

Judging Swine



Steps to Judging Swine

1. Evaluate animals from the ground up and from the butt (rear) forward
2. Rank the traits for their importance
3. Evaluate the most important traits first
4. Eliminate any easy placings in the class
5. Place the class based on the volume of the important traits

Ranking of Traits for Market Hogs

1. Degree of muscling
2. Growth
3. Capacity or volume
4. Degree of leanness
5. Structure and soundness

Ranking of Traits for Maternal Line Breeding Gilts

1. Structure and soundness
2. Growth
3. Underline quality
4. Capacity or volume
5. Degree of muscling
6. Degree of leanness

Ranking of Traits for Terminal Line Breeding Gilts

1. Structure and soundness
2. Degree of muscling
3. Growth
4. Capacity or volume
5. Degree of leanness
6. Underline quality

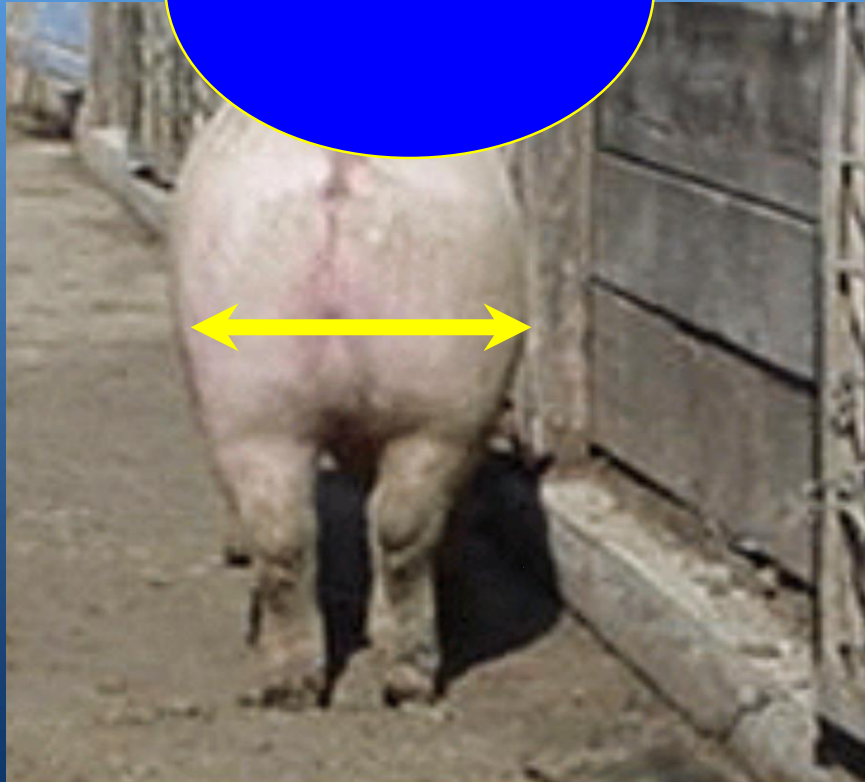
Evaluating Degree of Muscling

1. Thickness through the center of the hams (stifle area)
2. Width between the rear feet when the pig walks and stands
3. Shape over the loin (top) - butterfly shape is desired

