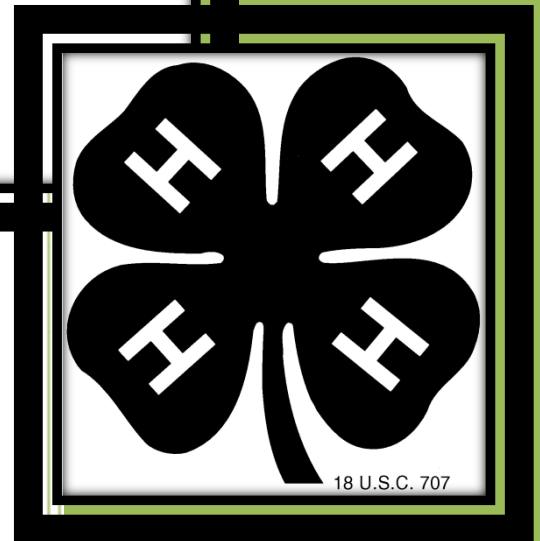
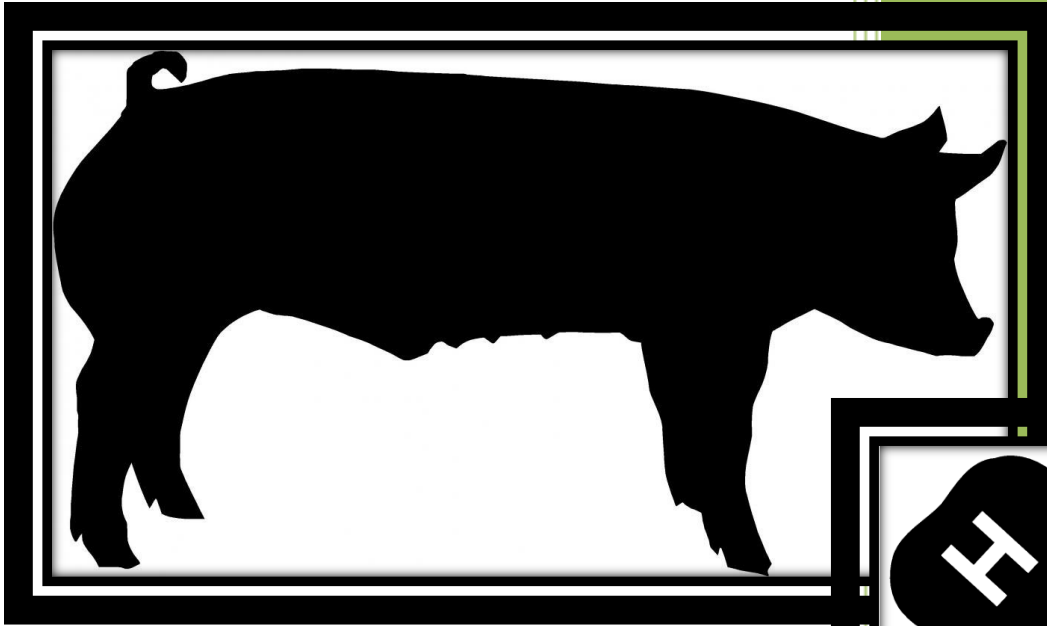
