

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES FOR 1979
NATIONAL SWINE IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION

GERALD E. BERNARD, New Vienna, Ohio

Nominated by the Ohio Pork Improvement Association. Gerald is the fifth generation of the family on this operation, which now consists of 725 acres and 125 commercial herd sows. He has placed high emphasis on the use of superior boars from purebred herds who utilize performance testing. He has participated in many carcass shows and won the Ohio State Champion Performance Barrow Contest. Gerald was the First Vice President of the Ohio Pork Producers' Council, President of the Ohio Pigskin Club and President of the Ohio Spring Barrow Show.

ALAN BUTTS, Evansville, Wisconsin

Nominated by Midland Cooperatives, Inc. Alan purchased his first Duroc gilt at age 12 and has continued in the business to his present status of 150 purebred Duroc sows. He routinely evaluates his herd for rate of gain and feed conversion in his on-farm test units and is the basis for selection. He campaigned for the establishment of a Central Test Station in Wisconsin, which resulted in the Belleville facility where he faithfully has tested boars since it was built. He also has tested boars at Senek and Eagle Grove in the National Duroc Boar Test. He has judged at numerous state and national swine shows and each year hosts the Wisconsin Meat Judging Team. Alan is currently President of the Wisconsin Duroc Breeders' Association. He has been very active in both county and state pork producers' organizations and the Wisconsin Swine Health Advisory Council.

RICHARD COMPART, Nicollet, Minnesota

Nominated by the Minnesota Pork Producers' Association. Richard began his career as a purebred breeder in 1949 as a 4-Her and established a purebred swine herd which today consists of 100 purebred Durocs, 50 Hampshires and 50 Yorkshires. The entire family participates where selection through central testing is fundamental. The boars and gilts are officially tested in the 32 pen on-the-farm test station which evaluates 200 head per season. Presently, new breeding and gestation units are being constructed for 240 sow head. Each sire is progeny tested at the New Ulm Test Station where he has had the top indexing pens. Comparts are one of Minnesota's first breeders to use Artificial Insemination in their herd improvement program. They manufactured and distributed self-designed farrowing equipment throughout the midwest under the name R.C. Manufacturing. Because of their interest in properly servicing and merchandising, they fly customers to their farm and fly to the producers' farms to advise them as to boar selection and breeding concerns. Richard is President of Minnesota Pork Producers'.

WILLIAM CONGLETON, Frankfort, Indiana

Nominated by the Indiana Boar Test Station. Congleton's central Indiana farm is an intensive corn and hog operation. The 12,000 farrow to finish operation is in total confinement. Since 1972, the top 6-8 top indexing boars have been purchased each year from Indiana Test Station. All gilts are selected on the performance from within the herd. A three breed Duroc-Hampshire-Yorkshire crossing program is used. Bill has been a leader in both state and national pork producers' organizations, serving as Indiana Pork Producers' President and currently Chairman of Pork Industry Group and of the National Livestock and Meat Board.

RICHARD KURT, Castalia, Ohio

Nominated by the Ohio Pork Improvement Association. After graduating from Ohio State University he was employed as Swine Herdsman at the Southwestern Ohio Research Farm and later employed as head hog buyer of J.H. Routh Packing Company. Richard uses on-the-farm testing extensively, as well as, good utilization of the Central Test Station. He has had several high indexing pens on test at the Ohio Boar Test Station and he bases his sow and boar selection on tested results. He is a Director of the Ohio Pork Improvement Association, Vice President of the Ohio Yorkshire Club, and is an elder in the First Christian Church, Sandusky, Ohio. This honor signifies his leadership in the Swine Industry as both a purebred seedstock producer and as a leader in the Pork Industry.

GUY McREYNOLDS, Ashland, Nebraska

Nominated by SPF Swine Accrediting Agency. Guy started in the swine business in 1920 with a 4-H project with purebred Hampshires. Son, Dave, is presently with Guy in their very respected purebred Hampshire swine operation. McReynolds has been a real leader in the purebred industry with an intensive production testing program. In 1933, they produced the first Registry of Merit Sow of any breed in the United States. In 1937, Guy started the first purebred SPF herd and he has been doing the individual weighing and probing of all pigs and maintains current production records on all sows. Guy has been the show ring leader, as well as testing, and judged county, state, national, and international shows for over 33 years. He had one of the first test pens at the Clarkson, Nebraska Test Station and has tested at Clarkson and Senek. Guy has served on the Nebraska College of Agriculture Advisory Board, received the Nebraska Extension Service Award, Nebraska Pork Producers' Builder Award, Hampshire Meritorious Service Award, and the National SPF Service Award.

JOE METZGER, South Whitley, Indiana

Nominated by Indiana Boar Test Station. Joe started in the purebred Duroc business in 1940 after graduating from Purdue University. Through his on-farm testing program, Joe evaluates approximately 250 Duroc boars each year for daily gain, feed conversion, and ultrasonic backfat and loin-eye information. All boars produced for sale must meet rigid requirements for soundness and type and have been sold to over 30 states plus 10 foreign countries. Another measure of the acceptability of Metzger breeding stock is the 80 plus champion and reserve champion banners won by animals from his herd in Indiana and national competition since 1960. The Central Test Station has been an integral part of the herd's testing program where Joe has participated in the Market Litter Testing Program until 1972 and since has tested from 4 to 6 pens of boars each year through the Boar Testing Program. Joe served as President of the National Duroc Swine Registry, was recognized as a member of the Indiana Hall of Fame, and awarded the Indiana Pork Producers' Association Meritorious Service Award.

MARCUS SIEWERT, Lake City, Minnesota

Nominated by the Minnesota Pork Producers' Association. Marcus operates a 220 acre farm and has a farrow to finish operation consisting of 250 sows. He is widely known for his quality herd and selection of performance testing stock. He buys performance tested stock from reputable breeders who both test and show their animals. Marcus uses boars that demonstrate top siring ability to build his sow herd around. His replacement gilts are from sows which excel in mothering ability and from boars which have been progeny tested in the Central Test Station. Due to his leadership in performance testing he has trained managers at his farm and hosted many international visitors. Marcus was chosen by the Minnesota Pork Producers as Outstanding Commercial Pork Producer of the Year and in 1975 the Minnesota Pork All American. Other awards include the Champion Central Test Carcass at the Minnesota Spring Barrow Show, Champion Carcass Minnesota State Fair, and the Champion Truckload at the National Barrow Show.

DAVE STEWART AND FAMILY, Waverly, Iowa

Nominated by Farmland Industries and Iowa Central Test Stations from Ames and New Hampton. The Stewart family started a small, high quality, well-managed, Duroc herd in the early 1960's on a rented farm at Burt, Iowa. Since that time, they have won many top prizes in the Duroc business, such as the 1976 National Duroc Congress Champion Boar and Champion Gilt and the 1979 Iowa State Fair Grand Champion and Reserve Boars. Their testing record is just as impressive as they hold the all-time record indexing pens at both the Ames and New Hampton Test Stations. On-the-farm testing is an integral part of the Stewart purebred operation where 300 pigs are evaluated by Farmland on the farm each year since 1975, and over 100 pens of pigs have been on test in central test stations since the herd was established. Sows go back into the herd based on their record of performance, based on performance testing. The family is active in Bremen County Pork Producers where wife, Judy, is currently President of the Porkettes.