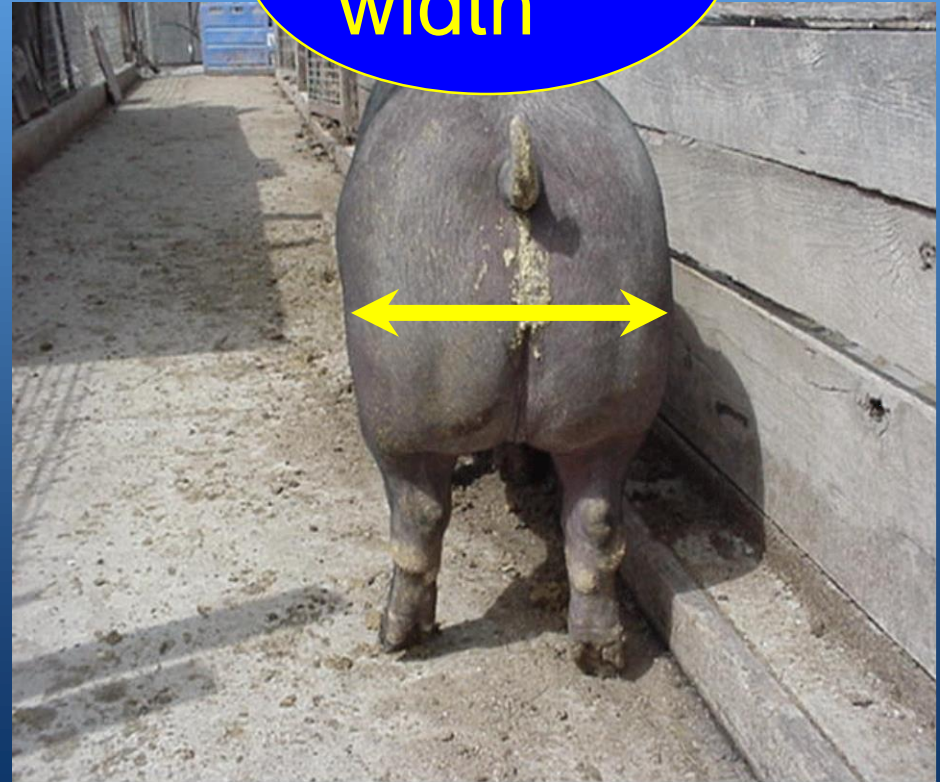
Evaluating Degree of Muscling

- Center Width of Hams -

Too narrow



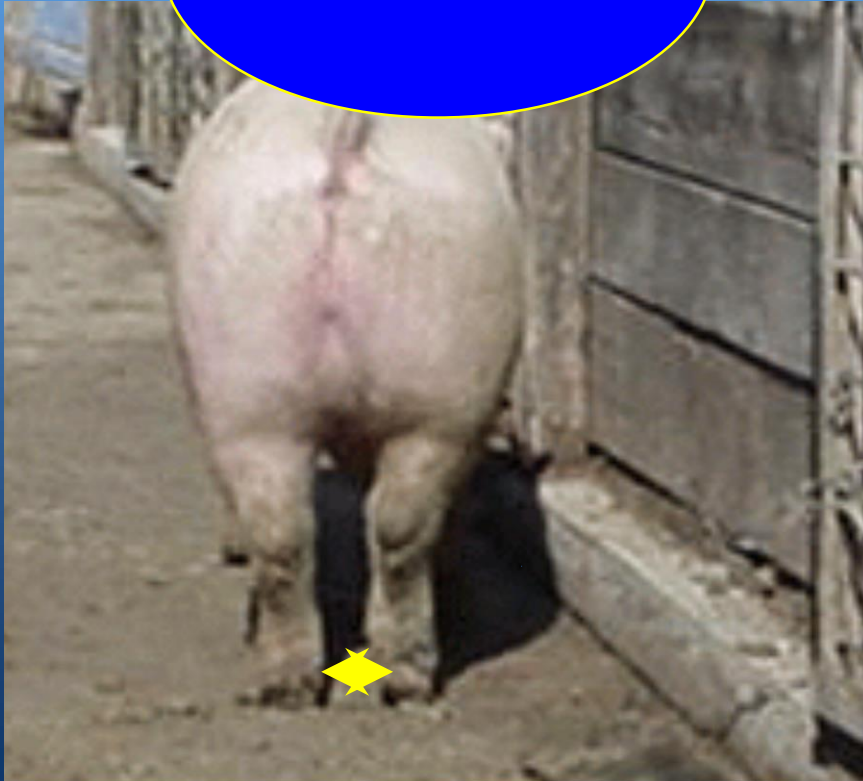
Good
width



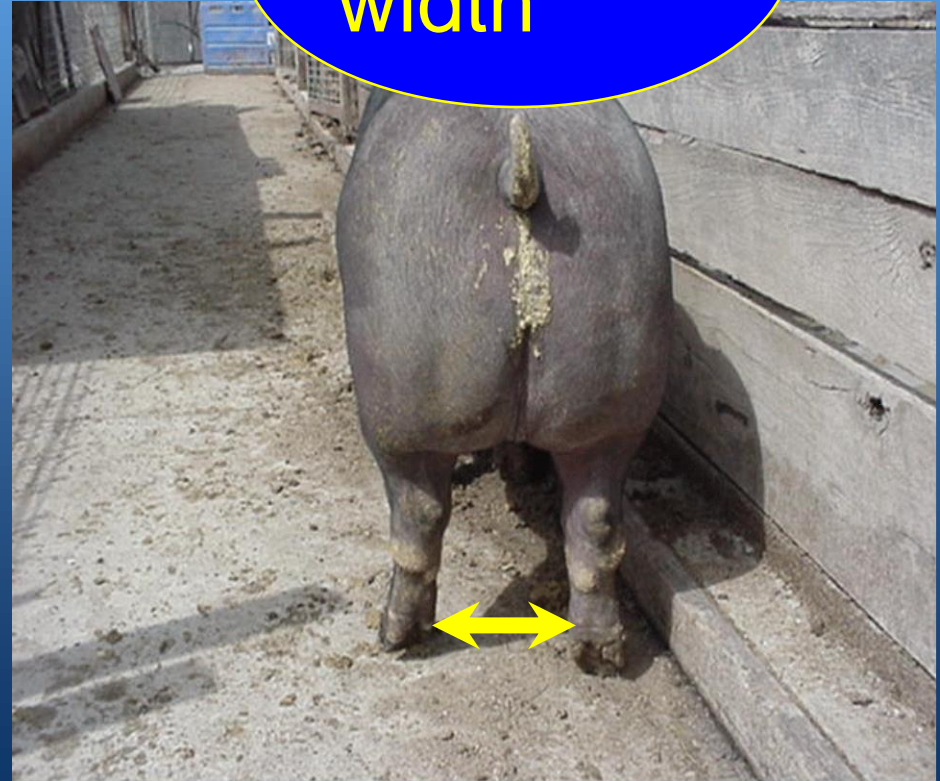
Evaluating Degree of Muscling

- Width Between Rear Feet -

Too narrow



Good
width



Evaluating Degree of Muscling

- Shape of Top -

Fat top alert

Great top shape



Evaluating Growth

1. Unless instructed otherwise, assume all animals in the class are the same age
2. Evaluate growth based on weight (pounds)
3. Rank animals from heaviest to lightest (heaviest pig = fastest growth)

Evaluating Capacity or Volume

Capacity (volume) is determined by four factors:

1. Width through rib and chest
2. Depth of body
3. Length of body
4. Balance - how well does the animal's width, depth, and length fit together)

Evaluating Capacity or Volume

- Width -

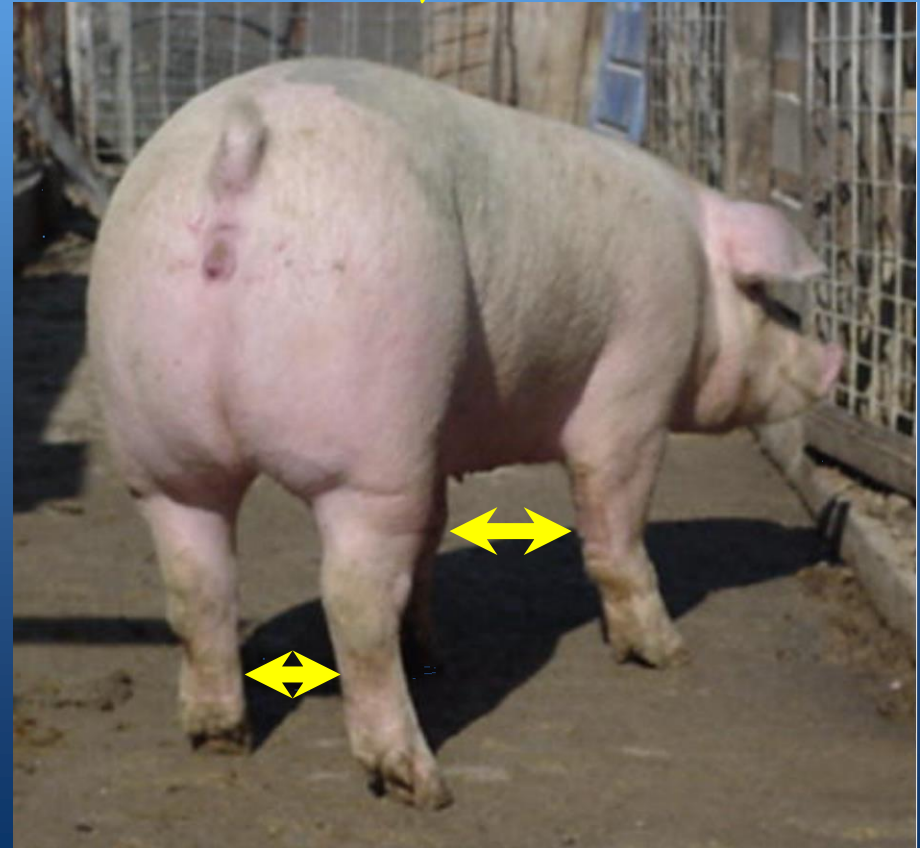
1. Pigs with good width will be wide based
 - # Walk wide in front and rear
 - # Good width through the chest
2. The top- $\frac{1}{3}$ and bottom- $\frac{1}{3}$ should be the same width, and the middle- $\frac{1}{3}$ should be wider
 - # Good spring of rib

