

Club Member Benefits

- A quarterly colour newsletter '**Spot Press**' containing news, articles on management, welfare, breed & club history, breeder profiles, and much more useful information.
- A Free yearly wall planner & gestation guide
- Free advertising & access to members only area of website
- Discounts for member events/workshops
- Participation in Club competitions designed to encourage breeders to show their stock at agricultural shows & events with special awards at over 30 different shows across the UK
- Automatic £2m Public Liability insurance whilst showing in the UK
- Access to advice on 'piggy' issues from an elected committee
- Annual general Meetings held around the UK to allow members to attend one near them
- Voting at AGM's



Members above at a club workshop learn to use pregnancy testing kit.

The club also publicises and promotes the breed through PR, advertising in national and local media and attendance at certain events to expand awareness of GOS pigs. The club is also active in protecting the GOS breed and name from exploitation particularly misleading labelling and advertising and works with government and other bodies to achieve these aims.

Membership & How to Join

Membership is open to all individuals and is renewable on 31st October each year. There are four types of membership to choose from:

- **Individual**—For all individuals with pigs
- **Joint/Family**—For two or more persons at the same address in the UK (Two votes at AGM)
- **Associate**—For persons in UK without pigs
- **Overseas**—For persons outside UK

Annual subscription rates are on the website <http://www.gospbc.co.uk/the-club/membership/>
You can join on –line or download a postal application form from the website
Email mail@gospbc.co.uk for further information



We would like to thank members & others for allowing use of their photographs in this leaflet. Details correct at time of publication. Check with Secretary for current information

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The Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders Club



Working to promote and protect the Orchard Pig

The Gloucestershire Old Spots, (it's correct title), is the world's oldest pedigree spotted pig breed. It is a working pig that will provide the highest quality pork and bacon and is ideal for small-medium scale extensive farming operations. It is docile, easy to manage, hardy and has excellent mother-pig qualities. In many ways, it could be said to be perfect.

The Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders' Club (GOSBPC) is dedicated to promoting the breed, helping new and existing keepers' and doing its utmost to protect the integrity of GOS pigs and their produce.

We hope that everyone—not only breeders and keepers of GOS but anyone with their interest at heart—will join us.

Details of how to join the club are on the back page of this leaflet or you can go to the club website www.gospbc.co.uk for further details.

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE BREED



Patron HRH Princess Royal

The Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig

History

The GOS breed was first pedigree recorded in 1913 when its breed society was formed but as was noted at the time, pigs of this type had been known in Gloucestershire 'since time immemorial'. They were mainly kept on small farms in the Vale of Berkeley on the southern side of the River Severn between Bristol and Gloucester where they were fed on waste from the dairies and windfall fruit from the orchards. Local folklore has it that their spots were bruises caused by the falling fruit.

By the early 1920's they were the most populous pig breed but this ultimately caused their downfall as some unscrupulous breeders sold anything and everything for breeding and buyers became disillusioned with the breed. Numbers tumbled to almost extinction and teetered on the edge until the Rare Breeds Survival Trust was founded in 1973 to conserve the 70-odd native breeds of livestock that



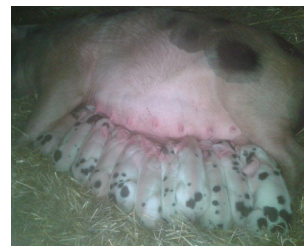
found themselves in a similar state. By this time there were only a handful of GOS breeders left and one, Mr George Styles of Bewdley, Worcestershire had around 80% of the whole population of GOS in his 100 sow herd. George

was to go on and be the saviour of the breed for had he gone under for any reason the breed would have almost certainly become extinct. George kept going and others with a new awareness for conservation of our native breeds joined him and gradually numbers of GOS began to increase but it wasn't until the 1990s that numbers began to really take off when people became aware of the excellent eating qualities from pure bred GOS. Small scale

keepers began to seek them out. Even though breeding sow numbers are now relatively high the breed cannot be complacent and is far from secure. History has shown us how popularity can fade so it falls to the current band of breeders to try and maintain the highest possible standards for the breed to help maintain its position.

Uses

The GOS is best suited to small scale operations utilizing either outdoor or barn type systems where stock rates are low. The GOS pig is generally docile and easy to manage. Sows are prolific and good



mothers. Youngstock can be grown to pork weight of around 75kg liveweight in around 24-25 weeks and can be taken on to bacon weights if desired. In low input systems 0.45kg daily liveweight gain is easily achieved and has been recorded as high as 0.78kg. GOS do carry more fat than commercial hybrids but the only reason for excessive amounts is poor management or diet. The eating qualities of pedigree GOS pork and bacon are highly



rated by many food critics and GOS produce has won many awards. In 2010 the GOS



was awarded the status of Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG). To be recognised by the EU Commission

is something very special reinforcing the wonderful qualities of meat from pedigree GOS pigs. Negotiations by the GOS Club took 11 years and involved in depth analysis at Bristol University but it all proved worthwhile in the end with the announcement that Traditionally Farmed Gloucestershire Old Spots Pork was indeed, something very special – and unique! Find out more at www.gos-tsg.com



The Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders' Club (GOSPBC)



The GOSPBC was established in 1990 to promote and publicise the breed and to encourage pedigree registration by helping breeders

and keepers through the intricacies of the pedigree process. Pedigree pig registrations are handled by the British Pig Association (BPA) and it's necessary to join the BPA in order to keep pedigree GOS and be able to register any progeny.

In 2009 HRH The Princess Royal agreed to become the Club's Patron and we are the first pig breed to have a royal patron.



The GOSPBC is not exclusively for breeders, anyone who has an interest in the breed or, indeed pigs in general is welcome to join regardless of whether they keep pigs or not. Many people keeping GOS or any breed of pigs for the first time experience all kinds of doubts and anxieties and have lots of questions so belonging to a club consisting of members with similar interests can help put to rest fears with help only a telephone call or email away.

The club has its own website www.gospbc.co.uk on which you can find:- Advice on starting with pigs & pig management, look for stock to buy, advertise your stock for sale, find members in your area, look at the 'Standard of Excellence' guidelines, Find out about AI, See the register of boars at stud, find out about marketing GOS produce and TSG, look at our gallery of photographs of GOS past and present, find updated news & information, show dates & results and we're also on Facebook.