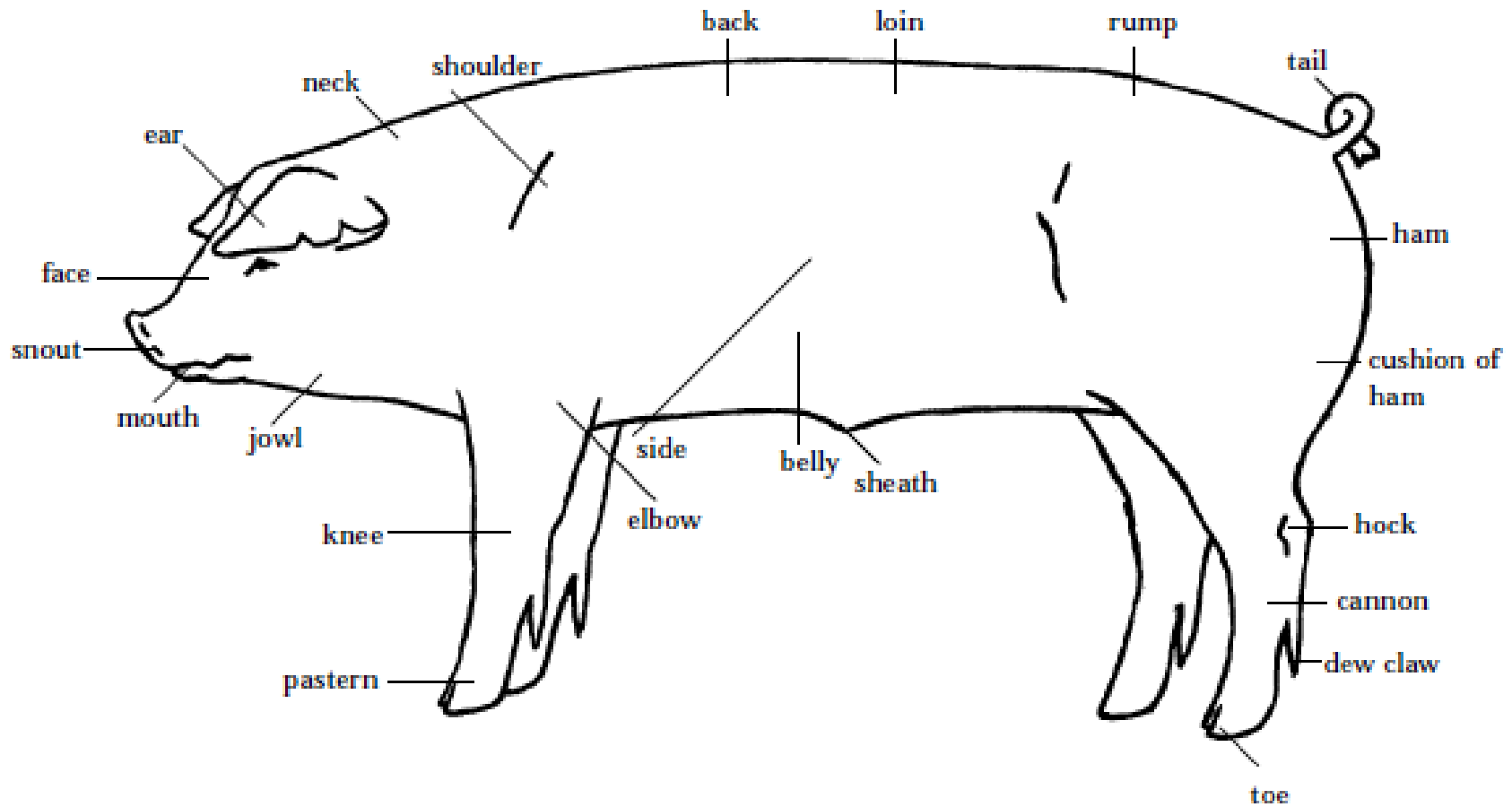


