

November 2010

Berkshire Breeding Gilts

Official Placing:

4-1-3-2

Cuts: 2-3-4

I placed the class of Berkshire breeding gilts, 4-1-3-2. In my top pair of more structurally correct females, I preferred 4 over 1. More specifically 4 is longer and more extended up through her head and neck. She too is tied in nicer at the point of her shoulder and has more bend to her front knees. I realize, that 1 is a more moderately designed female, who is more uniform about her teat quality. Yet, at the same time, she needs to possess a better slope to her shoulder and front knees. When on the move I would predict for her to be more rigid and short striding off of her front feet and legs.

Even so in my middle pair of gilts, I prefer 1 over 3, as she best combines structure, volume, and balance to the highest degree. The darker colored gilt is more correct in her angulation from stifle to hock and hock to the ground. She too, carries a greater volume of muscle down a more correctly turned top and possess more depth of fore rib. In addition, 1 has more teats placed farther forward and she is more refined about her underline. I realize that 3 is a feminine fronted individual but she also is more structurally incorrect off her rear legs, shallower volumed, courser about her teats, and ill-balanced from a profile.

In my concluding pair of Berkshire gilts my preferred alignment is 3 over 2. 3 is a broodier appearing female that is deeper about her flank. Furthermore, she is extended up front being longer about her head and neck, and more correct in the front 1/3 of her body. I admit the pale colored gilt is bigger boned, yet it ends there as 2 is the most structurally incorrect gilt being bench kneed, straight in her hocks, and weak at her ham loin junction.

Thank you,

Ryan Harrell