

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR AWARDEES FOR 1980
NATIONAL SWINE IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION

JOHN BECKETT, Gillespie, Illinois

Nominated by the National Pork Producers Council. John graduated from Iowa State in 1937 and worked for 13 years with the United Duroc Association where he supervised the Duroc Production Registry and Production-Accredited Herd Programs. He established a Duroc herd and entered boars in the first Iowa boar test at Ames in 1956. John produced the foundation sire, "Red Charm", which became one of the original meat type bloodlines of the Duroc breed. In 1961 John changed to commercial Pork Production where he runs approximately 6000 head. Replacement gilts are selected for gain and probed or sonorayed for backfat. Herd boars are mainly purebreds selected from Central Test Stations or herds with on-farm confinement programs. Sows are indexed on lifetime records and identified by special ear tags for mating to top sow-line boars. John has exhibited barrows every year since 1954 and has won numerous awards in Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and the National Barrow Show. His leadership activities which are numerous include: The Methodist Church choir, teacher and administrative board, Director Page County-Iowa Fair Board, Illinois Pork Producers Spring Barrow Secretary, Hog, Inc. Coop President, NPPC Director to NSIF and NSIF Vice President and President. His awards include 1976 National Hog Farmer Industry Service Award and Illinois Master Farmer Award.

J.W. RALPH BISHOP, Tipton, Indiana

Nominated by the Indiana Boar Test Station. Ralph purchased his first Hampshire gilt for a 4-H Club project in 1927. He has continued as a breeder of Hampshire hogs for 53 years. Although Ralph has raised registered Hereford and dairy cattle, he continues today with a 50 registered Hampshire sow herd. His herd boars are selected using test records with emphasis on meatiness. The Indiana Test Station, on-farm sonoray, Indiana Pork Production Derby, Indiana State On-Farm Performance Test Programs are used to evaluate boars, gilts and market hogs. Ralph helped form the Indiana Test Station and has entered pigs since 1957. The Bishop's have won many championships including the: 1980 State Fair On-Farm Performance Contest and reserve champion in the 1980 Indiana Pork Production Derby contest, which demonstrates the production of a superior product. Although Ralph is a low-key, behind-the-scene individual, he is a leader in the swine industry and recognized by his peers by having his portrait hung in the Indiana Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame. He has been an officer of the Hoosier Hampshire Breeders, Indiana Swine Breeders, and livestock breeders associations. Ralph was executive secretary of the National Swine Growers Association in 1960. He served as U.S. Animal Health Association executive member and National Pork Producers Council Hog Cholera committee member. His awards include: Indiana Swine Achievement Award, Hoosier Golden Service Award and National Swine Registry Distinguished Service Award.

J. VERALD BROWN, Hampton, Iowa

Nominated by Iowa Swine Producers Association, Farmland Swine Test Stations, Iowa Swine Test Station, Northeast Iowa Swine Test Station. "Brownie" had a long career in swine improvement starting at the age of nine in a Franklin County 4-H Club. His father purchased a couple of Poland sows in 1920. One of these became Brownie's first 4-H project in 1923. He became a county and state 4-H leader and received the 1957 Iowa 4-H Alumni Award. He graduated from Iowa State College majoring in Dairy Science in 1938. Because of the high cost of dairying he switched his efforts to swine but the lessons learned from dairy records influenced the Brown's swine performance programs. Brownie pioneered the Iowa Swine Test Stations at Ames, the Farmland Stations and initiated the New Hampton program. This farm has had pens in 49 tests at Ames, 45 at Farmland, and 43 at New Hampton. Farmland scan evaluators provided the service for the on-farm program. The Brown herd has had the top indexing pen in test station boar sales over 12 times. Champion Poland, Spot and Yorkshire ribbons line the Brown home dating back to the grand champions in 1943 at the Iowa State Fair. The Brown & Brown farm is a partnership today with sons Kent and Charlie. Brownie has retired and turned the reigns to the boys but his track record will be hard to match. Brownie is a nationally known judge, honored as Iowa's Master Pork Producer and Master Seedstock Producer. He has been a two time President of the Poland China Breeders, President of the county Farm Bureau and was named Eagle Scout at Hampton, Iowa High School.

TREVIS BROWN, Hopkins, Missouri

Nominated by Northwest Missouri Swine Test Station. Trevis earned a masters degree in English and Journalism and taught high school English for a number of years. Throughout his college and teaching career he raised hogs. In 1976 he began a full-time hog operation when he purchased 16 Duroc gilts which were bred to a Poland sire. Since that time performance tested boars have been purchased at the Northwest Missouri Swine Testing Station. Gilts selected from a top indexing Yorkshire boar are the basis of the 90 commercial sow herd. His operation has drawn national attention and has been featured in the Midland Farmer Magazine and Penney Press. Trevis is a board member and a treasurer of the Northwest Missouri Swine Test Station. He is active in the Nodaway County Pork Producers, Wray Methodist Church and board member of the Nodaway County Extension Council.

