Swine
WHOLESALE CUTS OF PORK

1 & 2 -- Clear Plate, Fat Back: 15%
3 -- Ham (leg): 22%
4 & 5 -- Hind Foot, Fore Foot: 4%
6 -- Bacon (Belly): 16%
7 -- Spareribs: 3%
8 -- Picnic: 10%
9 -- Trimmed Jowl: 2%
10 -- Boston Butt: 9%
11 -- Loin: 19%
Judging Swine

- **Breeding Gilts**
  - Tall fronted
  - Long bodied
  - Deep
  - Wide
  - Natural width down her top, through her chest, and center body cavity
  - Level in skeletal design especially down her top and rump
    - Levelness allows for sound skeletal structure, correctness of spine placement, and flexibility.
  - Loose in her skeletal and muscle design with proper slope to shoulder and cushion to her front pastern.
  - Good flex and give to her rear hock and pastern as well as having a large, even toe size
    - Allows for soundness and longevity
  - Six well-spaced, prominent nipples on each side
  - Good length of neck, length of face, and have a productive, feminine look about her head

- **Priority Traits**
  - Structural soundness
    - Set and angle to the joints affecting movement
  - Growth
    - Frame size to correlate with increased WDA, Days to 250, and ADG
  - Muscle
  - Leanness
  - Femininity
    - Refinement and length through face and neck and underline quality

- **Market Hogs**
  - A good market hog should have an optimum combination of carcass and production characteristics.
  - A good market hog must have a large volume of correctly designed muscle and must be trim, allowing him to yield a high percentage of muscle.
  - Must display adequate frame size and be sound.

- **Priority Traits**
  - Muscle
  - Leanness
  - Growth
  - Structural Soundness
Swine Terms and Phrases

Movement

Advantages

- More durably designed
- Sounder structured
- Looser structured/tighter structured (Always precede any structural soundness or unsoundness details with looser or tighter structured)
- Looser constructed
- Looser skeletoned
- Sounder fronted
- Flex to hock and pastern
- More correct angle to his shoulder and cushion at his/her knee and pastern
- Leveler hipped
- Leveler rumped
- Looser hipped, worked with more agility out of her hip
- Easier moving
- More correct in his/her structural design
- More durable in confinement
- Offers more confinement soundness
- Sounder fronted
- More rugged made or designed

Disadvantages

- Tight structured
- Steep hipped
- Round hipped
- Straight shouldered, Straight fronted
- Least durable in confinement
- Stiff in his/her rear hock and pastern
- Short strided on his/her hind legs
- Weak in pasterns
- Small footed

Tying Movement (Soundness) Terms Into Phrases

1. Is more correct in her structural design, she/he is a sounder fronted gilt/barrow who has more slope to her shoulder with more cushion to her knee and pastern and works sounder out of a leveler, looser hip.
Gilts - 1 works sounder out of leveler, looser hip with more flex and give to her hock and pastern.

Gilts - 1 is a looser structured, wider made gilt who particulary has more length of rump with a more correct hock set which allows her to move with more strength and stability out of her hip.

Gilts - 1 is a looser skeletoned, easier moving gilt who offers more confinement soundness.

Mkt.

Hogs - 1 is a looser skeletoned, sounder footed, more production oriented barrow who has more blade width, spring of rib and tracks easier and wider on his hind legs.

Boars - 1 is a more rugged made, wider structured boar who is more correct in his structural design as he is sounder fronted, looser hipped and moves easier on his hind legs.

Gilts - 2 is a tight structured gilt who is short and steep in her hip and short strided on her hind legs.

Gilts - In my bottom pair of tighter structured, narrow made gilts that offer the least replacement potential I preferred the faster growing, rawer designed gilt over 4.

Gilts - 1 is a tight structured, straight fronted gilt who is high topped, steep in her hip and should prove to be the least durable in confinement.