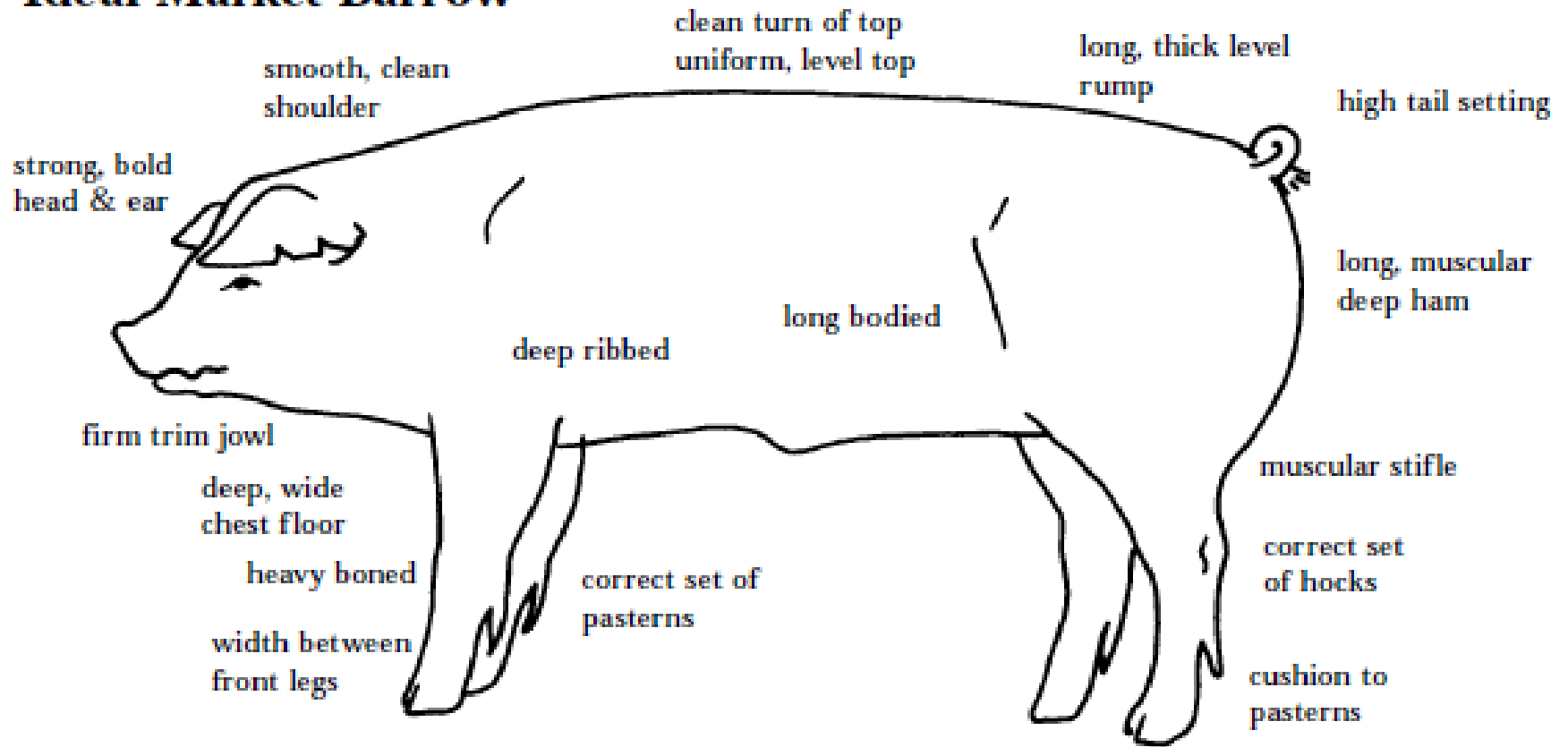
# Swine Showmanship



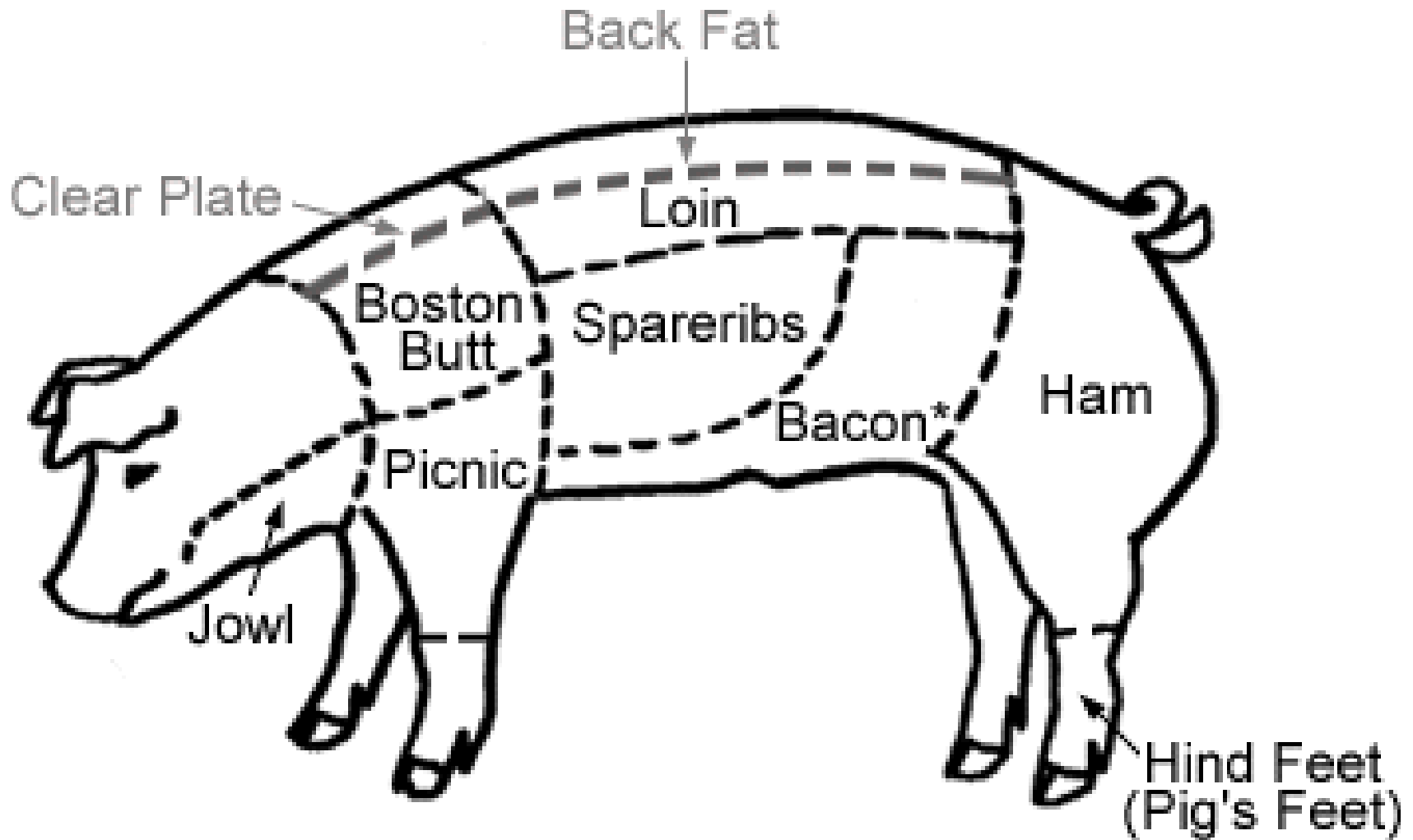
# Parts of a Pig



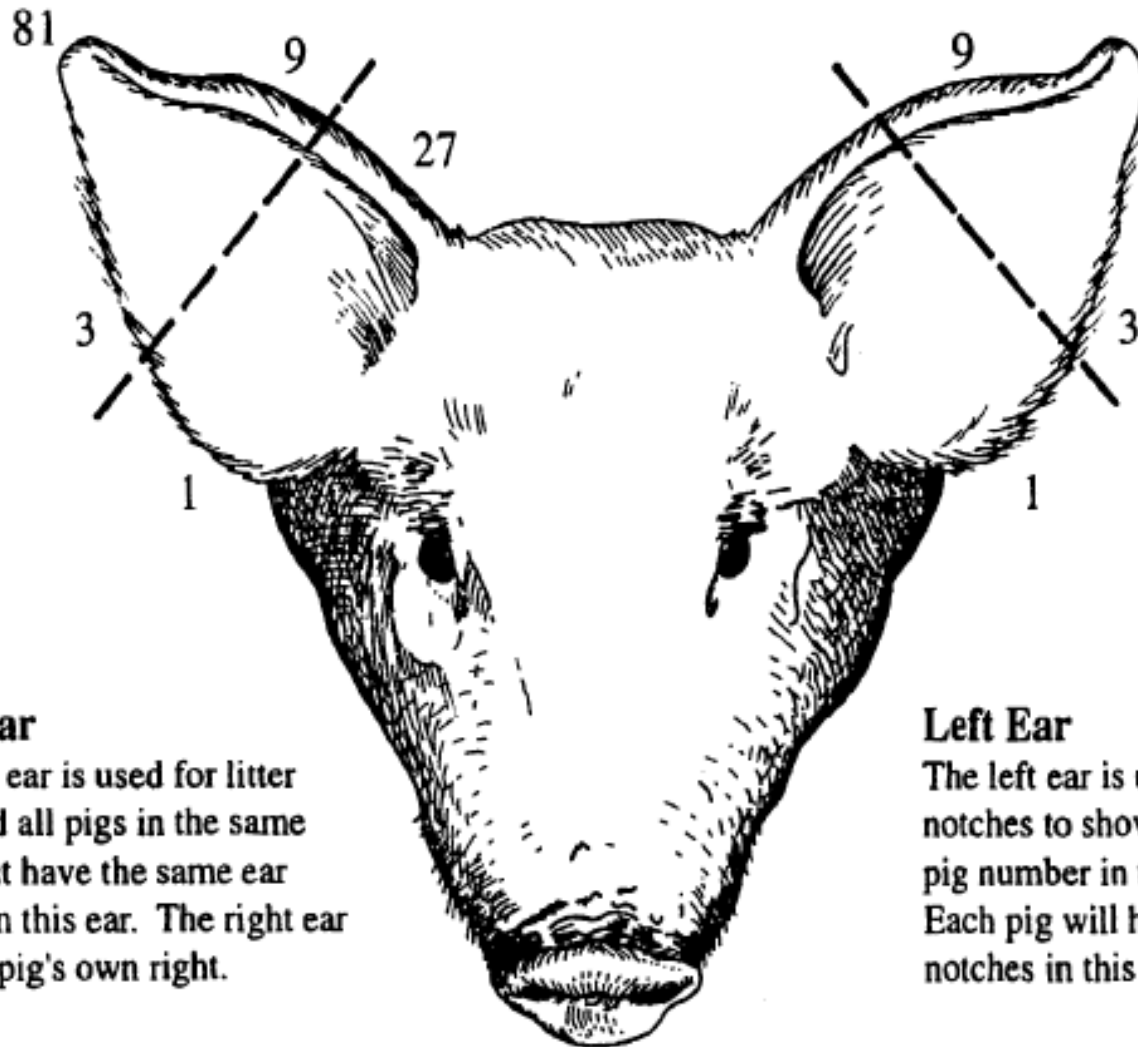
# Ideal Market Barrow



# Wholesale Cuts of a Market Pig



# Universal Swine Ear Notching System



## Right Ear

The right ear is used for litter mark, and all pigs in the same litter must have the same ear notches in this ear. The right ear is on the pig's own right.

## Left Ear

The left ear is used for notches to show individual pig number in the litter. Each pig will have different notches in this ear.

# Common Pig Breeds



Picture Provided by Prairie State  
**Berkshire**



Picture Provided by Maddox Hampshires  
**Hampshire**



Picture Provided by Jack Rodibaugh and Sons  
