

MIRGOROD (Mirgorodskaya)

The breed was developed in collective and state farms of Poltava region by experts of the Mirgorod State Breeding station under the direction of A.F. Bondarenko and the personnel of the Poltava Pig Breeding Research Institute. It was formed by crossing the Ukrainian native short-eared spotted pigs with Berkshire, Large White, Middle White and to some extent, with Tamworth boars.

Classified as lard type the breed was recognized in 1940. The total number of head was 744 000 in 1960, 372 000 in 1964, 227 000 in 1969 and 222 000 in 1974. In 1980 its total population was 186 000 including 136 800 purebreds, of which 6200 were breeding boars, 200 boars on test, 26 900 breeding sows and 7800 sows on test.

The breed has a medium-sized head with slightly dished face; small erect ears with forward pitch but occasionally slightly drooping; wide chest; straight wide back; strong medium-long legs which are shorter than in the Large White; hard elastic unwrinkled skin; dense bristles growing evenly all

over the body. The colour is predominantly black-pied, but black, black-and-tan, and tan animals sometimes occur.

The 1983 evaluation produced the following results: live weight of 36-month-old boars - 275 kg, body length - 170 cm, sow live weight - 217 kg, body length - 153 cm, litter size - 9.5, weight of month-old litter - 48 kg, weight of two-month-old litter - 142 kg. The results obtained at breeding centres were somewhat higher: boar live weight - 296 kg, body length - 179 cm, sow live weight - 238 kg, body length - 162 cm, litter size - 10.8, weight of month-old litter - 59 kg, weight of two-month-old litter - 172 kg.

The 1983 performance test gave the following results: time to reach 100 kg live weight - 220 days, feed/kg gain - 4.03 fodder units, backfat thickness - 28 mm, length of carcass - 94 cm, ham weight - 10.1 kg.

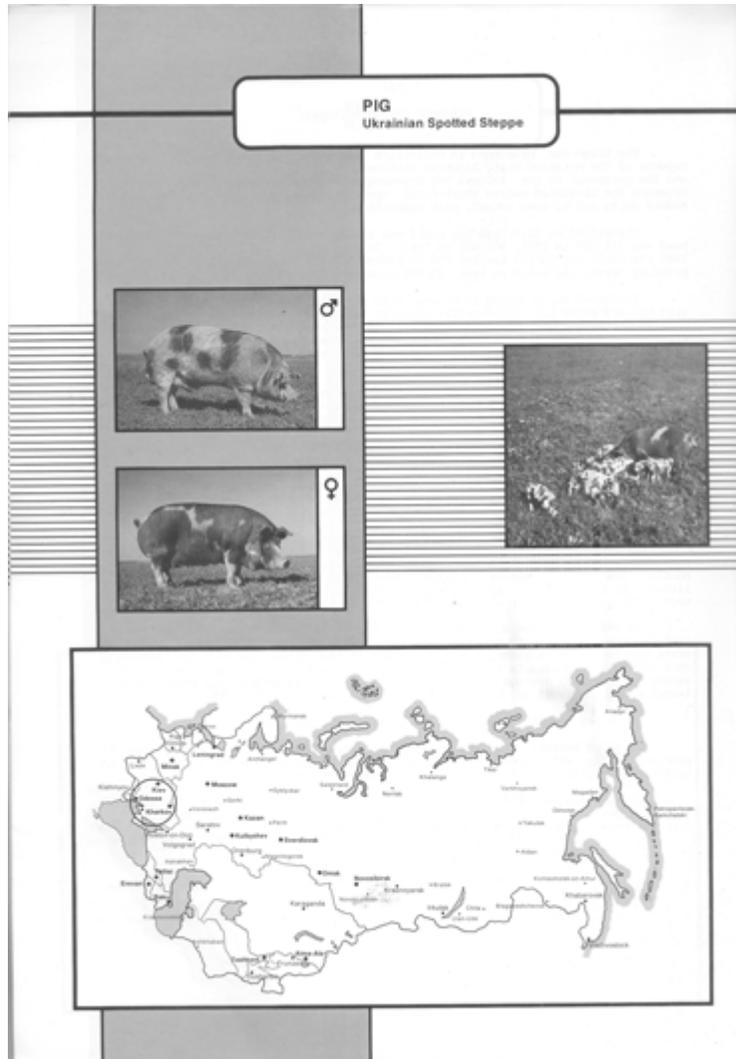
In 1983 the breed's champion was the sow Yagoda 276 owned by Dekabrist breeding centre in Poltava region. Its results were as follows: live weight at 51 months - 315 kg, body length - 175 cm, litter size - 12.6, weight of one-month-old litter - 66 kg, average daily gain by its offspring during the fattening performance test - 719 g, feed/kg gain - 3.84 fodder units, backfat thickness - 24 mm.

