

DANBRED



Correct selection

ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION

Good selection ensures high quality

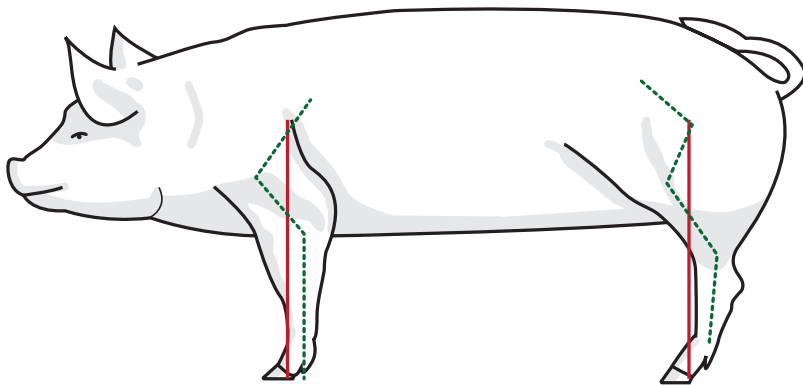
You and your animals are part of DanBred, and, consequently, every single animal must reflect and meet the quality of this brand. Therefore, you need to look at the animals from the customer's perspective and ask yourself "Would I personally accept these animals?"

Optimal high-quality gilts

The selection of gilts throughout the growth period is a crucial factor for ensuring quality and longevity of the animals. This selection process begins in the farrowing unit, and it is important that an animal is assessed on an ongoing basis throughout its lifetime. The baseline for any selection is an animal with unbroken lines, without exterior defects and with a minimum of 13/14 prominent, evenly spaced teats.

The selection is your responsibility

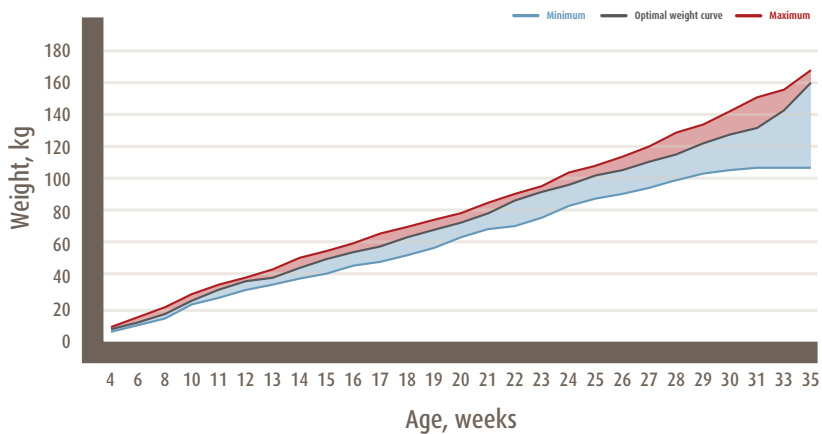
Animals that do not meet the quality parameters must never reach the customer, and it is your responsibility to comply with these parameters during selection. This also applies when a DanBred Selector has selected the animals.



The short checklist

The following must be assessed:

- Uniformity in relation to age and weight (see the weight curve below).
- Health in relation to hernias, tail bites, ear lesions, infections and deform reproductive organs.
- Correct conformation and a flawless exterior.
- When the animal is registered, cf. rules on breeding and multiplication, an individual assessment can be made, deciding whether the animal should be reclassified as a finisher



Uniformity in relation to age and weight; assessment must be based on this weight curve. The gilts should follow the optimal weight curve and remain within the stated weight range.

Assessing the whole animal

The animals must be assessed thoroughly – from the front, side, rear and from below – to ensure a full inspection, and this means that it is also important to assess the gilt both when standing still and when moving. Crouch down at the side of the animal, so that it remains calm and use a flashlight to examine its underside.

Selection starts in the farrowing unit

The selection process already starts in the farrowing unit. Count the number of teats and register the number in the herds IT-system, so that the data is known to all employees moving forward. At this point, you should also begin to look for exterior issues. Certain issues can disappear during the growth period, but if a hernia or similar incorrigible deviation is discovered, the animal must be discarded immediately.

Want to know more?

Our philosophy is that knowledge and expert advice should always be available to those who seek it. Therefore, we have developed the proud Danish tradition of open knowledge sharing into a platform that is suitable for the digital age.

