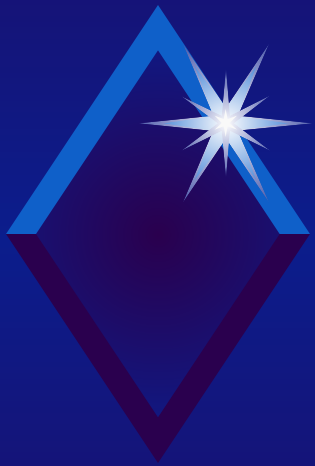




Introduction to Livestock Judging and Evaluation

*Kenneth Geuns
Michigan State University
Dept. of Animal Science*



Introduction to Beef Selection



Criteria for Beef Selection

- ☐ Soundness
 - ☐ Structural
 - ☐ Reproductive
- ☐ Volume and Capacity
- ☐ Muscle
- ☐ Skeletal Extension
- ☐ Femininity/ Masculinity



Ideal Beef Heifer





Structural Correctness

- ❑ Correct joint angles
 - ❑ Shoulder, knee, hock and pastern
- ❑ Strong top
- ❑ Level rump structure
 - ❑ Hooks to pins
- ❑ Large, square foot
- ❑ Adequate bone



Structurally Correct Heifer





Structurally Correct Heifer

Level rump



Strong top



Shoulder
Angle

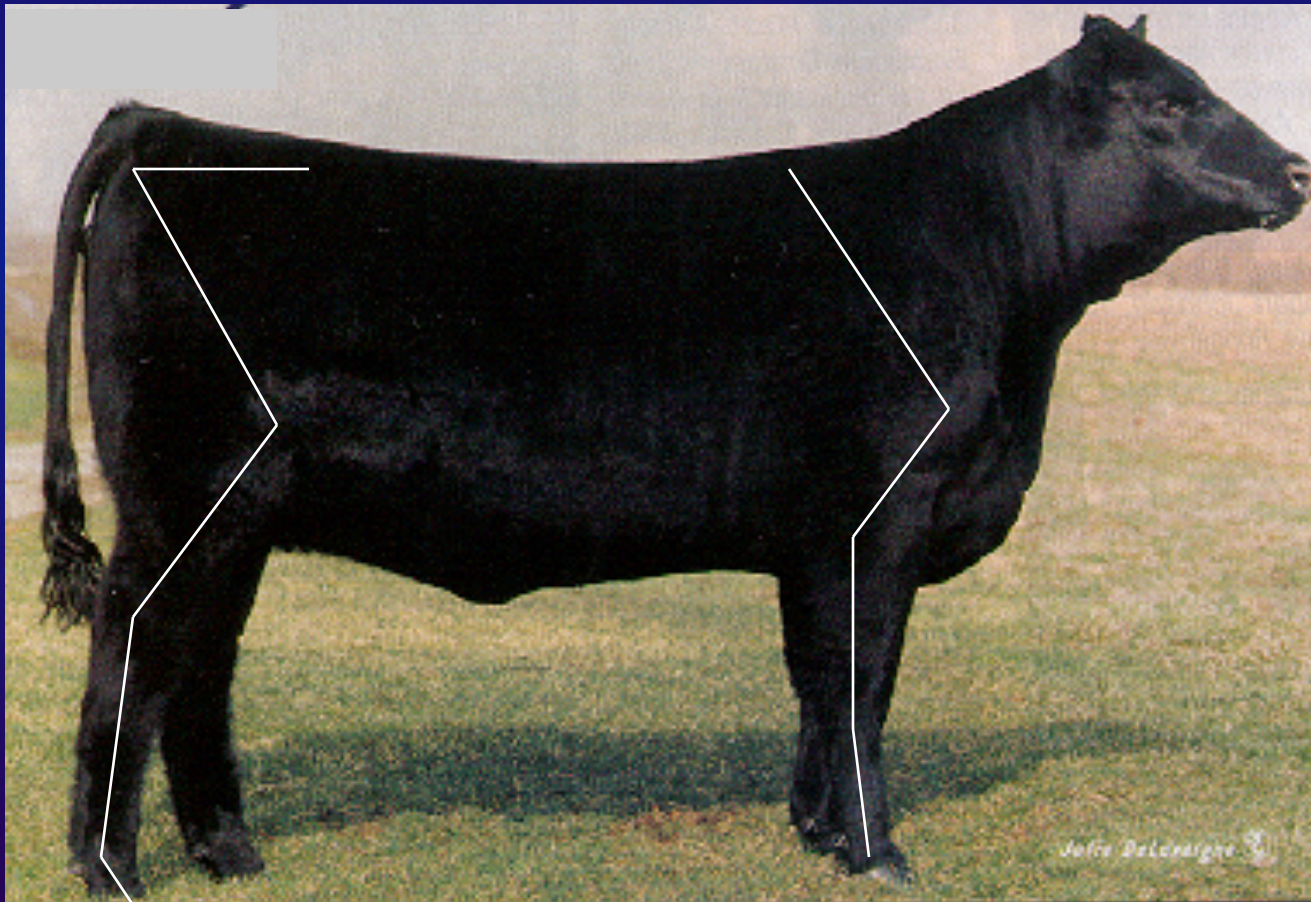
Hock
Angle



Knee &
Pastern
Set



Structurally Correct Heifer





Correct Structure: Rear view



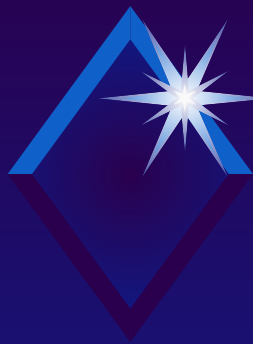




Straight Structured







Incorrect Hip and Hind Leg Structure



Low
Pin
Set

Too
Much
Set
to
Hock



Volume and Capacity

- ❑ Most critical in beef production
- ❑ “Fleshing Ability”
 - ❑ The ability for a mature female to maintain body condition while in lactation
- ❑ Deep, bold-sprung ribs for feeding and breeding capacity
- ❑ Wide-chested and wide-based



High Volume Heifer



Deep Fore &
Rear Flank

John DeLoraine



Muscle

- ❑ Heavy muscled cattle are preferred if muscle pattern is long and smooth
- ❑ Tight, round muscle can inhibit movement



Skeletal Extension

- ❑ Long bodied, long fronted cattle are preferred
- ❑ Cattle being too large in their frame can be detrimental
- ❑ Problems with cattle that are “too big”
 - ❑ Females too large as mature cows
 - ❑ Feedlot cattle do not deposit marbling until excessive weights are reached



Frame Size

- ❑ Measured with Frame Score
 - ❑ Considers both age and hip height
- ❑ Ideal frame score range
 - ❑ British Breeds: 5 to Low 7
 - ❑ Continental Breeds: 6 to High 7



Femininity

- ❑ Females need to be refined through their shoulder, neck, and head
- ❑ Vulvas need to be developed with correct udder structure



Correct Femininity





Masculinity

- ❑ Bulls need to be masculine about their shoulder, neck and head, but not coarse
- ❑ Bulls should have well developed testicles that are even in size
- ❑ Minimum scrotal circumference requirements
 - ❑ Maternal sire: 34 cm
 - ❑ Terminal sire: 32 cm



Correct Masculinity





Importance of Testicle Size

- ❑ Directly related to fertility
- ❑ Bulls with more developed testicles have improved semen production
- ❑ A larger scrotal size relates to a bull's daughters reaching puberty at an earlier age



Introduction to Sheep Selection



Criteria for Sheep Selection

- ☐ Soundness
 - ☐ Structural
 - ☐ Reproductive
- ☐ Frame and Growth
- ☐ Volume and Capacity
- ☐ Muscle
- ☐ Breed Character



Structural Correctness

- ❑ Correct joint angles
 - ❑ Shoulder, knee, hock and pastern
- ❑ Strong top
- ❑ Level rump structure
- ❑ Large, square foot
- ❑ Adequate bone

