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Showmanship

“Showmanship is won at home, the ring is where you pick up the banner”

“Every time you work with your animal you are casting a vote for yourself to win. Collect the most votes before the show”

“Showmanship is 80% at home, 20% at the show”



What are your goals for this year?

Some examples:

- ♦ Make weight
- ♦ Win showmanship
- ♦ Win market or breeding class

List your goals:

What does success look like to you?

Goat Selection Continued...



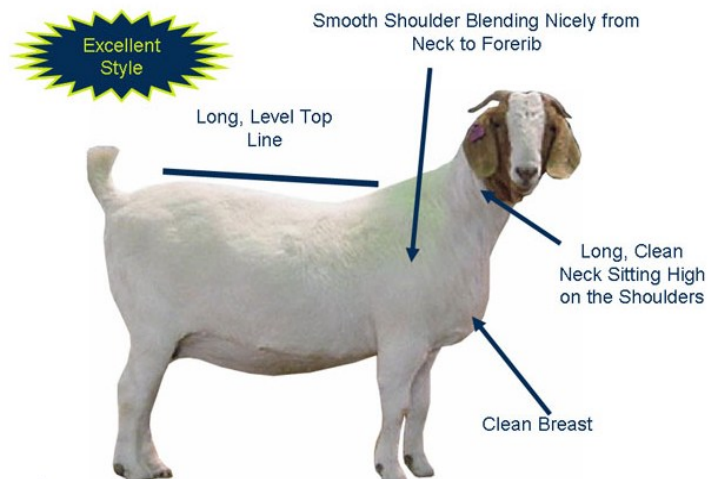
Below Average

Above Average

Profile View

Want goats to be wide and flat over rack. When looking at rump we want goats to have a long rump with a slight slope, a high tail head and square appearance.

Evaluating Style



Swine Project Showmanship:

Acclimation

Trust and tameness

Before you get your pig out of its pen, they must trust you

Get your pig calm by brushing, talking, scratching their belly, and spending time in their pen

Your pig should be excited to see you, that means they also trust you

Beginning

First time out

Start small, go to wash rack, practice pen, or just outside of the barn and back

Use two whips every time they leave the pen to train head up

Use your hands if they need to turn but won't respond to the whip

Do not let them win, bad habits early can become a summer of problems and stress for you and your pigs

Always end on a win and end positively; rinse/wash to cool

Controls

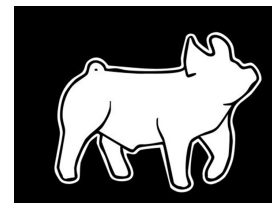
Taps on the side are the go button

Tap underneath chin to get head up

Tap on side of face/head to turn

Only tap on side when they slow or stop, constantly tap under chin to raise head

You shouldn't have to use whip nonstop; only when they stop doing what you want



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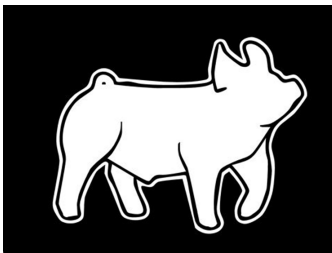
Next Step

Work at home

- Work with your pig as much as possible, daily for best results
- Use trees, objects, buckets as landmarks for walking pattern
- Change pattern daily, use separate pen or small portion of yard as the “show ring” to help visualize and practice

Endurance and Skills

- Work both endurance and skills each week
- Choose endurance days and skill days, as the show approaches combine both
- Your pig should be able to walk 20-30 minutes continuously without wearing out; start short and increase with time



In The Ring

First impression

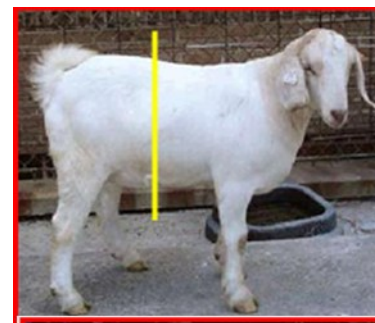
- Your first impression can make or break your show
- Pig head up, eye contact, one continuous flow

Intensity

- Eye contact
- Look like you are there to win
- You should be looking at the judge more than your pig (but never lose track of your pig)
- Posture should be slightly hunched over and leaning forward

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A good representation of an ideal goat



Side (Profile) View:

- Want long level Topline while also Being deep bodied.

