

Red Wattle Hog Association guide to using the card grading system.

The breed standard and card grading systems are constructive tools for breeding purposes that if used properly will improve your herd constantly by creating a better “next generation”. Rather than a traditional show ring system comparing hogs to each other, the card grading system evaluates the hog to the breed standard.

Blue Card - retention into the breeding population.

Red Card - one or two weaknesses from ideal.

Yellow Card - Can be weak in several characteristics or have a significant flaw. Hogs with a significant flaw but otherwise meeting breed standards can be bred to another hog with the strong characteristic the other one is weak in. This should be done wisely and with specific purpose.

White Card - significantly deviates from the breed standard. Should be bred carefully with breed conservation in mind to preserve the certain traits, characteristics or bloodline of the hog.

Culling is necessary to ensure you are working toward the best breed standard for the next generation. Culling unsatisfactory hogs or removing them from the breeding pool allows them to enter the food chain. These hogs also do their part by educating the public on the taste, texture, color and availability of their meat.

Hogs that are offered for registration should meet all or most of the top breed standards set for Red Wattles. Registration is used for breeding purposes to ensure that specific hog meets those guidelines and should carry those characteristics to the following generation. Only those Red Wattles exhibiting those traits should be registered.

Culling for feeders or meat hogs should never be confused with registration. Each hog serves a specific purpose and when done wisely and responsibly will ensure the proper stewardship of Red Wattles into the future.

This guide is compiled from several educational resources, swine experts, ALBC, and with the input of long-term and respected Red Wattle breeders.

This is meant to be used as a teaching or assistance guide on the selection of breeding stock retained for registration. There is no such thing as a perfect hog. Most hogs that are being considered for breeding stock will fall into the red category. Those falling into the yellow card designation should proceed with caution and choose the mate wisely for specific purposes. Those falling into the white category should only be used for a specific purpose such as breed conservation and experts should be consulted regularly.