BILL GOETTE, Alden, Minnesota

Nominated by Minnesota Pork Producers Association. After two years of military service, Bill started farming in 1958. His operation has increased in size to approximately 3000 commercial hog herd in a farrow to finish program. The goal has been to produce large litters which have superior feed conversion and carcass merit. Sows are scored and indexed for sow productivity. Replacement gilts are selected from superior sow lines. Herd sire progeny are evaluated through the New Ulm Swine Test Station and National Barrow Show Central Test. Pigs are entered each fall in the Minnesota State Spring Barrow Show Central Test and National Barrow Show Central Test contests. Bill's 1980 barrow entry in the National Barrow Show contest placed 4th overall which demonstrates the kind of hogs produced. Bill is a strong leader, serving as President of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association for four years, Freeborn County Pork Producers President, Minnesota Spring Barrow Show President, church council President, school board President, National Pork Producers Council Policy Committee, and NSIF Record Standardization and Utilization Committee. He was honored as Minnesota's 1975 Pork All American and 1980 Minnesota Commercial Pork Producer of the Year.

DR. M. PETER AND LORRAINE HOFFMAN, Ames, Iowa

Nominated by American Berkshire Association. Dr. Hoffman has performance tested every animal raised on the "Phenotypic Acres since the herd was started in 1973. The operation involved 12 herd sires, 50 sows and 214 litters on which birth weights, 7 day and 21 day weights, days at 220 pounds, backfat and loin eye scans are measured. Peter has designed his own sow productivity selection program. Two sows have been recognized in the Berkshire Brood Sow Hall of Fame. More Berkshire boars have been centrally tested by the Hoffman's than any other Berkshire breeder. In 1980 they had the top selling pen of boars over all breeds at the Iowa Test Station. In the 1979 Berkshire Herdsire Issue, 110 out of 131 boars listed traced to Phenotypic Acres produced or owned sires. All litters are recorded in the American Berkshire Association which ranked Phenotypic Acres tenth in number of pigs recorded and fifth in transfers. The Hoffman's have won numerous shows including the Berkshire type conference, Iowa State Fair, and National Barrow Show. In addition, they have won the coveted Haegele Family trophy. Peter is a Professor of Animal Science at Iowa State University, is a member and officer of many professional organizations, has authored several scientific and popular magazine articles and is recognized as an excellent teacher.

GARY HUISMAN, Clarksville, Iowa

Nominated by American Yorkshire Club, Inc. Gary purchased his first Yorkshire sow as an FFA project in 1961. He has been a successful seedstock producer for 19 years. The year he graduated from high school he entered his first boar in the Iowa Central Test Station which sold as the top selling Yorkshire boar. This started the outstanding track record by the young 34 year-old breeder. Gary centrally tests pigs at Clarkton, Nebraska; Belleville, Wisconsin and the four Iowa testing stations. This past year, 81 boars were evaluated in the central test station which ranks tops for any producer in the U.S. His pens ranked top in five different test station sales in 1970. He again repeated this record in 1980. During the 1980 testing season, he has had six boars gain from 2.6 to 2.90 with feed conversions of 200 to 233 having backfats of .68 to .86 inch. Two of these boars set new index records. This improvement has come about through a strong on-farm selection program. Some 300 boars and 300 gilts are performance tested each year. Boar testing has identified superior littermate gilt and brought many satisfied customers. Gary feels if he doesn't produce the top central tested boar he will be a potential buyer of the boar that beat his. Gary has been President of Iowa Yorkshire Breeders and Northeast Iowa Swine Test Station, Iowa Pork Producers Executive Board and a member of the County Extension Council. His awards are many and include the Iowa Master Seedstock Producer of the Year.

WILLIAM ISLER, Prospect, Ohio

Nominated by Ohio Pork Improvement Association. Bill is a graduate from Ohio State University, past President of the Elgin High School FFA and County 4-H Junior Leadership President. Today he is in charge of the family 800 acre farm, runs a 150 Duroc and Yorkshire sow herd and milks 100 dairy cows. The purebred swine operation has been on an on-farm test since 1968. Boars are evaluated by litter groups for feed efficiency, daily gain, days to 230 pounds, ultrasonic scanned and then indexed. All sows are evaluated through the Ohio Sow Index Program for the past three years. Lifetime sow breeding values are used for sow culling. Gilts are selected on their own performance plus data from littermate boars evaluated on farm and at central test stations. Approximately one-half of the herd sires have been purchased at a central test station. Bill utilized the central test station for boar evaluation. In the past three years, his herd has produced six high indexing pens including two high indexing pens at the National Duroc Test conducted at Eagle Grove, Iowa. Bill is President of the Ohio Duroc Breeders Association and the District Pork Producers Council, Director of the Ohio Yorkshire Club and Ohio Pork Producers Council. He was presented the Ohio Pork All-American Award.

