



Prof. Glenn Keen demonstrates how the number of square inches of loineye is determined. He is using a gadget called a "planimeter" which measures area by tracing around the boundary. Each loineye was carefully traced on a piece of parchment prior to this part of the operation.

● County Swine

(Continued from Page 1)
man, a Spotted Poland; R. L. Boyd & Son, a Berkshire

The 24 animals were slaughtered on Friday, and cut-out evaluations were done on Saturday morning at the packing plant of Kunzler & Co, Inc., Lancaster.

Carcass Evaluation

The hogs were cut up by the Kunzler employees under the supervision of General Manager, Carl Dalton. Each cut from each hog was tattooed with a special number so that no breeder's names would be involved in the judging. James Martin and Earl Fisher of the Swine Ass'n. were on hand to collect the desired information. They made a tracing on parchment of the loineye of each hog, and weighed the hams and

loins from each animal. Judge Kean, meanwhile, was recording these data as they came in, and also rating each loin for carcass quality.

Although five of the original 24 animals judged on-foot were thrown out in accordance with the rules of the contest for having a live weight in excess of 220 pounds, all carcasses were evaluated. Another two hogs were thrown out of final consideration because the quality of their meat was not acceptable (one of these, unfortunately, would have rated very near the top on ham-loin percentage).

The quality of the loin gives an excellent indication of the overall meat quality of the animal. In evaluating for quality, Kean recorded extent of marbling, and gave each loin a rating that ranged from ideal to soft and watery.

A sample of the backfat was taken at three different places for each animal, and an average of these three figures determined the inches of backfat.

Results

(Assuming satisfactory meat quality, winners were chosen on the basis of percentage of dressed weight made up by ham and loin weight)

1 — A Berkshire entered by R. L. Boyd and Son — 11 inches backfat, and 42.0 per cent ham and loin

2 — A Spotted Poland entered by Clair Hartman — 13 inches backfat, and ham-loin percentage of 40.8

3 — A Berkshire entered by R. L. Boyd & Son — 11 inches backfat, and 40.8 ham-loin percentage

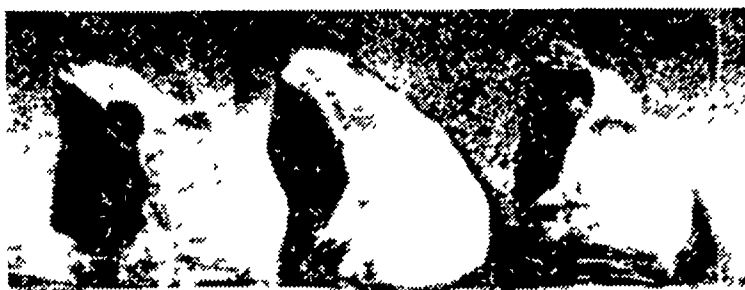
4 — A Spotted Poland entered by Clair Hartman — 13 inches backfat, and 40.2 ham-loin percentage

5 — A Spotted Poland entered by Warren Leiminger — 16 inches backfat, and 40.2 ham-loin percentage.

It should be noted that although the ham-loin percentage for the second and third place hogs, and for the fourth and fifth place hogs, were identical in each case, meat quality was the factor that decided these ties.

The variation in the several measurements was not too great for backfat — 11 to 20 inches — but in loineye it ranged from 30 to 62 square inches, and for per cent ham and loin it ranged from 32.6 to 42.0 per cent.

How accurately were the cut-out figures estimated on-foot?



The meat quality factor can be greatly influenced through breeding and is therefore of prime consideration to the swine breeders. The above loins demonstrate quality variation. From left to right they represent meat that is (1) too dark, (2) ideal, and (3) soft and watery.

L. F. Photo.

Backfat seemed to be the easiest factor to estimate and the judge came within 2 inches 63 per cent of the time. For per cent ham-loin he was within 1 per cent of the true evaluation 37 per cent of the time. The latter may seem a little low, but the influence of the amount of trim left on each cut can change the final percentage considerably. It was observed by Martin and Fisher, for example, that these figures were higher than ham-loin percentage figures found in their Spring carcass show. Judge Kean underestimated the ham-loin figures 100 per cent of the time which further illustrates the effect that trim can have when a judge gets used to a certain degree of trimming.

seem a little too technical to the casual observer, but breeding and selection of animals is getting to be a very precise and technical business — and it will probably get more so as time goes on. If the small, local hog breeder is to survive in our increasingly technical world he is going to have to adopt some scientific techniques to keep up with the large high-powered organizations that have all kinds of technical and financial resources at their disposal.

Trophies for this show will be awarded to the owners of the first and second place hogs at the Association's Pork Barbeque which will be held — rain or shine — at the Lancaster Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 24, 5 to 7 p.m.

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