



<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

The journal of the Ministry of Agriculture

London, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1919-1939

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/69642>

v. 29, no. 4 (1922): <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/138485>

Article/Chapter Title: The journal of the Ministry of Agriculture

Subject(s): London, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1919-1939

Page(s): Text, Illustration, Text, Text, Text

Holding Institution: American Museum of Natural History Library

Sponsored by: BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Generated 10 March 2024 5:44 PM

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/pdf4/1678678i00138485.pdf>

This page intentionally left blank.

THE LINCOLNSHIRE CURLY COATED PIG.

SANDERS SPENCER.

THERE appears to be little doubt as to the locality in which the Lincolnshire Curly Coated Pig originated, since in no other county than Lincolnshire is there found a breed of pig of a similar type and character. It is true that some forty or fifty years ago there was to be found in County Cork an occasional pig with very curly hair, but this was of quite a different character to the curly hair of the Lincolnshire pig as it was much softer and more like wool than hair. Further, the County Cork type of pig did not seem to possess that robust constitution which is so characteristic of the Lincolnshire pig. It had more the appearance of a pig which had been so interbred as to lose its constitution and which had entered on its last stage. The subject of these notes is in every respect the exact opposite, as it certainly appears to have been vastly improved, not only in constitution but in form and substance since classes for the breed were included in the prize schedule of the county agricultural society. The writer's first experience of the North Lincolnshire pig was in the fifties of the past century when the curliness of the hair was not so generally noticeable, nor did the pigs of that period possess in so marked a degree the quality of early maturity. Then, as now, the sows were prolific and good mothers, whilst the pigs were very hardy, but they required to be of considerable age before they responded readily to the fattening process. This resulted in fat pigs of a size and degree of fatness which would not find favour in the eye of the consumer of the present day, even in Lincolnshire where the average fat pig killed for consumption on the farm would scarcely pass muster at any market outside the particular county.

The probable reason for the very heavy and fat type of pig finding favour in the county of Lincoln was that, in the northern part of the county especially, a considerable proportion of the horsemen, cattle men, and shepherds used to live in the farm houses or in the houses of the ground keepers or foremen, the latter receiving from the farmer a certain weight of bacon annually in part payment of the cost of keep of the men. Both in the farm house and in the ground keeper's house bacon formed the chief meat consumed by the men, whose appetites had not been pampered, so that they made no objection to fat bacon made

