

National Contest

PICTURE JUDGING

2007

Reasons

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Each year, the National Swine Registry sponsors the National Picture Judging Contest. It is open to youth and adult participants, and includes divisions for 4-H, FFA and collegiate teams. The contest ran in the November/December 2006 issue of *Seedstock EDGE* and on the NSR Web site with entries due Feb. 1. Here are this year's official reasons and results.

Class 1 Hampshire Boars

Official Placing: 1-2-3-4

Cuts: 5-3-2

We rank the Hampshire boars 1-2-3-4. The big-scaled, high-performing 1 boar logically sorts to the top. He's the wide-skeleton, long-fronted, tall-shouldered boar that's level topped, and we would expect his daughters to have the most success come July. Sure, the boar in second should inject more growth, and he is a heavy-boned boar that has body, but he is weaker topped of the pair that's plainer in the shape.

It's still his power and functionality that keeps 2 in second. He's bigger bodied, has more slope to his shoulder and appears to have more flex to his hock. Sure, 3 is stronger out of his shoulder and is set higher at the base of his tail. But, as we study his center, he's the harsher-bodied boar that also gives up genetic potential.

There's some give and take in our bottom pair, but it's 3's design that sorts the pair 3 over 4. 3 is taller fronted and stronger topped, while being leveler hiped. The bigger-footed boar is fourth. 4 is stouter boned and fresher centered, but he also appears to be the tightest-spined, smallest-statured and poorest-performing boar of the class.

Class 2 Duroc Boars

Official Placing: 2-3-4-1

Cuts: 6-3-4

We placed this class of Duroc boars 2-3-4-1, starting the class with a boar that excelled in both days and TSI EPDs. This, coupled with being a loose-structured, big-ribbed, sound-designed boar that is well

balanced, made him an easy class winner.

In a close middle pair, we chose 3 over 4. The 3 boar, with a slight advantage in TSI, is a bigger-bodied, bolder-sprung boar that is deeper in his rib and rear flank. Granted, 4 is a longer-fronted, more-extended boar that is more expressive in muscle shape. However, he appears to be the narrower-chested and tighter-ribbed boar of the pair.

In our final pair, we chose 4, as he excels in center body width, muscle dimension, overall design and balance, sorting him over 1. Granted, 1 is long bodied and heavy muscled. However, we placed him fourth, as he is coarse fronted, weak behind his blade and dry in his rib and rear flank.

Class 3 Yorkshire Boars

Official Placing: 2-1-3-4

Cuts: 6-2-5

Starting with the boar that simply dominates this class both visually and on paper, we ranked this class of Yorkshire boars 2-1-3-4. 2 excels the class in terms of his data and phenotypic design. He's a heavy-boned, stout-featured hog that has plenty of three-dimensional, descript muscle shape from blade to hip. He maintains the most structural integrity of any hog in the class, and certainly excels on paper. 1 does have a slightly higher NBA EPD and also excels his class winner in MLI. However, he simply lacks the overall power and muscle mass to compete with our class winner.

In our middle pair, balance and design sort 1 over 3. 1 is the leveler-designed, nicer-balanced boar of the pair. He, too, is more level out of his hip and appears more secure on his rear pasterns. 3 is a faster-growing, more-productive boar that has utilized his days on feed more efficiently. However, he is the most structurally challenged boar of the drive that also tends to be a little soft behind his blades.

In our bottom pair, it is the pork producer's emphasis on selecting higher-performing, faster-growing hogs that sorts 3 over 4. 3 is a bigger-outlined, growthier-

appearing boar that certainly holds the pounds and performance advantage. He is a stouter-featured boar that is more opened up in his center body, bolder bladed, and deeper in his rear flank. 4 holds the leanness advantage, but it stops there, as he is the pounds-light, frailest-featured boar in the class that is dryer in forerib, and tighter in flank. For these reasons, he goes fourth.