Skeletal Width/Heaviness of Structure

Advantages

- More skeletal width
- Wider structured
- Wider skeletoned
- Wider made
- Shape of Rib
- Spring of Rib
- Wider bladed
- Boulder bladed
- More base width
- Stouter made
- Heavier structured
- Heavier boned
- Heavier skeletoned
- More durably designed
More production oriented barrow
Broodier appearing gilt
Bigger footed gilt with more even toe size

Disadvantages:

- Narrow structured
- Narrow skeletoned
- Flat ribbed
- Narrow based
- Frail made
- Light structured
- Light skeletoned

Tying Skeletal Width and Heaviness of Structure Terms into Phrases (can be incorporated with soundness, production or muscle terms)

- 1 is a wider made, heavier structured gilt/barrow with more shape to her rib.

Gilts:
- 1 is a more durable designed, wider structured, sounder footed gilt that should prove to have more confinement soundness.

Mkt Hogs:
- 2 is a more production oriented barrow with an advantage in composition.

Mkt Hogs:
- 2 is a more production oriented, faster growing barrow who has more skeletal width and is a more powerfully muscled barrow.

Gilts:
- 1 is a looser structured, bigger footed gilt with a more even toe size.

Gilts:
- 1 is a broodier appearing, wider bladed gilt who has more spring of rib and tracks wider on her hind legs.

Mkt Hogs:
- 2 is a stouter made, wider based, heavier structured barrow who works more product from shoulder to hip.

- 2 is the lightest structured, flattest ribbed and the narrowest based, least muscular gilt.

- 1 is a frail made, light skeletoned, small footed barrow with the least base width and musculature.
Underlines

Advantages

- More maternal appearing
- Higher quality more refined underline
- More evenly spaced underline
- Higher quality, finer textured underline
- Starts further forward
- Freer of pin nipples
- More prominent in underline
- Larger testicles (boars)

Disadvantages

- Coarse made
- Blunt
- Coarse underline
- Uneven in her underline spacing
- Inverts

Tying Underline Terms into Phrases

Gilts - 1 is a more maternal appearing gilt who is longer and trimmer fronted, has more length of face and starts further forward with a higher quality, finer textured underline.

Gilts - 1 has a higher quality, more evenly spaced underline that is freer of pin nipples.

Gilts - 1 is a more maternal appearing gilt who starts further forward with a more prominent, evenly spaced underline.

Boars - 1 is a more rugged made, wider skeletoned, more muscular boar with larger testicles.

Gilts - 1 is a coarse made gilt that is coarse and blunt in her underline.

Gilts - 1 is uneven in her underline spacing and has the most inverts.

Growth and Frame Size

Advantages

- Faster growing
• Taller shoulder
• Taller fronted
• More extended
• Longer skeletoned
• Longer sided
• Longer fronted
• Longer and leveler hipped
• More production oriented (mkt. Hogs)
• Faster growing
• Heavier weight
• More skeletal length
• Bigger outlined
• Larger scaled
• Potential, continued lean growth

Disadvantages

• Low fronted
• Short skeleton
• Short sided
• Small stunted
• Short hipped
• Slow growing
• Short fronted
• Small scaled

Tying Growth and Frame Size Terms into Phrases (can be incorporated with production, leanness, or muscle terms)

Mkt.
Hogs - 1 is a taller fronted more extended barrow who has an advantage in composition.

Mkt.
Hogs - 1 is a bigger outlined, longer skeletoned, rawer designed barrow who is trimmer through his jowl, works off a cleaner blade and reads with a more natural expression of muscle from shoulder to hip. These advantages imply he has more potential for continued lean growth.

Mkt.
Hogs - 1 is a more production oriented, wider structured, faster growing barrow with more skeletal length.
- 1 is slow growing, short skeletoned, and light muscled.
- 1 is a narrow based, flat ribbed, slow growing barrow
- I criticized the lowest fronted, shortest skeletoned barrow and place him fourth as he is the narrowest skeletoned, lightest muscled, heaviest finished barrow.