Evaluating Capacity or Volume

- Width -

Too narrow

Nice width



Evaluating Capacity or Volume

- Width -



Evaluating Capacity or Volume

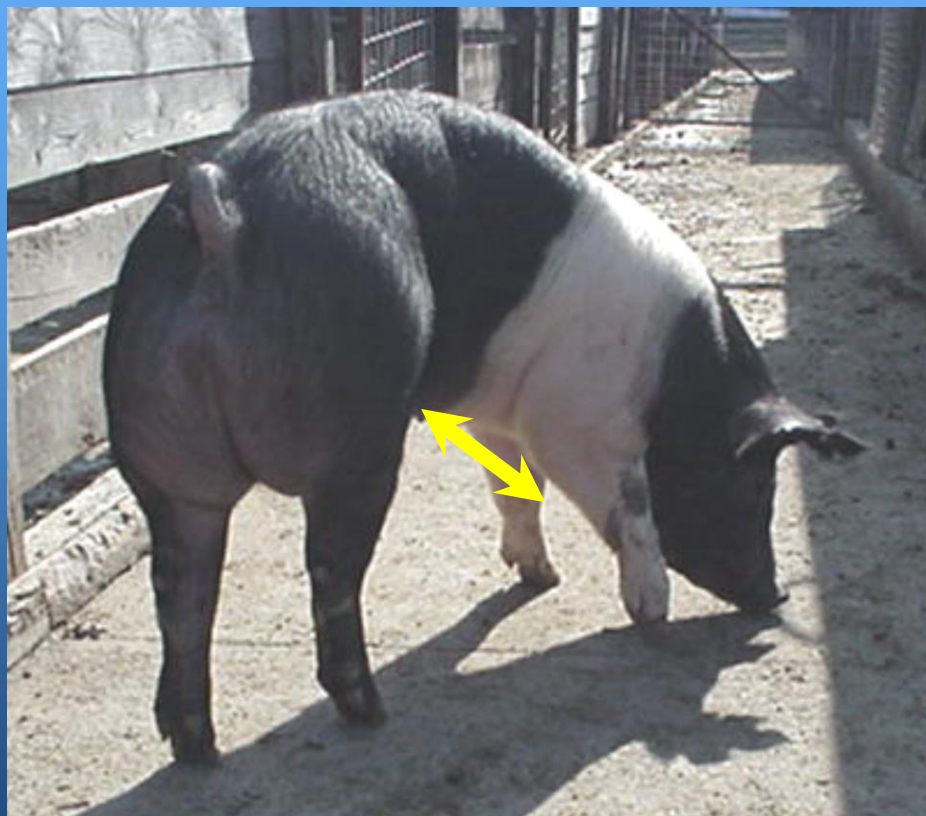
- Depth of Body -

Depth of body is important for:

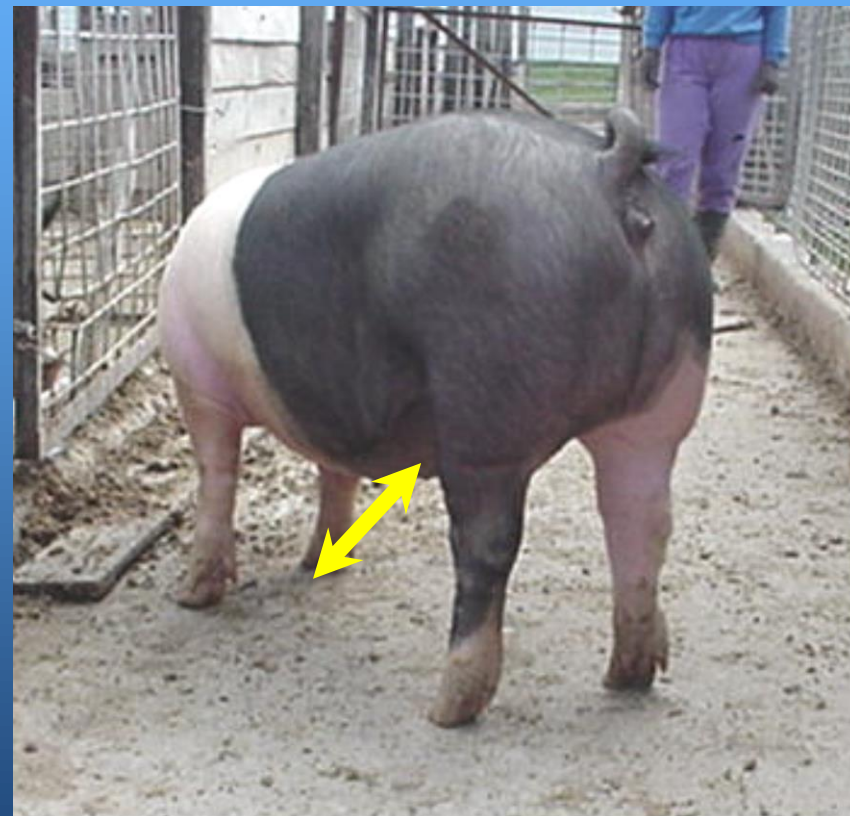
1. Capacity for feeding (market hogs)
 - # Good ability to eat and grow
2. Capacity for reproduction (breeding hogs)
 - # Ability to carry large litters