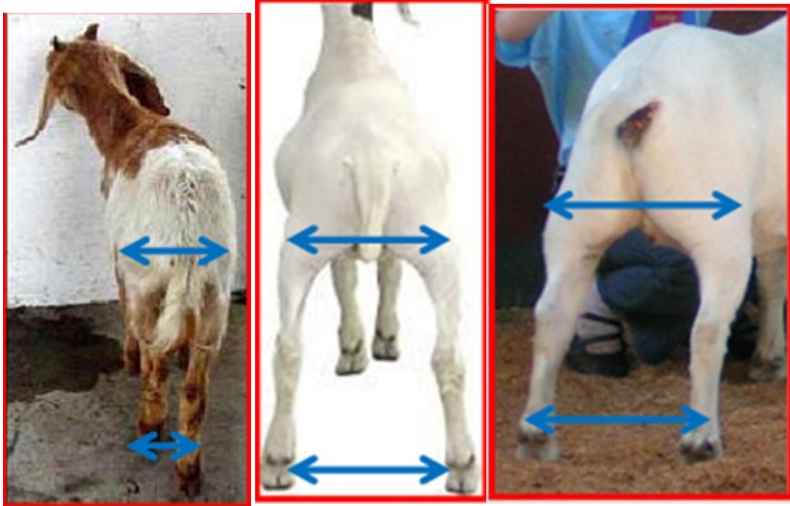
The ideal Market Goat:

- ♦ Weight varies, no “ideal weight”
- ♦ Fat covering is important, harder to detect
- ♦ Goats should handle trim and uniform
- ♦ Based wide behind
- ♦ Abundance of muscling in the hindsaddle/ loin area
- ♦ Heavy muscled leg and loin
- ♦ Bulging forearm
- ♦ Firm, trim finish is desirable
- ♦ Adequate size and scale
- ♦ Bigger, longer, heavy-boned
- ♦ Structurally sound

Some comparisons:

Rear View:

Want wide based and heavy muscled.



Bad

Average

Above Average

In The Ring continued...

Different Views

Work the triangle

Side, front, rear, straight, angled

Never get in between your pig and the judge

Find the gap

Work the holes and gaps where the judge can see you

Don't get lost in the crowd

Make yourself visible and easy for the judge to find

Don't drive your pig behind the judge

Distance from the judge

No closer than 10-15 ft

Don't get too far away that you get lost

Stay in view and easy to find

Always be at the front of the judge

Preshow prep

Skin and hair is made at home; wash often, brush daily, and condition pig starting weeks before the show for best skin and hair

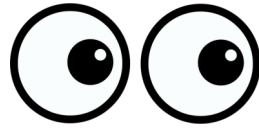
Clip your pig before the show; hair is important, shave head and leave most of the rest

Make sure pig is washed and sprayed down before entering the ring

Bring a brush and rag to clean shavings and poop off of your pig if they get dirty in the ring

Be Your Best!

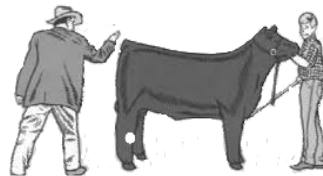
5 things to remember about showmanship for Beef, Goat & Sheep



Keep your eyes on the judge and always be aware of where they are. Good eye contact is a sign of confidence and respect. But also keeping an eye on your calf, sheep or goat is also just as important. It's a balancing act!

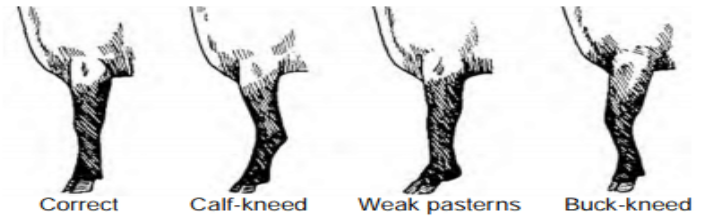


For beef, the judge may touch your calf, so you will need to fix the hair with your comb. Do so only when the judge has moved on to the next calf in line. Hold the halter with your right hand palm up when walking your calf.

