



BREEDS OF PIG

It is believed that the majority of the breeds we now know are descended from the Eurasian Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*).

Archaeological evidence from the Middle East indicates domestication of the pig occurs as early as 9,000 years ago, with some evidence for domestication even earlier in China.

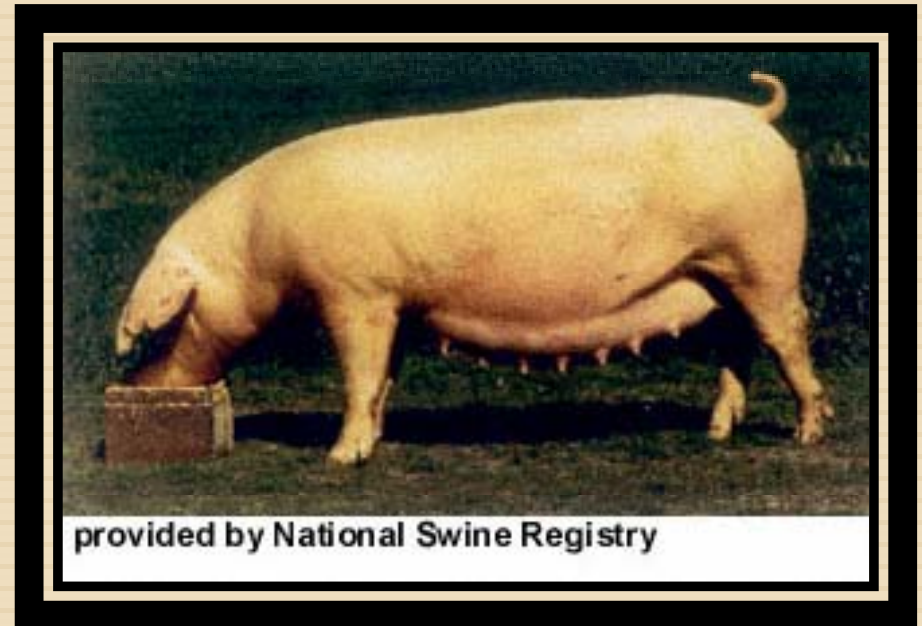
Figurines, as well as bones, dating to the sixth and seventh millennia BC have been found at sites in the Middle East. Pigs were also a popular subject for statuettes in ancient Persia.

From here the pig spread across Asia, Europe and Africa. One interesting point, while most livestock were utilized initially by nomadic peoples, swine are more indicative of a settled farming community. The reason for this is simply because pigs are difficult to herd and move for long distances. Pigs have become vital to the economy in parts of the world. For example, there exists a "pig culture" in New Guinea as strong and complex as any African culture based on cattle.

- Some believe that pigs were the earliest animal to be domesticated, not the cat or dog. Paintings and carvings of pigs over 25,000 years ago have been found. The Chinese domesticated pigs 7,000 years ago. When William the Conqueror ascended the throne in England in 1066 he decreed that anyone shooting a wild boar would be punished with the loss of their eyes. Hogs have been condemned and idolized throughout history and the Bible. They have also been one of Agriculture's best income sources, but best of all a very good source of protein.

American Landrace

The various strains of Landrace swine are the descendants of the famous Danish Landrace hogs that were developed in Denmark. The development of the breed began in about 1895. It resulted from crossing the Large White hog from England with the native swine. It was largely through the use of the Landrace that Denmark became the great bacon-exporting country, with England as the chief market.