In 1983 the breed's champion in the meat quality and fattening performance test was the boar Dnepr 91 owned by 60th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution state breeding farm in Yarmolinetski district of Khmel'nitski region. Its offspring gave the following results in the fattening performance test: time to gain 100 live weight - 197 days, average daily gain - 824 g, feed/kg gain - 3.7 fodder units, length of carcass - 95 cm, backfat thickness - 37 mm, ham weight - 10.3 kg.

The breed consists of 11 boar lines and 34 sow families.

Mirgorod animals are well adapted to the Ukrainian forest steppe and to pasture feeding. The breed is zoned for raising in the Ukraine and widely used in crossbreeding systems as a maternal and paternal breed.

It is being improved at 2 breeding centres and 24 breeding farms, the chief of which are Peremoga and Dekabrist breeding centres in Poltava region. Selection is directed towards increased body length and meat yield.



UKRAINIAN SPOTTED STEPPE (Ukrainskaya stepnaya ryabaya)

The breed was developed by crossing selected spotted pigs of the Ukrainian White Steppe breed with Berkshire and Mangalitsa boars. During the subsequent inter se breeding close inbreeding was practised and rigid culling on the basis of constitution and productivity. The programme was carried out at the Askania Nova experimental farm of the Ukrainian Research Institute for Animal Husbandry in Steppe Regions under the guidance of L.K. Greben.

The breed was recognized in 1961. It numbered 28 000 in 1960, 18 000 in 1964, 8000 in 1969 and 7000 in 1974. As of 1 January 1980 its total population was 7000 including 5800 purebreds, of which 316 were breeding boars, 65 boars on test, 799 breeding sows and 491 sows on test.

In type the breed stands close to the Ukrainian White Steppe. The colour is spotted black-and-white or black-and-tan and sometimes black.