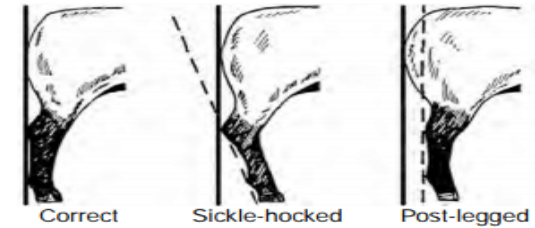


If you are able to watch a few classes before yours to see what the judge is looking for and what style of showman they prefer. Younger kids, do the same. You can learn a lot from the older showmen.

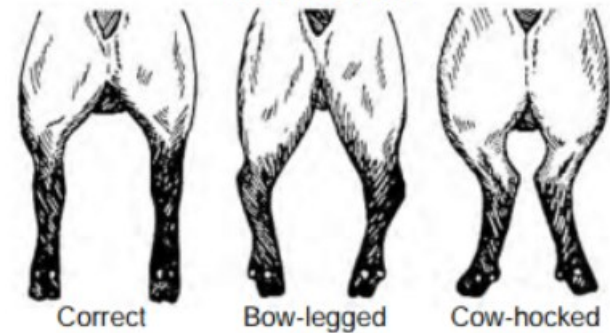
SIDE VIEW FRONT LEGS

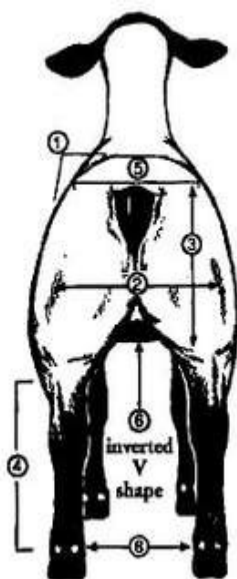


SIDE VIEW REAR LEGS

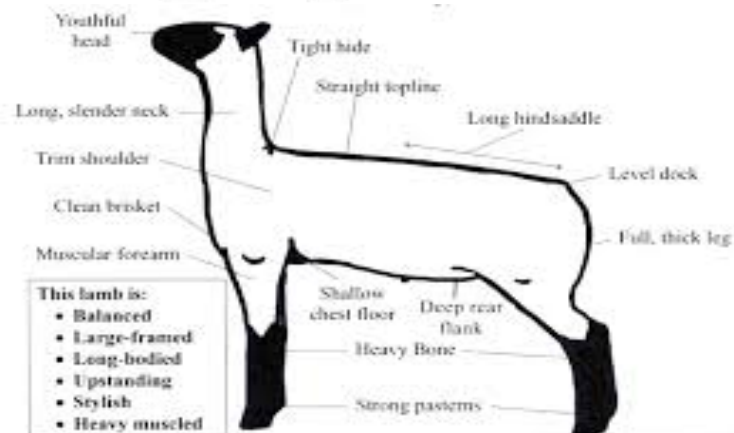


REAR VIEW

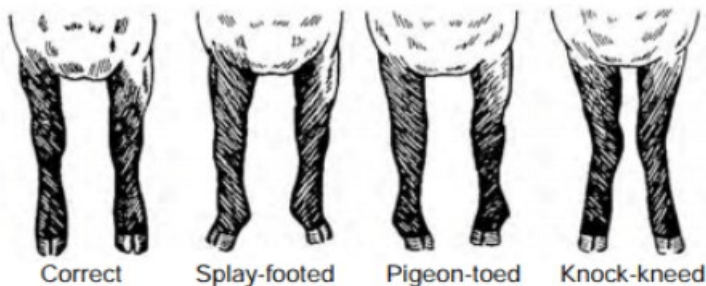




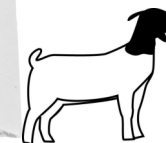
1. Correct turn of top
2. Thickness through center of leg
3. Length of leg muscle
4. Structurally correct rear legs
5. Squareness of rump
6. Depth of twist-inverted U (fat) or V (trim) shape in crotch area
7. High dock setting
8. Width between hind legs is an indicator of muscling



FRONT VIEW



When showing goats, hold collar in your right hand palm up. Pull tail lightly to encourage the goat to move if needed. Keep the goat parallel to other goats. Always line up straight behind the goat in front of you with enough space for judge to walk in between.