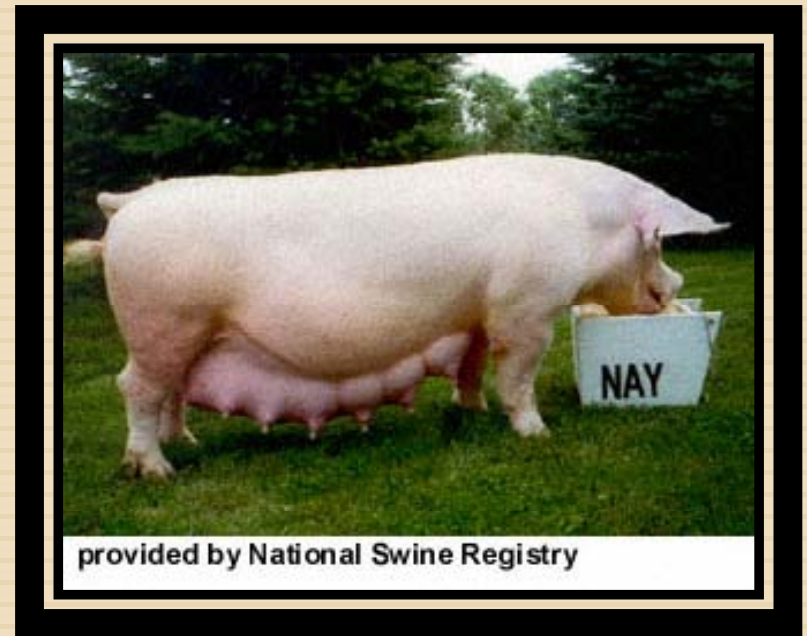


The **American Landrace** is a white hog of long body length, having sixteen or seventeen pairs of ribs. The arch of back is much less pronounced than on most other breeds of swine. For some hogs the back is almost flat. The head is long and rather narrow and the jowl is clean. The ears are large and heavy and are carried close to the face. There is an admirable meatiness about them on foot and particularly on the rail. The rumps are long and comparatively level and the hams are plump but trim. The sides are long, of uniform depth, and well let down in the flank. The sows are prolific and satisfactory mothers. The sows have always been noted for their milk producing abilities. Studies have shown that they reach their top milk production after five weeks of lactation which is later than other breeds compared.

The hair colour of the American Landrace must be white. Dark skin spots are considered undesirable. A few freckles on the skin are allowed but black hairs are not.

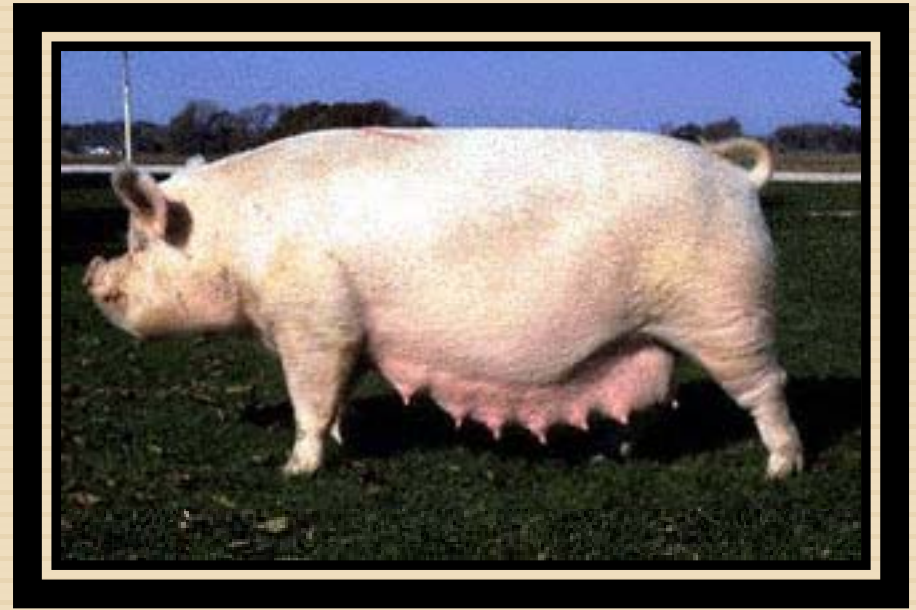
Yorkshire or Large White

The influence of this breed has probably been more widespread than that of any other, but within the breed there is a great deal of variation in type between individuals. This may account in part for its adaptability under varying conditions. It is a large, long, white pig with a body neither as deep as the lard-type pigs. It is probably the most prolific of all British or American breeds and the sows are heavy milkers and good mothers.