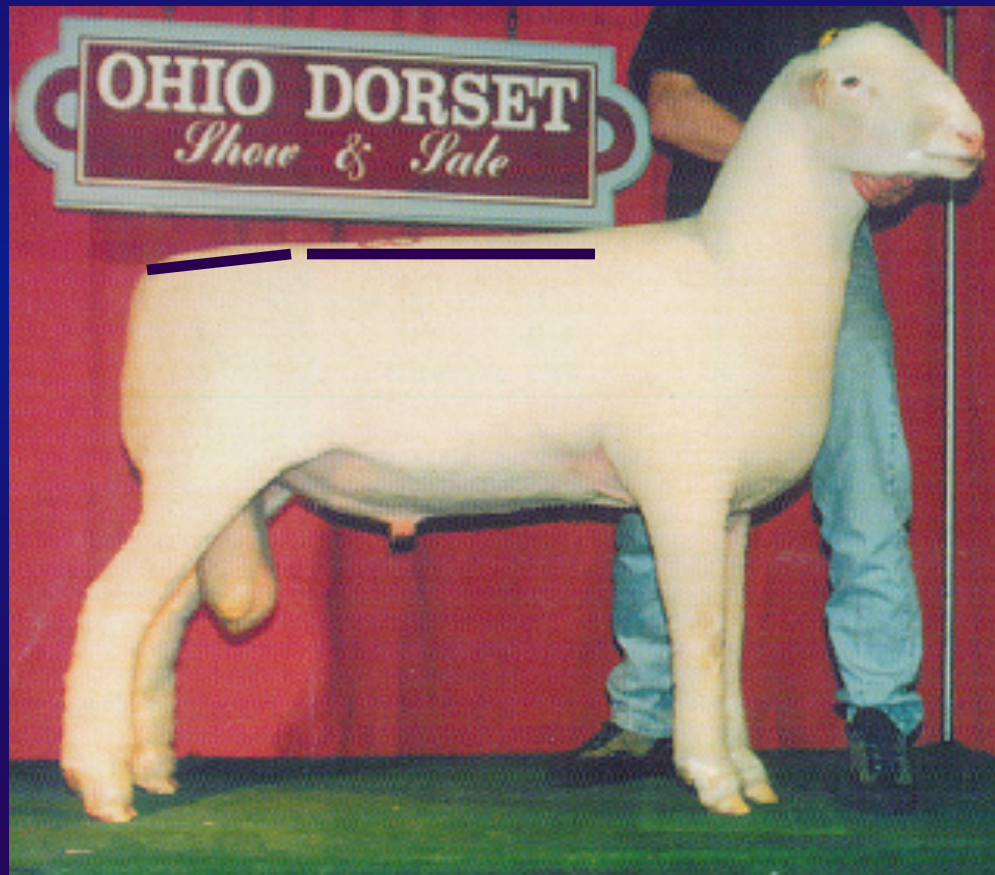


Structurally Correct Ram



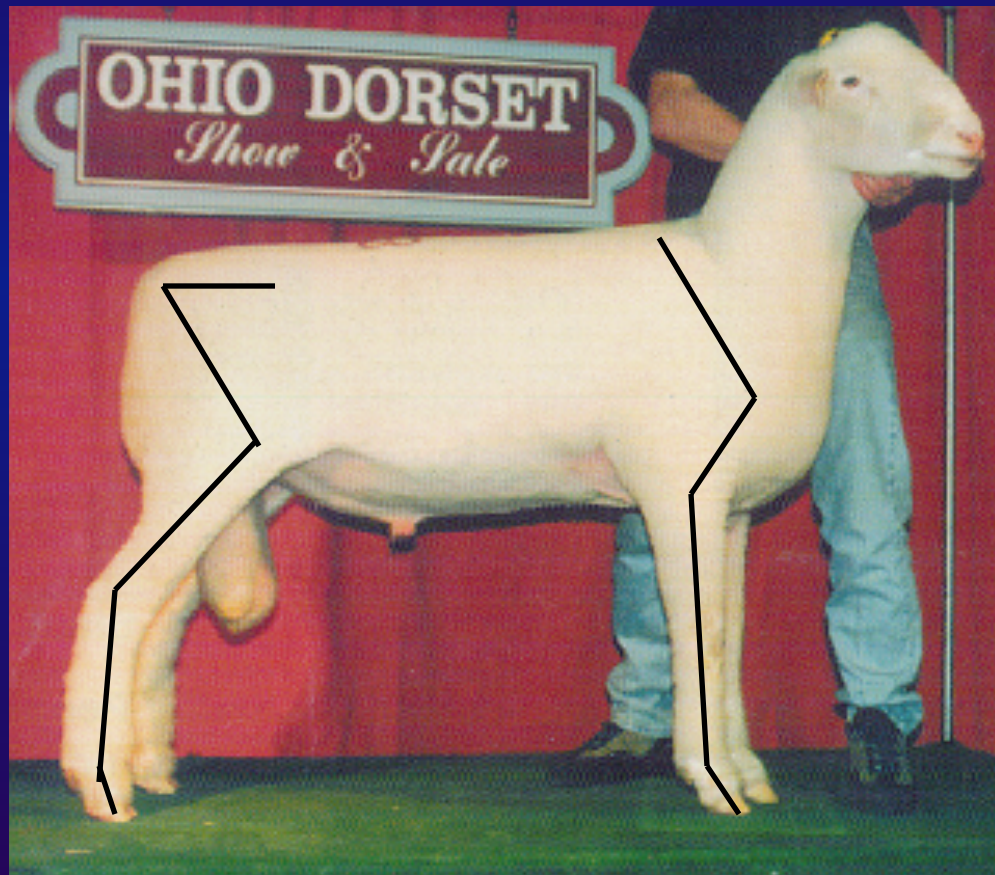


Structurally Correct Ram



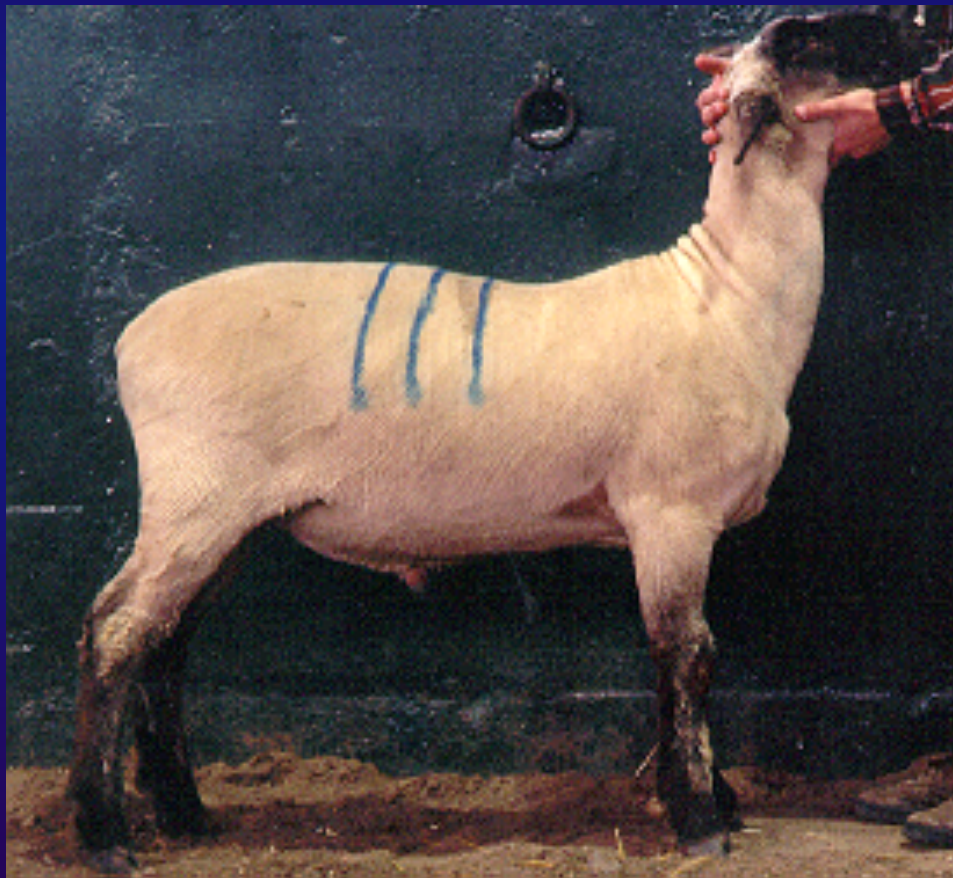


Structurally Correct Ram





Structural Incorrectness





Reproductive Correctness

- ☐ Developed vulva on females
- ☐ Correct testicle development and shape on males



Frame and Growth

- ❑ Larger framed sheep will be later maturing and stay leaner
- ❑ Larger framed sheep will be growthier
- ❑ Long fronted, long necked desirable
- ❑ Correct frontends most critical in sheep
 - ❑ Smooth shoulder
 - ❑ Correct neck - shoulder junction



Large framed
Long bodied



Small framed
Short bodied



Breed Differences



Southdown



Cheviot



Volume and Capacity

- ❑ Critical for feeding and breeding capacity
- ❑ Fleshing ability critical in ewe flock
- ❑ Deep, bold sprung rib cage
- ❑ Wide chested and wide based



Volume and Capacity





Muscle

- ❑ Evaluated through the rump and top
- ❑ Critical in all meat animal production



Breed Character

- ❑ More highly emphasized than on hogs or cattle
- ❑ Subjective evaluation on many breeds



Suffolk Breed Character

- ❑ Black head and legs free from wool
- ❑ Long, pendulous bell-shaped ear
- ❑ Roman nose



Introduction to Swine Selection



Criteria for Swine Selection

- ☐ Soundness
 - ☐ Structural
 - ☐ Reproductive
- ☐ Scale and Length of Body
- ☐ Muscle and Leanness
- ☐ Volume and Capacity
- ☐ Femininity/ Masculinity



Structural Soundness

- ❑ Most critical in swine due to environment raised
- ❑ Critical for:
 - ❑ Mobility and Longevity
 - ❑ Breeding position
 - ❑ Growth rate