Evaluating Capacity or Volume

- Depth of Body -



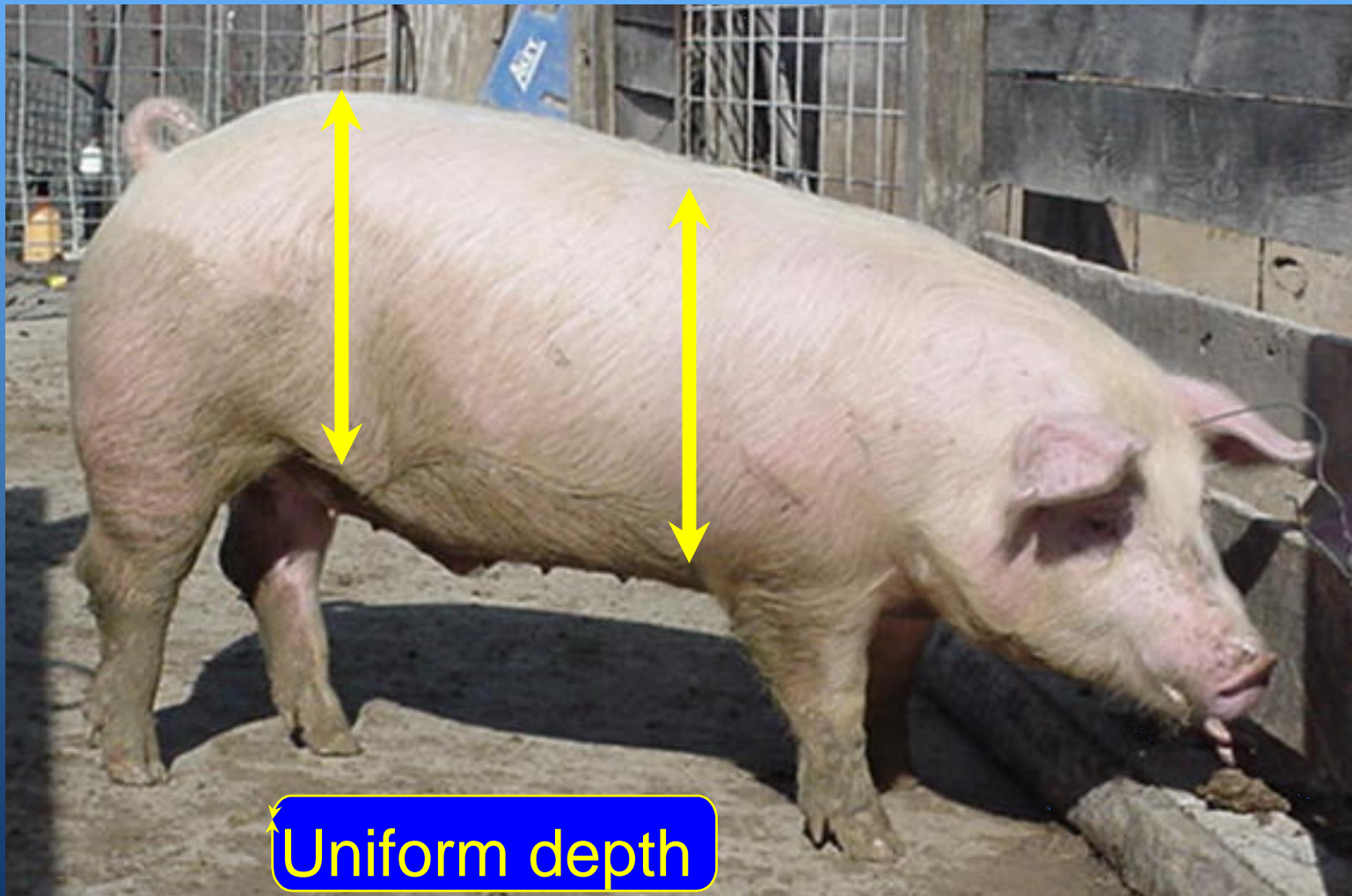
Shallow rear flank



Too deep rear flank

Evaluating Capacity or Volume

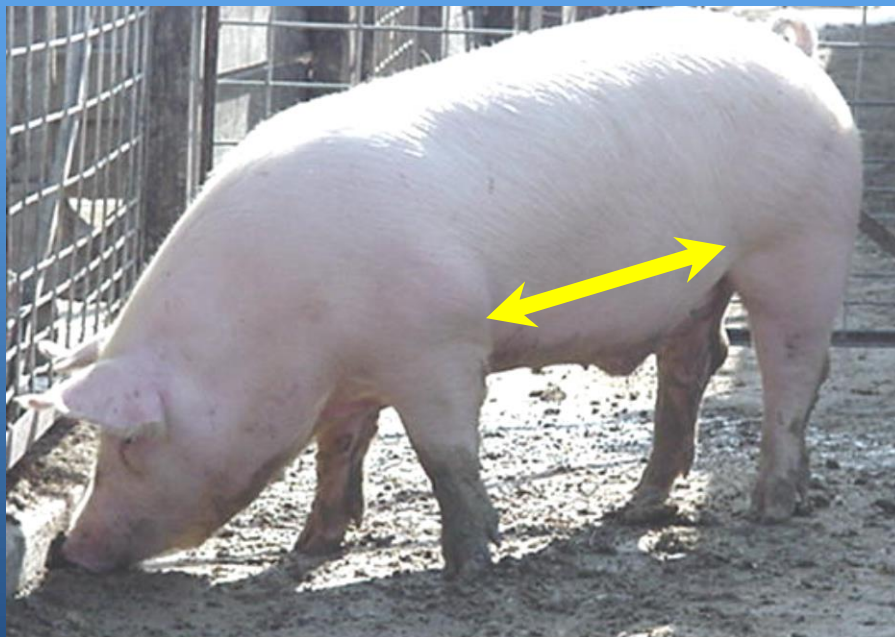
- Depth of Body -



Evaluating Capacity or Volume

- Length of Body -

Length is evaluated as the distance from flank to flank



Too short



Long bodied

Evaluating Degree of Leanness

1. Degree of leanness is influenced by
 - # Degree of muscling
 - # Frame size of the pig
 - # Sex of the pig
 - # Age and weight of the pig
2. Fat is deposited from the front to the rear
 - # Checks/Jowls ◦ Behind Shoulders ◦ Flanks ◦ Tailhead

Evaluating Degree of Leanness

3. Leanness can be determined by indentations in the following areas:
 - # Over and behind the shoulders
 - # Ham-loin junction
 - # Dimple just in front of tailhead
4. Key points to remember:
 - # Muscle is hard, fat is soft
 - # Muscle is firm, fat is loose

