

Inquiries and Answers.

POLAND CHINA SWINE.

In answer to an inquiry from Port Hawkesbury, Cape Breton, in reference to the color of Poland China swine, we give the scale of points adopted by the Central Swine Record of Indiana, one of the leading records of this breed in the United States, but not the only one. It is as follows:

Head—Small, broad, slightly dished.....	5
Ear—Thin, fine, drooping.....	3
Neck—Short, full, well arched.....	3
Jowl—Neat and full.....	2
Brisket—Full.....	3
Shoulder—Broad and deep.....	6
Girth above heart.....	10
Back—Straight and broad.....	6
Sides—Deep and full.....	6
Ribs—Well sprung.....	9
Loin—Broad and strong.....	7
Belly—Wide and straight.....	4
Flank—Well let down.....	3
Ham—Broad, full, and deep.....	10
Coat—Fine and thick.....	4
Limbs—Strong, straight and tapering.....	5
Tail—Tapering, and not coarse.....	1
Color—Dark.....	3
Action—Vigorous, easy, lively.....	5
Symmetry.....	5
Total.....	100

DETAILED DESCRIPTION.

Head—Short, broad between the eyes, and nicely tapering from the eyes to point of nose; face slightly dished, cheeks full. Objections—Head coarse, long and narrow; face too much dish; snout coarse or thick.

Ear—Drooping, thin, pointing forward. Objections—Too large and coarse; thick, looping, lying too near the face; stiff, erect, or too round.

Jowl—Full, firm and neat, carrying fullness to shoulder and brisket. Objections—Flabby, light, thin in cheek.

Neck—Full, deep, short, and well arched. Objections—Long, flat, lacking in fullness or depth.

Brisket—Full, well let down, extending well forward, and on line of the belly. Objections—Narrow.

Shoulder—Broad, deep, full, and even on top. Objections—Lacking in depth or width, blade too prominent.

Back—Broad, straight, or slightly arched, carrying width back to the ham, and of medium length. Objections—Narrow, creasing back of shoulders; narrow across the loin, swayed, too long, fish shaped.

Girth around the heart—Full back of shoulders; ribs extending well down, wide and full back of fore leg. Objections—Less than flank or length of body from top of the head to root of tail, or creased back of shoulder.

Sides—Full, deep, carrying size well down and back. Objections—Too round or flat, or thin at the flank, flabby.

Ribs—Well sprung and long. Objections—Too flat, curve of rib too short.

Loin—Broad, strong and full. Objections—Narrow, weak.

Belly—Wide and straight. Objections—Sagging, narrow.

Flank—Well let down and full. Objections—Thin, tucked in, cut up too high.

Ham—Broad, deep, coming down well to the hock. Objections—Narrow, short, too steep at the rump.

Limbs—Medium length, stout, tapering, set well apart, bone firm and not coarse; pasterns short; short toes. Objections—Long, slim, coarse, crooked, muscle light; pasterns slim or flat, toes long or spreading.

Coat—Fine, thick, straight. Objections—Bristles, hair too long, harsh or curly.

Tail—Small, tapering. Objections—Coarse, large, too prominent at the root.

Color—Dark, with a few clear white spots (sandy spots and speckled color shall not argue impurity of blood, but are not desirable). Objections—Solid black, or with more sandy or more white than black hair over body, or plum color.

Action—Easy, fine and graceful. Objections—Slow, clumsy.

Symmetry—Harmonious combination of all the foregoing schedule of points.

Veterinary.**A Delicate Surgical Operation.**

On the 22d January the veterinary infirmary of J. D. O'Neill, V. S., London, Ont., was the scene of a very successful though formidable operation. The patient was a valuable three-year-old mare, the property of Mr. Riley Day, of the 7th con., Nissouri township. The mare had been suffering for upwards of a year with indurated or suppurating mammary glands, the functions of which being lost, its entire removal was deemed advisable.

The patient having been properly prepared for the operation, was secured, and chloroform administered (the first horse ever chloroformed in London), and the delicate operation of removing the glands was successfully accomplished by Drs. O'Neill and Green, of London.

A number of prominent horsemen witnessed the operation, and expressed their opinions to the effect that operations of the kind should be placed in the hands of surgeons competent to administer anesthetics, and that the barbarous practice of allowing animals to struggle during the progress of severe operations (often to their total destruction) should be done away with. We rejoice in the humane example they have given to the country.