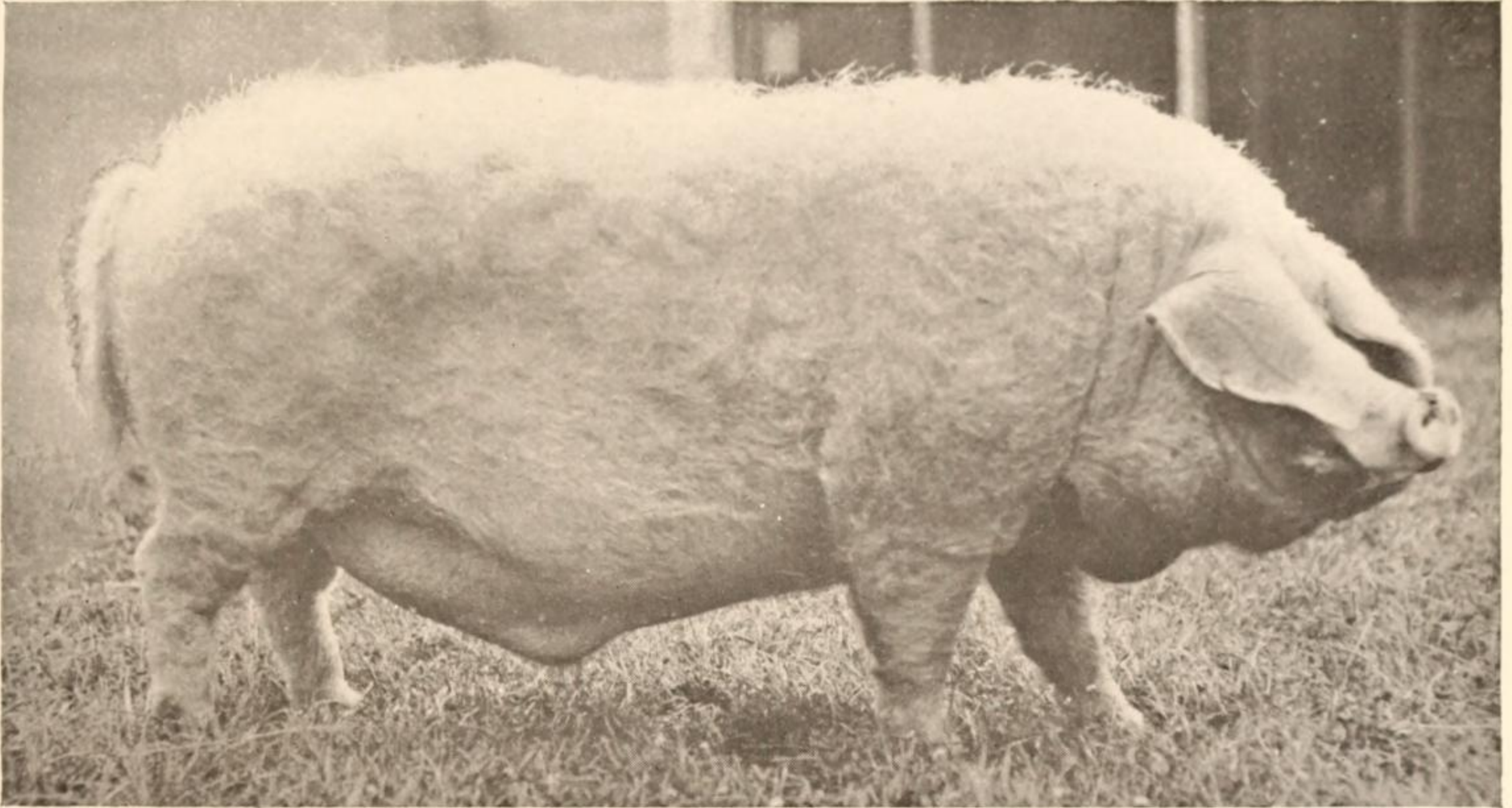


FIG. 1.—Lincolnshire Curly-Coated Boar.