Muscling, Leaness and Carcass Terms

Muscle

Advantages

- More muscular (follow with details)
- Heavier muscled (follow with details)
- Works with a squarer more muscular shape from shoulder to hip
- Works with more product from shoulder to hip
- Reads with a more natural expression of muscle from shoulder to hip
- Bolder topped
- Thicker ended
- More flare through rump
- More dimension of muscle to a deeper tying ham
- More expression of muscle through his ham and stifle
- More carcass oriented
- Composition advantage/advantage in composition (muscle and leanness)
- Projects more lean muscle shape from shoulder to hip
- More muscular turn to the edge of loin
- Longer rumped barrow/gilt with more volume of muscle and is deeper tying in her ham.
- More width and volume out her hip and more dimension to her ham
- Potential carcass value or merit
- Stouten made
- More powerfully muscled

Disadvantages

- Light muscled (follow with details)
- Narrow topped
- Flat through ham and stifle
Leanness

**Advantages**

- Leaner made
- Rawer designed
- Trimmer designed
- Trimmer through jowl and lower body
- Works off a cleaner blade
- Trimmer finished
- Lean gain
- More market weight versatility (frame size and leanness)

**Disadvantages**

- Heavy finished
- Short fronted barrow who is wasty through his jowl and lower body
- Round-topped

Carcass Terms

**Advantages**

- Resulting in greater lean value
- Higher percent muscle
- Measure leaner at the 10th rib / measure with less 10th rib fat thickness
- Cut open a larger loin eye
- More muscular carcass
- Heavier muscled more shapely carcass
- More shapely carcass

**Disadvantages**

- Least lean value
- Lightest muscled carcass
- Least muscular carcass
- Least shapely carcass
- Lightest muscled, least shapely carcass

Tying Muscling, Leanness and Carcass Terms into Phrases

- 2 is a heavier muscled, trimmer designed gilt who works more muscle dimension from shoulder to hip and more depth and volume to her ham.
- 1 is a stouter made, rawer designed, squarer topped gilt who reads with a more muscular turn to the edge of her loin, more width and volume out her hip and more dimension to her ham.

- 1 is a more powerfully muscled barrow who works more product from shoulder to hip with more width and flare through his rump and more dimension of muscle to his ham and stifle. And 1 should yield a more muscular carcass opening with a larger loin eye.

- 1 is a more carcass oriented barrow with an advantage in composition. Not only is he a stouter made barrow who works a squarer more muscular shape from shoulder to hip with more expression to his ham and stifle, but also is the rawer designed trimmer fronted who should yield a carcass measuring with less 10th rib fat thickness and open with a larger eye.

- 1 is a leaner made barrow who is trimmer through his jowl and lower body and projects more lean muscle shape from shoulder to hip and should rail a carcass higher in percent muscle resulting in greater lean value.

- 1 is a taller shouldered, more extended, cleaner designed barrow who is trimmer fronted, reads with a more natural expression of muscle from shoulder to hip and consequently should have more potential for continued lean growth (or more market weight versatility). These advantages should result in greater lean value on the rail.

- 2 is a short fronted, somewhat light muscled barrow and one of the two heavy finished market hogs in class.

- 2 is a light muscled, heavy finished barrow who is wasty through his jowl and lower body.

- I faulted the smallest statured, shortest skeletoned off belted barrow and preferred his fourth as he is the narrowest made, lightest muscled, heaviest finished barrow who should yield the least shapely carcass with the least lean value.

Performance Statements

Boars

Terminal - 10th rib fat thickness and EPD's relating to Value Marketing

- He would be more likely to enhance the lean value of his offspring.

- His scan data indicates that his market hogs should kill with a higher percent muscle.

- These advantages imply that his progeny should have a composition advantage
Duroc Gilts

Scenario

Rank these gilts in the order they should be selected as replacement females in a purebred Duroc operation that profits mainly from the sale of gilts and show pigs to junior exhibitors. In addition to marketing to junior exhibitors, some top end progeny are sold as seedstock. All non-replacement progeny will be sold directly to the packer based on a lean value system. All hogs are raised in confinement.