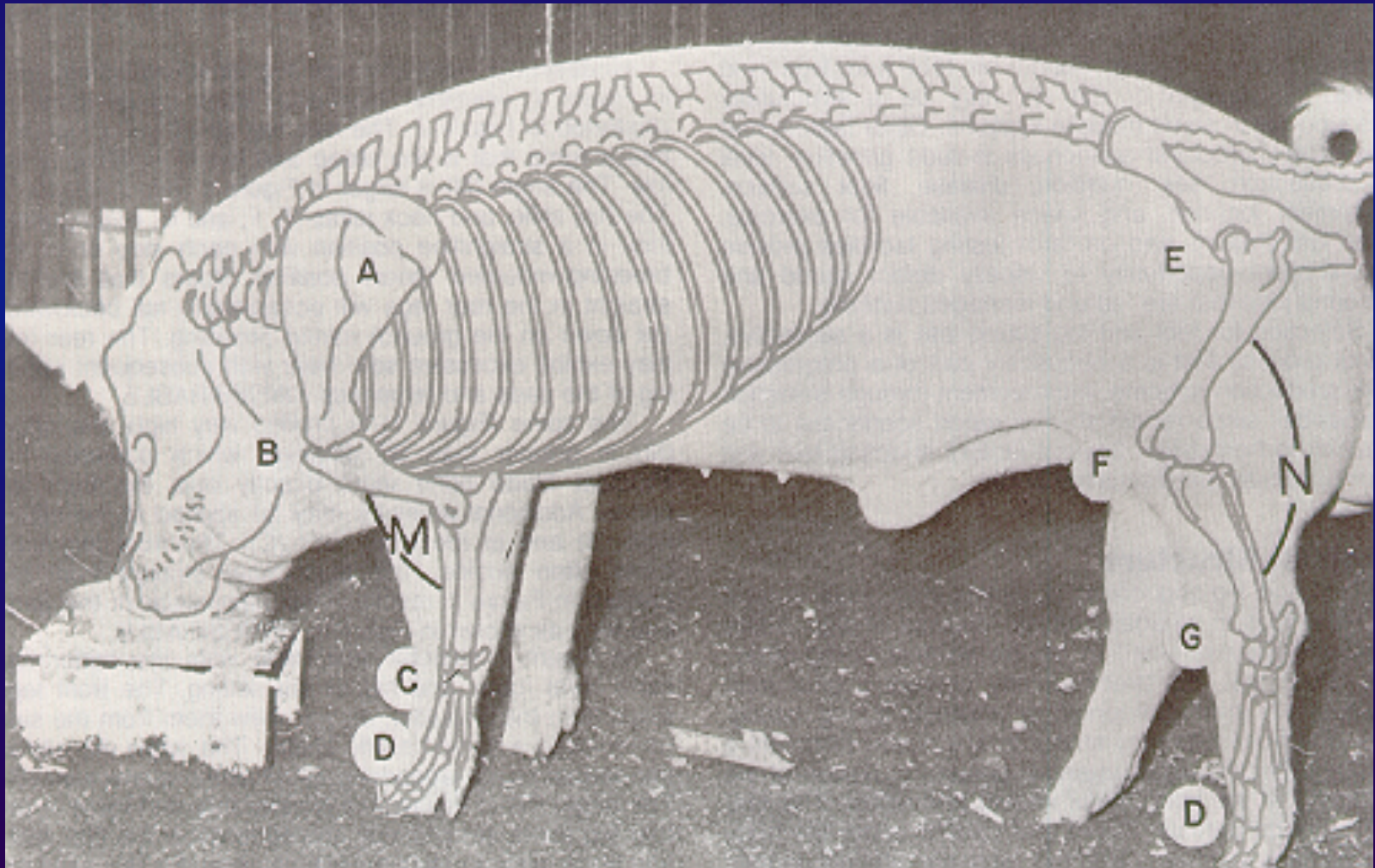


Structural Soundness

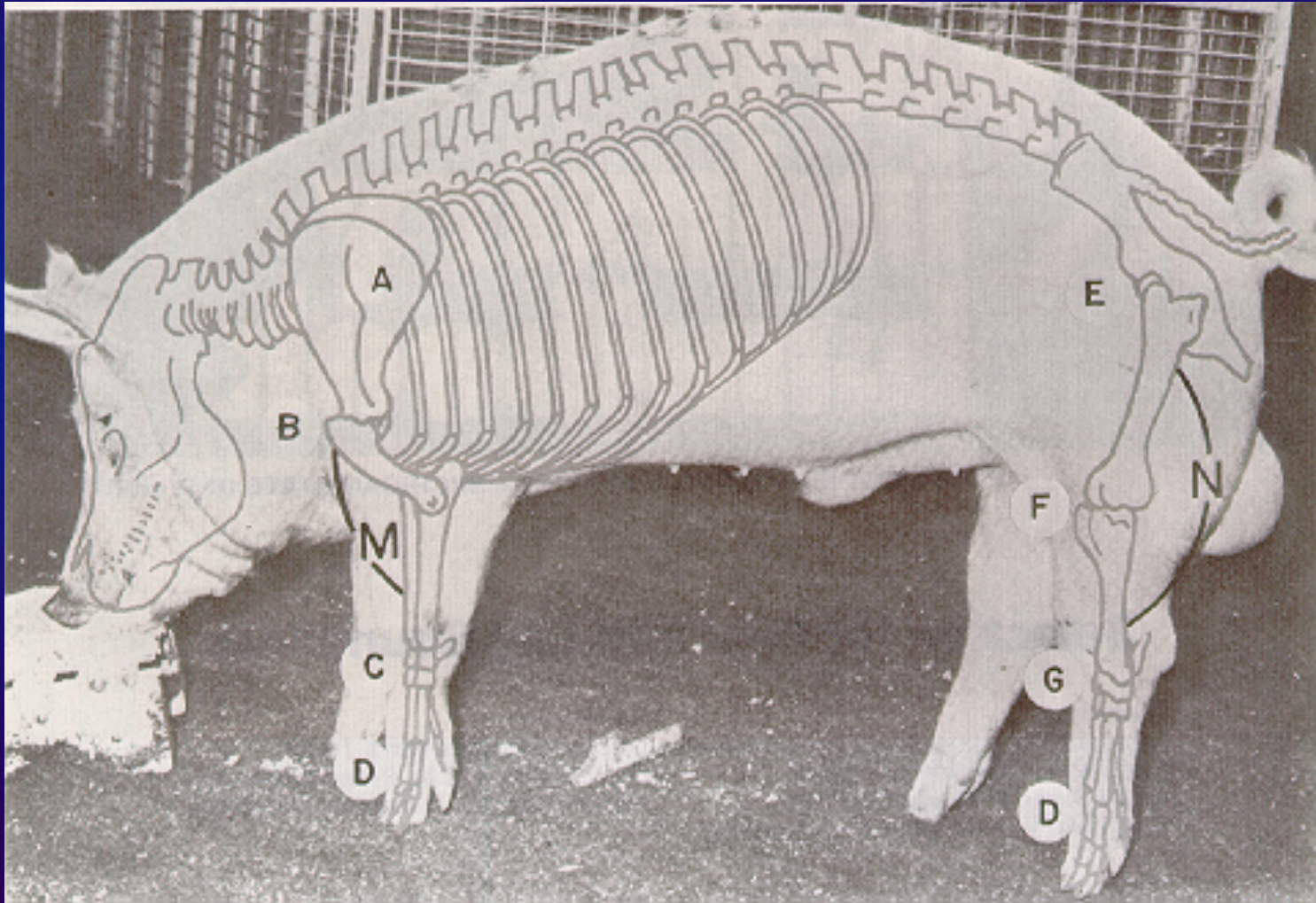
- ☐ Correct joint angles
 - ☐ Shoulder and hip angle
 - ☐ Set to hock, knee and pastern
- ☐ Level top and rump
- ☐ Even toe size
- ☐ Adequate bone

