

# SURE•CHAMP®

## *A guide* TO PICKING OUT YOUR SHOW PIG

### *Step 1:*

#### **SET A GOAL.**

It is important to understand the end point for you pig before thinking about purchasing. The time frame of your endpoint will influence:

- What age you are looking for.
- What maturity pattern they have.
- How you will work with the breeder to find what you need.

You should also set a goal for what you want to accomplish at your end point. That will have an effect on your budget and what you are willing to spend.

What is your goal and end point?

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### *Step 2:*

#### **ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PEDIGREE AND BACKGROUND OF THE PIG YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.**

Sample questions to ask:

- What does the pedigree/breeding on the dam look like?
- What does the pedigree/breeding on the sire look like?
- How has this mating worked in the past?
- Is the sire and dam here for me to look at?

**IMPORTANT TIP:** Don't be afraid to ask the breeder lots of questions! They know their stock better than anyone, and an informed buyer is an empowered buyer. You should make it your goal to learn as much as possible and feel informed when making your purchasing decision.

For additional livestock nutrition and stock show resources, visit [surechamp.com/blog](http://surechamp.com/blog).

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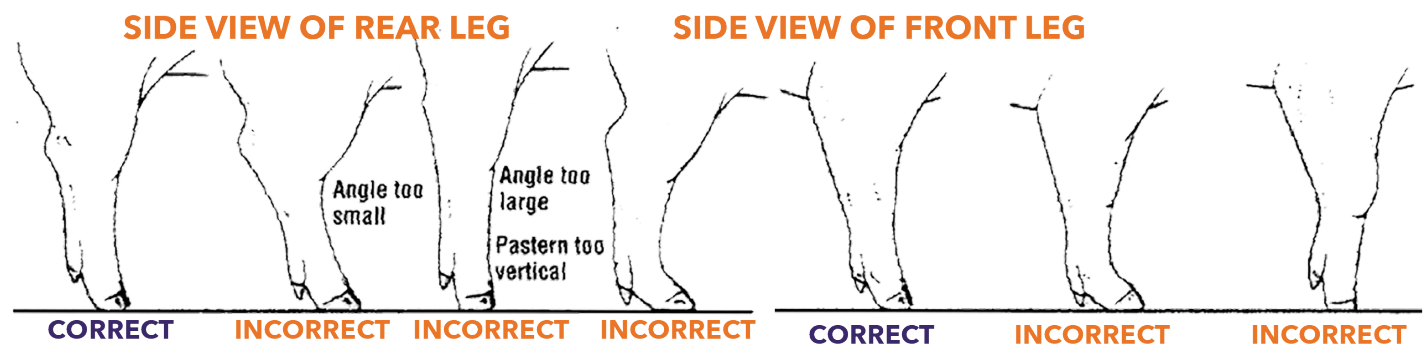
### *Step 3:*

#### SELECTION: UNDERSTANDING STRUCTURE

Structure, the way an animals' skeleton is put together, is the most important selection trait to look for, regardless of what specie you are picking out.

Tips for evaluating structure:

- Pigs should not toe in or toe out. They should be square built at the ground and have a good, square toe spread at the surface.



- The width of chest and clearance between their hocks from behind should match
- Look for stoutness of feature:
  - a. Are they stout boned?
  - b. Do they have a stout skull and jaw line?

Even a skinny baby pig can develop to have skeletal with and muscle if they have squareness and stoutness at a young age.

### *Step 4:*

#### SELECTION: UNDERSTANDING MUSCLE SHAPE

Back and muscle shape is hard to read in young pigs. Here are some good indicators of a good muscle shape:

- Chest width
- Rib shape
- Pin width
- Clearance between their hocks as they walk away

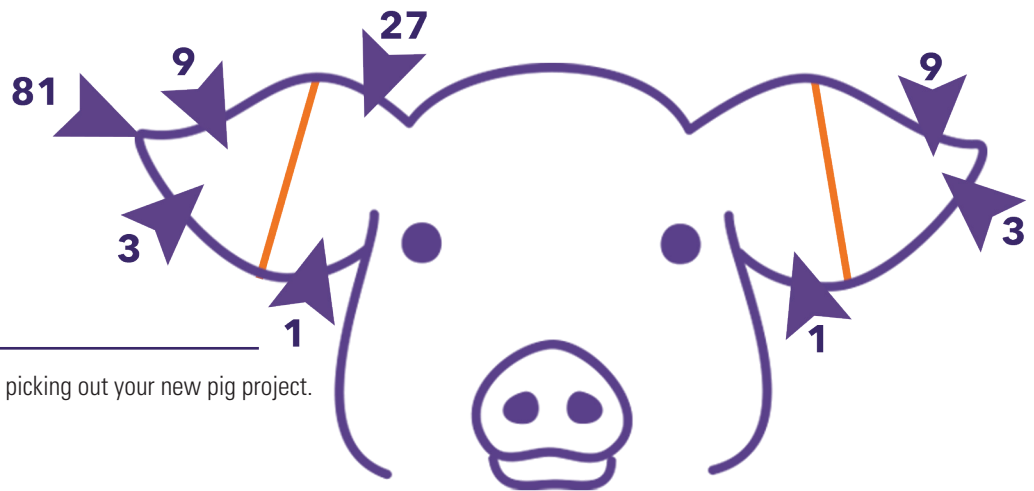
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*Step 5:* \_\_\_\_\_

### EVALUATE YOUR BUDGET

- Talk to the breeder about price and be up front about what you are able to spend.
- If the first pig you like is outside of budget, find another breeder to visit, or look through the litters again and see if there is one within your budget that you might have missed.
- Make sure to consider what you are willing to spend and how that will pay off in the end.



*Extra tip!* \_\_\_\_\_

Don't forget to practice using ear notches when picking out your new pig project.

When you are looking at the pig head on:

- The left ear = LITTER NUMBER
- The right ear = PIG NUMBER