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# OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

## EXTENSION SERVICE

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R. D. HETZEL,  
Director.

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### Breeds of Swine

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The Bulletins of the Oregon Agricultural College are sent free to all residents of Oregon who request them.

## OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

W. J. Kerr, President.

### **EXTENSION SERVICE.**

R. D. Hetzel, Director.

The Extension Service of the Oregon Agricultural College embraces all instructional work done by the College staff outside the institution. This includes institute, lecture, and fair work in all its varied phases; supervision of the county demonstration and farm work provided for by state legislation; correspondence courses; preparation of educative exhibits; publication of bulletins and distribution of news matter; cooperative work with granges, farmers' unions, schools, churches, commercial clubs, and other progressive organizations in the promotion of industrial and social enterprises. The Extension Service, in short, consists of carrying out to the people of Oregon practical and usable information on all subjects taught at the College.

Applications for assistance along any of the lines indicated, together with all particulars relating thereto, should be sent to the Director of Extension as far in advance as possible. It is the desire of the College to help all who apply, but its staff, facilities, and funds are limited; consequently, short-notice requests may not find the department in position to render the best service.

Particular attention is called to the fact that counties desiring to organize for agricultural field and demonstration work, under the provisions of Chapter 110, Laws of 1913, must make an initial appropriation in order to secure the State aid. Those interested in promoting this work should communicate with the Director of Extension, or the State Leader, at the Agricultural College, with reference to the best methods of procedure.

## BREEDS OF SWINE

Berkshires, Chester Whites or O. I. C.'s, Duroc Jerseys, Hampshires, and Poland Chinas are breeds of the fat or lard type, and are best suited to the general market demand in America. Yorkshires and Tamworths are English bacon breeds with a special market in England but for which a special market will have to be developed in this country before any great popularity can be expected for these breeds.

Berkshires are originally an English breed, which has been imported to this country and has been improved and perfected from the American standpoint until our type differs essentially from the English type. American Berkshires are a little smaller, blockier, shorter snouted and possibly less deep in the sides than are English-bred Berkshires. Both types, however, occur in American-bred swine, and this lack of uniformity is one of the objections offered to this breed. Other points objected to by some breeders of other kinds of swine are lack of fertility, restlessness in the feed lot, and slowness in responding to feed. All these points except the first are true only to a certain degree; i. e., the objections apply only to some strains or to the stock raised in some localities. Berkshires are black in color, with six white points,—feet, face, and tail.

The good points of the breed are the excellent block and bacon quality of the carcass, which carries a larger proportion of lean meat than do most American swine. The high percentage of dressed meat from well finished animals, and the good grazing quality of the breed, are also points in its favor.

Chester Whites and Ohio Improved Chesters are essentially the same breed of swine, the latter being a strain or a family for a time developed within the Chester White breed and since reabsorbed by the Chester White breed. However, a separate registry is maintained for O. I. C.'s. Swine of this breed are white in color, but black spots on the skin are not disqualifications, provided the hair over the spots is white. The form of the body is slightly more rangy than that of the other fat breeds, the body being slightly longer but not quite so wide as with others. The white skin gives the dressed carcass a very attractive appearance, and the carcasses of well-fitted animals show well, this breed having won in the dressed-carcass contest at the International several times in the past few years.

Adverse criticisms of the breed are susceptibility to sun-scald, when pastured away from shade, and the fact that in the Northwest specimens exhibited on the larger fair circuits frequently show too much coarse bone and sprawly feet. These latter criticisms, however, do not belong to the breed as a whole, which is famed for ability to carry great weight.

Duroc Jerseys are red in color; the face is slightly dished and the ears droop slightly, the outer third of the ear being tipped down.

The swine of this breed are rated as high in fecundity, gentle to handle, and easy to raise. Adverse criticisms to some specimens are undue coarseness of hair and skin, a pitted appearance of the latter making scraping and cleaning rather difficult. The pot bellies and thin covering of meat found in many specimens of this breed tend to give a low dressing percentage.

Hampshires or belted hogs are black at both ends and usually white around the heart-girth and forelegs. While strictly an American breed, Hampshires have rather a larger proportion of lean meat and more of the appearance of the bacon type than most American hogs. A few years back, swine of this breed for several years in succession won the carcass contest at the International Fat-Stock Show. The greatest impediment to the progress of this breed is the color fancy. The belted appearance being considered fancy, leads to the retention of well-marked animals, sometimes regardless of the fact that they may be inferior in essential respects to other individuals not well marked. The small number of herds from which foundation stock as well as herd boars may be secured in the Northwest is still an obstacle to the progress of the breed, though some excellent Hampshires appear on our larger show and fair circuits.