LOWELL MATHER, Madelia, Minnesota

Nominated by Minnesota Pork Producers Association. Lowell has produced purebred Hampshires for some 30 years. He farrows every three months with a total of 96 farrowings per year. Performance testing has been a way of life around the Mather farm. In 1957 as a Minnesota Pork Producer Association Board member, he appeared before the Minnesota State legislature and successfully obtained funding to establish the first Minnesota Swine Test Station. He has tested all of his primary herd boars in the New Ulm Test Station backing this up with on-farm testing. He probes or scans all boars which he offers for sale. Lowell sells a large number of his boars within his community but his sales and reputation extend throughout the hog producing area. He produced the champion carcass in the 1980 Minnesota State Fair Production Barrow Test. He had the fastest gaining purebred barrow of the show. This is the second time in three years that Mather has shown the champion pork carcass. In 1978, he showed the first, second and fourth place Minnesota State Fair carcass derby winners. Besides producing top performance hogs, Lowell is a leader among men serving as President of the Minnesota Hampshire Breeders Association, Director of the National Hampshire Swine Registry, Chairman of the Church Board, President of Madelia Hospital Board and Watonwan County Sheriff Reserves. He was appointed by Minnesota's governor to the advisory board of Animal Health.

PHIL METZ, Greensburg, Indiana

Nominated by Indiana Boar Test Station. Phil started farming in 1951. Presently, he is a member of the Metz Bros. partnership consisting of Phil, Jim, Charles and Bob who operate a 1300 acre farm in Decatur County, Indiana. Some 500 head of steers are fed out each year along with a 100 commercial sow farrow to finish swine program. Particular attention is placed on mothering ability, traits of litter size and weight, gilt type, underline soundness and growth of replacement gilts. A three-breed rotation of Duroc, Hampshire and Yorkshire is followed. Boars are purchased on their performance records from the leading Indiana purebred breeders. Hogs consigned to the Indiana barrow shows have consistently been carcass winners. Metz's barrow entry placed first out of 164 in the 1980 Indiana Pork Production Derby Contest. Phil is founder of the Decatur County Pork Producers Association, served as President of the Indiana Pork Producers Association and received the Indiana Pork Producers Meritorious Service Award.

ROBERT N. PERRY, Bethel, Missouri

Nominated by Missouri Pork Producers Association and National Pork Producers Council. Bob started in purebred Durocs in 1942 with his brothers as a FFA project. Today, he is recognized as a national leader in performance tested hogs. He has combined a program of utilizing performance test data from central test stations with his on-farm performance test programs to accomplish two purposes: (1) Provide reliable performance data on breeding stock he sells. (2) Provide reliable data for his own selection programs. Bob's philosophy is performance is more than a sales gimmick but the "thing to do and use". All of the herd sires have been tested as SCMS sires. The Perry farm consigned boars at the first central tested boar sale in 1958 and has consigned ever since. Boars are entered in SENEK; Northwest Missouri; Northeast Missouri; Southwest Missouri; University of Missouri; Macomb, Illinois; Ames, Iowa and National Duroc Central Tests. This year, the Perry boars indexed highest in four different test stations and set a new record selling price for a Missouri test station sale. He has developed a sow indexing program which includes farrowing, milking and type index on a scale from 1 to 5. Bob has been President of the Missouri State Duroc, National Duroc, Shelby County Pork Producers, Missouri Pork Producers, and Northeast Missouri Swine Test Associations. He has served as Vice President and founder of NSIF and is a Missouri NPPC director. Bob is a nationally known swine judge. His awards include Missouri Pork All American, Master Pork Producer Award, American Farmer Degree and University of Missouri Alumni Merit Award.

ROBERT YINGLING, Bellevue, Ohio

Nominated by the Ohio Pork Improvement Association. Over the past 25 years, with the help of his two sons John and Tom, Robert operates a 225 commercial sow farrow to finish program. He has a 45 crate farrowing house with wire mesh flooring and a new 1200 total slat finishing barn. Through the selection of lean sonorayed gilts mated to test station boars, Robert has developed two sow lines with exceptional mothering abilities. The number of pigs weaned has increased by 10-15% over the past four years. Boars purchased from the Ohio Test Station of Yorkshire, Hampshire and Duroc has dramatically improved feed efficiency, lean cut yield and soundness. In addition to this, he has raised certified grain seed for the past 25 years. Bob has served as his church treasurer for 20 years, President of Huron County Swine Association and legislative agent for local Grange. His awards include State FFA Distinguished Service Award and Honorary Chapter Farmer Award.