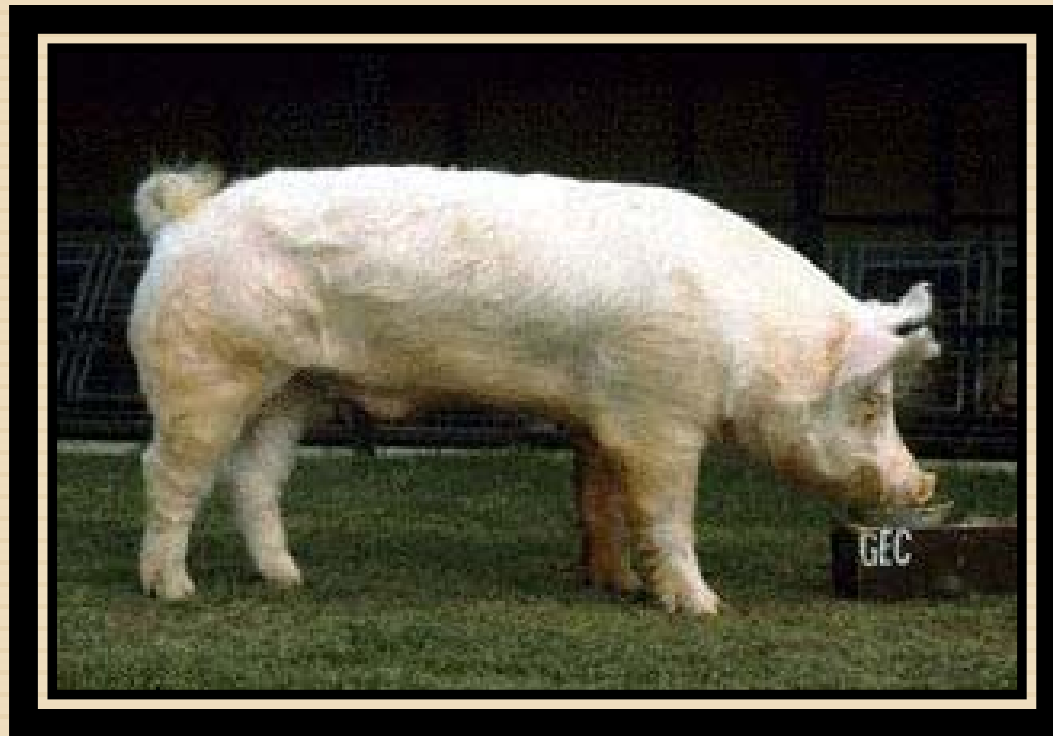


Yorkshire or Large White

Although pigs of this breed are not very quick in maturing they are efficient converters of feed, being primarily for the production of bacon in the temperate zone and pork in the tropics. They are also widely used in crossbreeding programmes. Unfortunately, pigs of this breed are very susceptible to sunburn, especially at the base of their ears.



Yorkshire or Large White



Angeln Saddleback

Originated in Angeln, a region of northern Germany that belonged to Denmark before 1885. A black-and-white landrace was crossed with Wessex-Saddleback and in 1937 accepted as a new race. In the 1950's the Angler Sattelschwein had a big share of the market, but a few years later it seems to be too fat for the consumer and the breed is nearly extinct.

Characteristics: White belt on a black body, big-sized, high fertility, good mothers with much milk. Rare breed.

Boar: Height: 92 cm Weight: 350 kg

Sow: Height: 84 cm Weight: 300 kg



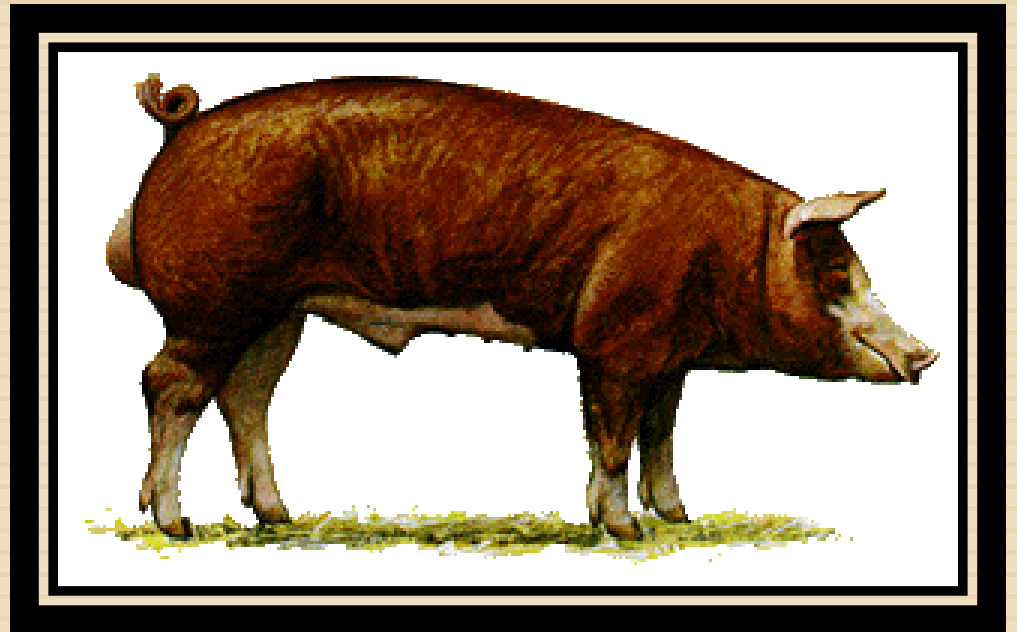
Duroc

The Duroc breed of hogs had its origin in the eastern United States and in the Corn Belt. It would seem presumptuous today to attempt to identify the foundation stock of the breed, which was originally called the Duroc-Jersey, because persons attempting to write the history of the breed only a few years after it was formed could not definitely state the exact source of the red hog.



