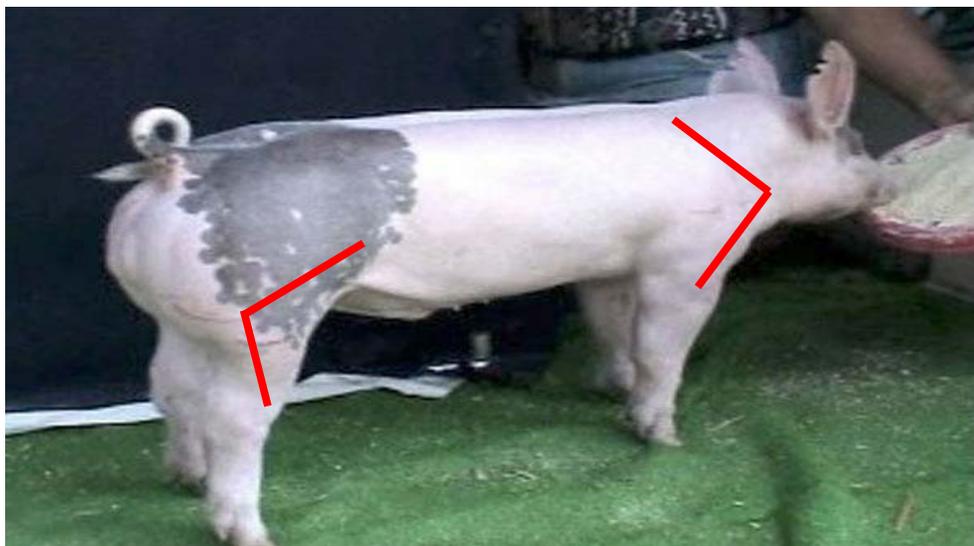


Judging Swine Structure



Left Hand

Right Hand

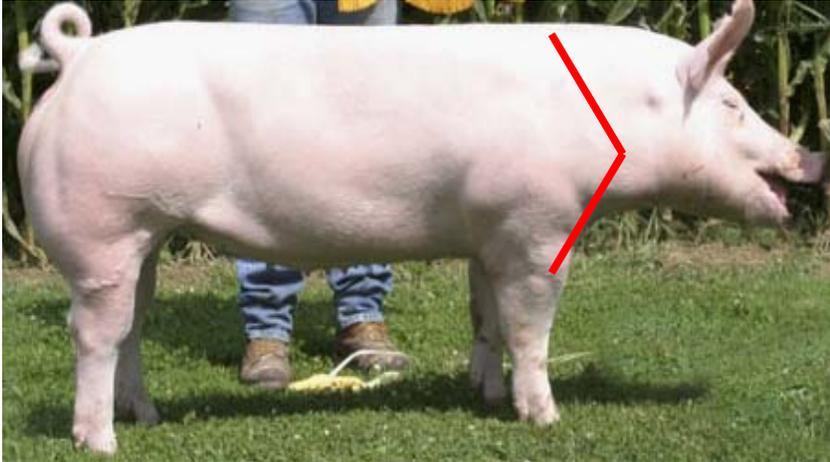
When judging structure you must consider all the different factors that make up the structural component of the pig. One of the easiest ways to determine structural is to learn the proper angulations to the pigs shoulder and rear legs. Once you have trained your eye to see the correct angulations you will be able to see if the pig will have the proper flow in motion.

Place your right and left hands in the shape of an “L” as shown in the diagram. The right hand in this example will be used to detect the proper shoulder angle, while the left hand will be used for the proper rear leg angle. Put the right hand in the shape of an “L” with the top of your pointer finger at the top of the shoulder blade. The inside portion of your hand between your thumb and pointer finger should fit at the place where the shoulder and front leg connects. Place the left hand in the shape of an “L” with the pointer finger aiming toward the middle of the ribs or chest. The inside portion of your hand between the thumb and pointer finger should be placed at the pigs stifle muscle. The thumb is then pointing in the proper direction to the rear legs.

Practice training your eyes with your hands, until you are able to detect the proper angulations without using your hands. This practice technique can be used with live animals or even pictures of pigs. Any variations of the “L” shape with your hands, is an abnormal angle to the shoulder or the rear legs. This abnormality would result in the pig to walk structurally incorrect.

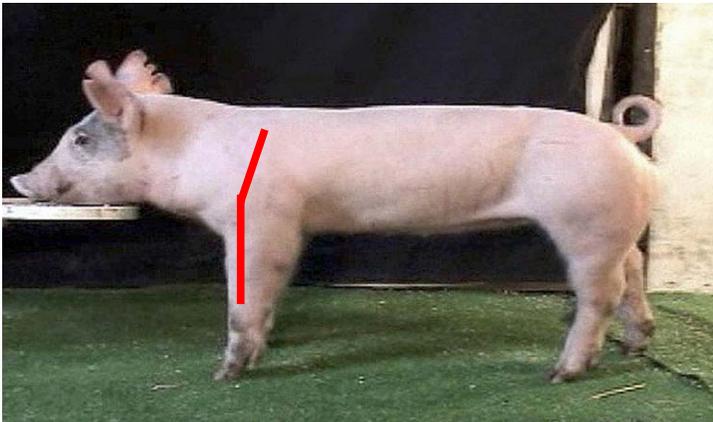
Other components of structure might include even toes, knee placement, pasterns, dewclaws, circumference of bone, width of chest, width of base, placement of the front legs, placement of the rear legs, swelling of joints, and levelness of top. All of these components can influence the structure of a pig and how well it moves.

Ideal Angle to the Shoulder



The ideal shoulder angle is essential for the correct stride off of the front feet. The connection of the shoulder blade to the front feet, rib cage, and portions of the spine must be in the proper location with the proper muscle patterns developed. Any variations of the proper angle may be the cause of other structural abnormalities. For example if a pig has a broken top or dip behind the shoulder: this is an indicator the shoulder blades are moved too far forward and the pig will take a shorter more structurally incorrect stride off their front feet. In this example the pigs knee placement will be incorrect as well as the wear to the front toes.

Straight Fronted





Straight fronted is the term used to describe when the angle to the front shoulder is inadequate. The angle from the point of the shoulder to the middle of the shoulder and to the front leg lacks enough angular degrees in order for the pig to move properly. In comparison to the ideal shoulder angle, the straight fronted shoulder will walk more stiff or ridged in their movement. Pigs that are straight fronted will have very little flexibility from the front shoulder, front knee, and front foot. In extreme cases a straight fronted pig will tend to stand or walk on their tippy toes. Straight fronted pigs will sometimes buckle their knees back when standing still.