**Chester White**



Picture Provided by Harrell Family Farms  
**Yorkshire**



Picture Provided by Guy Jackson and Family  
**Duroc**



Picture Provided by Todd Harris and Family  
**Landrace**

# Showmanship Terms/Questions

Gilt: young female pig

Sow: an adult female pig

Boar: an adult male pig

Barrow: a castrated male pig

Farrowing: the birth process in swine

Piglets: swine offspring

Pigs are monogastric

NRS: National Swine Registry

HAACP: Hazard Analysis And Critical Control Points

1. What is the feed conversion ratio for a hog?
  - a. 3 lbs. feed/1 lb. gain
2. What is the average daily weight gain of a hog?
  - a. 1 – 2.8 lbs.
3. Young pigs are fed a diet containing what percent of crude protein?
  - a. 20 – 22%
4. Finishing pigs are fed a diet containing what percent of crude protein?
  - a. 13 – 15%
5. Name three commonly used nutrients in hog rations to provide energy?
  - a. Corn, wheat, milo, barley, oats
6. What are three examples of feed ingredients used as a protein source in a ration?
  - a. Soybean meal, blood meal, fish meal, dried whey
7. What is the normal temperature of a hog?
  - a. 101.5°F - 102.5°F
8. The gestation period for a sow is...?
  - a. 3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days
9. How many pigs are born in a litter?
  - a. 9 - 13
10. In commercial hog farms, tails are docked to prevent what?
  - a. Injury from tail biting
11. Name a disease swine may get.
  - a. Parvovirus, leptospirosis, transmissible gastroenteritis, baby pig anemia, brucellosis

