



Teats

- Good teat conformation. Evenly spaced. All teats appear normal sized and placed and healthy, as if each one would function properly.
- 12 normal, healthy teats are required for registration. The two teats on the inner thighs in this picture can-not be counted. They would not function and are considered “blind teats”.
- More teats **do not** mean the litter size will be larger in number.
- Teat number or count does not indicate good or bad fertility in hogs. ie: more teats do not guarantee or indicate better fertility.
- The teats should be evenly spaced to assure room for the mammary glands and milk ducts to produce and provide nourishment, and to assure each piglet has room to nurse.
- Teats are an inherited factor from both sows and boars. The boar teat count, placement, and health are also important even though they are not used for nursing.
- A minimum of 12 healthy, evenly spaced teats will assure the average sized Red Wattle litter will be able to nurse comfortably. Normal Red Wattle litter sizes are from 7 to 11 or 12, with some litters being less and some more.
- Optimal placement is 3 sets of evenly spaced healthy teats above the navel line.
- This hog’s teat placement appears slightly “off” because it was held at an angle with the right rear leg slightly above the left leg causing the teats to appear close but not balanced.



Uneven teats. Miss-shaped and possibly blind teats. Teats are an inherited factor for both gilts and boars even though boars don't nurse. Misshapen, too close, or blind teats should never be counted as they probably will not function properly for nursing.

Three sets of teats above the navel line are recommended as best. This allows good spacing for nursing and for mammary glands and milk ducts to produce and provide nourishment.

This hog has some teats too close, some that appear misshapen and some that appear blind. This trait can be carried over to offspring even though this is a boar. He is not recommended for breeding.