With easy access to practical knowledge that can be transferred directly to production, the DanBred Knowledge Hub and the DanBred Manuals constitute a comprehensive digital learning environment of easily accessible professional articles, informative videos and step-by-step instructions.

Find it all at www.danbred-knowledge.com



BEFORE SELECTION

Preparation will ease the selection

Become familiar with the customer's wishes and requirements and prepare for this before you start the selection process. At the very least, you should be aware of the following particular topics in relation to the specific agreement with the customer.

Purebred	Hybrid
Count the total number of teats when tagging the piglets, and at selection	Count the total number of teats when tagging the piglets, and at selection
Uniformity	Uniformity
Age distribution (deviations)	Age distribution (deviations)
Customer's special requirements for health	Customer's special requirements for health
Index requirements	

Bring everything you need

At selection, make sure to bring the following:

- Flashlight
- Spray marker
- Scanner for electronic ear tags
- Weight and a printed version of the weight curve

If customers visit to assess the animals, the following things should be in order before they arrive:

- As a minimum, mark the animals that are not suitable for sale (remove them if this is practically possible)
- All animals are examined, well-treated and sick animals are moved to hospital pens.
- Inspect all units and make sure everything looks presentable.

DURING SELECTION

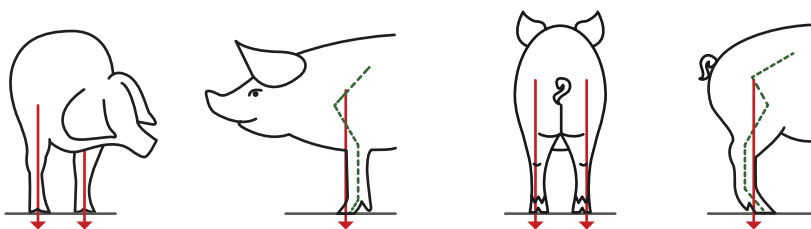
Focus on the quality parameters

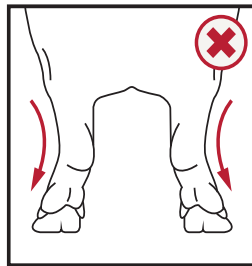
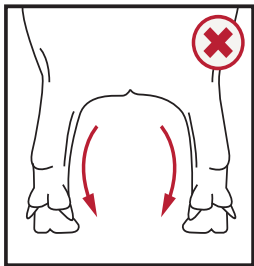
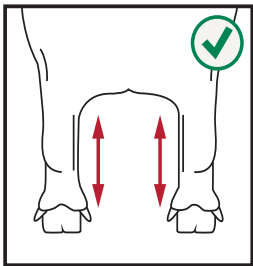
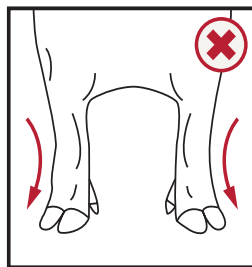
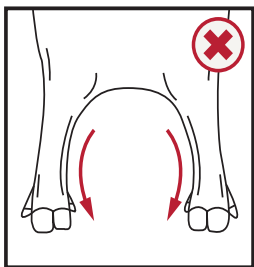
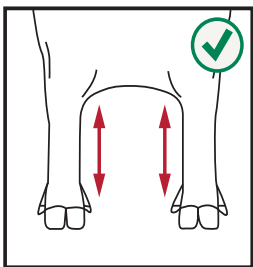
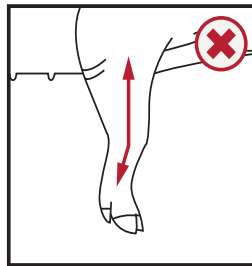
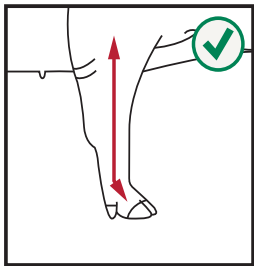
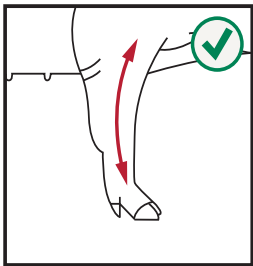
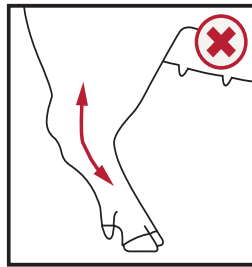
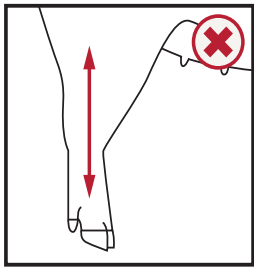
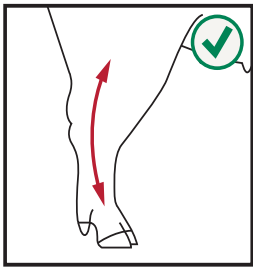
The quality parameters that the selection of the animals is based on can be divided into two overall groups – health and exterior.