Class 4 Landrace Boars

Official Placing: 3-1-4-2

Cuts: 4-2-6

The Landrace boars showed the committee different types and different kinds. As a group, we found that the best placing would be 3-1-4-2. We chose to lead off with the 3 boar as he shows the best balance, while being heavy muscled, long bodied and still maintaining the needed eye appeal to produce offspring that will compete at state and national shows. This boar is also heavy boned, clean sheathed and still strong in his maternal data. We realize that 1 shows more spring to his rib and is leveler about his hip, while being higher in his maternal line index. Where this boar gets beat is that he is smaller in his kind and finer about his features.

In the middle pair it is 1 over 4, as 1 shows more muscle volume to his hip and stifle, and has more shape and mass to his top. He is more likely to sire offspring that will be faster growing. The boar in third is very level about his hip and longer bodied, and is the highest in his litter weight EPD. We find 4 to be less descript in his muscle shape and just lighter muscled in general.

In the final pair, balance sorts the 4 boar over 2 with ease, as he has a better angle to his shoulder, is leveler in his hip and is deeper in his flank. He is more likely to sire offspring that will place higher and generate more money in state and national sales. The 2 boar is stouter boned and has more muscle to his hip, but he is just the tightest flanked, straightest in his shoulder and off quality in relation to the class.

Class 5 Hampshire Gilts

Official Placing: 1-4-3-2

Cuts: 5-2-5

Starting with the nicest-balanced, heaviest-muscled gilt, we ranked this class of Hampshire breeding gilts 1-4-3-2. 1 is the most massively designed female of the drive. She uniquely and effectively combines the most center body mass, femininity and balance of any in the class. She is really opened up underneath, with that same base width advantage throughout. 1 is level designed and appears to have plenty of flexibility off both ends. From a phenotypic standpoint, she excels her contemporaries. Sure, 4 is a faster-growing female; however, she lacks the overall balance, muscle mass and base width found in our class winner.

In coming to my closer middle pair, it is 4 over the narrow-belted 3. 4 certainly excels in terms of her TSI, and she appears to be a heavier-muscled female. She, too, is a leaner-designed female. The narrow-belted gilt appears to be more feminine up through her head and neck; however, she simply gives up too much muscle shape and performance to compete any higher.

In ending with my bottom pair of narrow-belted females, it is 3 over 2. 3 is a faster-growing female that appears to be heavier boned and stouter featured. 2 is a nicely designed female with plenty of femininity; however, she is the slowest-growing, frailest-featured gilt in the class.

Class 6 Duroc Gilts

Official Placing: 3-2-4-1

Cuts: 4-2-7

We ranked the Duroc gilts 3-2-4-1. After sorting the poor-performing, lightest-dimensioned 1 gilt to the bottom, we worked our way to the other end, starting with the big-bodied 3 gilt. She is the maternally oriented, practical-centered gilt that is the most correct in her angles, thus her daughters should make the easiest-feeding fall gilts. The 2 gilt in second is wider chested, and she offers more growth and is more correct in her condition. But, we fault her and place her second, as she is shorter hipped and gives up body.

It's her basic build that keeps 2 in second. She's wider skeletoned with more shape out of her blade, and she is more pliable in her center body, while having more shape to her hip. 4 is bigger scaled and has the advantage in terms of days, but relative to her bone, she's small footed and bland in her shape.

It's 4's practicality that gives her the upper hand in our concluding pair. She is the bigger-ribbed gilt that offers more performance. Sure, the gilt in fourth has more shape, but as previously stated, she is

the poor-performing, straight-structured gilt that is the lightest dimensioned of the class.

Class 7 Yorkshire Gilts

Official Placing: 1-2-3-4

Cuts: 5-4-2

We aligned the Yorkshire gilts 1-2-3-4, starting with a very balanced, well-designed gilt that appears sound in her skeletal makeup. She is bold sprung, big scaled, heavy muscled and feminine through her head and underline. This, and her balanced set of numbers, makes her an easy start.

We chose the extra length and looseness of structure in 2 over 3 in our middle pair. 2 is deeper in her rib and flank. She is also squarer in her hip and more correct in her tail set. 3 is heavier muscled, and she is more expressive and thicker through her hip and stifle. But, we fault 3 and place her third, as she is the tightest-ribbed gilt in class.

