

Selecting and Feeding your Market Project Pig



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Step 1: PLAN AHEAD!

What are your **targets**?

Finished weight: _____ lbs

ADG: _____ lbs/day

Fat thickness: _____ inches

Loineye area: _____ sq. inches

(Or % Muscle: _____ %)

Conformation: _____

Structural Soundness: _____

Step 2: Start with the right weight

How much should a project pig weigh if purchased 90 days before the fair?

Target weight = 240 lbs

Days to Fair = 90

ADG = 1.7 lbs/day

$1.7 \text{ lbs/day} \times 90 \text{ days} = 153 \text{ lbs TG}$

$240 \text{ lbs} - 153 \text{ lbs} = 87 \text{ lbs}$

Ideal weight range: 87 lbs \pm 5 lbs

Average Daily Gain

Normal range: 1.3 to 2.2 lbs/day

Average: ~1.7 lbs/day

Step 3: Pick a quality pig

4 things to look for:

1. Muscling
2. Fat
3. Conformation
4. Structural Soundness
(feet & legs)

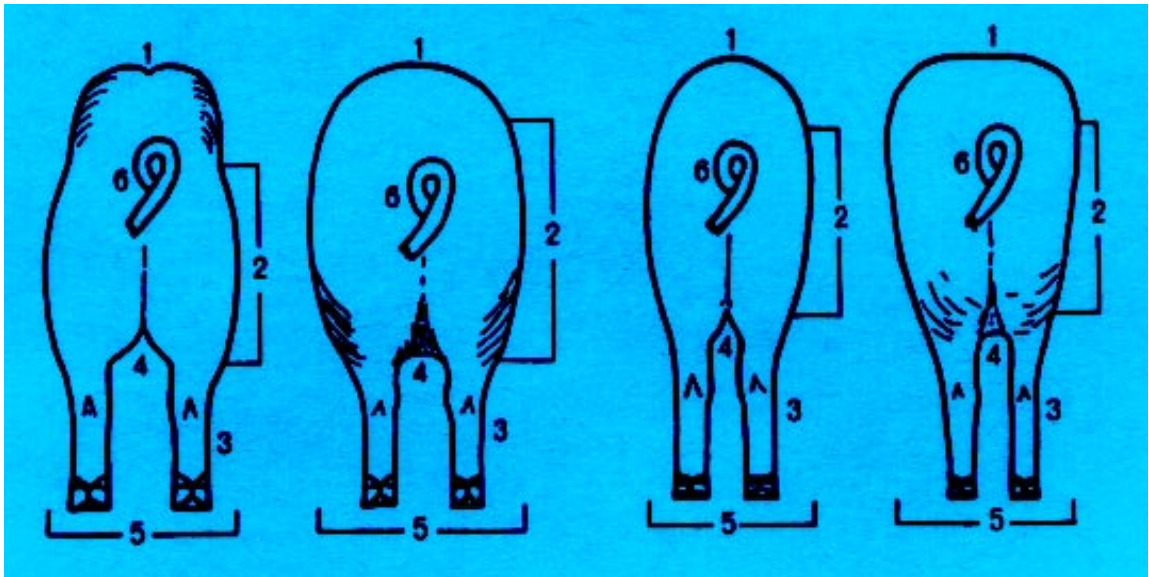
1 Muscling 2



Which has more?

Meat Type

Meatless



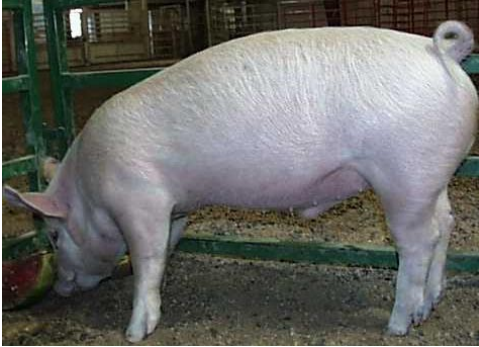
Meatless - Fat

Old Fashioned

Fat

1

2



Which has more?

Conformation



Which is better?

Step 4: Feed correctly

How?

1. According to manufacturer's instructions
2. With unlimited cool, clean water and shade
3. Without adding too much "extra" stuff

Will my pig grow better if I use a "show feed"?

Probably not.

Show feeds may slightly increase the performance of animals with high growth potential, but not enough to justify their greater cost.