Health	
Focus on	How this is identified
Uniform hooves without any injuries	Thoroughly inspect both the inner and outer hoof and check for any cracks or heel changes
Tail biting/ear lesions	Inspect the tail and both ears – pigs whose tails have been bitten are not suitable for sale
Worm and parasite treatment	All animals should be free of worms and parasites – the treatment plan should be prepared in collaboration with the farm veterinarian
Infections/abscesses	Inspection of the animal; animals with abscesses and/or infections are not suitable for sale
Deform reproductive organs/hermaphrodites	Inspection of the reproductive organs; animals with deform reproductive organs are not suitable for sale
Congenital tremor	Congenital tremor is contractions of the muscles which can vary in frequency and strength. Symptoms are shivering of muscles of the head, flank, rear as well as a depressed temperament. Animals with congenital tremor are not suitable for sale
All types of hernia	Inspection of the animal; animals with hernia are not suitable for sale

Health parameters that must be assessed in individual cases	
Focus on	Remarks
Pressure knots front and rear legs	Risk of leg problems or sores when the animal is older
Bite marks	Animals with bite marks that have caused wounds are not suitable for sale

Exterior	
Focus on	How this is identified
Inflexible/stiff front legs	Walks on the tips of hooves; poking movements
Curved legs	The legs bend in under the animal; weakened carrying capacity
Weak pasterns/bear claw	Soft pasterns and dew claws touch the floor
Projected shoulders and saddleback	Weakened carrying capacity across the spine and weakened respiration
Front legs not aligned	Front legs are not aligned with shoulder blades, weakened carrying capacity
Rear legs not aligned	Rear legs bend inwards under the animal
Narrow rear legs	Rear legs are not aligned with the shoulder blade
Uneven hooves	One hoof is longer than the other; can result in incorrect wear and uneven movement
Poor movement	Indication that there is something wrong with the animal's exterior
Curly ear/Cauliflower ear	Inspect both ears; not desired as an animal for sale unless an agreement has been made







AFTER SELECTION

Follow through on the selection

Always inspect the animals before they leave. It is your last chance to discover any issues that may have arisen since the animals were selected, and it is at this moment you must ensure that the selected animals are still suitable for sale and have the highest quality. Only then will you have carried out your responsibility and complied with the selection parameters.

Suitable for sale and transport are two different things

For the animal to be suitable for sale, it must be a presentable breeding animal, which indicates strength, optimal longevity and high productivity.

In the case of finishers, they must be suitable for transport and the Danish Pig Research Centre provides instructions on suitability for transport, which can be downloaded from their website.

Make a good, lasting impression

There are several things that you can do to make a good impression at the customer's location, which helps to create excellent, long-lasting business relationships. For example, ensure that the animals are divided according to their age when shipping them. This results in a good first impression upon delivery and it can be crucial for the customer's overall assessment. Ensure that the delivery note agrees with the animals' ID numbers and that the final delivery note is prepared and sent to the associated coordinators at DanBred.

Animals of the highest quality are the foundation of DanBred. The customer's experience is the basis of our existence and their impression of the animals is a reflection of our daily effort to secure the value chain from start to finish – and as a selector, you are a central part of that effort.

Become a certified DanBred Selector

Get recognition for your selection competencies and become a certified DanBred Selector by participating in a DanBred selection course.

The DanBred Selection team have many years of experience in selecting animals that meet the customer's expectations for high quality and health, and you can benefit from their extensive knowledge by participating in a DanBred selection course.

The course combines theory on quality parameters and practical selection training in the farm, so that you learn the correct procedures for identifying and selecting perfect gilts for your customers.

To learn more about the DanBred selection course contact us by e-mail at service@danbred.com