Square the legs, keep the head up, maintain a straight back, brace the lambs when the judge is ready to handle and always keep the lamb between you and the judge. Move when instructed and be prepared to present a front, rear and side profile.



Judges often like to ask questions about your animal's faults, strengths, feed, and breeding, so be prepared. A common question is "What would you change about your animal?"

DON'T STOP

Don't stop showing until the judge's decision is final and you are out of the show arena! You never know how your presence will make an effect in future years.

Swine Selection

Beginner

DOB, Breed, Barrow/Gilt

Jackson County DOB Dec. 1 or after

Give pig AT LEAST 6 months, 7 months
MUCH better

Easier to limit or restrict feed to keep your
pig under weight than to make your
light weight pig magically grow faster
than normal

Purebred vs Crossbred

Smaller classes with purebred pig

Terminal breeds grow better than cross-
bred

Barrows gain better, Gilts stay leaner

Environment

Need cover/heat in March and April

Need cooling source in summer

Fans, shade, water drip/mist, mud

White pigs will be harder to keep skin and hair
clean in a dirt pen, also be mindful of shade
and possibility of sunburn

Concrete pens need cleaned daily/weekly

Weight and Rate of Gain

Ideal market weight is 260-280

~1.7 lbs/day weight gain on average

Know pigs weight when you get them

Should be about 60-80 lbs at 10-12 weeks old

Getting the right age/size pig is extremely important

Advanced

Structure, Structure, Structure

Feed can change a lot, structure cannot

Start with something sound

CANNOT start unsound, and become sound

Structure can only get worse with age; fed too
hard too quick

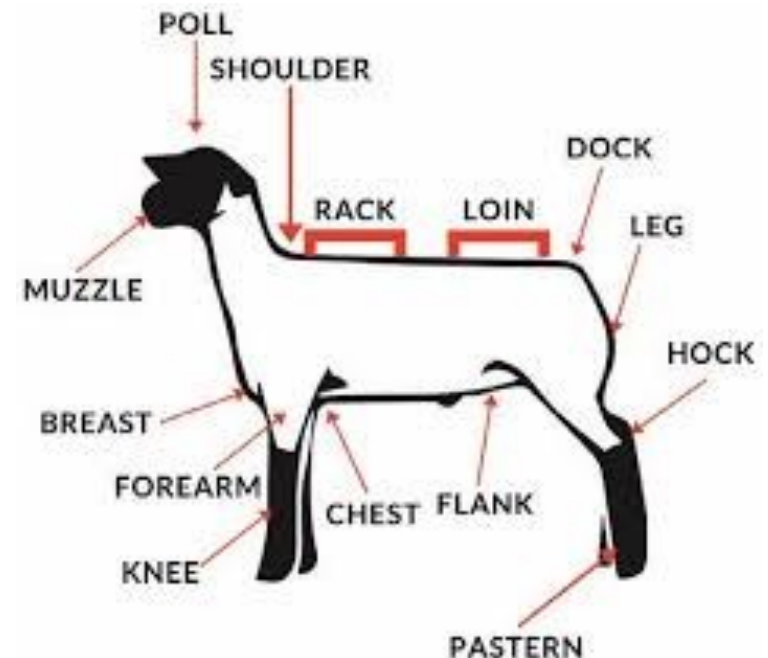
A green pig with great structure is 10/10 times
better than a heavy muscled, heavy boned pig
with poor structure

