

FOREWORD

The National Swine Improvement Federation continued to make progress during 1977 in achieving its primary goal of developing and implementing more uniform, effective and coordinated swine improvement programs. The committee reports included in this publication along with those contained in the 1976 Record of Proceedings from the December 6-7, 1976 Annual Meeting constitute the major revisions that have been made in the initial Guidelines for Uniform Swine Improvement Programs that was published in 1976. The second edition of the Guidelines will include these revisions and additions and will be published during 1978 under the leadership of Dixon Hubbard.

This year's Record of Proceedings contains the invited papers presented at the Annual Meeting and Conference at St. Louis on December 4-6, 1977 and we hope you will find them worthwhile reading. The program committee consisting of John Beckett (Chairman), Larry Rus and Gene Isler arranged for a program that included a wide range of topics that are important to the swine industry. Glenn Conatser will be chairman of the 1978 Annual Conference program planning committee and he invites your suggestions. Bob Jones and John Beckett will be serving with Glenn on this committee in formulating the program for December 3-5, 1978 at St. Louis.

As you read these proceedings and participate in NSIF activities throughout the year, please keep in mind the five basic purposes for which NSIF was organized:

- ✓ *Uniformity:* To establish accurate and uniform procedures for performance testing.
- ✓ *Development:* To assist member organizations in developing effective programs.
- ✓ *Cooperation:* To facilitate cooperation among all segments of the industry in developing and utilizing performance testing.
- ✓ *Education:* To work with member organizations in developing programs emphasizing use and interpretation.
- ✓ *Confidence:* To increase the swine industry's confidence in performance testing.

Continued support and cooperation of all segments of the swine industry are needed for us to achieve these goals. If you have suggestions as to ways that NSIF can be improved and be more effective, I encourage you to contact me or your director--we encourage your inputs.



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