Diseases and Accidents Incidental to Parturition.

BY F. C. GRENSIDE, V. S.

Although parturition (bringing forth) is one of the natural functions of females, of all the higher forms of animal life, it differs from all other natural processes in the innate tendency which exists to more or less derangement of the system attendant upon that act. Even when no actual disease results throughout the course of delivery, still there is always a certain amount of irritability, fever, distress and pain. It is in this wherein the difference lies between parturition and the course of the other natural offices of the body, which, when in a state of health continue to perform their respective functions, without the individual to whom they belong being reminded of their presence; as, for example, the kidneys secrete the urine, the liver the bile; while the stomach proceeds with the digestion of food.

RETENTION OF THE FETAL ENVELOPES OR AFTER-BIRTH.

The coverings of the unborn animal are usually naturally expelled within a few hours after delivery, but not infrequently we find them retained beyond the expiration of the usual term; this constitutes an unnatural condition, and one which sometimes results in serious consequences. This accident is seldom to be seen occurring in the mare, ruminating animals being the most prone, and of these the cow is the usual victim. This can be accounted for by the fact that the connection between the after-birth and the womb is much more feeble in the mare than in the cow or sheep, the arrangement being different. In the latter animals we find large semi-spherical masses present here and there on the lining of the womb, and corresponding ones on the outer envelopes of the unborn animal; between these the attachment is very firm. The mode of attachment in the mare is by little elevations diffused all over the outer envelope, resembling the pile on velvet—and received into depressions which occur on the lining of the womb. One can readily understand, on examining this arrangement, that the connection is frail and readily overcome.

Practically the cow is the subject in which it is desirable to study this condition. Experience shows us that the

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of this trouble are those which allow a persistence of union between the envelopes and womb; so that cows which abort, calve prematurely, or are in low condition, are those in which it is most frequently noticed. In some cases these are unnaturally firm adhesions, and in which the causes above mentioned may not be in operation. As the time for natural birth draws near, a softening process takes place in the connections between the womb and after-birth, so that if anything, as abortion or premature birth, occurs to shorten the usual period, this softening change not having been accomplished, the union is maintained and retention results. In weakly cows the labor pains being feeble, and stopping as soon as the foetus is expelled, leave no force to remove these coverings, so that they are retained, although no firm connections remains to keep them there. In many cases the

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are very apparent, as a portion of the membranes will be hanging from the passage of the mother; in others the membranes will only be visible when the subject is lying down, while in some instances they are completely retained within the womb, and their presence can only be detected by making an examination with the hand; although suspicion may be excited that expulsion of these has not taken place, from certain symptoms to be yet mentioned, mistakes sometimes occur from people concluding that these membranes are some portion of the womb or passage of the female, and the ridiculous error of returning the matter was considered their proper place, carried out. If they are examined by the hand, and their thinness and frailness noted, their identity need hardly be confused with that of either the thick coat of the womb or passage (vagina).

In some cases the retained membranes undergo very slight change if any, particularly the parts that remain inside—until some time has elapsed, even as much as a week; but in others decomposition soon commences, and a very fetid odor is emitted, and accompanied by a semi-fluid discharge. When the former state exists they retain their usual degree of toughness, but as putrefaction progresses the external portion, becoming soft, drops off in pieces. Even although decay has made some headway, and sometime has elapsed since delivery, yet in many cases the subject does not seem inconvenienced, nor manifests any sign of ill-health. The consequences are not, however, always so favorable, and irritation of the womb is set up, resulting in a greater or less degree of inflammation. When inflammation does not follow, or associate with it, the blood in some cases becomes poisoned by absorption of the putrifying material, and serious illness ensues.

When inflammation of the womb supervenes great derangement of the system is apparent, but the more characteristic signs of this condition are repeated straining and evident pain. On passing the hand into the womb it will be found much raised in temperature, with thickening of the walls.

In blood poisoning, without any decided inflammation, the symptoms are not so severe. The appetite becomes impaired, the secretion of milk much lessened in addition to the other signs of systemic disturbance, as confinement of the bowels, frequent and weak pulse, hastened breathing, dry muzzle, cold horns, glassiness of the eyes, and loss of flesh.

Where there is simple retention of the coverings