

NSIF RECORD STANDARDIZATION & UTILIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

December 5-6, 1977

Holiday Inn West

St. Louis, MO

## Committee members present:

G. Isler	-- OH (Chairman)	R. Johnson	-- OK
L. Young	-- NE (Secretary, pro tem)	E. Lasley	-- IA
G. Conatser	-- IN	D. Liptrap	-- KY
P. Cunningham	-- NE	O. Robison	-- NC
W. Goette	-- MN	A. Swiger	-- OH
D. Haerther	-- CO	M. Waldo	-- NE
R. Gerrits -- ARS-USDA (Ex-officio)			

Gene Isler reported on the results of a questionnaire sent to a representative of each test station relative to the implementation of NSIF Guidelines for central test stations. The general conclusion was that the program had been well received.

## The following items of business were discussed:

1. The committee discussed the possibility of making changes in the central test station indexes and decided no changes were necessary at this time.
2. The committee was concerned about confusion surrounding the use of ratios for backfat thickness and feed/gain because lower ratio values are superior. It was the consensus of the committee that all ratios be reported so values above one are better than those below one.
3. The development of additional news releases and publications was discussed, but no action was taken.
4. P. J. Cunningham gave a report of the subcommittee for on-farm testing indexes. Four indexes have been developed.

The first index was aimed at general genetic improvement and included litter size, age at 230 lbs. and backfat probe.

The second index was developed to emphasize maternal traits and includes the same traits as the first index, but the economic values for age at 230 lbs. and backfat probe are half those of the first index.

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The third index was developed to emphasize paternal traits and includes the same traits as the first index except the economic value for litter size is half the value used in the first index.

The fourth index was intended for use in paternal lines and includes only age at 230 lbs. and backfat probe.

The committee suggested the development of one index for maternal lines which included litter size, litter 21-day weight, age at 230 lbs. and backfat probe. The committee also suggested an index be developed for use in culling sows already in the herd. The subcommittee agreed to develop these additional indexes and indicated that the six indexes will be completed and submitted for approval in time to be incorporated in the new Guidelines.

5. P. J. Cunningham indicated that a rough draft of a producer-oriented brochure on the subject of "Selection Indexes and the Use of Ratios" was complete. A final copy will be completed soon.
6. The report of the subcommittee on correction factors was presented by O. W. Robison. Correction factors were presented for age at 230 lbs., probe at 230 lbs., and weight at 140 days. The motion was made by Dennis Liptrap and seconded by Glenn Conatser to delete the correction factors for weight at 140 days. The motion was approved. O. W. Robison agreed to develop tables of correction factors for age at 230 lbs. and probe at 230 lbs. The correction factors are as follows:

Days to 230 lb.:

$$\text{Days} = \text{actual age} + (230 - \text{actual weight}) \left( \frac{\text{actual age} - 38}{\text{actual weight}} \right)$$

Backfat at 230 lb.:

$$\text{Backfat} = \text{actual backfat} + 230 - \text{actual backfat} \left( \frac{\text{actual backfat}}{\text{weight} - 25} \right)$$

7. There was no report from the subcommittee on soundness.
8. The need for computer programs to summarize data was mentioned by Glenn Conatser. Discussion followed, but no action was taken.

Submitted by,

G. Isler, Chairman  
L. Young, Secretary (pro tem)