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<tr>
<th>Gilt No.</th>
<th>Number Born Alive</th>
<th>21-day Litter Weight</th>
<th>Days to 250 pounds</th>
<th>Back Fat</th>
<th>Maternal Line Index</th>
<th>Terminal Sire Index</th>
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<td>-0.5</td>
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<td>102</td>
<td>105</td>
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National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

November 15, 2016

Duroc Gilts

Scenario

Rank these gilts in the order they should be selected as replacement females in a purebred Duroc operation that profits mainly from the sale of gilts to other breeders and show pigs to junior exhibitors. All non-replacement progeny will be sold directly to the packer based on a lean value system. All hogs are raised in confinement.

Performance Data

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<tr>
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National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

November 17, 2015

Duroc Gilts

Scenario

Rank these gilts in the order they should be selected as replacement females in a purebred Duroc operation that profits mainly from the sale of gilts and show pigs to junior exhibitors. All non-replacement progeny will be sold directly to the packer based on a lean value system. All hogs are raised in confinement.

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Yorkshire Market Gilt

I placed the Yorkshire market gilts 1-4-2-3. Starting with the most production-oriented gilt who excels the class in lean gain and potential carcass merit. As compared to the ideal, 1 could be leveler rumped.

Nevertheless, I placed 1 over 4 in my top pair of the leanest finished, heaviest skeletoned gilts. As 1 has a distinct advantage in muscle when compared to 4, she works more product from shoulder to hip and has more bulge and dimension of muscle to a deeper tying ham. Due to these advantages, 1 should rail the shapelier carcass opening with the larger eye of the pair. To compliment this, 1 is a longer skeletoned, faster growing gilt that is more durably constructed than 4; being heavier boned, wider chested and having a more outward turn of rib. 1 also works sounder out of a looser hip, with a more functional set and flex to her hock. I grant that 4 is cleaner through the seam of her ham, still I criticized 4 and placed her second as she is a somewhat short fronted gilt that is tight and round hipped, straight hocked and one of the two smaller gilts in the class.

Even so, I gave 4 the advantage over 2 in my middle pair. 4 is a heavier structured, rawer finished gilt than 2, this advantage in leaniness is supported by working off the cleaner blade, having a squarer, more natural turn from shoulder to hip; and being trimmer through her jowl and lower body. 4 should go to the rail measuring shallower at the 10th rib, translating into a greater lean value. I realize that 2 is a bigger outlined, higher performing, longer fronted gilt that is also leveler rumped than 4; nevertheless, I criticized 2 and placed her third as she is a somewhat heavy finished, round topped gilt that is wasty through her jowl and elbow pocket. And, a narrow based, flat sided gilt that is the lightest structured of the four.

Despite these criticisms, I still placed 2 over 3 in my bottom pair of the heavier finished gilts. As 2, when compared to 3, is a larger framed gilt with more natural muscle shape down her top and through her ham. 2 is also a leaner, longer fronted gilt that is cleaner through her lower body. Due to these advantages, 4 should yield a longer sided carcass with a higher percentage of lean than 3 and, if needed, could better maintain lean gain to heavier market weights. I appreciate that 3 is a heavier boned gilt than 2 and the loosest structured, soundest moving gilt in the class. Yet criticized 3 and placed her last. 3 is the lightest muscled, smallest statured, shortest coupled gilt that is the most excessively finished and should go to the rail with the least lean value.
I placed the market hogs 4312. Presented as a challenging opening decision where carcass merit isn’t of concern. 4 is just the more production driven barrow who is built fundamentally more correct underneath. It starts at the ground, where 4 approaches me with more width and squareness in his chest and knee and transitions into more center skeleton. And then structurally he is laid back further in his shoulder and sets to the surface with more cushion up front and plants and drives more secure in his hock with more flexibility. Now the chromed up barrow who is more acceptable in his maturity makes a strong case to win for me. Here is the up headed more attractively designed barrow who studies with more genuine shape from blade to hip. But he narrows up in his chest and is simply too restricted on each end so I marked him a close second.

