

The first effort to establish guidelines for swine improvement programs occurred when 25 individuals representing test station managers, supervisors and extension swine personnel met in Des Moines, Iowa, March 6, 1974. This group organized the National Association of Swine Testing Stations which had as its objective the standardization of test station programs. At its September 10th meeting held at Austin, Minnesota, the membership invitation was extended to include the National Pork Council, National Association of Swine Records and the Agricultural Press. Subcommittees dealing with testing procedures, data reporting, index standardization, ration and health standards, on-farm programs and education were appointed by President Delmar Gerdes.

To more appropriately describe the goals of the organization, the National Association of Swine Testing Stations was reorganized March 13, 1975 at Kansas City, Missouri under the name of "National Swine Improvement Federation". The first landmark of foregoing years of work was achieved in November 1976 with the publishing of the "Guidelines For Uniform Swine Improvement Programs".

Since that historic point three symposiums dealing with on-farm and central test programs have been held at St. Louis, Missouri. Through invitation papers and committee meetings these guidelines have been refined. This proceedings is a summary of the papers presented at the Symposium and Annual Meeting held December 3-5, 1978 at the Holiday Inn West, St. Louis, Missouri.

The Symposium was organized to deal with the two basic on-farm and central testing programs. To develop genetically sound programs, basic trait committees dealt with:

- reproduction and sow productivity
- growth and efficiency of gain
- live animal evaluation
- carcass evaluation

The Federation wishes to recognize Glenn Conatser and J.R. Jones who served as program chairmen, Keith Leavitt for arrangement coordinator and Larry Heidebrecht as publicity chairman. Over the past years many have given endless hours of time. Among those are: retiring Director and first President, Delmar Gerdes; Director, Bruce Henderson; Director, Wayne Yake; Director, Charles Christians and Secretary-Treasurer, Irv Omtvedt.

We hope you will find this proceedings interesting and useful. If additional copies are desired or you have questions, contact me. Your continued support and dedication is needed for NSIF to achieve its overall objective of pork improvement through swine breeding.

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