

November 2011 Hampshire Boars

Placings: 1-2-3-4

Cuts: 4-6-3

I like the Hampshire boars 1-2-3-4. The crinkle-eared narrow belt immediately stands apart with respect to mass, square-ness of build and structural integrity. I see him to be the heaviest muscled, boldest bodied and most durably constructed boar of the drive.

As directly compared to 2 in my initial duo of the higher-caliber, wider- built sires that I would anticipate to generate a more elite showing progeny, 1 is the thicker made boar that spreads more shape and dimension over the more open ribcage, and I especially appreciate that the longer, tougher skeleton-ed hog reads the most stable from hock to ground. There is a lot to like in the boar in second; he is a really powerful forearmed, well balanced boar that reads from the profile as complete as any. Yet as he turns and goes—he admits himself into my intermediate decision—the shorter made, steeper hipped boar is straighter and a bit unstable at his hock.

Yet despite this criticism, I never contemplate switching the middle pair—2 is easily the more open-structured, powerfully built, bolder ribbed hog that represents an easier feeding production type. I can appreciate 3's extension and levelness of design— being the longer and leveler hipped boar of the pair. However, this holds little relevance when considering he is the narrowest, frailest, and tightest bodied boar in the class.

Concluding with a closer pair of lower quality boars that contrast in type and kind, I prefer the structural correctness and shape of 3. He appears to offer a more correct angle to his hock, and is especially stronger in his lower joints. Plus, as an added bonus, has a greater expression of shape from blade to hip. Initially, I was led to favor the added depth of rib, softness, and bone that 4 presents, yet in a breed plagued by structural inconsistency—I see the weak pastern-ed, straight hocked boar that is set too far forward in his blade to have the least to offer.

Thank You,

Jett Eder