But 3’s decisive advantage in lean gain and potential product provides for a simple middle pair decision where he beats 1. The litter 3 barrow works more power on a much wider and stouter structural base and should end with more tenth rib muscle. I wouldn’t argue the flexibility advantage of the predominantly white market hog. But his lack of muscle and width keeps him a distant 3rd, and normally a candidate for 4th.

But today I like his basic skeletal build and preferred him over 2. The heavier weight barrow is assembled more durable in the angle to his lower joints and drives the surface with more confidence. From the side 1 studies naturally fuller through his fore rib and center skeleton all of which reflects the more productive look. Now, I could see this pair switched in favor of the belted barrow. At this point he provides more lean muscle content essential for enhanced terminal merit. But I am afraid his tight rib and skeletal flaws could ultimately jeopardize bottom line profitability in a true finishing environment.

Time: 1:40

Alternative openings:

1. Both 4 and 3 have the terminal merit I’m after, but each offer a strong case to win yet for entirely different reasons. And I will stay committed to the more production driven barrow....

2. In a challenging opening pair of heavier wt. barrows who easily provide the muscle and leanness essential for enhanced terminal merit,
Market Barrows

I prefer the market barrows 3241. Power is certainly in 3’s favor, but perhaps his problem –free skeletal design seals the win, and I never considered beating him with 2 in the top pair.

3 drives at me more pulled apart in his chest and center blade and continues this width advantage from there back. THEN, he handles this power with more structural confidence. The blue hipped barrow works out of the leveler hip, plants the squarer foot and drives with more stability and width. Now I wish that was bigger in his kind, and without question, 2 is taller fronted and longer sided. But his structural flaws leave him behind and impressive class winner. The blue topped barrow is pigeon toed, low in his tail set and he sets narrow at his base comparatively.

But even still, 2 is distinctly the bolder framed barrow in the middle pair over 4. The bigger structured barrow sets the bolder blade on the deeper, more productive rib cage, allowing him to generate more product from blade to hip. Now I realize that 4 is the longest bodied, levest hipped barrow and I appreciate his expression up top and soundness through his front skeleton. Unfortunately, he is built the frailest in his foot and bone and is straight in his hock. THEN, the belted barrow just isn’t productive enough in his body cavity so he’s a comfortable third.

Despite this, it is easily 4 over 1 in the final pair. 4 is by far wider underneath, more muscular and should simply end with more product. Now I wouldn’t agree 1’s advantage in depth of rib and bone but the dry skin barrow easily falls out of contention from a lean shape and mass standpoint in this set of muscular hogs. He too is up in his chine, short hipped and timid in his movement so I marked him fourth.
I like the Market Hogs 2143. In a top pair of heavy muscled, product driven barrows, 2’s skeletal design that makes for a unique show barrow look and still holds terminal value and I never thought about beating him with 1.

The predominately white barrow sets down square on his corners is more extended ahead of his blades and is constructed leveling in his rump structure. But perhaps, his true value lies in his structural base. Where he’s more laid back in his blade, knee and reaches out with more flexibility off both ends of his skeleton. Now, I will admit my winner could be more pried apart underneath and this is where the barrow in 2nd counters him. 1 is built wider and more powerful from the ground up and opens with more dimension through his center body. But, I just can’t get past my initial impression of him as the low fronted course featured barrow that is too restricted in his structure.

Despite these criticisms, I just see more economic incentives as it relates to cutability and easily used him over 4 in the middle pair. To keep it simple, the blue eyed litter 10 barrow is much more opened up through his entire skeleton. Then, he’s trimmer design and creases more shape from blade to hip and should have a higher cut out value. Now, there’s no question 4 is certainly taller fronted and wider centered but past this he’s wasty through his jowl and lower one third, entirely to plain in his shape and needs to stay in the bottom pair, where it’s his practical traits and skeletal width that keeps him over 3.

