

REPRODUCTION AND SOW PRODUCTIVITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Kenneth Drewry, Chairman

Committee members present were: Kenneth Drewry, Max Waldo, Sam Kennedy, Gene Isler. Other people attending were: Larry Young, Eldon Wilson, John Mabry, Earl Wright, Emmet Stevermer, Duane Fort, Sid Burkey, Ralph Bishop, Dora Bishop, Dennis Goehring.

The committee reviewed the "Guidelines for Uniform Swine Improvement Programs" draft and made appropriate changes for Dixon Hubbard's corrections of the publication. The implementation of the guidelines for sow productivity was discussed. NSIF has published a brochure, "Sow Productivity Indexing" which is written in producer language and should help in the utilization of the program.

The committee felt the NSIF sow production indexing program was adequate. The sow production index should be summarized for sire of the litter. To continue to improve the program, swine researchers are encouraged to evaluate the genetic and phenotypic relationship between birth weight of the pig and litter and components of sow productivity such as litter size, 21 day pig and litter weight. All of the components of the sow productivity index should be re-evaluated.

The 1981 program committee is encouraged to consider a presentation and session on the "Reevaluation of Sow Productivity Components."

The committee discussed in length the value of sow family averages for sow productivity indexing. There was disagreement as to what comprises a sow family. The sow family average summary should be retained, even though sow family averages may have limited genetic value.

The value of boar scrotal measurements was discussed as an evaluation of boar reproduction potential. The committee suggested NSIF not recommend scrotal or testicular measurements or the development of sexual maturity scoring system.

The "Performance Testing Operations Manual" prepared by Kenneth Drewry was reviewed. A standard data input reporting form for individual performance on page 18 of the Guidelines should be changed to conform to the standard reporting form presented on page 12 of the Operations manual. In addition, the committee had considerable discussion relating to use of lifetime sow averages or litter records. The litter records from single sow parity such as number born alive, total number born, number of pigs alive at 21 days, actual 21 day litter weight may not be as valuable as the use of lifetime sow averages or sow productivity breeding values.