

NSIF CENTRAL TEST STATION COMMITTEE REPORT

December 5-6, 1977  
Holiday Inn West  
St. Louis, MO

Committee members present:

- |                |                  |              |      |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|------|
| B. Casey       | - IA (Chairman)  | D. Kuhlert   | - IA |
| C. Hirschinger | - WI (Secretary) | R. Leavitt   | - MO |
| R. Barker      | - AL             | H. Miller    | - MS |
| M. Bayes       | - OH             | L. Norris    | - IA |
| H. Belgard     | - MN             | T. O'Leary   | - WI |
| W. Brown       | - SC             | J. Pontiff   | - LA |
| K. Drewry      | - IN             | B. Samuelson | - MN |
| D. Gerdes      | - NE             | G. Sherritt  | - PA |
| E. Halla       | - AL             | J. Simpson   | - NC |
| M. Hogberg     | - MI             | W. Thom      | - AL |
| E. Hubley      | - IN             | W. Yake      | - IN |
| D. Huinker     | - IA             |              |      |

The following items were discussed:

1. The committee discussed the possible use of scores for structural soundness, underlines, and breed type. It was decided the Guidelines are sufficient at the present time to handle the matter. Keith Leavitt, however, felt that based on a recent survey in Missouri, buyers feel that screening for soundness is not hard enough.
2. The committee concluded there is still variation in final test weights around the country from station to station. However, test stations have shifted, and continue to shift, to 230 lbs.; and at the present time, the majority of the stations are using the 230 lb. final test weight.
3. The committee determined there is still concern regarding how to condition boars after test. Dave Huinker explained the procedure used at the Ames station. This procedure is to remove the boars from test, take them from the pens they have been raised in for an overnight stay in a new pen, and then return them to their original pen for two to three days. They are then removed from their pen and placed in a conditioning pen until four to five days before sale; at which time they are again penned and prepared for sale. He also indicated that it is important to supply a conditioning ration. The conditioning ration is essentially a highly fortified diet with approximately double vitamins and minerals because the boars reduce their intake by nearly half when they are removed from the growing pens.

Delmar Gerdes indicated that the procedure followed in Nebraska was to take the boars from their original pens for one day. They are then put into their original pens for two to three days and then put into the conditioning pen until just prior to the sale. The conditioning diet used contains one part pre-mix, one part ground shelled corn, and one part bran.

4. The committee recommended that the Nutrition Committee establish fortified diets for conditioning boars from the time they are taken off test until they are sold.
5. Ken Drewry moved and the motion was seconded by Keith Leavitt to delete statement No. 5 on Page 15 from the testing procedures. Motion was carried. After further discussion, it was agreed upon by the group that statement No. 5 should be optional rather than a requirement for test stations.
6. Guideline revisions recommended by the committee are:
  - Statement 5, Page 15 should read "It is to be optional that pedigrees for purebred boars being tested must be in the hands of test station manager by the 35-day weighing."
  - Statement 7, Page 15 should read "A test pen may consist of 1, 2, 3, or 4 animals from one sire representing a maximum of two litters, when measuring feed efficiency."
  - On Page 16, the first statement under the subheading of "Records and Reporting" should read "Data to be reported by central testing stations and included in sale catalogs are:." (The word "Required" has been deleted.)
  - Also on Page 16 under "Records and Reporting" the 4th paragraph should read "A 35-day report is to be sent to the consignor. This report will provide information on weight, average daily gain to date, and other pertinent data that the manager may wish to include." (The remainder of the statement is to be deleted.)
  - Statement 1, Page 17 is to be changed as follows: "One independent culling level will not be used for daily gain, backfat, and feed conversion in determining animals acceptance in the sale."
  - Statement 2, Page 17 should be changed as follows: "Only boars with an index of 80 or higher will be offered for sale. This will result in approximately 20 percent of all boars being culled."

- Statement 6, Page 17 should be changed as follows:  
 "Contemporary group numbers and averages are to be included in the catalog. In addition, the catalog will report index, daily gain, backfat, and feed conversion as well as the ratios for these characteristics on each individual animal. In addition, optional traits of loin eye estimates and soundness scores may be presented."

Limited discussion followed regarding the use of the programmable calculators to reduce time and increase accuracy of the test reports from the central test station. Two separate programs were written by Carl Hirschinger for the Hewett Packard 25. One program calculates average daily gain, backfat, feed conversion, and loin eye adjustments. The second program calculates ratios and indexes. Bill Ahlschwede programmed the Texas Instrument Model 58 to produce the NSIF index. Copies of these programs follow this committee report.

Submitted by,

Bob Casey, Chairman  
 Carl Hirschinger, Secretary