Viewing Swine Conformations

Characteristics that should be watched for from each view are listed below:

### Side View
- The pig should be muscular, sturdy, and fast growing.
- He should be long, especially through the loin and rump.
- The hams should be plump and meaty indicating good muscling throughout.
- He should move freely, with a long, smooth stride.
- The pig should be clean through the jowls and trim over his top, side and belly.
- His bone should be strong and rugged.
- He should have plenty of room for heart and lungs in his chest.
- He should move freely, with a long, smooth stride.
- A pig with a short, choppy stride (often called “Peggy”) indicates conformation problems, usually being short bodied and rumped, or is unsound on his feet and legs.

### Rear View
- A muscular pig will be wider through his hams than through his shoulders.
- The hams should be well muscled, both inside and outside the leg.
- He should stand wide behind, to allow room for muscling in his hams.
- He needs some spring and cushion to his pastern to stay sound on his feet.

### Front View
- The pig should be plenty wide through his chest between his front legs.
- Narrow chested pigs are very prone to colds and pneumonia.
- He needs some spring and cushion to his pastern to stay sound on his feet.

Combining all of the characteristics listed in one animal would create an animal with ideal swine conformation.