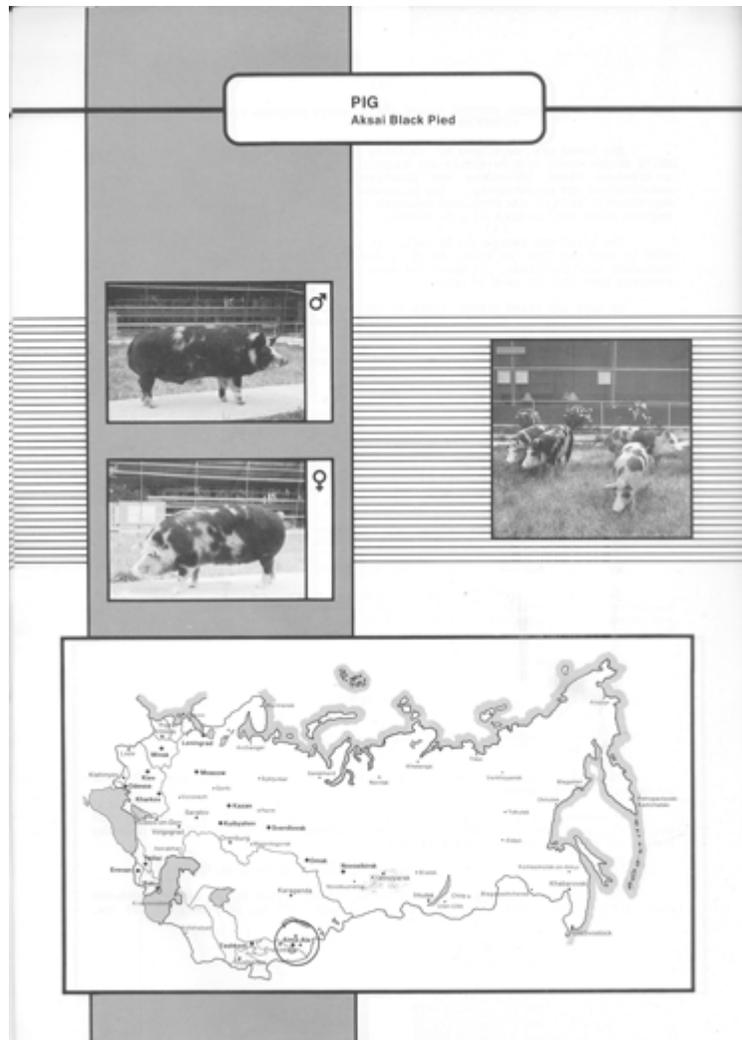
The 1983 evaluation gave the following results: live weight of 36-month-old boars - 322 kg, body length - 183 cm, sow live weight - 238 kg, body length - 164 cm, litter size - 10.8, weight of month-old litter - 48 kg, weight of two-month-old litter - 148 kg. The results at breeding centres were as follows: live weight of 36-month-old boars - 338 kg, body length - 186 cm, sow live weight - 243 kg, body length - 165 cm, litter size - 11.2, weight of month-old litter - 50 kg, weight of two-month-old litter - 158 kg.

The performance test gave the following results: time to reach 100 kg body weight - 186 days, feed/kg gain - 3.76 fodder units, backfat thickness - 28 mm, length of carcass - 97 cm, ham weight - 10.5 kg.

In 1983 the breed's champion was the boar Real 429 owned by Askania Nova experimental farm, which gave the following results: time for its offspring to gain 100 kg body weight during the fattening performance test - 187 days, average daily gain - 811 g, feed/kg gain - 3.58 fodder units, backfat thickness - 30 mm.

The breed consists of 9 boar lines and 18 sow families.

The Ukrainian Spotted Steppe is superior to the Ukrainian White Steppe in hardiness and adaptability to the hot climate in the southern Ukraine. It is raised and improved at Askania Nova breeding centre and at 4 breeding farms in Kherson and Nikolaev regions.



BREED GROUPS

AKSAI BLACK PIED (Aksaiskaya cherno-pestraya)

The breed group was developed on the basis of crossing native pigs with the Large White and the Berkshire.

It numbered 3000 in 1964, 4000 in 1969 and 9000 in 1974. As of 1 January 1980 the total population was 11 000 including 5000 purebreds, of which 173 were breeding boars, 342 breeding sows and 444 sows on test.

