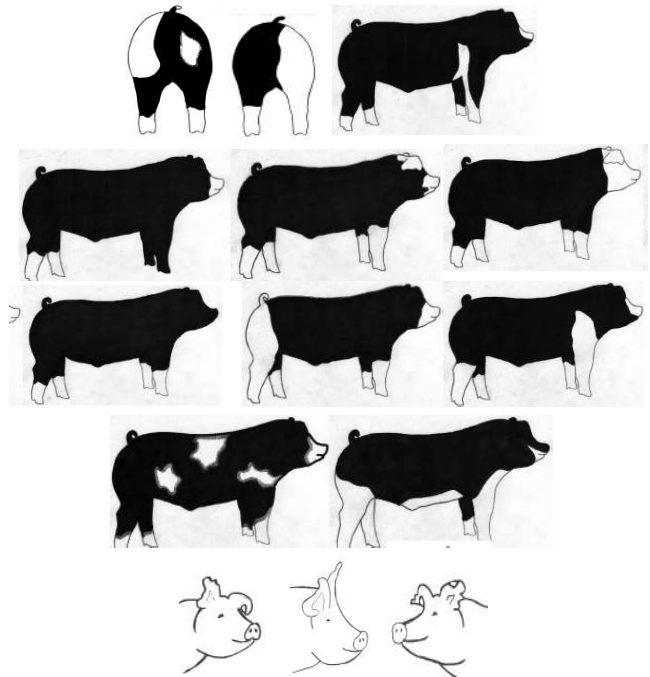
Discriminatory Characteristics

- 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

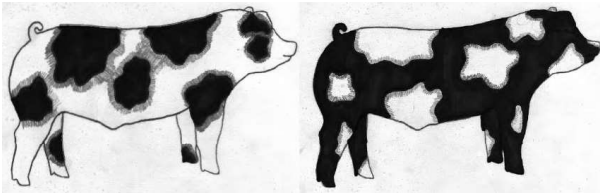
- Erect ears.
- Solid white or solid black face.
- More than one solid black leg.
- If the white on a solid white ear goes past the base of the ear.
- An excessive continuation of white from the legs, encompassing the upper hip or shoulder.
- Excessive freestanding white, not attached to a leg.
- Evidence 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.



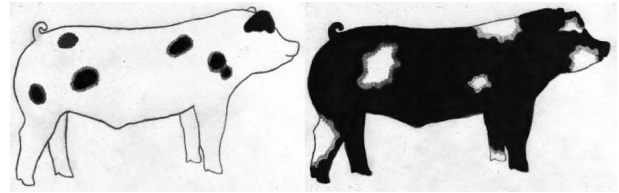
Discriminatory Characteristics

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



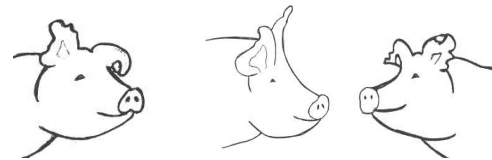
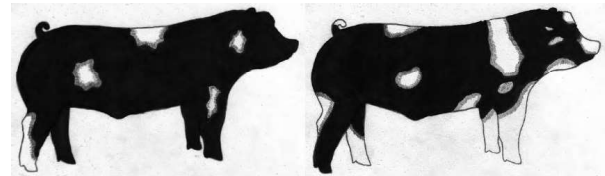
Acceptable Characteristics

- 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.

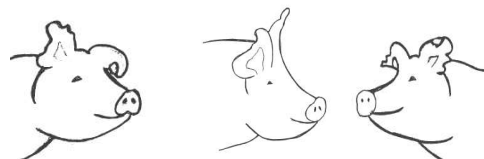


Acceptable Characteristics

- 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.

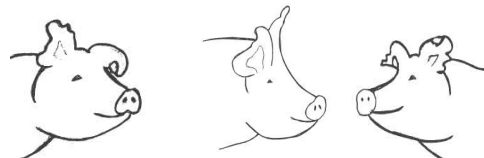


Acceptable Characteristics

- 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 2024

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 black fibered spots on body an underline behind girl exceeding a cumulative total of the size of a softball.
- Black below the knee/hock to the dewclaw.
- Tri-colored sheep
- 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, such as long pendulous ears and long narrow muzzle.
- 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 toe or 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).

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

FINEWOOL CROSS:

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- 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.
- 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.

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.
- White-faced or ring-eyed crosses.
- Moderately coarse, chalky, white hair on face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs.
- Horns are discriminatory on finewool crosses (except classed out finewools with horns indicative of acceptable finewool breeds).

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.
- Birthmarks.

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Solid white color or dark chocolate color on muzzle and/or head.
- Coarse britch and/or harsh pelt.
- Predominately pink nose with few black spots.
- Long, narrow muzzle.
- Excessive black pigmentation on ears.
- 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.

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.
- Excessive ear size and length not in proportion to head.
- Head, ear shape non-typical to the Southdown breed.

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.