

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

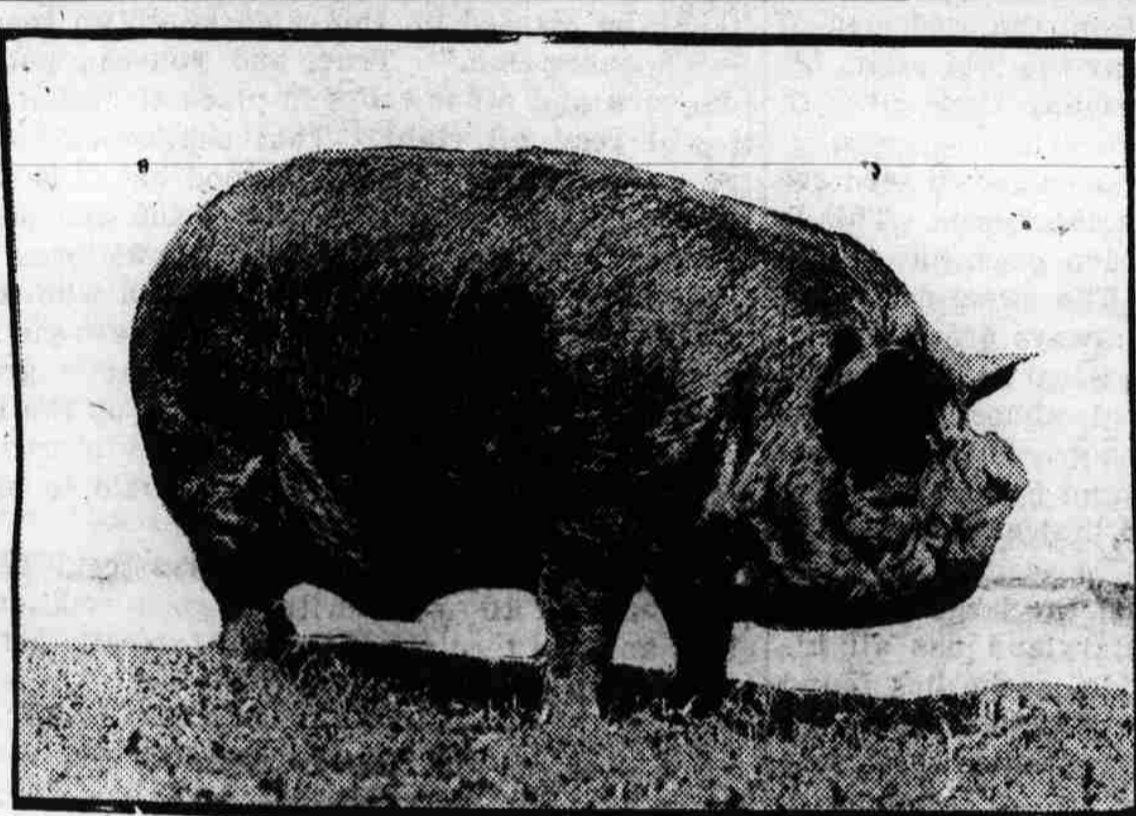
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THE BEST BREED OF HOGS



BERKSHIRE BOAR

Lee's Artful Premier 12th 107644. Owned by J. W. Russwurm, Nashville, Tenn.

WE are often asked, "What breed of hogs would you advise me to get?", or "What is the best breed of hogs?", or some similar question.

To all such inquiries we are compelled to make substantially one answer: "There is no best breed of hogs. While some breeds are better adapted to certain conditions than others, any of the leading breeds will give good results when properly cared for." The best breed for any man is the breed he likes best—the one that looks best to him, to the breeding of which he can bring the most enthusiasm, and from which he can get the most satisfaction.

We are giving here illustrations of two of the most popular breeds in the South, and we hope to get photographs of other leading breeds for an early issue.

Considering the great interest taken in hog raising just now, and the unfamiliarity of many farmers with the characteristics of the different breeds, a little information along these lines may be of value.

The black hogs best known in the South are the Berkshire, the Poland China and the Essex. The Berkshire is a medium to large breed, weighing at maturity from 400 to 600, or even 800 pounds. They have erect ears, dished face, and white "points" when perfectly marked—that is, the feet, the tip of the tail and the nose are white. They are hardy, prolific, good rustlers, mature early and are noted for uniformity of type and coloring. They

probably fatten less readily than Poland Chinas or Chester Whites but are better grazers and more active, and make meat of the finest quality. They are generally classed with the "bacon" breeds.