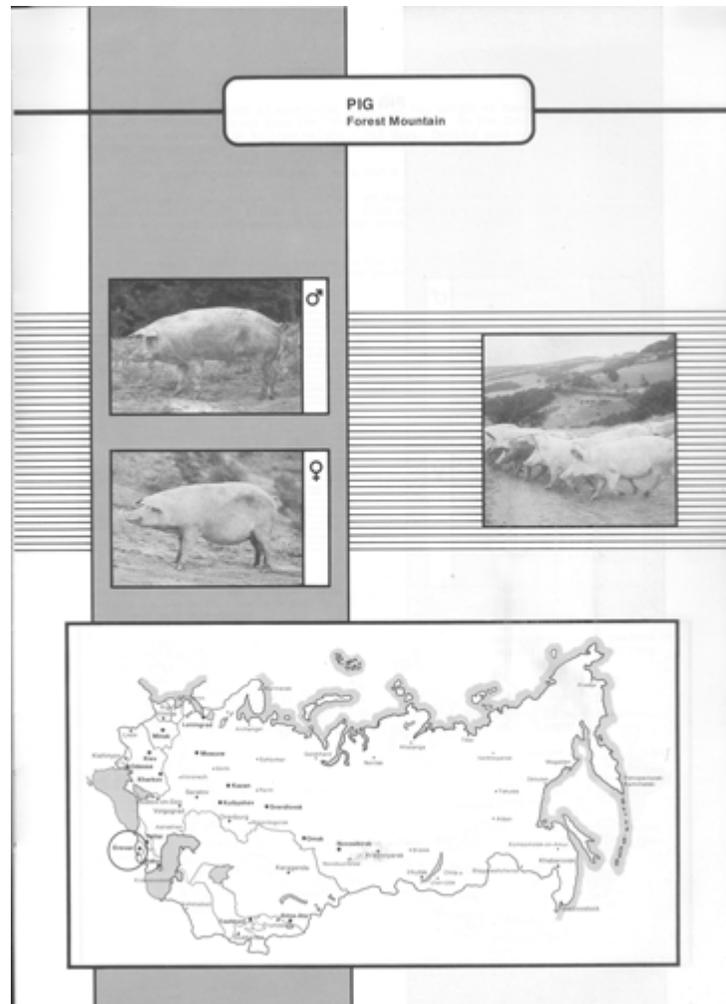
It has a harmonious conformation. Its colour is black-pied.

The 1983 evaluation gave the following results: live weight of 36-month-old boars 317 kg, body length - 182 cm, sow live weight - 245 kg, body length - 167 cm, litter size - 9.7, weight of month-old litter 51 kg, weight of two-month-old litter -174 kg. The breed group gave the following results in the fattening performance test: time to reach 100 kg body weight - 212 days, feed/kg gain - 4.27 fodder units, backfat fat thickness - 30 mm, length of carcass - 96 cm, ham weight - 11.2 kg.

The group consists of 3 boar lines and 6 sow families.

The group is raised and improved at Kaskelenski breeding state farm and at Aksai experimental and training farm of Alma-Ata region in Kazakhstan. The Aksai animals are used in commercial crossing with North Caucasian, Large White and Landrace boars.

The group is zoned for raising in the Alma-Ata region. It is being improved in litter size, meat quality and fattening performance by infusion of Large White and Estonian Bacon blood.



FOREST MOUNTAIN (Lesogornaya)

The breed group was developed by crossing pigs native to the north and east of Armenia with the Large White and the Mangalitsa.

It numbered 7000 in 1964, 14 000 in 1969 and 2000 in 1974. As of 1 January 1980 there were 579 purebred animals, of which 16 were breeding boars, 75 breeding sows and 30 sows on test.

Forest Mountain pigs have a deep and wide chest, long body, high legs with strong hoofs, good bristle covering with undercoat. The colour is white, but black may occur.