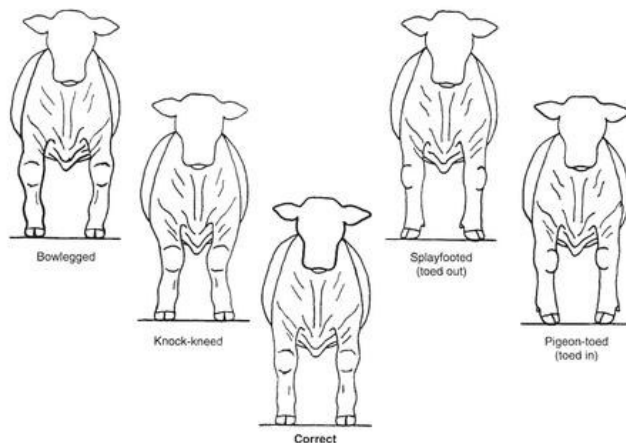
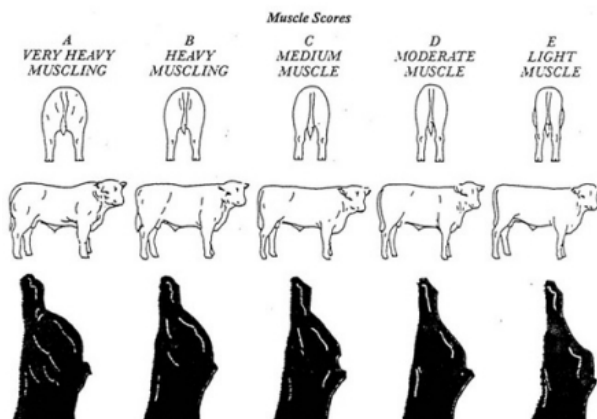
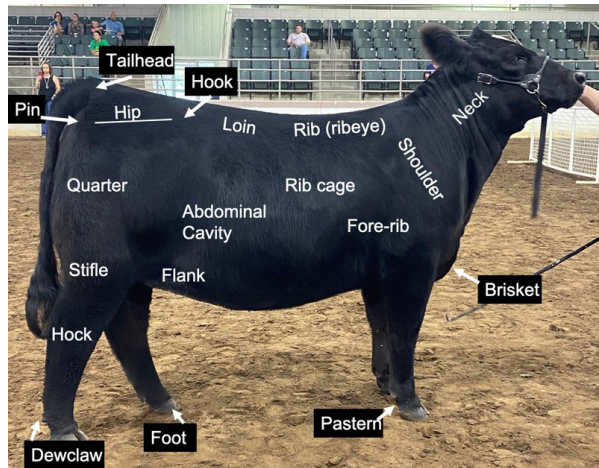
Ideally pigs are 50+ lbs when selecting; they can
change a lot and quickly

Market Lamb Selection:

Lamb Size – The frame and size of your lamb when you purchase it will be used to predict how large your lamb will be at the time of the fair. Most market lambs finish at 105-130 pounds and lambs will typically gain between 0.5-0.75 pounds per day. Larger framed lambs with superior genetics may grow faster and smaller framed lambs may grow slower. When you buy a lamb you should know when you want the lamb to reach its 105-130 pound weight range and be prepared to do some math based on the size and skeletal frame of the lambs you're choosing from to select a lamb that will be well suited to your 4H project schedule.

Additional things to consider are the bone structure of the lamb. Long, tall, heavy-boned lambs with a large skeletal system tend to grow faster, but may fill out and reach an ideal market lamb finished weight slower than a small, trim well balanced lamb.





Advanced Continued...

What is structure

All toes facing forward; squareness at the ground
 Legs straight from behind and front, no turning in or out
 Joints should be relaxed but not weak from the side
 Pasterns should be strong, toes flat but dewclaws not touching ground
 Long strides that show flexibility and comfort
 Joints should bend easily and no tightness
 Champion pigs need to be comfortable with walking in the ring for 30+ minutes without showing structure fatigue

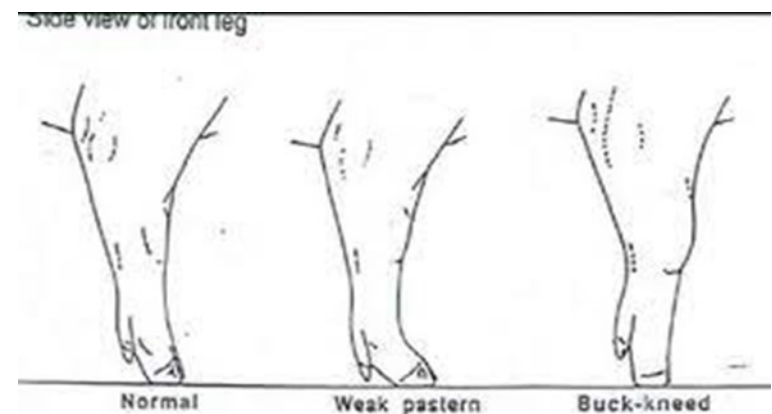
Build, shape, maturity, extras

Showpigs need to have muscle.
 Butterfly top, dimple in front of tail, shape around shoulders and hip, power and dimension
 Showpigs should be tall fronted (height of shoulder, neck placement)

