

1981 NSIF Distinguished Service Award
Keith Leavitt, Columbia, Missouri
Nominated by Missouri Pork Producers Association and
National Pork Producers Council

A native of Missouri, Keith Leavitt has made a career of serving the Missouri and national pork industry. He graduated from Kirksville High School, Missouri, and received both the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Missouri. He served 5 years in the military service and acted as a county extension agent in Lewis and Monroe counties.

In 1958, Keith went to the University of Missouri, where he was responsible to develop the first swine and beef cattle central test stations. Through his leadership, ultrasonic was first used to evaluate swine composition on the live hogs. Through these early developments, Keith has coordinated the Missouri on-farm performance programs and 5 Missouri central test stations. All test stations follow the NSIF guidelines.

Keith was one of the founders of NSIF, served as Secretary-Treasurer in 1975, and was Chairman of the Central Test Committee. Through his direction, the guidelines for standardizing central testing were first developed.

In addition, Keith has served as superintendent of the Missouri State Fair Swine Show, superintendent of the American Royal Swine Show, served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Missouri Pork Producers Association and Chairman of the Missouri Pork Producers Budget Committee. He has given leadership in exportation of swine to Mexico and has raised purebred hogs for several years. Over the years he has received many honors, including the Allied Industry Award for contribution to the Missouri Pork Industry.

For these accomplishments, NSIF wishes to recognize Keith Leavitt for his outstanding leadership and service to genetic improvement of swine in the U.S.