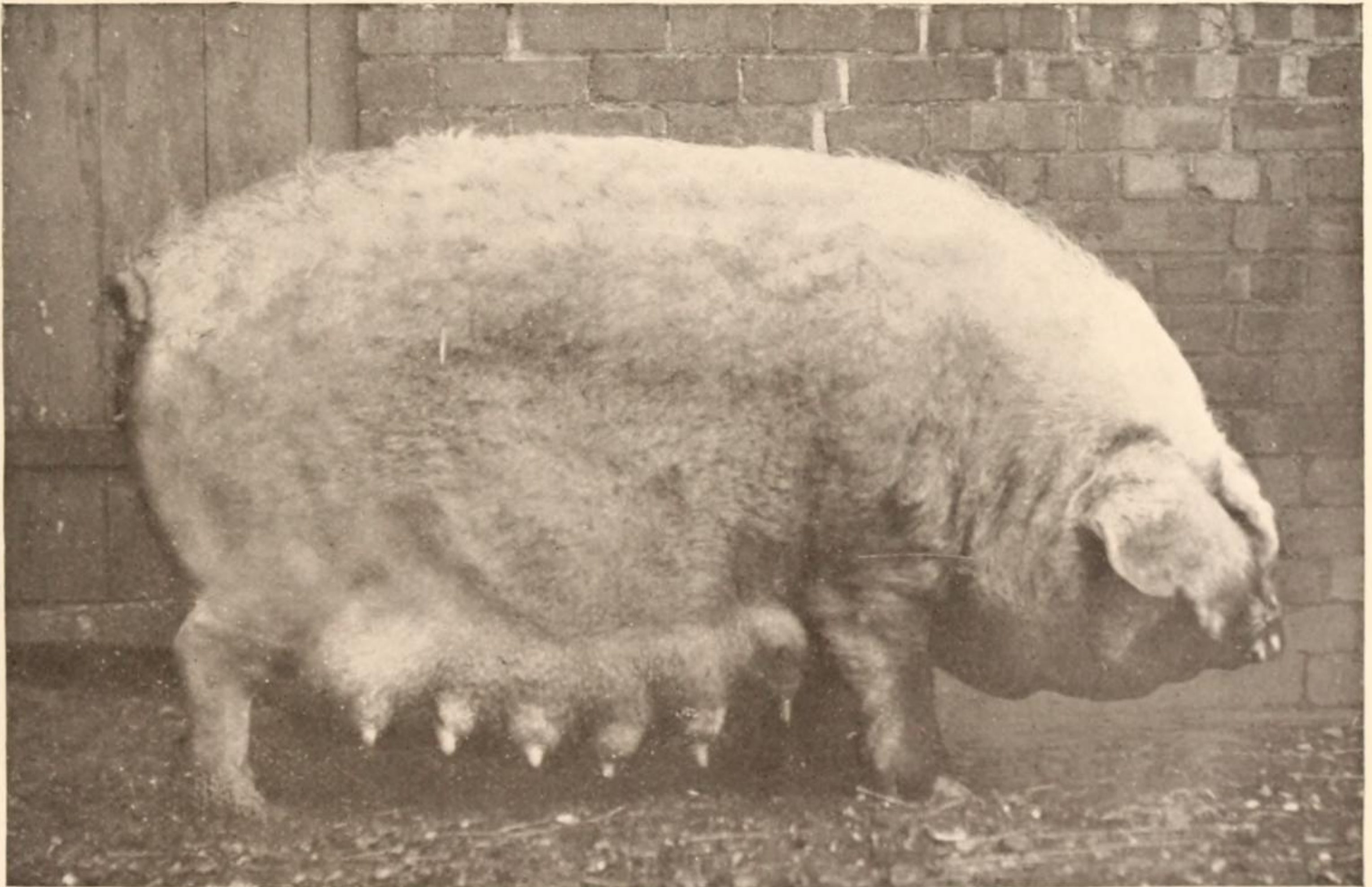


FIG. 2.—Lincolnshire Curly-Coated Sow.

from old and matured pigs which was neither so delicate in flavour nor so tender as is the most highly priced bacon of to-day. It has, however, the desired qualities of satisfying at little cost the appetites of the men and of enabling them to perform their somewhat arduous duties on the farm, or in other words, the Lincolnshire Curly Coated pig has been most successfully bred to meet the requirements of the farmer. It fulfils in the most complete manner its duty of supplying at a fair cost a large carcass of fat pork within a reasonable time. Indeed we think that its breeders are justified in making the claim that no other breed is more suitable, if so suitable, for the special purpose for which the curly coated pig is mainly kept.

It might not be so great a favourite when transported from its native county to the southern portion of this country, but there can be no doubt that a considerable proportion of the common country pigs would be more readily fattened and at less cost did they possess an infusion of the blood of the curly coated pig.

The vast improvement in the Lincolnshire pig which has taken place during the last half-century may have had its influence on the system of pig keeping in the county. In the olden time the fatted pig would be a year and a half to two years old and not infrequently it would also be a young sow which had reared one litter of pigs, as the far too common practice was to utilize the extended growing period of the female pig by breeding a litter from the young sow and then fattening her. The quality of the resultant pork would suffer somewhat, but this was not considered to be of any great importance owing to the absence of fastidiousness of taste in the general consumer. The farmer, however, handicapped himself very considerably in the improvement of his pig-breeding stock, as by fattening off the young sow after she had reared one litter of pigs, it was impossible to make a selection of the sows which were the best producers of large litters of those pigs which would grow and mature most quickly. A permanent and considerable improvement in any breed of live stock can only be assured by the continuous selection of those sires and dams whose produce most nearly approaches the standard of excellence of the breed. We believe also that the system of mating a young boar with gilts, then castrating and fattening the boar as soon as the gilts are in pig, has ceased to be followed to so great an extent as in former times. It is to be hoped that still further improvement may soon be carried out

by the complete discontinuance of these old practices, which are now followed only in the breeding of ordinary pigs on the farms.

The following is the official scale of points :—

Colour.—White.

<i>Face and Neck.</i> —Medium length and wide between the eyes and ears	5
<i>Ears.</i> —Medium length and not too much over face	10
<i>Jowl.</i> —Heavy	3
<i>Chest.</i> —Wide and deep	3
<i>Shoulders.</i> —Wide	15
<i>Back.</i> —Long and level	10
<i>Sides.</i> —Deep, and ribs well sprung	10
<i>Loin.</i> —Broad	5
<i>Quarters.</i> —Long, wide and not drooping	5
<i>Hams.</i> —Large and well filled to hocks	15
<i>Tail.</i> —Thick and set high	3
<i>Legs.</i> —Short and straight	5
<i>Belly and Flank.</i> —Thick and well filled	3
<i>Coat.</i> —Fair quantity of curly or wavy hair	8
	100

Objections.—Narrow forehead, thin ears.

Disqualifications.—Pricked ears, dished or long nose, coarse, straight or bristly coat, any other colour of hair than white.

* * * * *

HOP "CANKER" OR "GROWING-OFF."

E. S. SALMON and H. WORMALD,

Mycological Department, S.E. Agricultural College, Wye, Kent.

HOP "canker" has been known for the past thirty or forty years, if not longer. It is known generally in Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire as "canker,"* but in many districts of the Weald of Kent and of Sussex, farmers as well as foremen in the hop garden give the disease the descriptive name of "growing-off."

A short account of the disease was published in 1902 by Professor John Percival,† who wrote: "I have noticed examples as early as the end of June, but it is most frequently noticed later in the season, and in many cases the bine may remain connected as it were by a mere thread almost up to the time of hop-picking and then suddenly droop and die with its load of hops in an hour

* The present disease must not be confused with that occasionally caused by the grub, or caterpillar, of the Ghost Moth (*Hepialus humuli*), which lives underground and bores its way into the rootstock of the hop.

† Jour. S. E. Agric. College, XI, 87-89 (1902).