Hereford

- ***The Colour Pattern.*** In order to be registered in the National Hereford Hog Record Association, an entrant must ". . . have a white face, not less than two-thirds red exclusive of face and ears, with at least two white feet - white showing not less than one inch above the hoof. They must be red in colour, either light or dark red." The shade of red may vary from light to dark, but a deep red colour is preferred. An animal that has a white belt or carries more than one-third white, exclusive of the head and ears, is not eligible for registration and cannot be exhibited. Hogs with swirls are not eligible for registration.



- ❑ Conformation and Size. The Hereford should have the same general body type or conformation as hogs of other major breeds. The Hereford hog has a medium length of face with a slight dish and carries a drooping ear of at least medium size. It is not as trim about the jowl and has a longer neck than most breeds.
- ❑ The advocates of the Hereford breed maintain that, although a relatively new breed, it is prepotent and breeds quite true in colour pattern. It is stated in the association publications that at least 90 percent of the offspring of well marked Herefords carry acceptable colour markings. The sows are prolific and good mothers and compare favourably in these respects with those of other breeds. Hereford hogs are fair grazers, good feeders and they fatten readily.

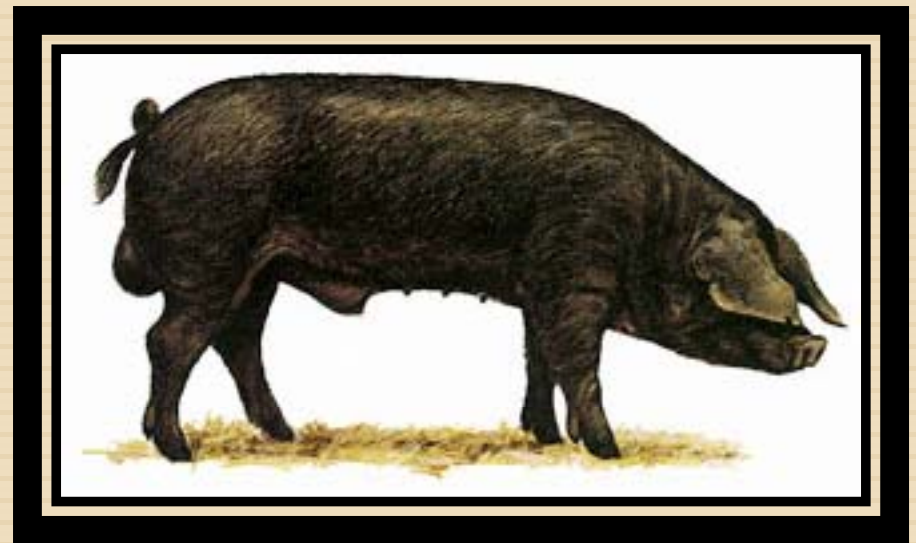
Hampshire

- The Hampshire breed of hogs may well be one of the oldest original early American breeds of hogs in existence today. Although there is some doubt as to the exact origin of the Hampshire breed, historical records indicate that Hampshires probably originated from the "Old English Breed." This black hog with a white belt was quite numerous in Scotland and Northumberland and other counties bordering Scotland. They were noted and criticized for their large size, but admired for their prolificacy, hardy vigour, foraging ability and outstanding carcass qualities.



Large Black

- The Large Black was developed from the black pigs of Devon and Cornwall and the European pigs found in East Anglia. The pigs of East Anglia were believed to have developed primarily from Chinese breeds brought into England in the late 1800's. Conversely, the breeds of Devon and Cornwall were most heavily influenced by European breeds, primarily those from France. After 1900, the Large Black became well-known outside of its native region and spread throughout Great Britain.
- In the early part of this century the Large Black were used for the production of pork in outdoor operations. Its coat color makes it tolerant of many sun born illnesses and its hardiness and grazing ability make it an efficient meat producer. Large Blacks are also known for their mothering ability, milk capacity and prolificacy.



Poland China

- The Poland China is unbeatable among various breeds of swine for the characteristic of maximum weight at any given age. The Poland Chinas are excellent feeders and they gain readily under conditions of good care and management. They are hogs that are very quiet in their dispositions and are rugged in their constitutions. The breed is known for having very substantial bone and for being sound in its feet and legs.



Vietnamese Potbelly

- Vietnamese Potbelly pigs are a dwarf swine breed which was developed in the 1960's from the Í breed of Vietnam. They were originally brought into Sweden and Canada and have since moved into a number of countries. Most people who purchase these pigs want them as pets, but these pigs do not necessarily stay small, cute, or cuddly. As stated above, their average weight is close to 100 lb., and they do not like to be picked up or held. Unlike cats and dogs, pigs are prey not predators, so being lifted up or restrained causes them extreme alarm.

