SOME OF THE MORE POPULAR BREEDS

Yorkshire (Large White)
Superior mothering ability; large litters, good growth efficiency

Hampshire
Meatiness; good grade and yield

Landrace
Good mothering ability, excellent growth efficiency, good grade and yield.

Duroc
Superior growth rate; good mothering ability

THE BOAR IS HALF THE HERD

by H. Patterson, G. A. Proverbs and R. C. Quintyne

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FEEDING THE BOAR:

Buy some of the feed he is being fed, since this helps reduce the stress associated with moving to a new location. The boar should be put on a restricted diet to prevent him getting fat. This can be accomplished by putting him on good pasture or by feeding him grass with his concentrate and giving him plenty of exercise. The concentrate ration should contain 14-15% crude protein, with the essential minerals and vitamins fed at 2 to 3 kg. per 100kg (2 to 3 lb per 100 lb) body weight.

Feed the boar after, rather than before service - twice daily feeding seems to be best. Do not feed bulky rations of starchy food (e.g. uncooked sweet potatoes and yarn) since this increases the tendency for the boar to lie around and put on fat.

USING THE BOAR:

A well-grown boar of ten months may begin light service with one sow or gilt each week. It is preferable to breed the inexperienced boar to sows the first few services, since this practice allows the boar to gain the experience to be a good breeder. Do not however take a young boar and dump him into a pen full of older sows. The older boars in the group may fight with the young boar which may make him timid breeder. Breeding more than 2 sows a day to a boar usually results in small litter size.

Avoid abusive handling, as it can reduce his aggressive- ness in mating.

Although a boar will have a useful life of many years, there will come a time when your animal's daughters (if you keep some in your herd) will be ready for breeding. Many farmers find it advisable at this stage to sell the old stud boar and replace him with an animal that is not related to the gilt in the herd. Remember it is unwise to mate your gilt to their sire.

KEEPING RECORDS:

Some of our farmers are very proud of their memory - and they tend to depend too much on remembering important things. If you are going to be a successful pig breeder - even with a small herd - memory is not good enough. Someone in the family should have the duty of writing down the facts of the operation. To set up a record- ing system ask the help of an extension officer.

WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT QUALITIES THAT THE BOAR INHERITED?

There is an old stockman's saying that "like tends to beget like". In the case of the stud boar there are weaknesses such as hernia and deformed male organs that are regularly passed from one generation to another. By the same token, swine breeders select both male and female breeding animals with an eye to long bodies, broad backs and muscle rather than fat.

Many of our small-scale farmers are finding it wise to take their sows and gilts to Government stations or private individuals where pure-bred boars are available for service. These pure-bred animals have been selected through careful breeding for desired traits such as good underline, strong back, sound feet and good muscle. The popular hog breeds giving good results in our part of the world are the Yorkshire Large White and the Landrace - both solid white in colour and somewhat similar in conformation (shape) and the Hampshire, an animal with a white band around the shoulder area including the front legs - a so-called saddle-back effect.

SELECTING A BOAR:

A good stud boar should have:
1. well-developed legs and shoulders,
2. strong, well-arched back,
3. short, straight patterns, and sound feet and legs,
4. healthy skin without signs of mange or other disease,
5. even temperament because a temperamental, aggressive boar is difficult to handle and may be dangerous.
6. trim paws
7. and 14 evenly spaced teats

CHOOSING A STUD BOAR

Do you have a gilt or sow which should soon be ready for breeding? Is there a choice of boars in the neighborhood? It would certainly be wise to take a look at these boars and learn a little about them. The reason for this is that the stud boar's value as a sire depends on:
1. the qualities he inherited from his ancestors.
2. his own size, shape, vigour and growth performance.
3. the qualities he has successfully passed on to his progeny.

MANAGING THE STUD BOAR:

Look at how the young boar has been managed on the farm you are purchasing from. Remember that in introducing a boar into your enterprise you run a high risk of introducing disease. Select your boar from a disease free herd. Be sure that his vaccinations are up to date and, if possible that he has been recently de-wormed. On bringing the boar home, isolate him from the rest of the herd for 2-3 weeks. After that, place him where he can contact the sows through the fence for about 30 days before breeding. This will expose both the boar and the sows to any disease-causing organisms which each may have, and allow them to develop immunities. It will also give the boar time to adjust to his new surroundings.

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<th>LEVEL OF HERITABILITY</th>
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