

Chester White History Holds Link To Lancaster and Chester Counties

THE CHESTER WHITE

Prof. H. M. Briggs, Okla.
A&M College, Stillwater

The Chester White breed originated in Chester County, Pennsylvania, from which it takes its name, and the surrounding counties of Delaware, Philadelphia, and Lancaster. The latter is one of the most favorably known agricultural counties in the United States and the whole general region of southeastern Pennsylvania is considered fertile and productive. The city of Philadelphia, located in Philadelphia County, naturally provided an early market and encouraged the raising of numbers of swine for market purposes. Although the breed originated in Pennsylvania, much improvement was later made in Ohio and in the more western states of the Corn Belt.

ORIGIN OF THE BREED

Large, coarse, white hogs were found in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania at an early time in the history of pork production in the United States. It is thought that these hogs were a mixture of the Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Cheshire breeds. The first two breeds were of English origin, whereas the latter was a strain or breed that came from Jefferson Coun-

ty, New York. This intermingling of blood had produced hogs that were long, bony, coarse and late maturing, and naturally breeders sought to introduce blood that would improve the usefulness of these hogs as pork producers.

The first real improvement seems to have been made by Captain James Jefferies in 1818 and concerning this improvement, Chester White Swine, by G. E. Day, Cyclopedia of American Agriculture, edited by L. H. Bailey, The MacMillan Co., N. Y., 1908, comments, "About the year 1818, Captain James Jefferies imported from England a pair of white pigs, which are spoken of as Bedfordshire pigs, and as Cumberland pigs. Captain Jefferies used the boar on the native white pigs of the district with good results. Later, it is stated white Chinese Pigs were imported to Chester County and crossed on the native pigs. Eventually the different strains of blood were combined, and from this combination came the original Chester White Breed."

This introduction of outside blood had a great influence in refining the hogs of the area. The Bedfordshire hogs were of a large and meaty type with marked quality and considerable development through the ham and side. While they were primarily white in color, they did have some black spots on the hair and skin. The ears were large and drooping. The Chinese hogs were about the same kind that had been used in the improvement of the Poland Chma and were a weak, broad-backed variety that fattened readily but lacked some in trimness of jaw and general attractiveness. They, too, were white, although they had some black or sandy spots. Their ears were large and drooping. Other less known strains of hogs also were used to aid in the development of the breed. After the introduction of outside blood had made considerable improvement in the hogs of the area, they were common-

Champ - A Chester White



Appropo for a history of the Chester White is this trim champion shown at the recent Lancaster-Lebanon Counties 4H Pig Club Roundup at the Lancaster Stock Yards by Robert Graybill, Manheim. The champion sold at \$60 cwt (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

ly referred to as "Chester County Whites", but in later years "county" was dropped from the name.

Improvement And Expansion Of The Breed

Thomas Wood began in 1856 to publicize the Chester White hogs by exhibiting them at various Fairs and Exhibitions through the eastern part of the United States. This did much to call the attention of the public to the improved white swine. E. B. Ashbridge of West Chester, Pennsylvania began breeding and exhibiting hogs in 1848 and continued active in the affairs of the breed until 1884.

The Todd family of Wakeman, Ohio, became associated with the Chester White and develop-

ed a strain of breed that carried their name. Two brothers, Kneeland and Isaac Todd, secured a boar in 1834 of the "Norfolk Thin Rind" strains from Connecticut; these hogs of breeding had been introduced into Connecticut from England about 1827. This boar and sow of the "Grass" were said to have been desirable Joseph Haskins moved from Massachusetts to Wakeman, Ohio, and brought with him a good pair of white pigs, the boar was similar to the Byfield strain but the sow was similar to the hogs already raised by the Todds. The Todd and Haskins hogs were crossed and recrossed.

Later Isaac Todd purchased a boar of the so-called "Large Grass" strain and used him on

his sows, several years later he secured a boar of the so-called "Normandy" strain, and he, too, was used in the herd. The latter boar was thought to have come from a strain of hogs originally brought over from France. In 1865 Isaac Todd introduced the first Chester White blood into the herd, and his son, S. H. Todd, made further use of Chester White breeding and remained as a breeder until 1914. Through careful selection and consequent improvement the Todd hogs became known as Todd's Improved Chester White, although prior to the introduction of the Chester blood, they were referred to as the Todd's Hog. For many years the hogs developed by the

(Continued on page 12)

MUSSER
Leghorn Chicks
For Large White Eggs
DONEGAL
WHITE CROSS
For Broiler Chicks
"Direct from the Breeder"
Phone Mt. Joy 3-4911

MOUNT JOY, PA.

LOCAL FUL-O-PEP DEALERS ANNOUNCE SERIES OF BEEF CATTLE MEETINGS

TO BE HELD

TUES., SEPT. 18

The Quaker Oats Co., manufacturers of Ful-O-Pep feeds, and your local Ful-O-Pep dealer announce a series of informative meetings for steer feeders.

Whether you have cattle on feed or are planning to feed cattle this fall, you will be interested in one of the meetings.

Ralph McCall, Beef Cattle Specialist of the Quaker Oats Co. Ful-O-Pep Research Farm, Barrington, Illinois, will be guest speaker. Mr. McCall will discuss the steer feeding outlook and also cover recent advances in steer feeding research.

There is a meeting scheduled in all locations for the convenience of the farmer. Also these meetings will be held at various times during the day, so that all those interested may attend. For information as to time and location of meeting in your area contact your Ful-O-Pep dealer or call Lancaster 5-0523. At 8:00 P.M. Tuesday Evening the last meeting will be held at Grubb Supply Co.'s Mill, Elizabethtown.

J. C. Snavely & Sons, Inc.
Landsville, Pa.

J. C. Walker & Son
Gap, Pa.

Grubb Supply
Elizabethtown, Pa.

Paul M. Ressler & Son
Paradise, Pa.

George Rutt
Stevens R. D. 1, Pa.

Ross C. Ulrich
Peach Bottom, R.D., Pa.

Millport Roller Mills
Lititz R. D. 4, Pa.

D. W. Hoover
East Earl, R. D. 1, Pa.

Extra cans of milk with Red Rose Dairy Feeds

Home-grown grains and silage lack proteins and other valuable nutrients cows need to reach high, bred-in production capacities.

Red Rose Dairy Feeds are scientifically compounded and balanced to supply all the nutrients cows need for heavy milk production. Straight feed or supplement, you'll find the feed you need for extra milk in the complete line of Red Rose Guaranteed Dairy Feeds.



Red Rose 32% Dairy Supplement

Fits perfectly into a feeding program with your supply of home-grown grains. Makes a dependable, economical ration—balanced with essential proteins, vitamins and minerals.



MUSSER FARMS, INC.
R. D. 2. Columbia, Pa.

DAVID B. HURST
Bowmansville, Pa.

WEST WILLOW FARMERS ASSOC.
West Willow, Pa.

R. W. HOLLINGER & SONS, INC.

Manheim, Pa.

BROWN & REA
Atglen, Pa.

A. L. HERR & BRO.
Quarryville, Pa.