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Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service • Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Breeds of Swine 4-H Quiz Gram

Berkshire

The Berkshire breed originated in Berkshire County and the surrounding counties in south central England. The general color of the Berkshire is black with white points appearing on the nose, feet, and tail. Any of these white points may be missing or an occasional splash of white may appear on the body of the animal.

Chester White

This American breed originated in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Swine breeders crossed imported white English hogs and white Chinese hogs with swine native to southeastern Pennsylvania. The animals resulting from this breeding program were originally called Chester County Whites. Chester Whites have white hair and skin and drooping ears.

Duroc

This is another American breed established by crossing red hogs bred in New York with red hogs bred in New Jersey. The breed was originally called Duroc-Jersey. Later, the Jersey was dropped and the breed was called Duroc. The color of Durocs is a solid red; however, it may range from light to dark. A drooping ear is preferred, and a stiff, erect ear is objectionable.

Hampshire

We do not have an authentic record of the introduction of Hampshires into the United States; however, it appears that the original stock came from Hampshire, England. In the U.S., the breed was originally called Thin Rind. The color markings are a black body with a white belt entirely encircling the body including both front legs and feet.

Poland China

This breed was developed in Butler and Warren counties in Ohio. The color is generally black with a white face, feet, and switch of the tail; splashes of white hair on the body are permitted. The ears are down.

Yorkshire

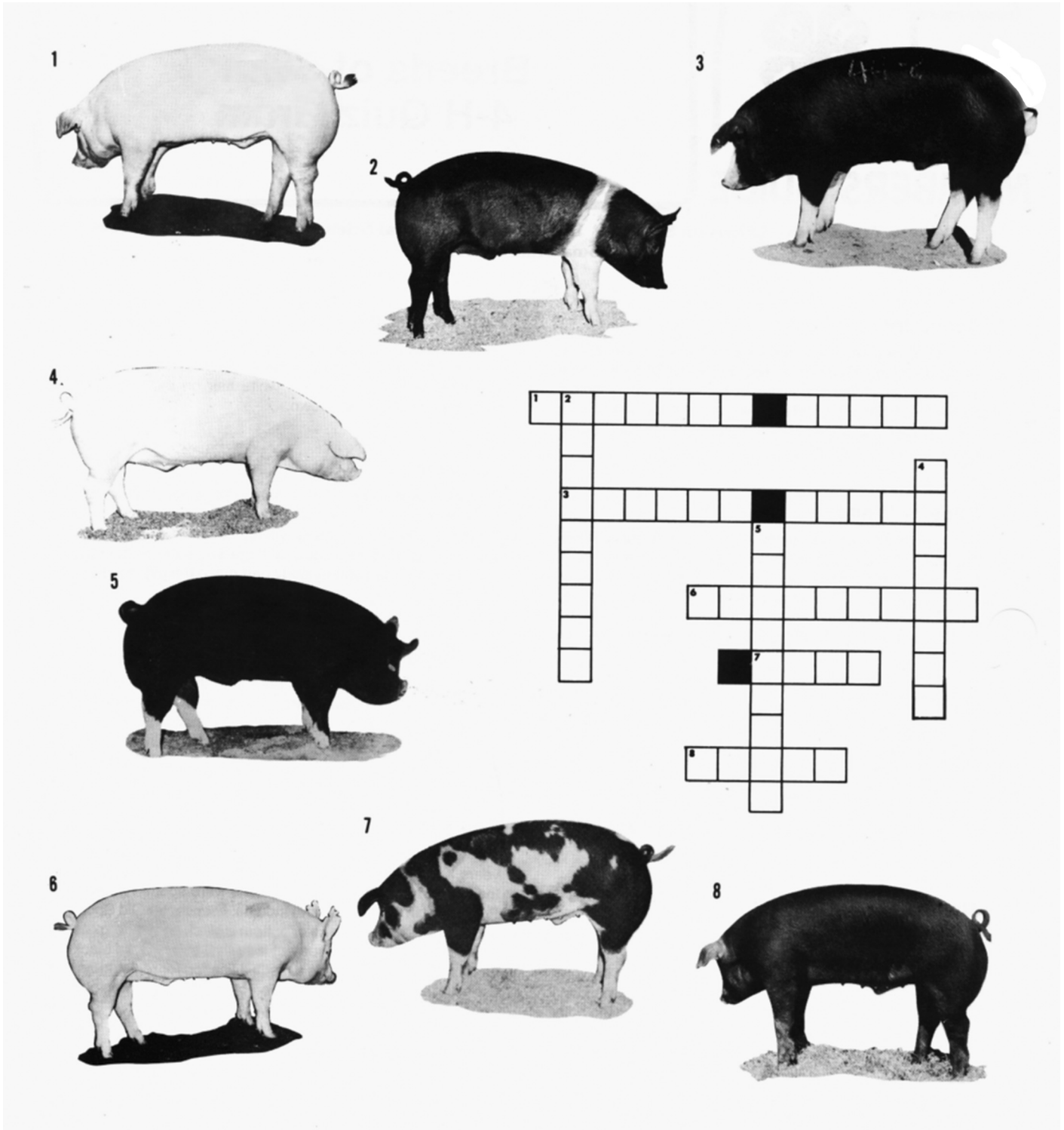
The Yorkshire breed originated in England, and the first improvement in the breed was made in Yorkshire and surrounding counties. The hair is white. Black spots in the skin are very objectionable, and any large spots or numerous black spots located on any body part make the pig ineligible for registry.

Landrace

This is one of the newer breeds in the United States. American Landrace swine are descendants of the famous Danish Landrace hogs developed in Denmark. White hair, long bodies, large litters, and large, forward-pointing ears are some of the traits of the breed.

Spotted Swine (Spot)

This breed was called Spotted Poland China for many years. It originated in Putnam and Hendricks counties in Indiana. The three foundation stocks were spotted hogs of Poland origin found in central Indiana, Gloucester Old Spots, and Poland Chinas. The color pattern is black and white with no percentage requirement for either color. Solid black hair from the ear forward is disqualification for registration. Drooping ears are preferred, and erect ears are objectionable. Swine in this breed are frequently called Spots.



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