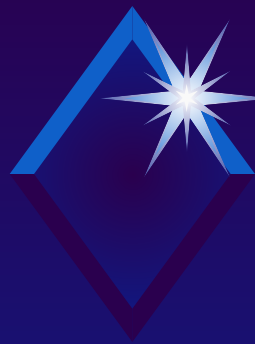


Correctly Designed Skeleton

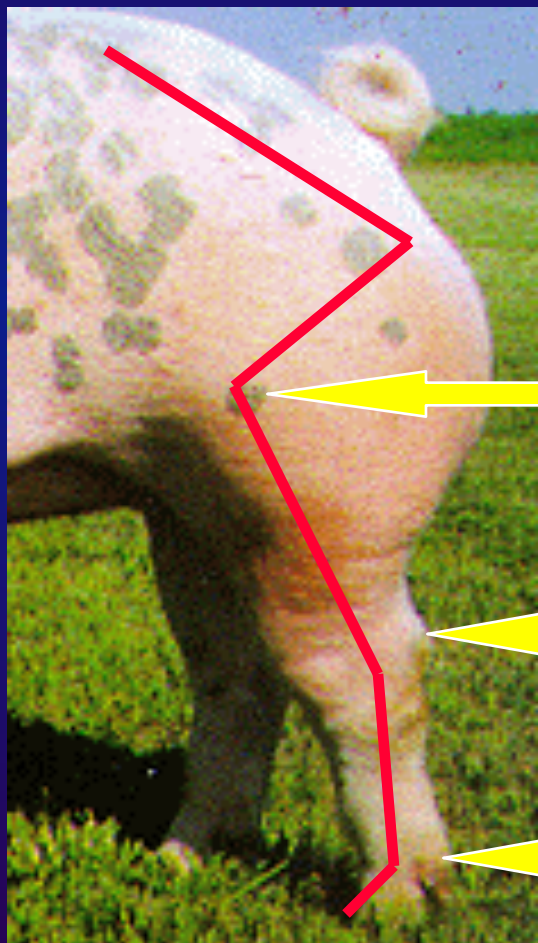


Improperly Designed Skeleton





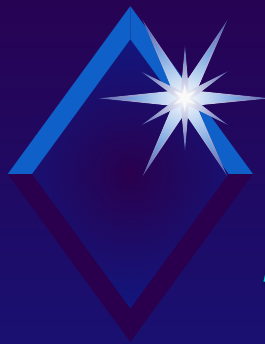
Correct Hip and Hind Leg Structure



Stifle

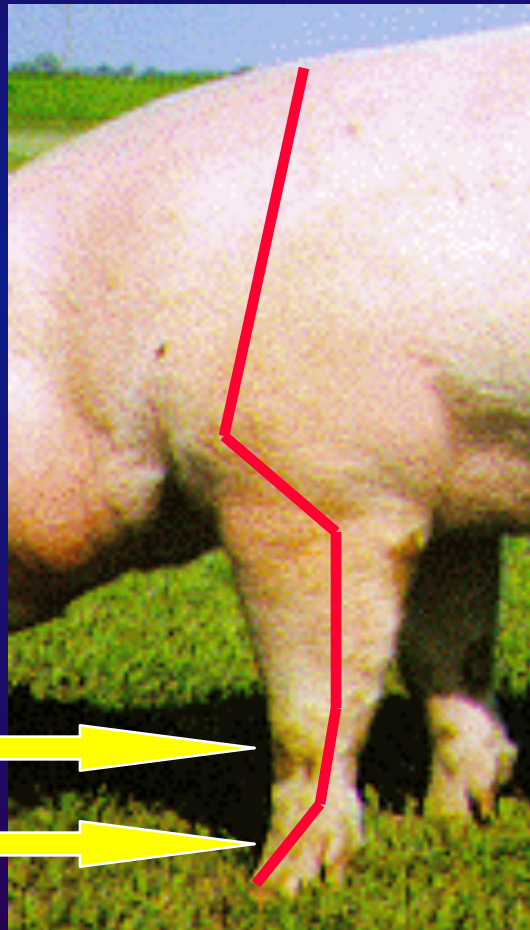
Hock

Pastern

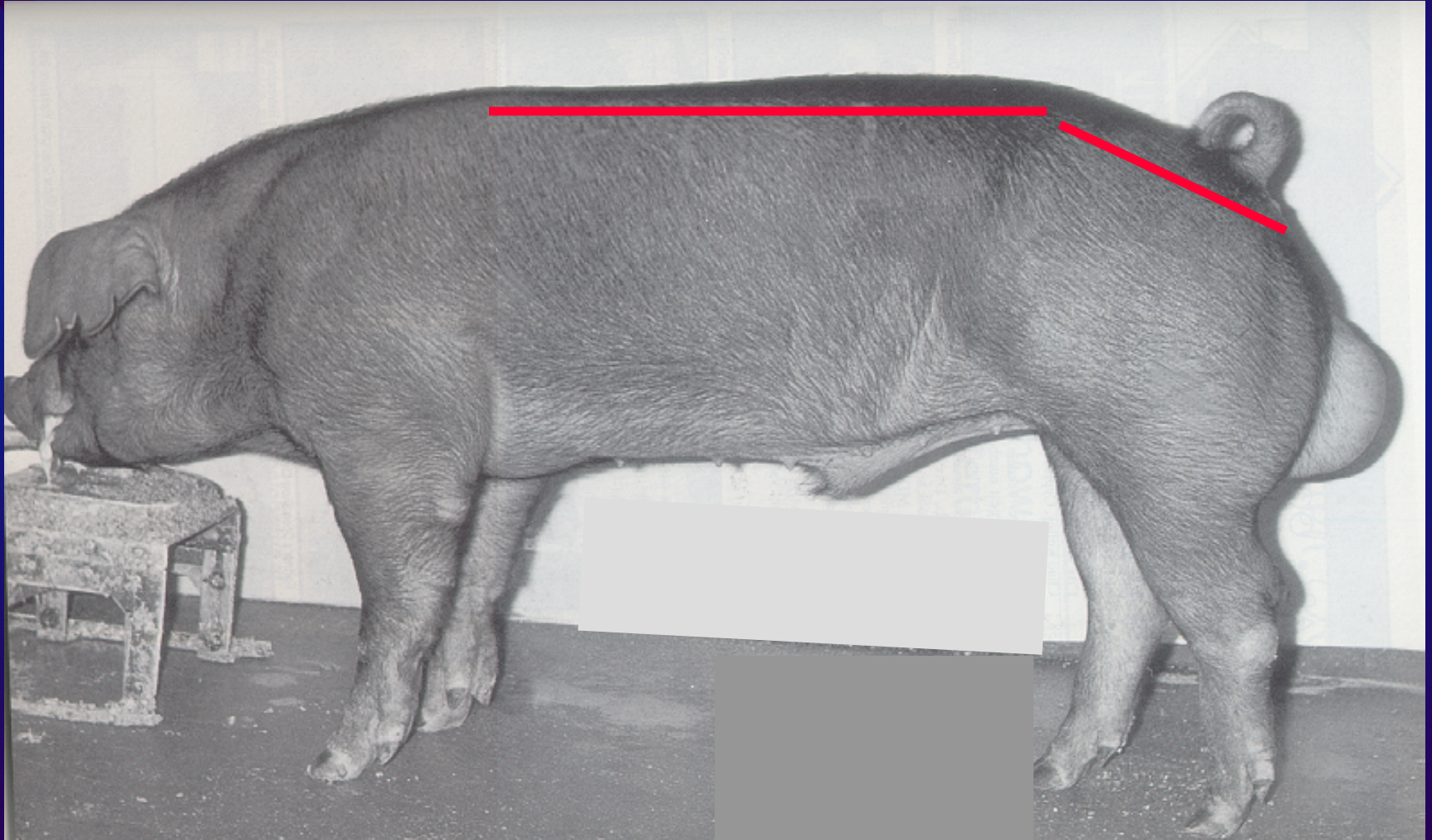


Correct Shoulder and Front Leg Structure

Knee →
Pastern →



Level Top and Rump





Even Toe Size



Correct, Even Toes



Small Inside Toe



Structural Incorrectness

- ❑ Post-legged -> not enough set to hock and pastern
- ❑ Sickle-hocked -> too much set to hind leg
- ❑ Cow-hocked -> hocks come in when viewed from the rear
- ❑ Bow-legged -> hocks go out when viewed from the rear
- ❑ Pigeon-toed -> front legs toe in



Reproductive Soundness

☐ Correct Underline

- ☐ At least six, functional, well-shaped teats, evenly spaced on each side (gilts and boars)

