

CARCASS EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Merrill Smith, Chairman

Those attending: Dr. David Meisinger, NPPC; Carl Hirschinger, University of Wisconsin; Robert Bush, Chico State University, Calif.; Paul McGovern, Sonoray Technician, Indianapolis, Indiana; Bob Casey, Farmland Industries; John Phillips, Hormel; Merrill Smith, American Berkshire Assoc. Chairman; Don Nikodim, Poland China Assoc., Recording Secretary; John Beckett, President of NSIF, Gillespie, Illinois; Bill Goette, Commercial Producer, Minnesota.

The Carcass Evaluation Committee meeting was well attended with much enthusiasm, interest, and positive outlook for the future of solid improvement by the swine industry in the area of production of good hogs that will yield a desirable carcass. Consumer acceptance of the pork products in the supermarket is of further importance to the committee and the industry. The influence and leadership capabilities of NSIF towards future improvements in the area of swine carcass evaluation is of major concern to this committee.

Dr. David Meisinger of the National Pork Producers Council reported on the NPPC research project on updating the carcass evaluation standards. This project which is projected to cost \$30,000 is at a standstill primarily due to a lack of funds. The project is written to involve over 200 herd of hogs is currently being reorganized and will get underway as soon as funds are secured. A meeting of this research project is scheduled for middle December. The main goal of the project is to review and update the current NPPC carcass evaluation formula and recommendations.

John Phillips, Superintendent of the National Barrow Show with Hormel Inc. discussed the 1980 NBS carcass results and the carcass evaluation procedure comparison. Phillips was concerned that the top carcasses at the NBS production tested Barrow contest were not often the winners due to the emphasis placed of growth rate. The faster gaining hogs usually had the poorer carcasses while the slower gaining hogs often had the better carcasses.

Adjustment figures and their validity and value were discussed. John Phillips reported that the following conversion factors were used in the NBS carcass evaluation.

Length _____ .033 inch per pound
 Fat Depth 10th rib = Fat depth Final wt. X 220
 Loin Eye area _____ .013 per pound

Carl Hirschinger, University of Wisconsin, noted the method he used to convert backfat in his ultra-sonics work.

Adj. B.F. = $\frac{\text{average fat depth}}{\text{live wt.}} \times 230$

The committee felt more research and updating work needed to be done on the procedures used for adjustment of test figures. Hogs do not grow and develop alike.

Don Nikodim, Poland China Association and Merrill Smith, American Berkshire Association gave a report on the question, "Are the present certification standards used by the industry current?" They both felt that it was time that the industry upgrade the requirements for certification work done by carcass cut out. Both felt that it was a mistake when the industry quit doing certification carcass work. It was believed, that by upgrading the standards for certification that it would have a positive effect towards motivating producers to do more carcass certification work. Recommended new standards discussed by the committee were as follows:

Days to 220#	175
Backfat at 220#	1.25 inches
Loin Eye area at 220#	5.00 sq. inches
Carcass length	30 inches

Again, the committee feels that much work is needed to get carcass certification standards upgraded and more carcass cut out work done. Research towards setting people new standards needs to be done and can be easily accomplished with the cooperation of packing plants and producers. Certification standards should not be average with the industry but rather superior standards to influence greater genetic improvement.

The final part of the committee meeting was devoted to the use of Ultrasonics in the swine industry. Carl Hirschinger, University of Wisconsin, reported on predicting carcass composition and standardization of Ultrasonic Measurements. Carl expressed concern that the ultrasonic data collected on seedstock (boars and gilts) accurately represents the animals in question. He felt that by using ratios in expressing test data within each test group rather than actual measures would be a more accurate basis for evaluation.

Carl would like to see NSIF through the carcass evaluation committee take the leadership to develop a standardizing program whereby personnel who were responsible for collecting data on boars and where that data is to be published and used as public information for sale come together at least once a year in some appropriate location, read a group of animals independently and collect the data on these animals and make comparisons and provide that information for public consumption.

Paul McGovern, Sonoray Technician and last year's winner of the NSIF Distinguished Service Award from Indianapolis, Indiana reported on his scanning procedures and how he reports his data. He also expressed the need for standardized methods and procedures in using ultrasonics in live hog evaluation. Currently, backfat measurement by ultrasonic measure is reasonably accurate but the loin measure by using one probe creates some problems due to difference in location of scan and shape to the loin muscle. Paul recommended that loin measurements be taken by using at least three scan readings at specific points and with the use of a protractor to determine the correct angle for measurements. He also expressed the need for more research and efforts in the area of ultrasonic equipment.

One final area of discussion in respect to live animal evaluation was on the use of instruments like the EMME (electronic meat measuring equipment). This device which measured total percent lean could be of tremendous value to the industry and the committee thought that additional research was needed in this area.

In summary, the committee felt that the industry has a tremendous need for more research and development in carcass evaluation and production at hogs that will yield a better end product. NSIF can take a leading role towards making sure the proper research and development takes place.