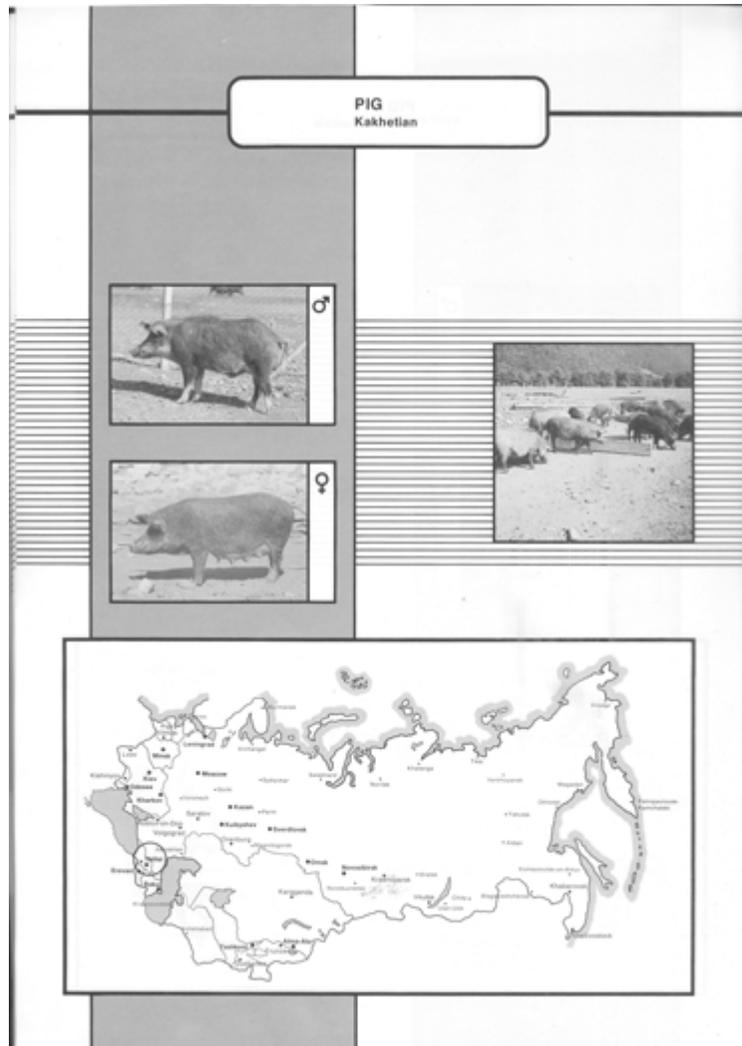
Live weight of mature boars is 260 kg, sow live weight - 165-167 kg, litter size - 7-10, weight of month-old litter - 40-45 kg, weight of two-month-old litter - 130-140 kg.

Hardiness and adaptability to maintenance on pasture are the major assets of the breed group. The carcasses have a higher fat content (9.9%), lower moisture content in the meat, and a higher intensity of meat colour compared with the Large White and meat breeds.

Forest Mountain pigs are well adapted to both confinement and pasture management i.e. they are kept on pasture until they are 6-8 months old and then they are fattened for 60-80 days.

The group consists of 4 boar lines.

The breed group is zoned for raising in forest and mountain zones of Armenia. Fattening performance is being improved by infusion of Large White blood.



KAKHETIAN (Kakhetinskaya)

The Kakhetian breed group is a primitive type which is close to the wild boar as shown by the position of lower molars, the long slim lacrimal bones and the striped pattern of piglets.

In the past the Kakhetian pigs were found in all parts of Georgia. Now the purebred animals are present mainly in Akhmeta, Telavi, Kvareli, Gurjaani and Dusheti regions.

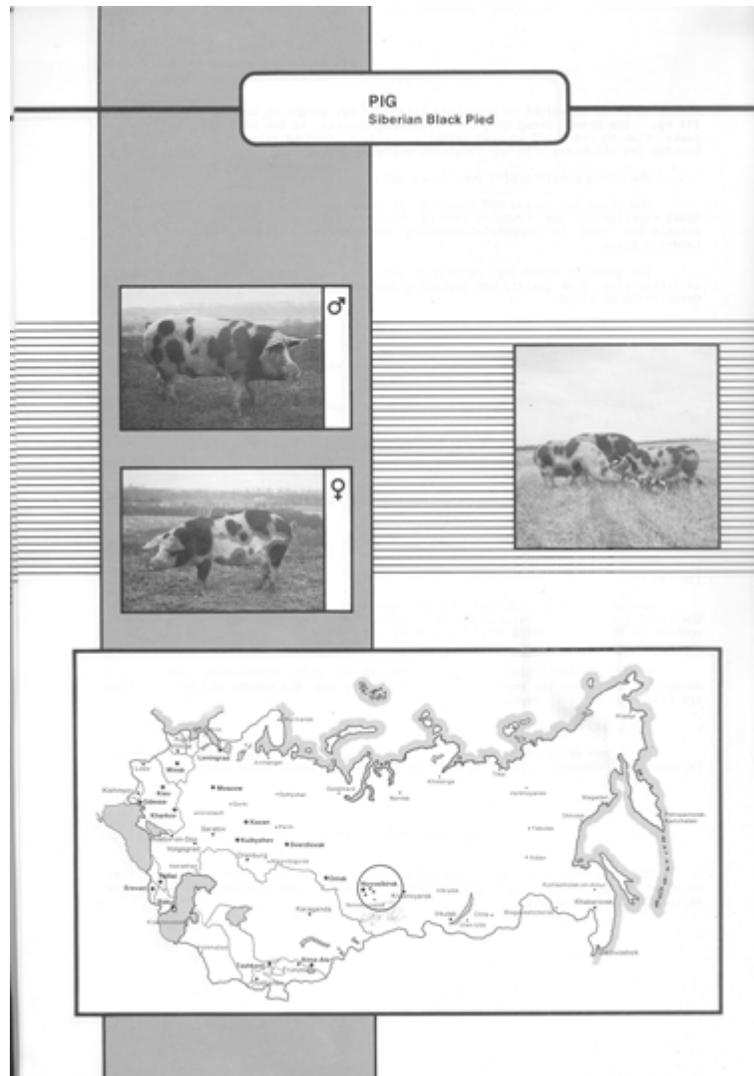
The Kakhetian animals have a relatively small head with straight face and erect ears, rather short body, wide and deep chest, straight wide back and strong, correctly-set legs with tough hoofs. The body is covered with hard, long and straight bristles.

