

The “World’s Most Attractive Swine”

“My grandfather, John C. Schulte, had Hereford cattle, and that’s what led him to breed a Hereford hog,” says Orlan Schulte, of Norway, Iowa. “He started with Durocs and black Poland China hogs, then line bred them and bred them back with crosses.”

John Schulte started his work in the 1920’s and eventually got what he wanted, a red body with white feet and ears, at least 4/5 white face and a tail or tail tip that’s white.

Ninety years later, Hereford hogs are considered to be the world’s most attractive swine. The National Hereford Hog Association (NHHA) has 2,200 purebred hogs in its registry, although Schulte says there are many more than that in the U.S.

NHHA president, Ellis Burger, bought his first Hereford hog 60 years ago at a county fair. The sow was close to farrowing and the owner didn’t think he could get it home in time. Burger lived nearby so he bought it and took it home.

“She raised 10 pigs for me, and the next year she was the champion sow at the Illinois State Fair,” Burger says.

He also raised Chester White and other breeds, but eventually sold them all except for the Herefords.

“Hereford is just a good breed that excels over the rest. They grow fast, and they’re docile and quiet,” Burger says. “They’re a smaller breed, and it was easier to buy a good boar.” At 81, he still has three sows and has no problem selling the litters.

Schulte’s father, Bernard, continued his father’s Hereford bloodline, and John

Schulte now runs 30 to 40 sows a year.

“They’re about as great a mother as I’ve seen,” Schulte says. “They average 7 to 15 a litter and grow fast. Most are pretty good natured.”

Sows breed back fast, just three days after weaning, and boars are aggressive breeders.

Hereford hogs have a tough hide and handle cold and warm temperatures well. The meat is redder than most pork and has good marbling. Some growers sell the meat directly to customers.

The cost of good stock is similar to other purebred breeds, Schulte says. Gilts typically run \$300 to \$400.

A good place to find out about the breed is at the 2011 NHHA National Show and Sale (Aug. 26-27 in Janesville, Wis.). The association also has a book for sale that explains the history of the breed.

“They’re something different that catches the eye. You get them in a pen and you recognize individuals because of their distinct markings,” says Schulte.

Because of their medium size and gentle nature, Hereford hogs are ideal for small farms and youth projects.

Schulte is hopeful his children or grandchildren will carry on the family tradition of raising the breed his grandfather developed.

Currently Hereford hogs are more common in the Midwest, but breeding operations are also located on both coasts and as far south as Texas.

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Hereford hogs have a red body with white feet and ears, a face at least 4/5 white, and a tail or tip that’s white.



National Hereford Hog Association has 2,200 purebred hogs in its registry, although there are actually many more than that.

Powered Walnut Huller

It takes just 3 to 4 min. to hull a bushel of walnuts with the “made it myself” walnut huller built by Richard Rudowski, Clinton, Penn.

An electric motor belt-drives a wooden drum inside a metal cover. Nuts are hulled in the space between the cover and the drum. A hopper off an old leaf shredder directs the nuts onto the rotating drum, which Rudowski made by cutting 7-in. dia. sections out of several 2 by 12 boards. A 2-piece angle iron frame, consisting of 2 U-shaped brackets, holds the drum sections together on an axle with a pulley attached to one end.

“A pair of bolts serve as the axle, with each bolt extending through a 1-in. sq. piece of bar stock that’s welded to the angle iron brackets,” explains Rudowski. “The angle irons extend above the wooden drum just far enough to rub against the hulls and knock them off. Both the hulls

and nuts fall into an old milk crate, which is placed under the drum on a slightly tilted board. Once the crate is full, I dump everything on a work tray set on sawhorses and quickly sort them by hand.

“The drum knocks most of the hulls off in one pass. However, I have to put about 25 percent of the nuts back through a second time,” says Rudowski.

“After I built my nut huller I took it to Beaver County Career & Technology Center, a local vo-tech school, and they made drawings of the machine’s various components.

“I recently set the huller up at a local pumpkin day event, and in 4 hours we were able to fill eight 1-bu. drying racks with nuts.”

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Walnut huller uses an electric motor to belt-drive a wooden drum inside a metal cover. Both the hulls and nuts fall into an old milk crate.

All-Wood Mini Baler

“My mind is never asleep. I’m always thinking of something to build,” says Warren Farley, who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of his homemade mini baler. It makes 6 by 6 by 12-in. bales and is made almost entirely out of oak wood. A 3-ft. long axe handle compresses straw inside a long wooden box that forms the body of the baler. Each bale is hand tied with orange baler twine.

“It’s modeled after old-time stationary balers,” says Farley. “I’ve had requests for

plans from all over the world and have sent plans to South Africa, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Japan and all over the U.S. at no charge. I sell the bales locally for \$2 apiece. It takes about 3 min. to make a bale.

“I spent about \$100 for the materials and used masonry screws to fasten components together.”

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All-wood mini baler makes 6 by 6 by 12-in. bales. A 3-ft. long axe handle compresses straw inside a long wooden box, which forms the body of the baler.