In a close final pair, we chose 3 over 4. 3 is more structurally correct, having a more-desired slope to her shoulder and hock. 3 is also more feminine in her head and shoulder, and is more evenly spaced in her underline. Realizing 4 is a heavy-muscled gilt, we fault the gilt with the poorest days EPD and use her fourth. She is a coarse-made female that is the worst in her structural makeup, being straight in her shoulder, steep rumped and straight hocked.

Class 8 Landrace Gilts

Official Placing: 3-4-2-1

Cuts: 2-4-5

We placed this class of Landrace gilts 3-4-2-1. In a close decision, we chose 3 over 4 in our initial pair. 3 is a long-spined, feminine-made, well-balanced female that is more desirable in her ham-loin junction and more correct out of her hip and rump. Granted, 4 is a big-bodied, stout-made gilt that is taller at the point of her shoulder.

In the middle pair, we liked the extra stoutness, width of skeleton and volume of 4 over 2. 2 is the taller-scaled, cleaner-made female of the pair, but we placed her third, as she appears to be narrow designed and lighter muscled.

In our final pair, we chose 2 over 1. 2 is a bigger-outlined, cleaner-conditioned gilt that is more balanced in her EPDs. Realizing the gilt with the highest LWT in the class is high volumed and wide sprung, we fault 1 and place her fourth, as she is the poorest designed in her class with a low set and weak top.

Class 9 Crossbred Market Hogs

Official Placing: 1-3-2-4

Cuts: 7-3-3

Our alignment of the crossbred market hogs is 1-3-2-4. It's the square-

built 1 barrow that wins. He is easily the wide, balanced barrow that has the most shape, and we would expect him to end with the yield advantage. Sure, the lone gilt in class is the cutability hog of the drive, and she is the cleanest and most-extended from her shoulder forward. After this, she is the lighter-weight, narrower-based hog of our initial two.

3 is the more lean, balanced hog of our remaining three. She's level-topped, and more correct in her angles while maintaining shape. 2 is a wider-skeletoned, bigger-bodied barrow that goes to the ground with more bone. Yet, when we study him from the side, he is broken topped and appears to be tight off both ends.

2 is the product-driven barrow of our concluding decision. He's wider-chested, bolder about his blade and has more width from behind and the ground. The predominately white barrow is bigger scaled and longer sided. Yet, he is the narrow, flat, plain-shaped hog in class.

Class 10 Hampshire Market Hogs

Official Placing: 2-3-4-1

Cuts: 5-5-5

Starting with the Hampshire barrow that is the heaviest-muscled, nicest-designed market hog, we ranked this class of Hampshire market barrows 2-3-4-1. 2 is the most pulled apart at his blades and works more three-dimensional, descript meat-animal shape down a more correctly turned loin edge. He maintains this muscular thickness advantage back into a powerfully constructed, more dimensional hip, ham and stifle. Certainly, 3 is a nicely balanced, well-designed market hog; however, he quite simply lacks the overall muscle mass and volume we found in our class winner.

In my middle pair of 3 over 4, the advantage lies in leanness. 3 is the more compositionally correct hog of the pair, being more descript over his loin edge and being more free of fat throughout the lower third of his body. When sent to the rail, 3 will hang a carcass with more total pounds of pork product. 4 is a pounds-heavy high-performing barrow; however, he simply gets too non-descript in his muscle shape and design to compete any higher.

Ending with my bottom pair of heavier-conditioned, lighter-muscled hogs, it is 4 over 1. 4 is a longer-bodied, leveler-designed barrow. 1 seems slightly more flexible in his front end; however, he is the most modest in muscle of any hog in the class.

Special thanks to this year's officials: Curt Hannon, Ind., Brian Hines, Mich., and Craig Spray, Ind.