The Kakhetian breed group population is rather limited. It numbered 6000 in 1969, and 2000 in 1974. As of 1 January 1980 the number was only 1200 including 745 purebreds, of which 2 were breeding boars and 103 breeding sows.

The animals have a slow rate of development and small litter size and are late maturing. The 1982 evaluation gave the following results: live weight of

6-month-old boars - 85 kg, body length - 89 cm, sow live weight - 62 kg, body length - 95 cm, litter size - 5.0, weight of month-old litter - 20.3 kg, weight of two-month-old litter - 28 kg.

Although the Kakhetian cannot compete directly with improved breeds steps are being taken to protect them and to organize their pure breeding in order to infuse their blood into improved breeds to improve constitution and disease resistance.



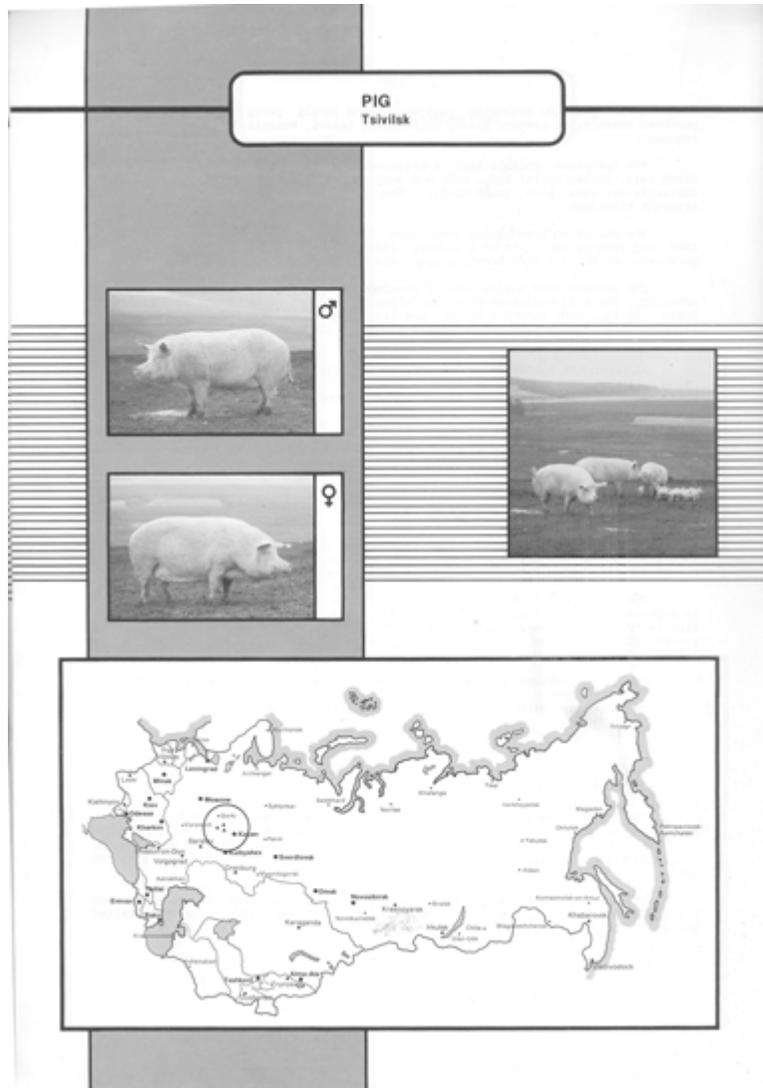
SIBERIAN BLACK PIED (Sibirskaya cherno-pestraya)