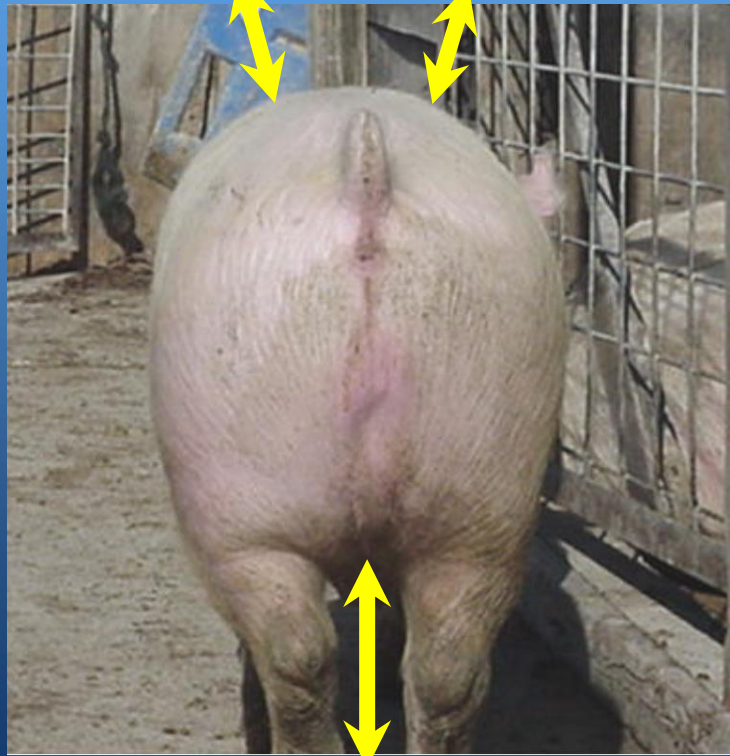
Evaluating Degree of Leanness

Fat Alerts

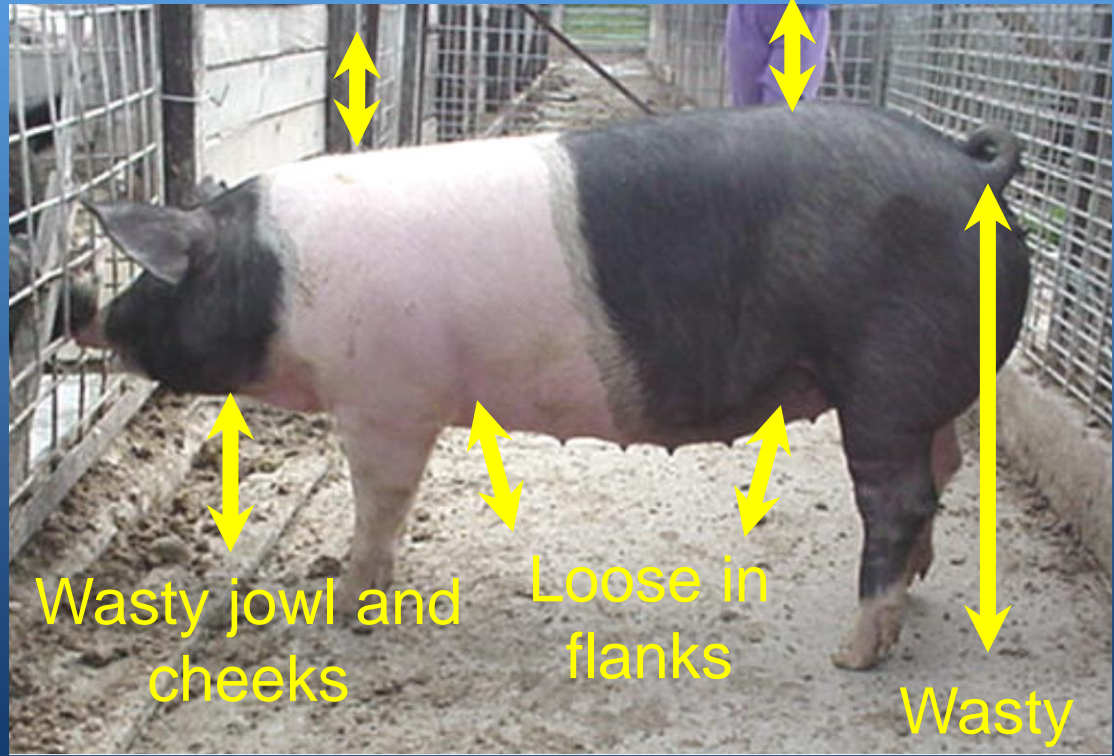
Smooth over back

Smooth over shoulder

Smooth at ham-loin junction



Loose in crotch



Wasty jowl and cheeks

Loose in flanks

Wasty tailhead

Evaluating Degree of Leanness

Lean Machine



Well defined ham-loin junction

Clean over loin

Clean over shoulder

Clean and firm in crotch

Clean and firm in flanks

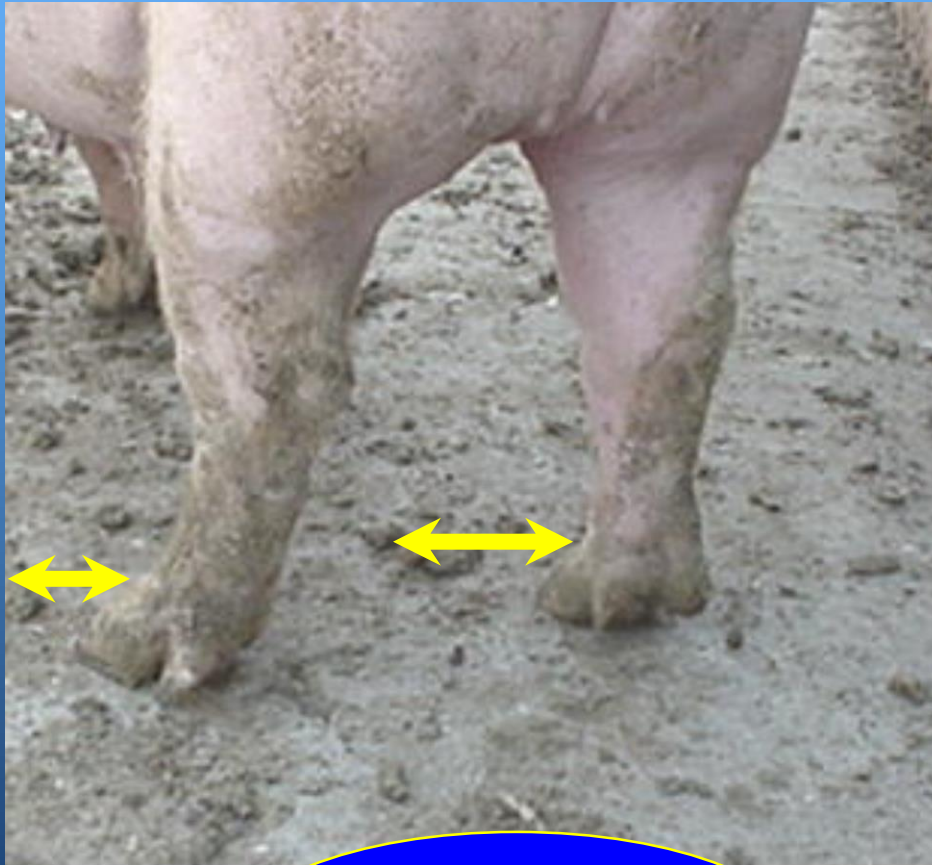
Evaluating Structure and Soundness

When evaluating structure and soundness, attention should be given to the following areas:

