

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS  
William Funderburg  
Greenville, Ohio

I'd like to tell you about 2 pigs I used to know. One pig was really built and had figures of 130-75-225 and could really walk. This particular pig had many friends, as one might expect. This pig was Dave Huinker's favorite because he believes in these measurements at his test station in

Many said it was the best performance tested pig they had seen in a long time. The commercial men were drooling to own it. The breeder who owned it was selling commercial breeding stock like mad even before the

Sale night finally came and there was a large crowd - commercial men, purebred breeders, extension personnel, fieldmen and breed secretaries. The pig sold to a commercial man for \$2000.00 with a small breeder as the contending bidder who was basing his herd on testing. Many purebred breeders and breed representatives stood by without bidding or promoting the pig because some said he was not extreme. The two littermates sold to commercial men. My friend, Mr Wizz, was really puzzled at this

A few weeks later, many of these people attended a National Breed Show and Sale to see my second pig mentioned with measurements of 185-no B.F.-no feed measurements. Many of the small breeders had crossed him off their list even before the show. Commercial men were puzzled about him because of his days to 230 and his structure. Many of the breeders had not made up their minds, but a small group had already promoted him to the crowd before the show and were talking about how extreme he was. Sure enough, the judge used him at the top and the breed representatives began to vigorously promote him as a "great" one. He brought \$15,000.00 in the sale the next day.

My friend, Mr. Wizz, could not figure it all out. Why would a pig with 130 days to 230, B.F. 75 and F.E. 225 not bring as much as a pig taking 185 days no B.F. measurement and no F.E. Trying to explain this to Mr. Wizz was not easy on my part

are lots of folks in the swine business today that are just trying to breed that one great one and will sacrifice any economics to obtain their goal. They are going on looks rather than facts, or even a combination of looks and facts. Mr. Wizz commented that the show ring does not cause genetic improvement. The variability of judges and differences of environment from which pigs come from to shows make it impossible to rank animals genetically.

My reply to Mr. Wizz was that lots of folks in the swine business today are too satisfied with themselves. In most instances they are the first to find fault, the last to jump on the bandwagon and usually are run over by progress because they're always in the middle of the road

Mr. Wizz was still not satisfied. He had said repeatedly that hand feeding, dirt lot exercise and 55 more days to attain the same weight would make any pig look more extreme and even help his soundness - but would not make him more economical to raise.

I told Mr. Wizz that it was hard to get these breeders, breed secretaries, fieldmen, college people, extension people and most important the commercial men together to exchange ideals and set up programs for now and in the future; but there was an organization call the NSIF that has set up guidelines for performance testing and given guidelines for sow productivity, on-farm testing for breeders and most importantly have given the swine industry some uniformity in these guidelines that the industry needed so badly.

Mr. Wizz was still not satisfied as to what had happened to those two pigs I continued trying to answer him that whether we want to believe it or not, there will be fewer and fewer breeders in the future and they will get bigger and bigger and it is the commercial men who will decide who survives

Mr. Wizz commented that even some people with the Type Conference winners are not doing well selling commercial boars because of soundness and durability in confinement.

"Yes, your're right", I replied, "but on the other hand many of the people testing are not really breeders but are just producing average hogs in mass numbers.

Mr. Wizz replied that maybe these people would not go off in all different directions if there was a common program a could participate in and try to be the best in the program.

I suggested to Mr. Wizz that maybe a classification scoring program like the cattle breeds would solve part of the problem. At least it would stop some of the promotion of ones not really bigger in their kind. Also extend scoring on visual appraisal on test station pigs given in the catalog as an 'extra' not counted in the index.

Any way you look at it, the NSIF organization looks like it can play an important part in the guidelines. But, as I told Mr. Wizz, "I hope the people in our industry don't ever become complacent like the girl who was being interviewed on the street by a television m.c. who asked this question "Do you think apathy is America's biggest problem?" She replied, "I don't know and I don't care!"

We especially need people to become involved, stick up for what they believe in, but be open-minded enough to be open for sound change. And we especially need breeders who have a program - whatever it may be. Hopefully, then, other breeders, breed secretaries, fieldmen and college and extension personnel will respect it whether it's like their program or not!