The black headed barrow reads with a more correct set and angle to his joints, he opens up more pliable through his center body and then works more total volume of muscle on top of a more powerful base. Terminally speaking, he should cut open with more 10th rib muscle. Now sure, the litter 14 barrow is stronger topped and leveler hipped. But the bottom line is, the poor structured, ill design barrow needs to be provided with more width and mass to be relevant.
Yorkshire Gilts
Performance Data

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As a summer intern for premium Standard Farms, you have been asked to rank these gilts as potential replacements to meet the demands of efficient pork production including maternal strengths, growth, longevity, and carcass merit in progeny. The gilts will be mated to Duroc X Hampshire boars in a terminal crossbreeding program.

I ranked the Performance Yorkshire Gilts 2-4-3-1. I found a logical place to start in the broodiest appearing, most durably designed gilt with the most correct balance of muscle volume, structural dimension and should most likely meet the demands of efficient pork production. Indeed the litter 1 gilt could be more correct in behind her blades and more refined in her underline.

Nonetheless, as compared to 4 in my top pair who bring forth the maternal strengths to compliment this terminal cross, 2 is higher volumed, bolder made and structurally wider in the lower third of her skeleton. She too, is more functionally designed. 2 specifically is set further back in her blade, is more relaxed in her knee and drives ahead truer up front on more foot and toe spread. Then, she remains more flexible from there back and should have more brood sow promise. Now, I admit that 4 in stronger in her spine and is more evenly spaced and refined in her underline, but she is a flat ribbed, straight shouldered gilt who drives in at her knees and consistently tracks narrow at her base.

Even so, in my middle pair 4 is genetically much stronger than 3. Her data indicate that her progeny should generate more revenue for Premium Standard Farms. And, visually 4 is the taller fronted, longer skeletoned gilt who works sounder out of her hip with more flex and give to her hock and pastern and then reaches with more ease and comfort off her rear two. I realize the other litter 1 gilt is bolder in her rib shape and tracks wider when viewed from behind. But I preferred the gilt with a pin nipple 3rd because she a low fronted, short sided gilt that is somewhat tight in her spine, round out of her hip and one of the two low indexing gilts in class.

Now, in my bottom pair of gilts who are below breed average for MLI and have the least potential to improve the next generation, 1 placed 3 over 1. 3 is a stouter skeletoned, softer ribbed gilt who is sounder structured and should offer more confinement soundness. I wouldn’t argue 1’s advantage in muscle expression and visual performance, but the tipped vulva gilt is too extreme in her composition, the lowest volumed, frailest constructed, tightest hipped gilt that should have the least replacement value.
Performance Crossbred Gilts

HLSR 2011

I like the crossbred gilts with performance 3142. My winners durable build and maternal function makes her hard to beat and I feel the most comfortable mating her to terminal boars so I confidently marked her over 1 in my initial pair.

The solid black gilt is much more feminine appearing taller fronted gilt that’s longer and more level about her spine, more correct in her rump structure and drives with more strength and stability off of both ends of her skeleton. Furthermore this bolder bodied gilt studies with a more maternal turn to her lower rib and collectively I bet she will offer more longevity once placed in confinement. Now it’s not surprising that the gilt that charts the highest in LEA is the heaviest muscled widest constructed gilt and her power should be of value for show pig production but unfortunately her structure may jeopardize her usefulness as a brood sow as she’s pushed forward in her blade and knee and is restricted from behind so I left her second.

Even so, in a much closer intermediate duo that offer tradeoffs I just prefer the barrow making abilities of 1. The tri colored gilt is the wider constructed bolder ribbed female that leaves me with more natural thickness from behind. Now I can certainly see how you would switch the pair in 4’s favor she is the much nicer designed taller fronted gilt that’s more level about her lines and drives with more flexibility off of both ends but for me of the initial trio she the flat ribbed gilt that tapers to her base so I left her a close third.