1. Feet and pasterns
2. Hocks
3. Knees
4. Rump
5. Shoulder

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

- Feet and Pasterns -



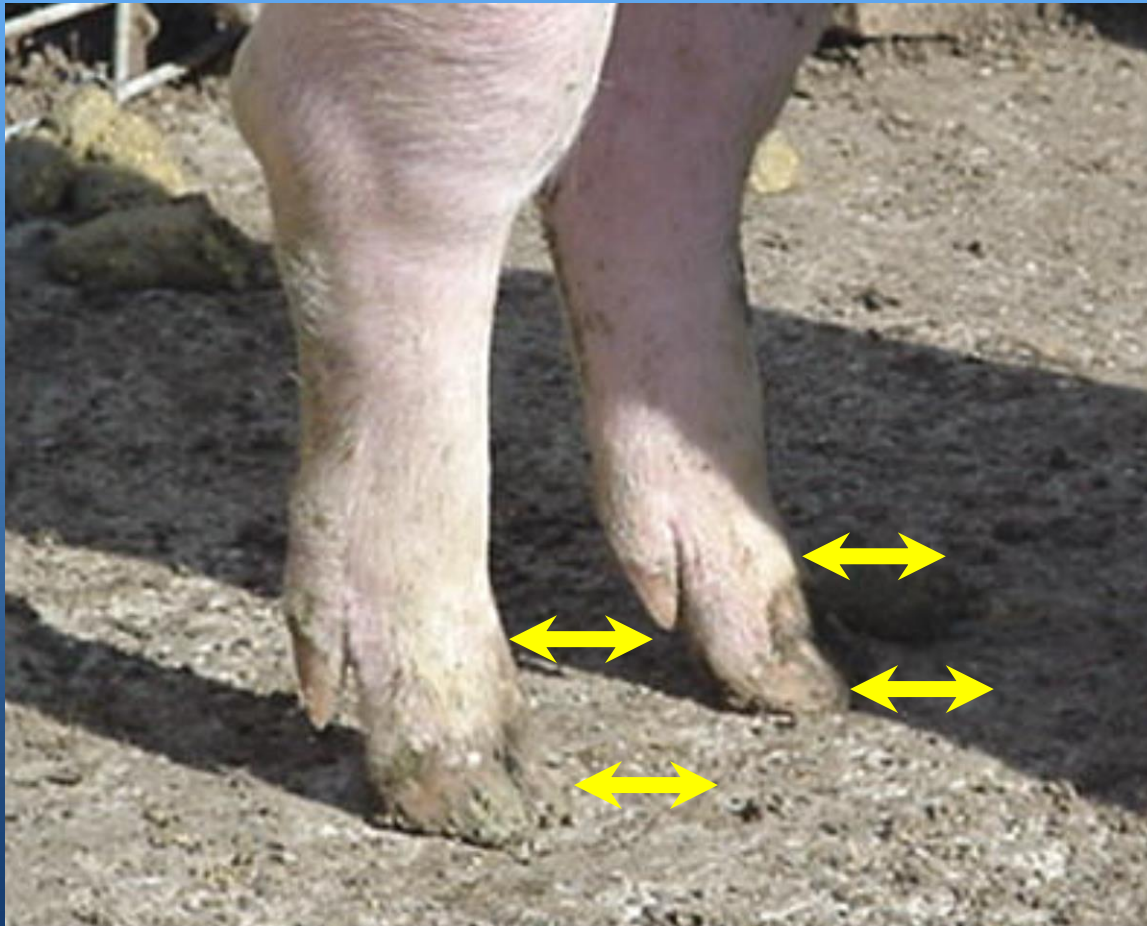
Too much set to pasterns



Feet turned out

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

- Feet and Pasterns -



Good set to
pasterns and
good feet

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

- Hocks -



Too straight
in hocks



Swollen hocks

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

- Hocks -



Good set
and curvature to
hocks

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

- Knees -



Extreme set to knees