The breed group was developed from the coloured animals discarded in the process of breeding the North Siberian white pigs.

It numbered 4000 in 1964, 7000 in 1969 and 12 000 in 1974. As of 1 January 1980 its population was 5300 head including 2300 purebreds, of which 258 were breeding boars, 166 breeding sows and 183 sows on test. The Black Pied breed group is similar to the North Siberian breed although it is superior in adaptation to the local conditions and particularly to heat. The Siberian Pied pigs have rough skin, free from wrinkles on head and legs; the body is covered with soft dense bristles and underhair. It has full hams. The colour is black-pied.

The group consists of 4 boar lines and 4 sow families.

The breed group is zoned for raising in Novosibirsk region.



TSIVILSK (Tsivilskaya)

The breed group was developed by crossing native Chuvash pigs with Large White boars. Numbers were 28 000 in 1960, 41 000 in 1964, 21 000 in 1969 and 24 000 in 1974. As of 1 January 1980 the total population of purebred animals was 35 600, including 616 breeding boars, 35 boars on test, 3700 breeding sows and 2300 sows on test.

In Tsivilsk pigs the head is heavier than in the Large White, with wide forehead and slightly dished face, rather long snout and medium-size ears tilted forward. The back is straight and even. The colour is white.

The 1983 evaluation gave the following results; live weight of 36-month-old boars - 299 kg, body length - 177 cm, sow live weight - 229 kg, body length - 160 cm, litter size - 10.5, weight of month-old litter - 47 kg, weight of two-month-old litter - 136 kg.

The 1983 performance test gave the following results: time to reach 100 kg body weight - 196 days, feed/kg gain - 3.90 fodder units, backfat thickness - 30 mm, length of carcass - 96 cm, ham weight - 10.3 kg.

The breed group's champion in 1984 was the sow Ula 374 owned by the Chuvash agricultural experimental station in the Chuvash Autonomous Republic, which gave the following results at the age of 56 months: body weight - 265 kg, body length - 166 cm, litter size - 14, weight of one-month-old litter - 82 kg, weight of two-month-old litter - 187 kg. During the fattening performance test its offspring gave the following results: time to gain 100 kg body weight - 187 days, feed/kg gain - 3.83 fodder units, backfat thickness - 28 mm, length of carcass - 97 cm, ham weight - 10.6 kg.

The breed group consists of 11 boar lines and 21 sow families.

The group is raised and improved at the Chuvash agricultural experiment station and at 4 pig breeding units on collective farms in the Chuvash ASSR.

The Tsvilisk breed group is used in crossing with the Large White in the Chuvash Republic breeding system. The breeding is directed toward improving maternal quality and fattening performance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(In Russian)

Dobrokhotov G.N. Pig breeding. Kolos, Moscow. 1974.

Ladan P.E., Kozlovski V.G. and Stepanov V.I. Pig breeding. Kolos, Moscow. 1978.

Ladan P.E. and Mysik A.T. (Eds.) Pig breeds of the USSR. VASKLNIL, Kolos publishers, Moscow. 1970, 1981.

Ladan P.E. and Mysik A.T. (Eds.) Pig breeds. VASKLNIL, Moscow. 1981

Volkopyalov B.P. Pig breeding. 3rd revised edition, Izdatelstvo selskokhozyaist-vennoi literatury, zhurnalov i plakatov. Moscow, Leningrad. 1963.