Poland Chinas are marked like Berkshires, having black bodies with six white points. White spots on the body are more common than in Berkshires. The general form of the body resembles the Duroc Jersey but the head is slightly shorter and more dished, and the ears slightly more fancy. In size, Poland Chinas range from small to very large, depending on the fancy of the breeder. This breed is the extreme of the American or fat type of swine and for years was the standard of excellence by which other fat breeds were judged. Animals of this breed are perhaps the earliest maturing and can be fattened most easily at an early age. The carcass, however, carries a very large proportion of fat, and the fecundity is the lowest of the leading breeds. Many of the otherwise best specimens of the breed found in our show rings are undersized from a market standpoint. In Eastern show yards where large-type swine are found more extensively, coarseness, wrinkles, and slowness of maturity are found, and these points are more objectionable than a little lack of size. Abundant stock intermediate in size is available, so that neither extreme need be selected. Many breeders, however, conscious of the low fertility of the breed, have made careful selection to improve Poland Chinas in this respect and have succeeded nobly. Compared with Berkshires, Poland Chinas are better developed in the hams, but not as broad and flat of back. They are lower to the ground, but do not possess quite the excellence of carcass of the Berkshires. Compared with Duroc Jerseys, Poland Chinas are slightly more blocky, but not as prolific. They excel Duroc Jerseys in quality, but perhaps lack a little in uniformity of type.

Large Yorkshires, an English Bacon breed, are white in color, have a very concave face, like the Berkshires, but the snout turns out from the face at more nearly a right angle, is straighter on top and not quite as meaty as that of the Berkshire. The ears are stiff like those of the Berkshires, but incline slightly more forward. They have greater depth and length of body than have the Berkshires, but not quite the width. These body characteristics are true of the bacon type generally. From the American market standpoint, Yorkshires are neither wide enough nor blocky enough. They are high in fertility, of the largest size, and carry a large proportion of lean meat, but the hams, back, and lard are deficient. Since cheaper substitutes for lard have come into favor, the last-named deficiency is not serious; but until the consuming public is educated to fancy bacon, this type will hardly acquire large popularity.

Tamworths are a red breed of English bacon swine, rather more extreme in type than Yorkshires. The head is long, narrow, and pointed, snout rather straight on top, jowls very light, body very deep and narrow, set on legs appearing rather long. The impression the average American hog man receives on first seeing a specimen of this breed is that it resembles a wolf. Association with it, however, wins it many friends, especially for home-bacon production. For a market animal, however, even when well fitted, the butcher objects that it is not fat enough. Its lack of development in ham, back, and loin makes its block quality very poor, but for sides of fancy bacon it can hardly be excelled. In prolificacy, economy of gain, and proportion of lean meat in the carcass, the best specimens of this breed are unequaled.

The foregoing breeds are here listed with reference to certain important considerations, market quality being omitted; since all fat breeds sell equally well if equally fitted and of the correct form and weight.

Rommel and Dr. Bitting, after exhaustive research, give the following for the fecundity of certain breeds.

Fecundity—Average number of pigs to each litter.

Tamworth	
Large Yorkshire	
Duroc Jersey	9.26
Hampshire	
Chester White	8.96
Berkshire	8.22
Poland China	7.42

Size—Weights at various ages as prescribed by the respective breed associations for animals in fair show condition.

Breed	6, Under	12, Under	18, Under		Mature		
	12 months	18 months	24 months		Boar	Sow	
		Boar	Sow	Boar			Sow
Poland China.....	160	400	350	500	450	600	450
Duroc Jersey .....	150	350	300	475	400	600	500
Chester White .....	150	300	300	400	350	500	450
Hampshire .....	140	300	300	350	325	450	400
Berkshire .....	150	300	275	350	325	450	400
Tamworth .....	Not Stated						
Yorkshire .....	Not Stated						

**Color.**

White	Red	Black, white points	Black, white belt
Yorkshire	Tamworth	Berkshire	Hampshire
Chester White	Duroc Jersey	Poland China	

### Registry Associations

- American Berkshire Record Association,  
Frank S. Springer, Springfield, Illinois, Secretary.
- The Chester White Swine Record Association,  
F. F. Moore, Rochester, Indiana, Secretary.
- The American Chester White Record,  
F. P. Hardin, Lima, Ohio, Secretary.
- American Duroc Jersey Record,  
Robert J. Evans, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Secretary.
- National Duroc Jersey Record Association,  
J. R. Pfander, 604 Main Street, Peoria, Illinois, Secretary.
- American Hampshire Record,  
E. C. Stone, 703 E. Nebraska Avenue, Peoria, Illinois, Secretary.
- The O. I. C. Swine Breeders' Association,  
O. C. Vernon, Goshen, Indiana, Secretary.
- American Poland China Record Association,  
W. M. McFadden, Live Stock Exchange Building, Union Stock Yards,  
Chicago, Secretary.
- National Poland China Record Association,  
A. M. Brown, Winchester, Indiana, Secretary.
- Southwestern Poland China Record Association,  
H. P. Wilson, Gadsden, Tennessee, Secretary.
- Standard Poland China Record,  
Geo. F. Woodworth, Maryville, Mo., Secretary.
- American Tamworth Swine Record Association,  
E. N. Ball, Hamburg, Mich., Secretary.
- American Yorkshire Club,  
Harry G. Krum, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Secretary.