

## SELECTION OF SHOW PIGS

Showing livestock is a rewarding activity for students, parents and advisors. Any livestock project should be built around an educational experience, not a “get rich quick” activity. Feeding animals for exhibition is not a true economic picture of the livestock industry. In most instances, premium prices are paid to exercise programs and participation in stock shows and futurities.

Livestock showing does teach responsibility, builds character, encourages good sportsmanship, nurtures a love for animals and often gives the exhibitor the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life and builds life-long friendships.

There are several things one must consider before setting out to look for a show pig.

1. Where am I going to purchase my pig?
  - A. Sales
  - B. Private Treaty
2. What price range?
3. Which show am I aiming for with the pig?
4. Sex of the pig.
5. Who is judging the show?
6. The most important...What should I be looking for in the pig I select?

These are questions you should ask yourself in selection of your show pig.

1. Size and frame of the pig.
2. Which pig displays the heaviest bone and structure?
3. Length of pig.
4. Which pig has the widest chest floor?
5. Which pig displays the most width between its shoulder blades?
6. Which pig shows to be the leanest?
7. Which pig sets its feet down out on the corners of its body?
8. Which pig has the highest tail setting?
9. Which pig displays the most uniform arch over its back from its ears to its tail?
10. Which pig has the best muscle shape?
11. Which pig is tallest at the point of the shoulder?
12. Which pig stands out the most or is the prettiest?

Try to select a pig that meets all these requirements. Remember, you must be happy with the pig to do a good job with him. Do not buy any problems!!