The Poland China is more distinctly of the "lard" type, is slightly larger, more compactly build, fattens, as a rule, more readily and at an earlier age. Poland Chinas have drooping ears, white points, great depth of body, and are a splendid type of the feeding animal. They are prime favorites in the Corn Belt.

The Essex is a smaller breed, fattening early and of the purely lard type.

In red hogs the Duroc-Jersey—called also Jersey Red, Red Duroc, etc—represents the early-maturing, lard-producing type, while the Tamworth is the truest representative we have of the bacon type.

The Tamworth is one of the largest breeds, weighing often 1,000 to 1,500 pounds. They are long-bodied, slab-sided, long-legged, long-snouted, are not easily fattened but make bacon of the finest quality. They are noted for prolificacy, 12 to 16 pigs at a litter being common, are hardy and well adapted to grazing.

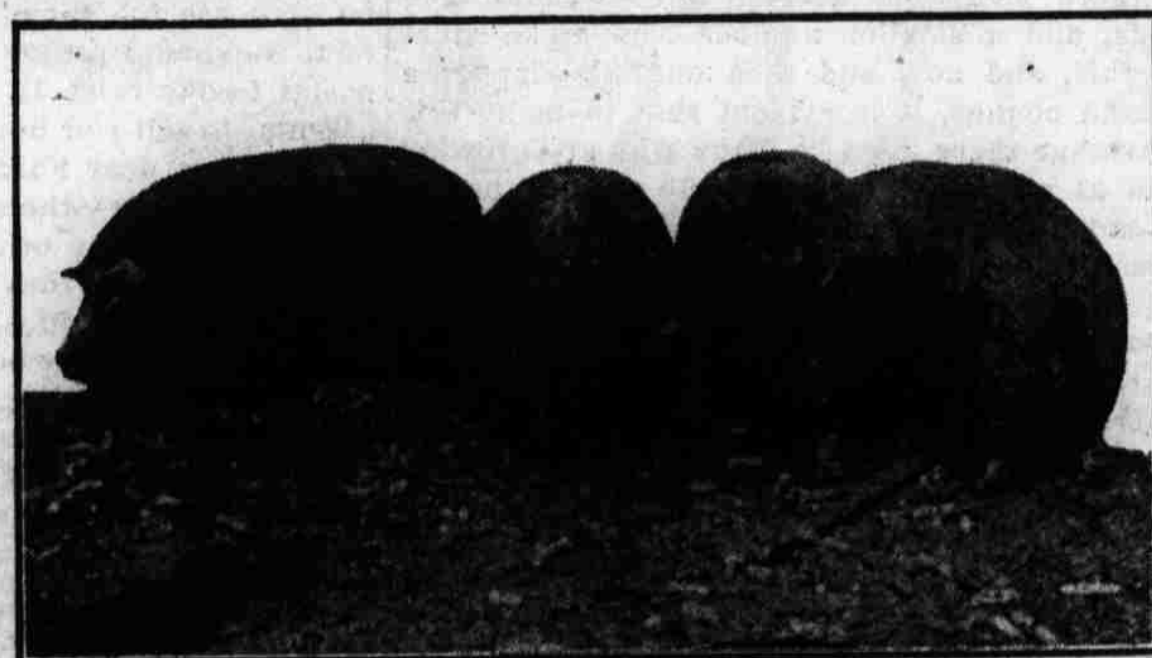
The Duroc-Jersey is much more popular in the South. In color they should be a bright cherry red, and much resemble the Poland China in size and general make-up, though a little more "rangy." They are prolific, hardy, gentle and excellent feeders.

The Chester White—O. I. C.—is a large white hog, with drooping ears, often curly coat, and blocky, compact form. They are slightly larger than the Poland China, and one of the best of the lard breeds.

Large Yorkshires resemble the Berkshires in contour and type, but are larger, rangier and pure white in color. They are classed with the bacon breeds, and often attain a weight of 1,000 pounds or more. They do not fatten as readily as the lard breeds, but produce bacon of fine quality.

The Hampshire, or Thin-Rind, is a black hog with a white belt around its body; and the Mule-Foot is distinguished by its solid hoof.

The man who wishes to go into the business of breeding hogs should select the hog that suits him best and then do all in his power to build up his strain to the highest possible degree of excellence, keeping it at all times true to type and rigidly discarding any inferior specimens. To the man who is willing to do this and who has a natural adaptability to the work, no branch of the live stock industry promises greater or more speedy returns. The selection of the breed is a matter of individual preference; but the selection of good types of any breed and good care after the hogs have been obtained are absolutely necessary to success.



POLAND CHINAS

A Prize-Winning Pen. Owned by J. R. Sparks, Hunter, Okla.