12. Where is the first place you're most likely to notice fat deposits on your pig?
  - a. In the jowl (chin) area
13. What are the top hog producing states?
  - a. Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana
14. The acceptable weight range of an ideal hog should be...?
  - a. 240 – 300 lbs.
15. What is the average dressing percent for a hog?
  - a. 70-78%
16. True or False: Compared to 50 years ago, pigs today are leaner.
  - a. True
17. What are the more expensive cuts of a hog?
  - a. Loin, leg (ham), blade shoulder (boston), picnic shoulder
18. What is the average backfat for a hog?
  - a. 0.6-0.75 in.
19. Where is loin eye area measured?
  - a. Between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> rib.
20. What is the average loin eye area on a market hog?
  - a. 5 – 8.99 sq. in.



# Market Hog Showmanship

There are a few items you will need when showing your hog. A driving tool, small hand brush and a small rag are pieces of equipment you will need in the show ring and holding pen.



**Figure 1. Swine showmanship tools**

The driving tool is needed to guide or drive your hog (Figure 2). Do not overuse the driving tool. Allow the hog to walk naturally. Transition the driving tool between both hands as needed and use the tool on the pig's side or jowl when the pig stops or should turn directions. Some swine showmen use their dominant hand to hold the driving tool regardless of which side of the pig they are on, while others switch hands as they switch sides. Both methods are acceptable as long as switching hands is done smoothly. Never hit, kick, or beat, but merely tap on the hog. Be careful to never use the driving tool on the pig's ham or loin.



**Figure 2. As soon as you enter the show ring, the driving tool is there to assist you in directing your hog.**

A small hand brush and rag are essential while showing a pig. Pigs will rub against one another and get dirty or the judge may sprinkle your hog with shavings. As a showman, it is your responsibility to keep your animal clean with your brush or rag. They can be placed in your less dominant hand or in your back pocket. Placing the brush and rag in your back pocket is the preferred method because it frees up your hand, allowing you to use your hand to further guide your hog (Figure 2). Like the driving tool, never place your hand on the pig's ham or loin



**Figure 3. Brush placement**

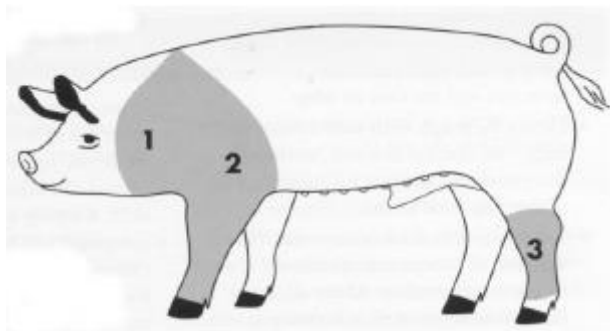
Pay Attention in the holding pen before entering the ring. The proper technique while in the pen is as follows: First, address the cleanliness and well being of your pig by brushing them off and wetting the haircoat. Spray bottles should be available at the pens or brought to you by someone, so you can clean and cool your pig. Second, stand or kneel behind your pig, keeping your eye on the judge for instructions to re- enter the ring. The pig should be at a side view in the front of the pen by the gate, with its head at the end where the gate will open. This position allows the judge to see your pig as he looks at the pen, and your pig is pointed in the direction needed for an easy exit.

When the judge signals for you to leave the pen, open the gate and shut the latch behind you. Upon entering the ring, the hog may take off running. Calmly walk over to the hog and take control by driving it 10 to 15 feet in front of the judge. Do not drive the hog any closer to the judge unless requested.



