

Chester White History Link

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ent organizations. In 1893 the first of the many Chester White Associations was formed when the National Chester White Record Association was incorporated in Kentucky and the headquarters of the association were at West Chester, Pa. This association continued active for many years but later combined with the Chester White Record Association in 1885 the Chester White Record Association was established to record the Todd strain, and in 1894 it became the American Chester White Record Association with offices at Columbus, Ohio. Also in 1894 the Standard Chester White Record Association originated at Indianapolis, Ind., and in 1909 the Western O. I. C. Recording Company, Incorporated was established in Nebraska, but the

name was later changed to the National O. I. C. Chester White Recording Association. In 1915 this association combined with the Chester White Record Association. It was in 1913 that the American Chester White Record Association and the Standard Chester White Association were combined to form the present day Chester White Swine Breeders' Association, and in 1930 it was reincorporated under the laws of Delaware. Headquarters of the organization are at Rochester, Indiana, and Levi P. Moore is the present secretary. Membership in the organization is \$10.00. Members are charged \$1.00 for recording hogs under two years of age and \$1.50 for recording hogs over two years of age. Non-members are charged \$1.50 for recording hogs under two years of age, and \$2.00 for hogs over two years of age. Transfers are \$.25. The association accepts no pedigrees for registration unless the ancestors are registered in the association, but a provision is provided to redeem pedigrees so that animals may be eligible for record in the Chester White Swine Record Association.

O I C Association

In 1897 the Ohio Improved Chester White Breeders' Association was organized at Cleveland, Ohio to foster the O. I. C. strain of hogs that had been founded by L. B. Silver. He, of course, was very active in the formation of the organization. Later other strains of Chester White swine were admitted and the name has been changed to the O. I. C. Swine Breeders' Association. The present headquarters are at Goshen, Ind.

In 1930 the Breeders' Chester White Record Association was formed at Des Moines, Iowa. Membership in this organization costs the same as membership in the associations mentioned above. There is a charge of \$50 for members to record hogs under two years of age, and \$1.00 for recording those over two years of age. Non-members are charged \$1.25 for recording hogs over two years of age. The Association accepts pedigrees of the Chester White Swine Breeders' Association. One can become a member of this organization by cancelling one's Membership certificate in another organization registering Chester Whites.

The Chester White has made a most enviable record at the International Livestock Show and the Chicago Fat Stock Show, and at other major exhibitions where hogs have been shown in inter-breed competition in the individual fat classes and in carcass competition. The breed has produced Grand Champion Barrows, twelve of the thirty-five at the International Livestock Exposition. In addition they have won twice at the four Chicago Fat Stock shows held during World War II. They have practically had a monopoly in the carcass class, winners having been numbered eight out of the last eleven shows.

Notwithstanding its remarkable record in the show ring, the Chester White breed has never gained quite the foothold in commercial production in the United States that is enjoyed by the Duroc and Poland breeds. At the time of the 1930 census, or last breed census, the Chester White ranked third in numbers of registered hogs in the United States but there were only approximately one-third as many Chester Whites as there were of either the Duroc and the Poland. It is to the credit of the Chester Whites that there have never been any great booms of popularity in the breed; rather the growth and progress of the breed has been marked by gradual increase in popularity and improvement in market excellency.

The Modern Chester White
The color of the Chester White, as the name indicates,

is a solid white color. No breed is more attractive when washed and presented for the show ring than is the Chester White, this color, of course, is much less attractive when the hogs are muddy or dirty. The white skin color finds great favor with packers because when hung on the rail no carcass is more attractive than the white-skinned Chester White. Unfortunately for the producer, white skinned hogs often sun burn. Black or small bluish spots sometimes occur on the skin and while these are objectionable they do not disqualify a hog from registration. Any color of hair other than white is considered a disqualification.

In addition to having an attractive color, the Chester White has a neat face and head. The face is of medium length and is practically straight although a very moderate dish is sometimes seen. They are wide between the eyes, neat about the jowls for a lard breed, and have drooping ears of medium to large size.

The Chester White breed has very deep, smooth sides and carries ample length through the sides. Chester Whites have backs that are wide and uniform in their width, and they are usually long and comparatively level in the rumps and carry down into deep, plump hams. Chester Whites are to be regarded as a large breed and well-fitted hogs will weigh around 925 pounds. Well-fitted sows will usually weigh about 725 pounds.

These, of course, represents weights of hogs fitted to a rather high condition, but many hogs have exceeded these weights at major shows within the past few years.

The Chester White has a very favorable reputation for being of a desirable market type and for carrying an excellent combination of thickness without excessive lard production. It is a high quality breed and usually the hair coat is of medium thickness and fine texture.

Chester Whites are an early maturing breed of swine and are ready for market at comparative light weights or can be carried to heavier weights and still continue to gain at an economical rate. They fatten readily at all market weights. The sows are very prolific and are excellent mothers as they do a good job of suckling their litters. In addition the sows are usually considered to have very good dispositions and can be handled easily in the farrowing pen. The Chester White shows about the same hardness of constitution under practical farm conditions as do the other typical lard breeds; likewise, they are only fair at grazing. No official score card has been published.

Evaluating The Breed

The Chester White breed has built an enviable reputation for having more quality than the other breeds of lard hogs developed in the United States. They have gained considerable popularity with the packers because

of the very high quality carcasses that they hang on the rail. None of the lard breeds exceed the Chester White in those characteristics that make an outstanding barrow on foot or an outstanding carcass on the rail.

The Chester White color is dominant to most other colors in swine. Consequently, when Chester White boars are mated on sows of the other breeds, the offspring are white. Chester Whites are crossbreeds and carrying Chester White blood have a reputation for reaching an early market finish and maturing at an early age. The sows are prolific, good mothers, and excellent milkers.

One of the major handicaps of the Chester White in commercial hogs production is its color. While the breed is attractive when washed and clean, the color is not particularly attractive when the hogs are dirty. A more serious objection to the white skin of the Chester White is that under some conditions will sunscald. Sun scalding is more pronounced in those areas where there are occasional morning showers and the sun hits the hog before he dries. It likewise occurs on farms where tall forage is being used for pasture and dew is shaken on the hog's back as he grazes and then the damp hog remains in the sun. When the hog is subjected to constant, steady, sunlight, they, like people, seem to develop a natural protection. Sun burn is not common in the drier climates.

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