Bucked-over at knees

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

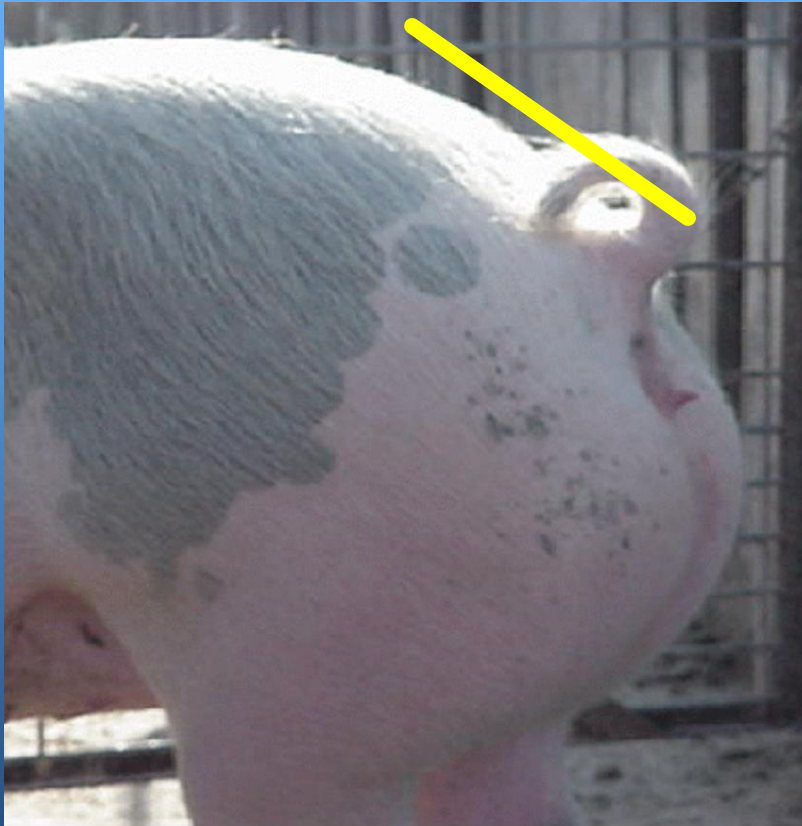
- Knees -



**Good set
to knees**

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

- Rump -



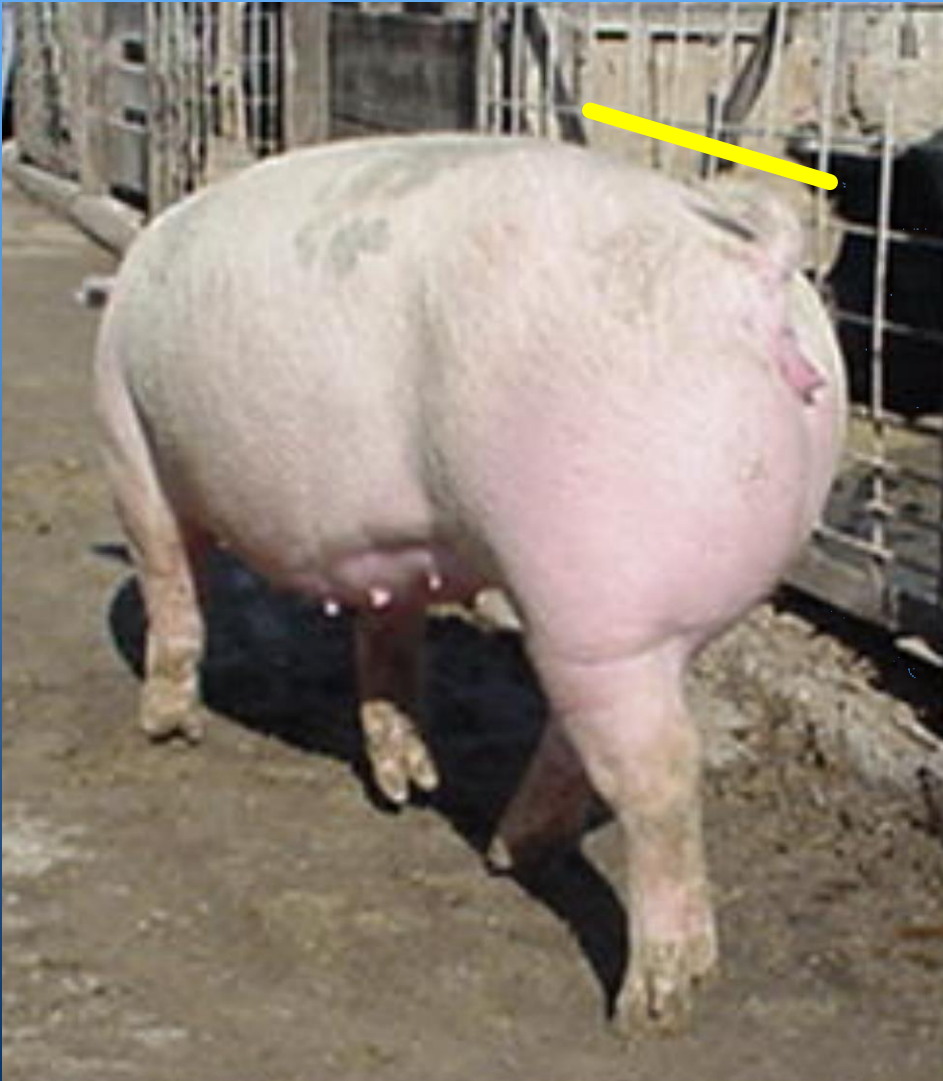
Too steep
in rump



Nasty Rump

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

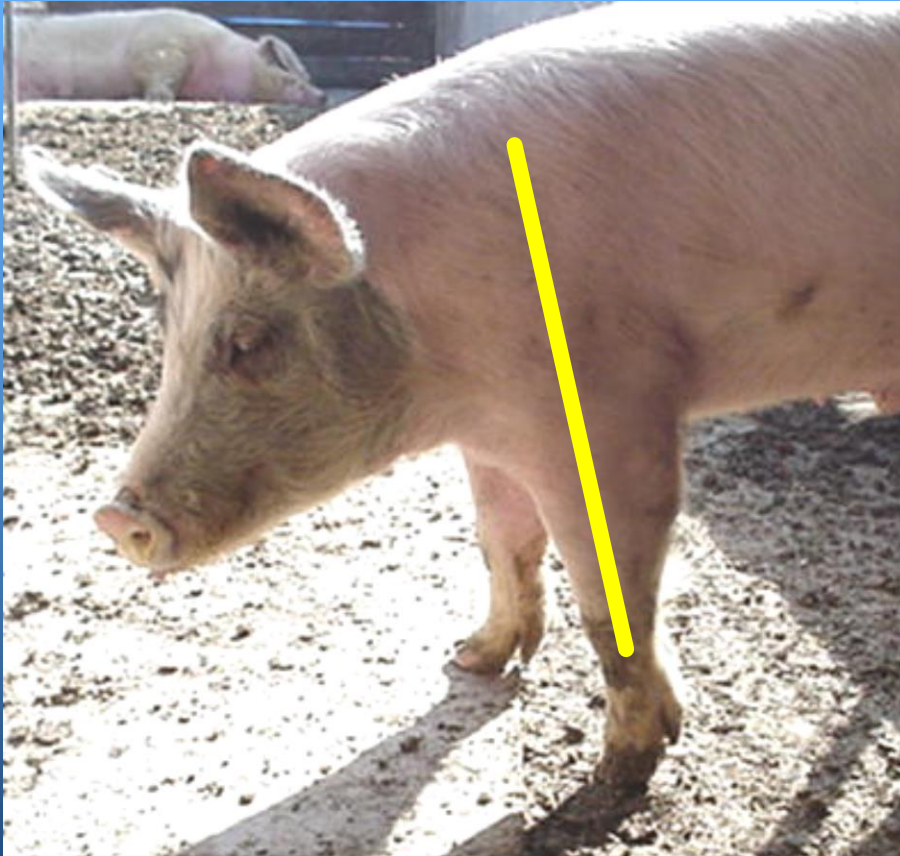
- Rump -



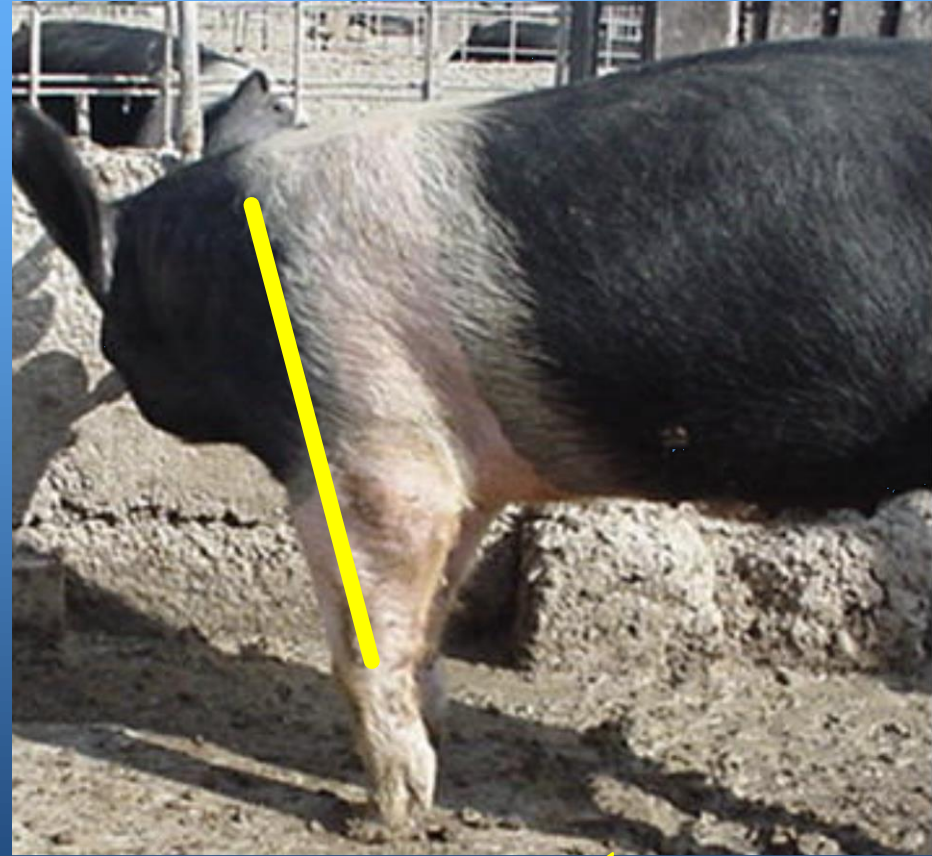
Good
level rump

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

- Shoulders -



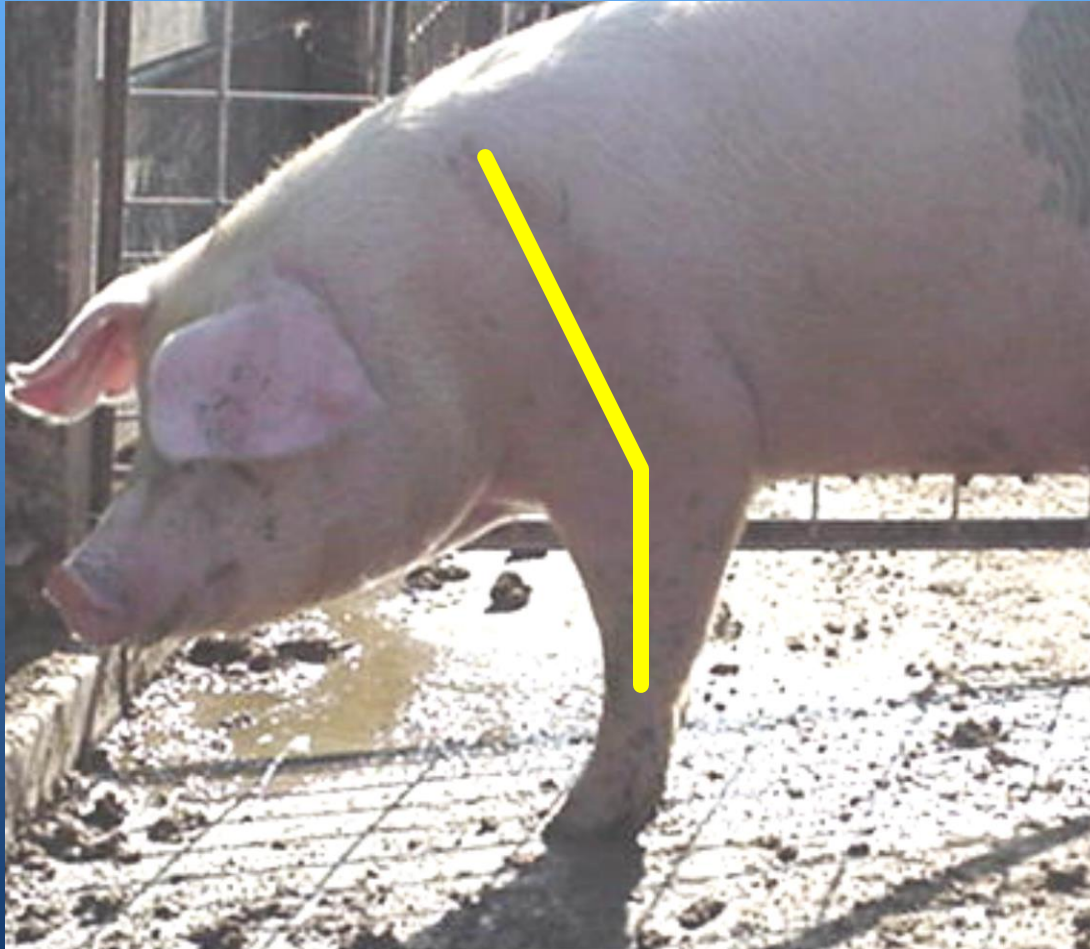
Too straight
in shoulder



Crash

Evaluating Structure and Soundness

- Shoulders -