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Results

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Ties were broken by these classes in this order:

Class 8 Landrace Gilts, Class 9 Crossbred Market Hogs, Class 3 Yorkshire Boars

FFA Team Division (136 teams) 2,000 points possible

1st Place Total Score: 1,852
Hardesty FFA, Hardesty, Okla.
Jared Kilpatrick, Madison Martin,
Jarred Britton, Jade Stafford

2nd Place Total Score: 1,838
Holcomb FFA, Holcomb, Kan.
Travis Sharp, Juan Santos,
Hugo Chavez, Hayley Staats

3rd Place Total Score: 1,837
Karval FFA White, Karval, Colo.
Brett Stone, Lane Elliott,
John Thornton, Cole James

4th Place Total Score: 1,816
Chisholm High School, Enid, Okla.
Jordan Madison, Paige Roberts,
Courtney Brown, Greyson Lowe

5th Place Total Score: 1,811
Karval FFA Gold, Karval, Colo.
Michael Leonard, Jackie Stone,
Ashley Dymesich, Daniela Dressler

4-H Team Division (31 teams) 2,000 points possible

1st Place Total Score: 1,814
Hardesty School E, Hardesty, Okla.
Annabelle Morales, Adan Rivera,
Analy Garcia, Caley Collins

2nd Place Total Score: 1,789
Hardesty School F, Hardesty, Okla.
Ethan Koch, R.T. Faight,
Katlyn Carter, Troy Britton

3rd Place Total Score: 1,778
Finney Co. 4-H, Garden City, Kan.
Kendal Clawson, Kyla Clawson,
Alyssa Heitschmidt, J.D. Heitschmidt

4th Place Total Score: 1,766
Marion Co. 4-H #1, Salem, Ill.
Kane Austin, Adrian Austin,
Austyn Taylor, Kyle Hanks

5th Place Total Score: 1,763
Lebanon Co. Livestock Judging
Team, Lebanon, Pa.
Grace Oellig, Steven Wolfe,
Kurt Fleener, Rachel Siegal

College Team Division (17 teams) 2,500 points possible

1st Place Total Score: 2,420
Seward Co. Community College
Gold, Liberal, Kan.
Chelsea Zysset, Jessica Swan, Courtney
McVey, Harrison Krey, Alissa Imler

2nd Place Total Score: 2,398
Seward Co. Community College
Bronze, Liberal, Kan.
Bryan Schieb, Lucas Wempe, Anthony
Adams, Blake Williams, Sandi Cortez

3rd Place Total Score: 2,387
Black Hawk East #4, Kewanee, Ill.
Brock Foster, Emily Elliot, Brandon Freel,
Zack Butler, Chris Cassidy

4th Place Total Score: 2,380
Seward Co. Community College
Green, Liberal, Kan.
Kryslyn Packard, Lance Waugh, Whitney
Plunkett, Travis Stovall, Rob Miles

5th Place Total Score: 2,360
Black Hawk East #6, Kewanee, Ill.
Doug Nelson, Kyle Pullen, Cody
Schminke, Kyle Schmeerge, Jake Rupert

Senior Division (104 contestants) 500 points possible

1st Place Total Score: 488
Velma Kenney, Lee's Summit, Mo.

2nd Place Total Score: 482
Janet Truelock, Hooker, Okla.

3rd Place Total Score: 481
Ryan Orrick, Liberal, Kan.

4th Place Total Score: 480
Rasonya Flynt, Turpin, Okla.

5th Place Total Score: 477
Leslie Kraich, Goodwell, Okla.

College Division (91 contestants) 500 points possible

1st Place Total Score: 487
Sara Hammes, Stockport, Iowa

2nd Place Total Score: 487
Alissa Imler, Satanta, Kan.

3rd Place Total Score: 486
Chris Cassidy, Anocoana, Ill.

4th Place Total Score: 486
Travis Stovall, Hesperus, Colo.

5th Place Total Score: 485
Harrison Krey, Hugoton, Kan.

Junior Division (830 contestants) 500 points possible

1st Place Total Score: 479
Michael Leonard, Karval, Colo.

2nd Place Total Score: 479
Jared Kilpatrick, Hardesty, Okla.

3rd Place Total Score: 473
Madison Martin, Hardesty, Okla.

4th Place Total Score: 472
Kurt Fleener, Robesonia, Pa.

5th Place Total Score: 471
Jessica Penner, Cordel, Okla.