

NSIF 1981 Seedstock Producer of the Year
Richard Compart, Route 2, Nicollet, Minnesota
Nominated by Minnesota Pork Producers Association

Richard and his wife Bonnie have five children. Marc, 24, and wife Peggy have two children; Dean, 22, who is a graduate from the University of Minnesota and who is presently fieldman for the Chester White Swine Record Association; Jim, 20, who is married to Diana; Heidi, who is a senior at Nicollet High School; and youngest son Chris, who is 13. The Compart operation is a total family program, with each member having a vital working part of the business.

The present farm operation consists of 560 acres, which are divided into three separate building sites. The sow herd consists of 130 Duroc, 40 Hampshire, and 80 Yorkshire sows.

Dick purchased his home farm in 1968 and has added additional land since that time. The buildings and swine facilities are a combination of new and old. He has remodeled the existing buildings and added new facilities to meet his needs. He is an innovator and leader in designing hog facilities and equipment. The RC Manufacturing Co., which he formed in 1969, produces hog equipment which is used throughout the U.S.

The Compart program was among the first on-farm tests in Minnesota. Pigs are systematically weighed on and off test and scanned for body composition. All boars which meet test standards are offered for sale. Approximately 200 boars and 400 gilts are sold in four spring and fall production sales. Another 750 to 800 boars and 1000 gilts are sold at private treaty. About 98 percent of all hogs are sold to commercial producers who are primarily repeat customers.

Marc lives on the farm which houses the test station unit. The farm has two separate test station units and supplemental buildings of a sale arena and office sales building. Each test building has 16 test pens. Five to six pigs from each litter group are fed out by sex. These pens of pigs are weighed on test at 60 pounds and weighed off test near 230 pounds and scanned by a supervisor of the Minnesota on-farm testing program. All data are summarized for body composition, daily gain, days to 230 pounds and feed conversion.

In the gestation unit, all sows are evaluated for breeding ability, farrowing ease, weaning weight and litter production. Only gilts from the superior sows are retained for potential herd replacements.

The herd health program is strict. All bred gilts, boars, and open gilts are PRV tested before any sale. Over 5000 head have been tested since 1977.

Herd boar selection is a continuous effort. Home-grown boars along with newly purchased are evaluated on a sample set of sows in the herd. A home-grown boar named RCO Joe sired the top Duroc performance tested pen at the New Ulm Central Test Station. Several new herd sires are purchased each year. This past year, a top tested boar was purchased from the Guhde Duroc herd in Nebraska which had a top record of 150 days to 230 pounds. A Yorkshire boar was purchased from Michaels Yorkshires which was sired by a boar raised and tested at the Compart farm. This boar was evaluated as one of the top performance boars and was also a littermate to the National Champion boar sold at the 1980 Louisville Barrow Show.

Richard and his sons all fly their own plane. Because of their interest in properly merchandizing their breeding stock, they have flown

prospective buyers to their farm. In addition, many flights have been taken to producers to advise them as to boar selection and breeding concerns.

Compart is very active in many pork producer and community activities, primarily in a leadership role. He has served on the National Duroc Type Direction Committee, as Director of the Minnesota Duroc and Hampshire Associations, served on the Minnesota's Governor's Swine Health Committee, as Director of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, as past Director of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association, on the Central Swine Testing Committee, as past President of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association, as Director of the National United Duroc Association, and as a member of the NSIF Sow Productivity Committee.

Richard is the recipient of the 4-H Alumni Award; Honorary Chapter Farmer Award; Outstanding Nicollet County Young Farmer in 1967; and Minnesota Pork All-American Award. In 1974 he exhibited the National Barrow Show Grand Champion Duroc Boar, won Premier Sire in the Minnesota and Iowa State Fair shows. In 1978 he exhibited the National Barrow Show Champion Hampshire Production Barrow. In 1981 Compart's had the top indexing Yorkshire Central Test pen, the top Duroc Central Test pen, and overall top indexing progeny pen of pigs at the New Ulm Central Station.

Compart's goals are to provide breeding stock which will generate lean, fast-gaining, efficient growing progeny. These animals must be able to tolerate today's confinement conditions. He is accomplishing this by a concentrated program of "on-the-farm" with a systematic "central testing" program.

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Gary Huisman, Clarksville, Iowa

Nominated by American Yorkshire Club, Inc., Farmland Test Stations, Northeast Iowa Test Station and Ames Swine Test Station

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; Bellville, Wisconsin; and the four Iowa testing stations. This past year, 81 boars were evaluated at 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 had six boars gain from 2.6 to 2.90 pounds per day on test, with feed conversions of 200 to 233 pounds of feed per 100 pounds of gain and backfat readings 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 gilts 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.