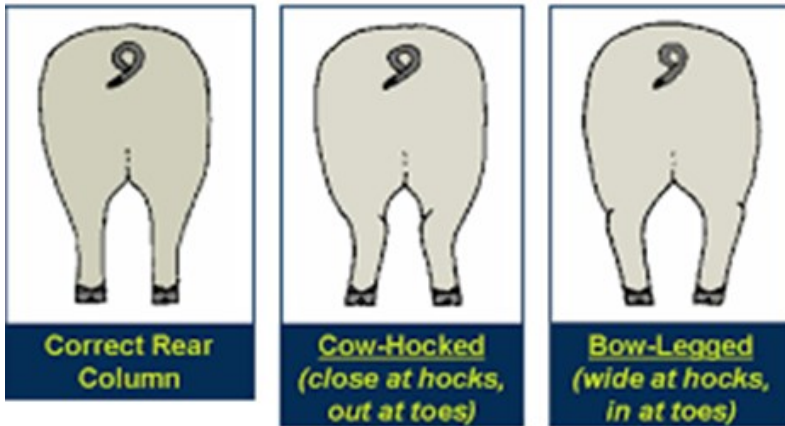
Showpigs need to have heavy bone mass

Talk to breeder, bring friend/mentor

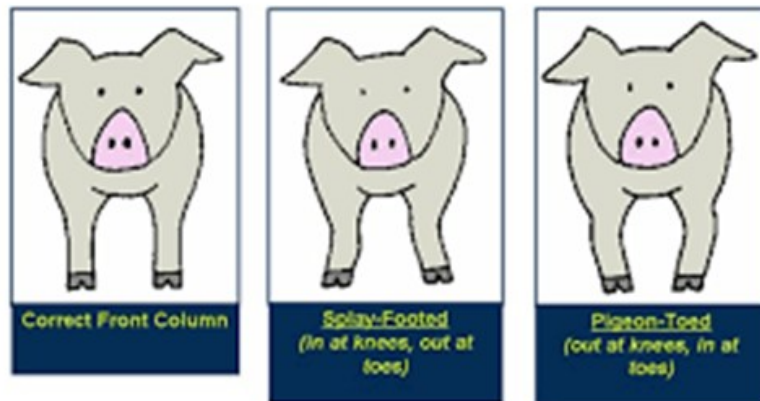
Seek guidance of knowledgeable people to help
 Determine your goals before shopping
 Ask breeder what it will take to achieve your goal
 Ask questions about feed
 Start with the right project



Evaluating Structure/Soundness – Rear Column –



Evaluating Structure/Soundness – Front Column –



Selecting Your Beef Project:

Market Steer/Heifer Selection:

Market steer selection involves evaluating structural correctness, muscle, volume and capacity, and style and balance. A good market steer should have a level top and hip, sound legs, be wide in the chest and loin, and have depth of body to allow for good feed conversion. The ideal steer will be balanced and stylish, with a quiet disposition, and possess the genetic potential to grade well at market.

Ideal weight of 1200–1400lbs, but this can vary by judge.

Breeding Heifer Selection:

Selection of your breeding female is a combination of **physical conformation**, **structural soundness**, and **femininity**. Key traits include a balanced body with good muscle, clean lines, a feminine head and neck, and strong, correct feet and legs for proper movement. Disposition, maternal traits, and growth potential are also important factors. Prioritize maternal ability, reproductive performance, and a desirable genetic background for future herd improvement.

Structural Soundness

Structural soundness of the hind limb is critical to the function of breeding animals. The simplest way to evaluate the structure of the hind leg is to drop a line from the pin bone down through the cap of the hock to the ground.

