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The Smallholder

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Featuring

practical **POULTRY**

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Mating season Top Tips



Veggies in a town garden



Preparing for next year

OXFORD SANDY AND BLACK

A pig to serve every purpose




Picture: Heber Hargreaves
[Comment added by A.OSHEA]

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Back must not be straight nor have a dip, but start straight to taper off to a curve to the back end.

A good even base line. The colour of the OSB is a personal preference; some like the dark rust colour, others like the lighter colour but the colour should be even throughout. Black patches NOT spots.

Tail placed high and preferably with a white tassel (white tip to the tail)

The Oxford Sandy and Black Pig

Kim Brook highlights the OSB Pig Group and the beautiful pig

Not only does the Oxford Sandy and Black Pig Group (OSBPG) celebrate 10 years of inspiring, enthusing and helping to educate people about our beautiful breed but we are also delighted to have achieved Charity status which is in recognition of all the hard work that the OSBPG has achieved over the years in promoting and raising the profile of our wonderful breed. The reputation and efforts of the OSB Pig Group are not only recognised here in the UK but is appreciated by fellow enthusiasts around the world. We are deeply humbled to have over 2000 supporters who will continue to contribute, share and guide us through our next chapter as a Foundation Charity. It will be business as usual as we continue to guide, support and promote new and existing keepers to our breed of which we hold most dear.

The OSBPG also run the OSB Rare Breed Pork Group, where we promote and demonstrate the produce that is celebrated by over 900 supporters who are encapsulated with juicy sausages, tasty bacon, fall of the bone joints, out of this world crackling and the piste de la resistance our exquisite charcuterie to which our Patron Marco Pierre White is no stranger.

So as you can see the Oxford Sandy and Black Pig (OSB) is truly beautiful on the outside as well as on the inside. After all it is to the late Andrew Sheppy FLS that we owe so much. Andrew

Sheppy was instrumental in saving and obtaining recognition for our breed which began in 1976 which later led the Oxford Sandy and Black Pig to being recognised with the Rare Breed Survival Trust in 2012 whereby the OSB is registered at "At Risk". We were honoured in March 2016 when Mr Sheppy gave the OSBPG an insightful and captivating talk. You can find the article on the OSBPG website in the "our breed & pig info" section.

The preservation of the breed is paramount to the conservation, ensuring that our bloodlines are rejuvenated and that the characteristics of our breed are upheld not just by the beauty of the beast but by its genetic

value, it is the duty to those of us who want to be custodians of this incredible breed to value its pedigree and to uphold the preservation of the rare and traditional indigenous breed that we know today. It is paramount to the breed that we must ensure that the Oxford Sandy and Black is introduced to all corners of the UK which should compliment genetic improvement which will improve when genetic merit is enhanced through selection.

Regardless of whether you own your OSB for fattening or for breeding you will be filled with pride and excitement knowing that you are contributing to one of the sixteen rare/traditional breeds in the UK.





So what makes a good breeding pedigree Oxford Sandy and Black Pig

The colour of the OSB is a personal preference; some like the dark rust colour, others like the lighter colour but the colour should be even throughout. Black patches NOT spots.

There is no question about it, the OSB is very easy on the eye. But you must stop, look and observe. Those of us looking to breed should be willing to uphold and value the authenticity of the Oxford Sandy and Black Pig and therefore should be aware of the criteria and attributes that comes with owning a pedigree breeding OSB.

Your Oxford Sandy and Black Pig should meet all the correct points for a breeding pig to enable it to be called pedigree and it is the breeder's responsibility to register a breeding pig.

Once this has been identified then it is of paramount importance that you become a member of the British Pig Association (BPA) where you will become a member of one of the UK's oldest organisation for pig registration. It is with the BPA that your OSB pig will be documented and will be identified by its bloodline, your prefix and the given BPA Herd Mark which is unique to you. This

will be your gateway to the authenticity of your OSB and your confirmation to the dedication of the conservation of your boar, sow and their progeny for the future of generations to come whilst adding provenance to the breed and its pork through the traceability of the pedigree.

When selecting the Oxford Sandy and Black pigs to register for breeding it is vital that the underlines are correct - particularly with boars.

COLOUR:

A good even base line. The colour of the OSB is a personal preference; some like the dark rust colour, others like the lighter colour but the colour should be even throughout. Black patches NOT spots.

EARS:

To be lop or semi loped, NOT pricked.

UNDERLINE:

The underline (teats) are VERY important. The teats must be so when the gilt/sow lies down the teats are at five to one (clock face) meaning that when she lies down the teats on the bottom are also pointing outwards and forwards, therefore enabling piglets to suckle easily

from the bottom as well as the top. 14 evenly spaced teats for boars with six of these in front of the sheath. Gilts can have 12 evenly spaced teats (14 is preferred). As a side note we are now seeing 16 teats.

BACK:

Must not be straight nor have a dip, but have a nice curve to the back end.

FACE:

Not to be too long in the nose nor should the face be too dished (squashed looking). A white blaze is preferable (white stripe between the eyes).

LEGS:

To be straight and strong and walking high on the pasterns (up on their toes). White socks are preferable. NO knocked knees or back legs rubbing or front legs angled inwards.

TAIL:

Placed high and preferably with a white tassel (white tip to the tail).

MOVEMENT:

Is to be bold, smooth and sound.

TEMPERAMENT:

Gentle, quiet and polite. The boars will be of equal temperament but may exude dominance with a manner that is conducive to a breeding boar when introduced to sow.

BOARS:

Testicles should be highly placed, feel nice and firm with no lumps and not spongy to the touch. They should have four evenly placed teats before the shaft, with three evenly placed teats following onwards (therefore showing 14 evenly placed teats)

NEGATIVES:

There should NOT be white patches other than what has been mentioned above. There are to be no swirls/whorls or rosettes. These are defined as when the skin is clearly seen with the hair parting in different angles then one can confirm that this is a permanent swirl.



The Oxford Sandy and Black Pig Group is dedicated in supporting and inspiring individuals to our breed. Come and join the Oxford Sandy and Black Pig Group on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter or visit our website OxfordSandyBlackPigGroup.org or email: hello@oxfordsandyblackpiggroup.org Registered Charity No: 1190469