Despite this, she’s still the much more reliable investment my final pair. She’s still the more maternal deeper sided gilt that’s laid back further in her blade and looser structured. Sure, 2 may be more extended but the bottom lines is the narrow belted gilt is the narrowest constructed flattest ribbed gilt that’s the most restricted in her skeleton so she’s a distinct 4th
Yorkshire Gilts

These Gilts will be used as replacements in a purebred Yorkshire operation whose primary objective is to produce replacement purebred gilts for show pig production in the San Antonio area. Their daughters will be mated to either Yorkshire or Hampshire boars to produce show pigs. The competitive purebred Yorkshire gilts and crossbred barrows will be targeted for exhibition in the San Antonio and Houston Livestock Shows in the Spring and the State Fair of Texas in the Fall.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Backfat (BF) EPD</th>
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<th>LBS EPD</th>
<th>Sow Prod. Index</th>
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I ranked the Yorkshire Gilts with performance 1-3-2-4. Both 1 and 3 read genetically comparable and although 1 could be improved in her underline refinement, structural design and female quality makes her the logical choice regardless of production goals.

Primarily, the more feminine featured gilt is fundamentally more correct. The 26 litter gilt is not only more organized in her front skeleton, but she is assembled looser and more attractive out of her hip and reaches with more flex and give to her hock and pastern. If her productive look breeds true, I’d put faith in 1’s daughters to provide the more successful purebred maternal base. I am aware that 3 views underneath with a more functional and refined underline, but the gilt with the infantile vulva needs to be redesigned structurally, so I marked her an easy 2nd.

And this made for a challenging middle pair where records favored 3. The higher indexing gilt who is backed by the more productive dam approaches me more expanded through her chest floor and transitions from there into more center body and should provide for more genetic improvement in growth. On the other hand the longer fronted gilt in 3rd is leveler hipped and looser constructed, but this frail featured gilt is too flat in her rib shape and closes up in her lower skeleton, not to mention that she is at a genetic deficit.

Nonetheless, confinement soundness easily sorts 2 over 4. The bigger, more extended gilt owns the distinct pair advantage in skeletal quality and structural soundness. Now 4 reads with a subtle advantage on paper, but the blunt underline gilt is visually the slowest performing, but perhaps most critically the poorest designed and tightest structured gilt resulting in the least production merit so she is 4th.
Berkshire Market Hogs – Official 4312, cuts of 3-7-2
Reasons Score: 47

I like the Berkshire market hogs 4321. & I think it quickly sorts into a top pair of gilts that offer some tradeoffs – but ultimately, I found a place to start in the litter 3 gilt. She’s the wide chested, bold bladed gilt who transitions back into a more productive center & still works plenty of genuine shape & dimension down the topside of her skeleton & carries that advantage out of a powerful hip & ham. Now granted, I wish she was a notch stouter featured, but that’s where the loud marked gilt counters her flaws. She is the stout skulled, big legged gilt & while she better utilizes her rear two on the drive, at the same time, she’s also the shallow centered gilt & I’d like for her to blend smoother at her ham/loin junction & just be constructed more correct out of her hip.

But none the less, it’s with my carcass driven mindset that makes the middle decision rather routine. & I’ll stay committed to the advantage in muscularity of the big backed gilt that reads with a deeper, shapelier groove out of the back side of her blades. Now, there’s no doubt, the tip eared barrow is pounds heavier and reads more practical in his center body. But all too often that productive look comes at a cost & the stale skin barrow is plain & non-descript in his shape. & honestly sir, his mass up high just isn’t relative to his base down low as he tapers all the way to the ground.

And, while I’m not a big fan of either hog in the bottom decision, he’s the stouter featured, faster growing barrow who will just end with more product on the rail. Now, the white eared gilt is long spined & could arguably have the upper hand in cutability. But the narrow skulled, frail featured gilt is entirely too shallow & closed in her lower skeleton & I felt obligated to sort her down.

Crossbred Market Hogs Official Placing 1324, Cuts 732
Reasons Score: 48

I like the crossbred market hogs 1342. I think there’s a logical place to start in the fresher skinned, litter 1 gilt. She’s the wide chested one who’s pliable rib shape lays the foundation for more topside power, and she’s certainly got the upper hand in skeletal quality, as she’s longer and leveler designed and corners squarer and truer at the ground.