Excellent slope
and set to
shoulder

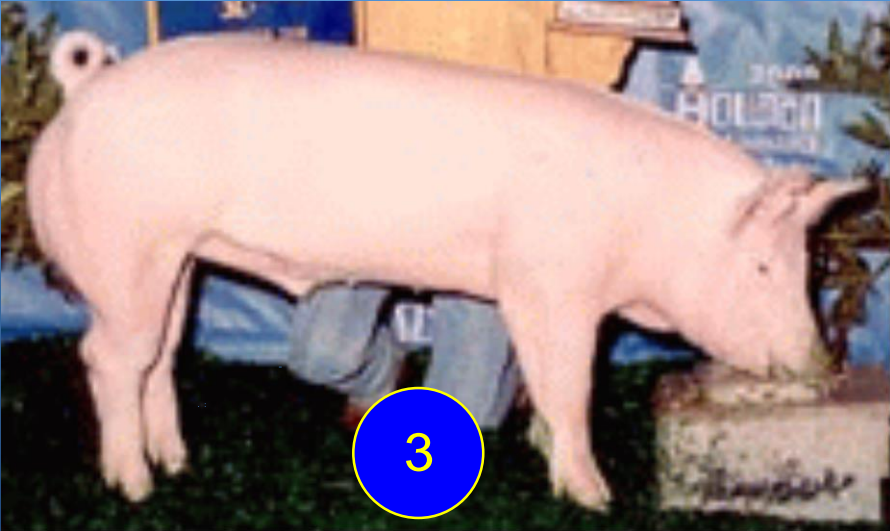
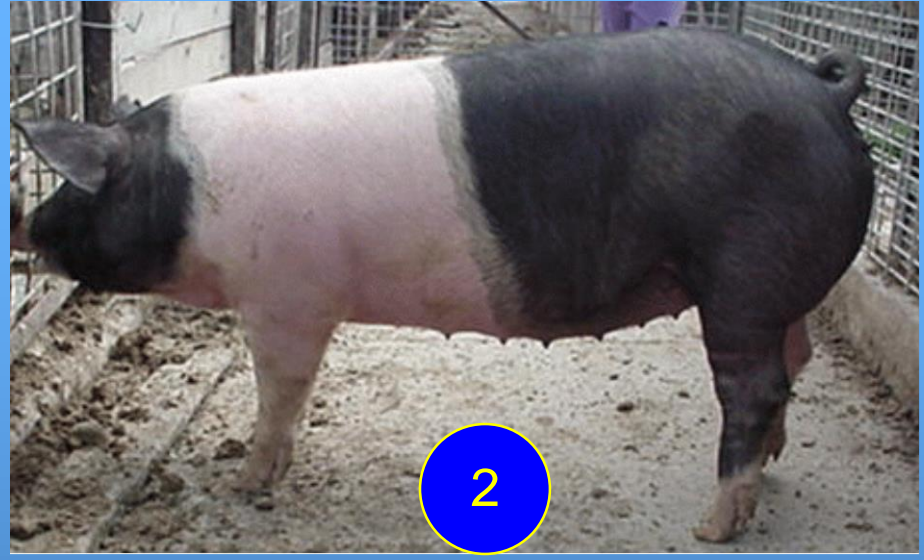
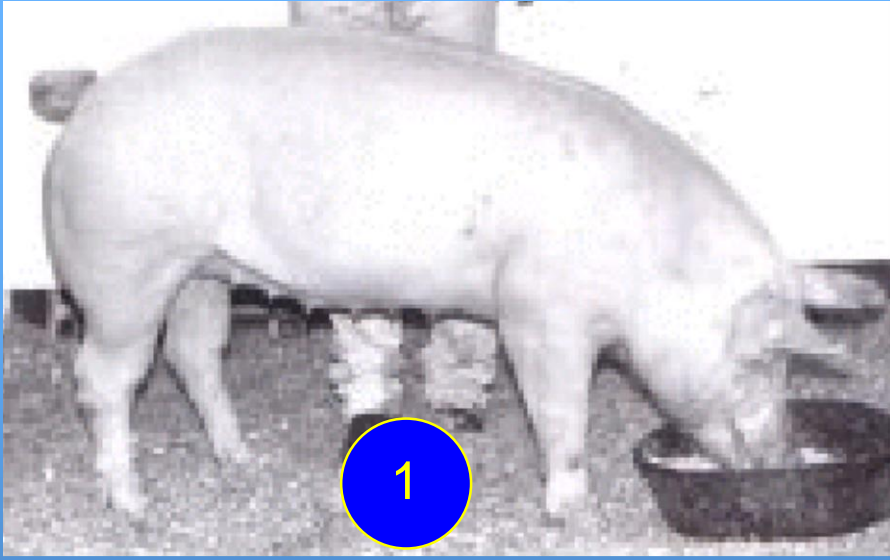
Evaluating Underline Quality

A good underline will consist of the following:

1. Both rows of teats easily accessible
2. Six to seven teats per side
3. Teats evenly spaced
4. Pencil eraser sized teats
5. Free from pin, blind, and inverted nipples



Example Market Hog Class I

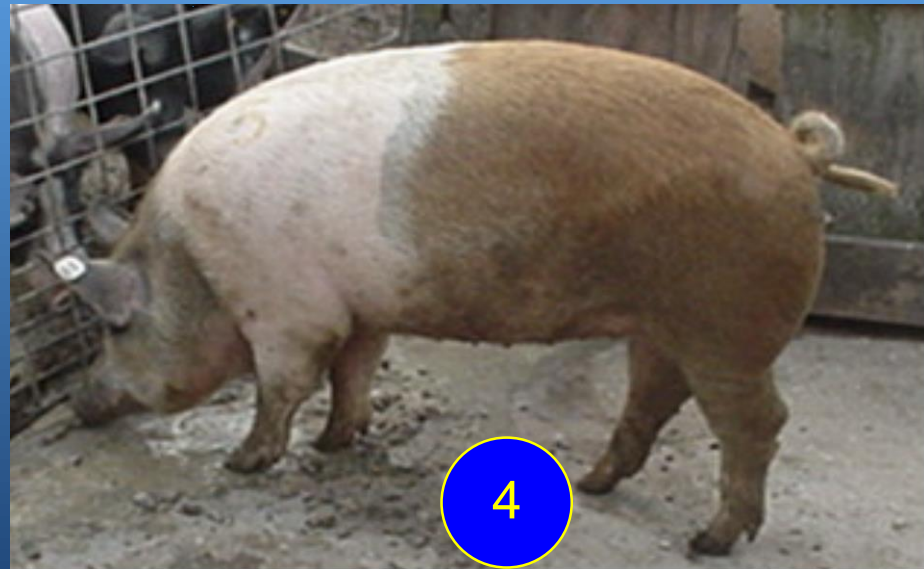
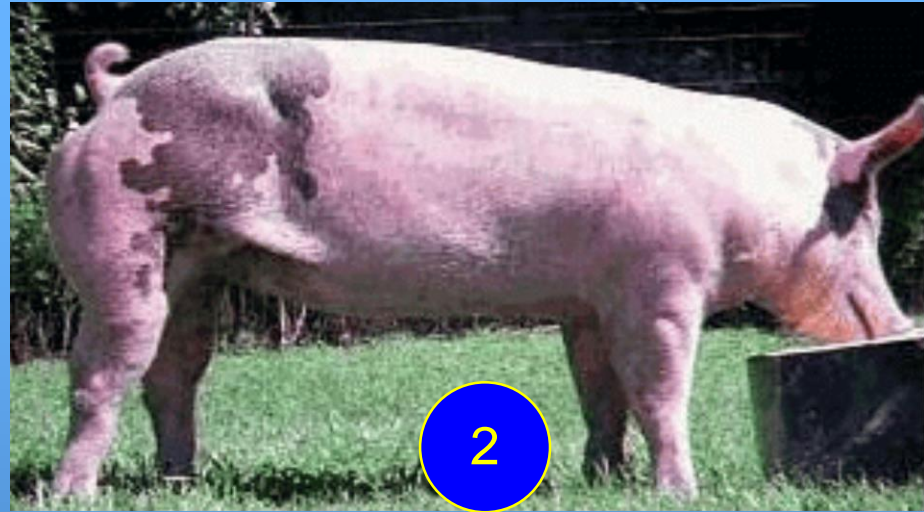


Official Placing: 3 - 1 - 2 - 4

Cuts: 4 - 5 - 5

Example Market

Hog Class II



Official Placing: 2 - 1 - 3 - 4

Cuts: 2 - 4 - 6