

NSIF RECORD STANDARDIZATION & UTILIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

December 6-7, 1976

Holiday Inn West

St. Louis, MO

Committee members present:

G. Isler	- OH (Chairman)	D. Liptrap	- KY
B. Bereskin	- ARS-USDA (Secretary)	S. Morrissey	- IA
G. Conatser	- IN	O. Robison	- NC
P. Cunningham	- NE	T. Traywick	- SC
J. Eichel	- IA	M. Waldo	- NE
W. Goette	- MN	L. Young	- NE
	R. Gerrits - ARS-USDA (Ex-officio)		
	D. Hubbard - ES-USDA (Ex-officio)		

The following motions were made and approved by the committee:

1. Published Guidelines. The only major questions raised on the publication concerned adjustment factors for backfat thickness and the discrepancy in recommended adjustments for days to 230 lbs. by this committee and the On-The-Farm Testing Committee. This committee had recommended use of ADG to final test date, but the On-The-Farm Testing Committee advised use of 2 lbs. per day. This question needs to be resolved. Wayne Robison agreed to head a subcommittee to investigate adjustment factors and come up with new proposals during the coming year.
2. Publications. The committee recommends that necessary brochures be prepared by the various committees to explain in simplified form the important points in their proposed guidelines. These would be patterned after the BIF brochures. P.J. Cunningham and Wayne Robison agreed to prepare such a brochure on the subject of "Selection Indexes and the Use of Ratios." The committee also recommended that a publication be prepared by the Merchandising Committee on the subject "Why Test?". It would include general information on the benefits and applications of NSIF testing programs with emphasis on economic value.
3. Symposiums and Programs for 1977. The committee recommends that the symposium at next year's annual meeting be on the topic "Principles and Applications of Genetics to Modern Swine Improvement Practices." This would feature talks and discussions on pertinent swine breeding topics.

Although no official committee action was taken, several members of the committee also recommended that the NSIF Board of Directors offer to work closely with the National Association of Swine Registries on their workshop tentatively scheduled for late Fall of 1977. The view was that such an event would be an ideal forum to present useful information on NSIF programs and related topics to large numbers of breeders and commercial producers who would not be attending NSIF meetings.

4. Data Formats and Computer Programs. The committee recommended that standard formats be prepared for recording central test station data on punch cards and for computer outputs. The committee also encouraged each central test station to work with personnel at their respective land-grant universities to develop appropriate computer programs to process their test station data for use in their sale reports. Gene Isler agreed to head a subcommittee on punch card and computer output formats.
5. Soundness. Glenn Conatser agreed to head a subcommittee to develop standard guidelines for evaluating and scoring feet and leg soundness in swine for use by the entire industry.
6. On-The-Farm Indexes. The committee discussed the scope of its responsibilities relating to on-the-farm indexes. The consensus was that it had a responsibility in this area. P.J. Cunningham agreed to head a subcommittee to develop appropriate indexes for NSIF on-the-farm testing programs.

Four subcommittees were formed. Each committee member, including those not attending the meeting, was assigned to one of the subcommittees. Any member wishing to change to another subcommittee should contact Committee Chairman, Gene Isler, at an early date.

The subcommittees are as follows:

- (1) Record Adjustments (Backfat, Days to 230, etc.):
Wayne Robison, Chairman; E. Forkner, S. Morrissey,
J. Shannon, L. Young.

- (2) Punch Card and Computer Output Formats: Gene Isler, Chairman; B. Bereskin, J. West.
- (3) Soundness: Glenn Conatser, Chairman; J. Carter, J. Eichel, D. Liptrap.
- (4) On-The-Farm Indexes: P. J. Cunningham, Chairman; W. Goette, A. Swiger, J. Thurman, T. Traywick, M. Waldo.

It will be up to the subcommittee chairmen to take the lead in subcommittee efforts and to keep their subcommittee members informed and involved. The NSIF meetings as a whole were well attended and most of those present agreed they were useful. The big job now is to implement the guidelines throughout the country.

Submitted by,

G. Isler, Chairman
 B. Bereskin, Secretary

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The subcommittees are as follows:

- (1) Record Adjustments (Baker, Day to 200, etc.)
 Wayne Robison, Chairman; E. Hornum, S. Morrison,
 J. Shannon, J. Young.