Now there’s no doubt that the other litter 1 gilt is plenty stout and powerful, but it’s her build that keeps her second. The low set, short spined gilt is in at her knee and pretty tight and restricted on the drive, so I felt comfortable keeping her 2nd.

But regardless, it’s just my carcass driven mindset that keeps her over 4 in the middle decision. She’s the wider skeletoned, bolder bladed one that works a more aggressive turn behind her blade, and she certainly reads with more shape and dimension through her hip and ham.

Now don’t get me wrong, I realize that 4 is taller shouldered and offers more length and extension, but she’s also the narrow skulled one that’s pretty disappointing when she drives away, as she really narrows up in her hip and flattens in that lower stifl.

But still yet, I use her in the final decision pretty handily. She’s just the leaner composed option and while she’s not perfect in this regard herself, I still think she reads with a more expressive groove down her back and more authentic shape from behind.

Now that spotted up barrow is stout skulled and big legged and he definitely gives you an easy feeding look from the side, but you study this one up high or going away and he’s just too plain and nondescript. The low cutability barrow needs more genuine muscle shape to maximize his endpoint value, so I marked him 4th. Thank you.
Sample Swine Questions
*Answers are in parenthesis*

**Commercial Gilt Questions**

1. Which is the mostly white gilt? (4)
2. Which is the straightest shouldered gilt? (3)
3. When comparing 3 and 4, which gilt has the most prominent and refined underline? (4)
4. Which gilt has the weakest top, broken just behind the shoulder? (1)
5. When comparing 1 and 4, which gilt is the deepest bodied? (4)
6. Which gilt is the shortest strided and most restricted in her movement? (3)
7. When comparing 1 and 2, which is gilt is the bolder fronted, wider chested gilt? (2)
8. Based on the performance data, 1 and 4 are littermates. (True)
9. When comparing 2 and 4, which gilt is the heaviest boned? (2)
10. When comparing 2 and 4, which gilt is the longer necked and more feminine about her front end? (4)

**Market Hog Questions**

1. Which is the heaviest muscled, most expressive pig? (2)
2. Between 3 & 4, which is the fattest? (4)
3. Which pig is the tightest moving and most restricted in its movement up front? (4)
4. Which is the gilt? (2)
5. When viewed from behind, which pig shows the least expression through its ham? (1)
6. Between gilts 3 and 4, which is longer bodied and leveler through its rump? (3)
7. Which pig is the widest based and most open through the center of its body? (2)
8. Which is the Hampshire patterned pig? (1)
9. Between 1 & 2, which pig will hang a carcass with a greater percent lean? (2)
10. Between 2 & 4, which pig is shorter bodied and shorter fronted? (4)
Duroc Gilt Questions

1. Which was the darkest colored gilt? (2)
2. Which was the freest and easiest moving gilt? (3)
3. Which gilt appeared to be the fattest today? (4)
4. Between gilts 2 and 3, which was leveler in her top and hip design? (3)
5. Were there any littermates? (yes)
6. Between gilts 1 and 4, which was longer and cleaner fronted? (1)
7. Between gilts 2 and 3, which had more depth of body? (2)
8. Which gilt was the most prominent in her underline? (1)
9. Which was the shortest bodied gilt? (4)
10. Based upon the EPDs, which gilt would most likely produce boars that would sire the slowest growing offspring? (1)
National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
Berkshire Gilts Questions-Class #5

1. Which gilt has the longest tail? 1
2. Between 1 and 3, which gilt has the most refined nipples and best underline? 1
3. Who is the widest made gilt? 3
4. Which gilt didn't have her head clipped? 4
5. Between 2 and 3, who is the tallest fronted? 3
6. According to the data; which gilt had the lowest NBA’s and the slowest growing? 4
7. Which gilt has the weakest poorest set to her rear legs? 1
8. Which gilt has the steapest rump? 1
9. Which gilt is the narrowest made? 4
10. Are there any littermates in this class? 2-No

2-