☐ Correct Vulva

- ☐ Properly developed
- ☐ Properly shaped



Reproductive Soundness

☐ Correct Testicles

- ☐ Well developed

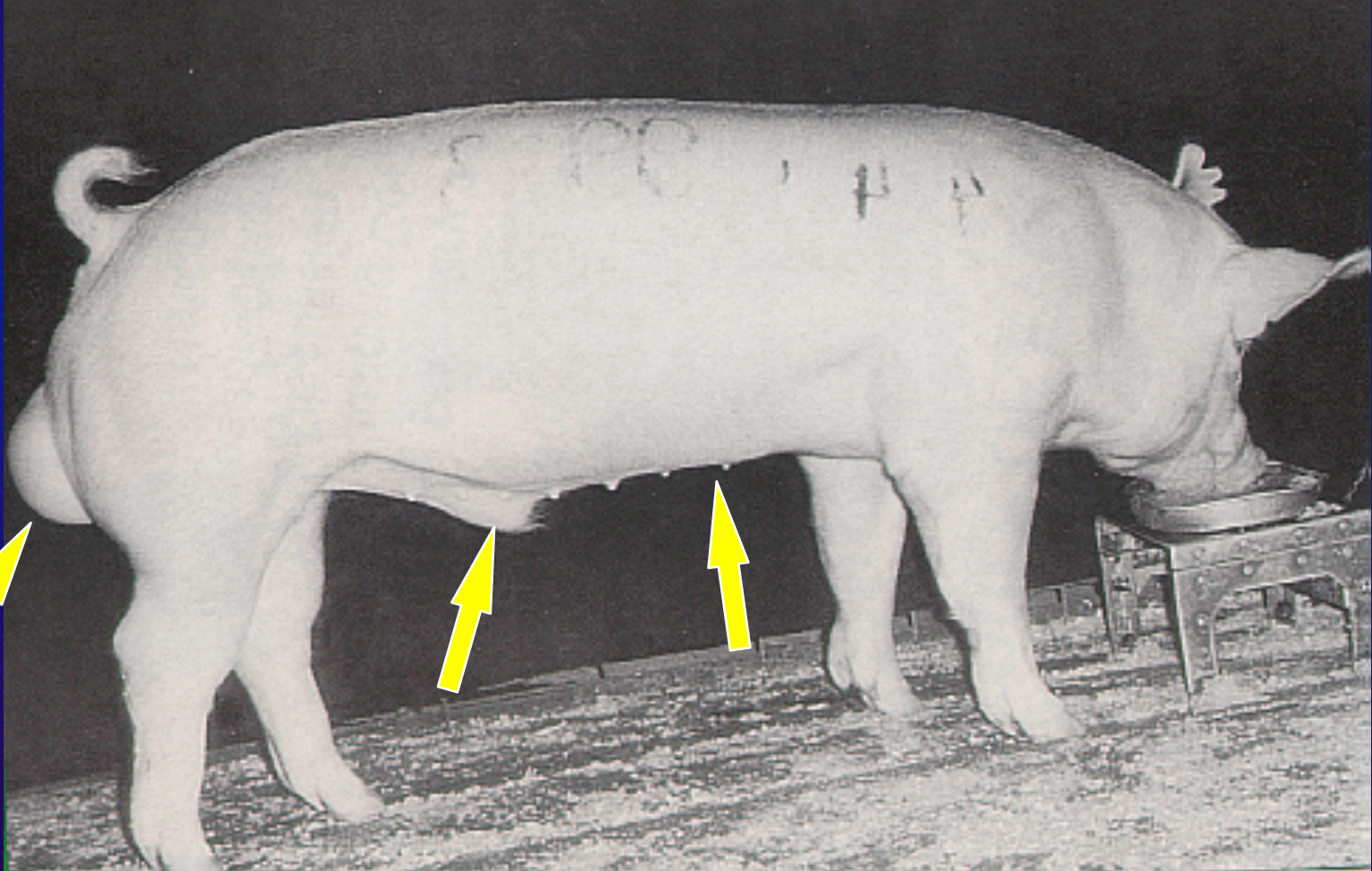
- ☐ Correct carriage

☐ Correct Sheath

- ☐ Tight

- ☐ Correctly angled forward

Reproductively Sound Boar





Reproductive Unsoundness

- ❑ Pin nipple -> undeveloped teat
- ❑ Blunt underline -> teats lack prominence
- ❑ Short teat count -> not enough nipples
- ❑ Infantile vulva -> undeveloped
- ❑ Tipped vulva -> turned up
- ❑ Small or uneven testicles -> lacks size and uniformity



Scale and Length of Body

- ❑ Large-framed, later maturing hogs will grow faster, more efficiently, and stay leaner than small-framed, early maturing hogs
- ❑ Long bodied, long fronted hogs will normally be later maturing



Muscle and Leanness

- ❑ Heavy muscled, lean breeding hogs desired
- ❑ Must be obtained without sacrificing structural and reproductive soundness
- ❑ Extremes in leanness can be detrimental to reproductive traits of females



Volume and Capacity

- ❑ Deep, outward shaped rib with width of chest and base is desired for feeding and breeding capacity
- ❑ Volume is 3 dimensional
 - ❑ Depth
 - ❑ Width
 - ❑ Length



Femininity/ Masculinity

- ❑ Females should be long bodied with a long, clean neck and head
- ❑ Females should be clean and flat in their bone
- ❑ Males should also be long bodied and fronted but with stouter features (head, neck, bone and feet)

