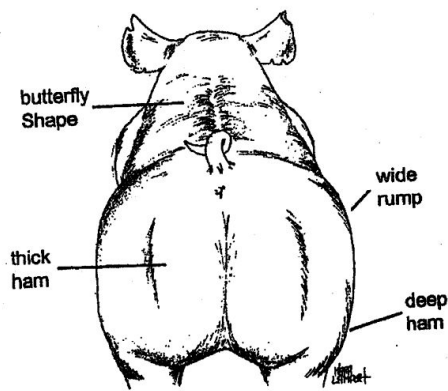
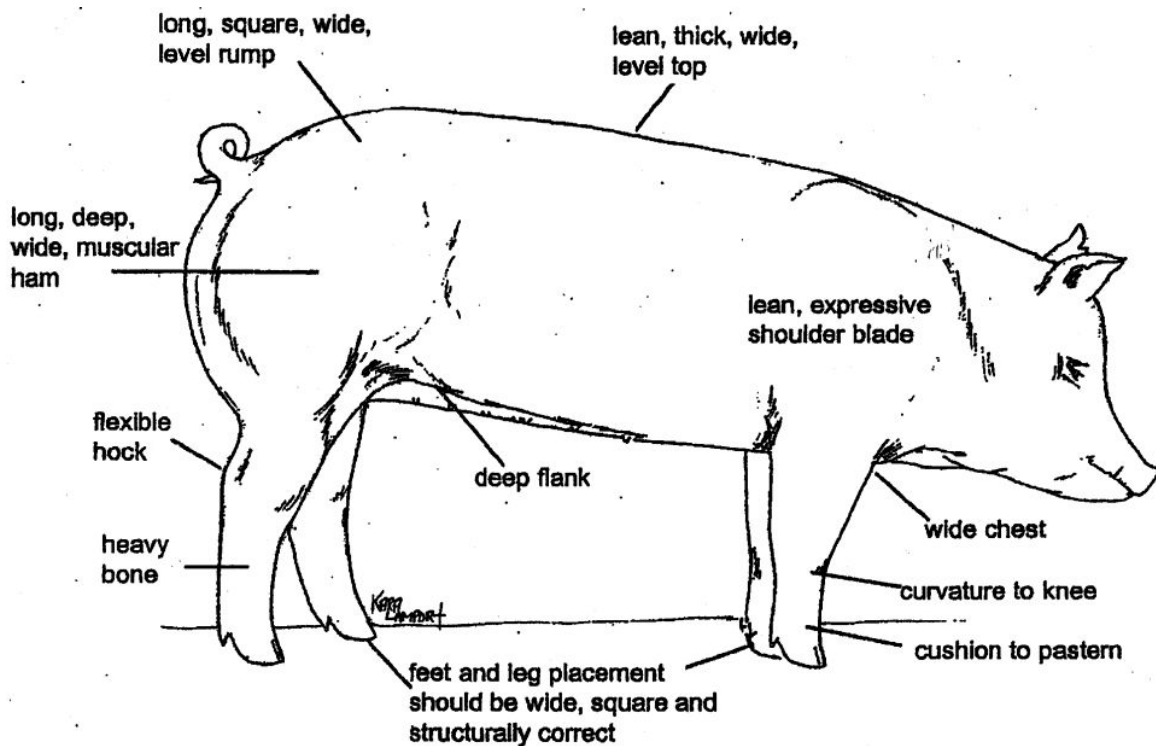


Choosing Your Best Market Hog



Ideal Market Hog- Rear View

1. Structural correctness

Structural correctness refers to the skeletal system or bone structure of an animal. A hog should have toes that are even in size and shape, front legs should have angulation and slope through the knee, hind legs should be set to the hock and free from joint swelling. You should be able to see a looseness in your hog through the hip and shoulder while they walk. Hogs should be able to walk without restraint.

2. Muscle

Generally, a hog that walks and stands wide is going to be heavier muscled. The hog should have shape to it's top that is grooved with a crisp loin edge. The ham should be expressive, thick from side to side, and should carry down the leg to the hock. The hog should have thick muscular shoulders.

3. Volume and capacity

This refers to the relationship of body length to body depth and body width. Hogs should be long bodied, with adequate depth and spring of rib.

Avoid selecting hogs that are short bodied, shallow bodied, narrow based and flat ribbed.

4. Style and balance

Style and balance refer to the way all body parts blend together, how the neck blends into the shoulder, the shoulder into the rib cage, the rib cage into the loin, the loin into the rump, and how "eye-appealing" a hog is.

When viewed from the side, a hog should have a level top, sprung middle and correct legs. A hog that is balanced, will be clean topped, have a clean neck/jowl, and will be expressive in muscle, free from excess fat. (Extension UNCAR, 2019)