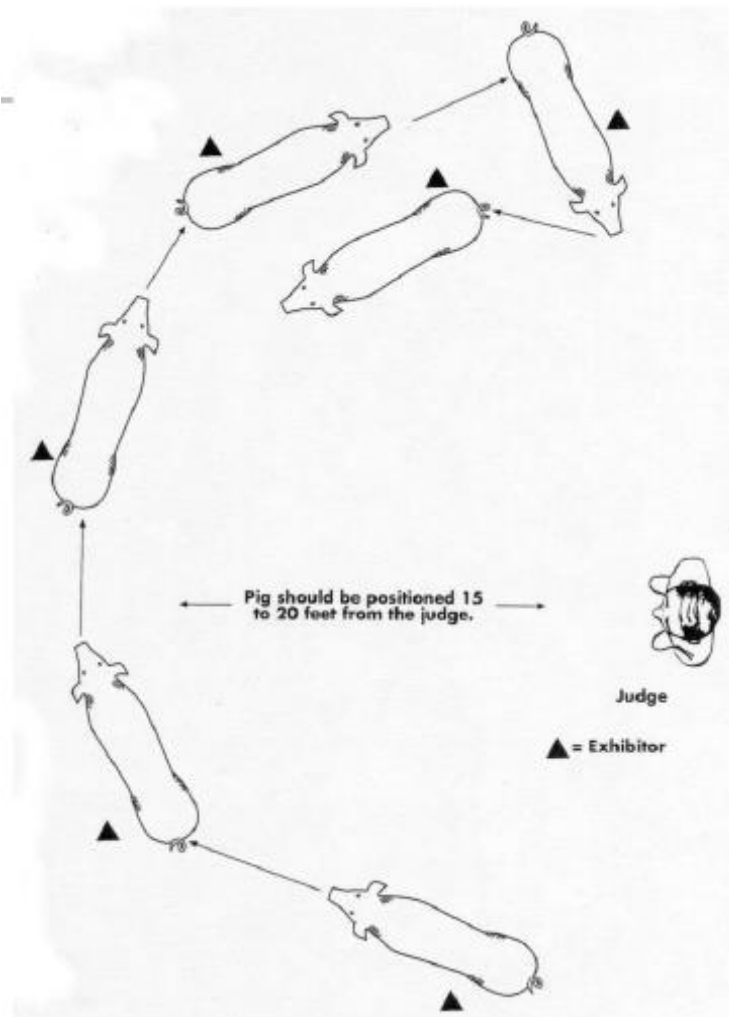
**Figure 4. Naturally move your hog around the ring with its head up. Finding open areas will help get your pig noticed.**

The driving tool should be used without drawing attention to your hog or to the tool being used. Touch the animal from the fore rib forward (shoulder and jowl area) to turn. If you want the hog to move to the right, touch the left jowl of the hog (Figure 5). If the hog needs to move to the left, touch the right side.



**Figure 5. Areas to touch the hog with the driving tool**

When driving, you should be on the hog's side which is opposite the judge. Show from the hip of the pig. Try not to "over show" your animal. A judge will not be impressed if you always block everyone else's view or over maneuver your animal.



**Figure 6. Hog maneuvering technique**

Using your hands to help maneuver your hog is a very acceptable and encouraged showmanship technique especially to drive your hog out of the corner of the show ring. Always remain calm and simply place your hands in front of the hog's face to assist in turning it away from the corner (Figure 7).



**Figure 7. Use your driving tool along with your hands to help get your pig out of the ring corner.**

Let your hog walk out freely and naturally, not too fast and not too slow, never turning the pig sharply. Good showmen are constantly looking for openings in the ring to drive their hog, keeping their pigs off the fence, away from groups of pigs and out of corners.

Be observant for signals and instructions from the judge and the ring officials. Often, a judge will ask you to pen your pig. Naturally walk your pig to the assigned area as quickly and efficiently as possible. Open the gate when you have driven your pig close to the pen, pen your pig, then close and latch the gate behind you. While in the pen, keep showing.

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