

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR AWARDEES FOR 1981  
NATIONAL SWINE IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION

WALTER BUSSMAN, Norwood, Minnesota

Nominated by the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. After serving in the Korean War, Walter started farming in 1955 and purchased his first registered Landrace gilt. He has developed a select performance Landrace herd over the years and produces 500 head annually. A production record program was initiated in 1957 which includes sow milking performance evaluated by 21-day litter weights, litter size farrowed and nipple number. Therefore, every sow in the herd has many generations of performance records. The New Ulm swine evaluation has been used to evaluate every sire used in the herd since 1959. Some 180 pigs have been centrally tested for growth, feed conversion and carcass traits. Replacement gilts are selected from littermates to the top central tested pigs and those boars tested on the farm. Boars are tested in groups of three littermates on the farm for growth rate and backfat. Walter has exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair and National Barrow Show from 1959 to 1980 which includes 4 National Champions. He has entered the top central test pen for 3 years in a row. He has been President of the American Landrace Association, Director of Minnesota Pork Producers and Central Test Station, president of his church council and active in several community organizations.

FRED GROHMANN, JR., Red Bud, Illinois

Nominated by the American Landrace Association and Southeast Missouri Test Station. In 1955, Fred Grohmann purchased a 130-acre farm and started his purebred Landrace program. He has been active in promoting swine over the years by donating gilts to the Red Bud FFA Chapter to get young potential producers into the pig business. Fred, along with 6 sons, formed Cedar Ridge Farms, Inc. in 1978. An on-farm test unit was constructed to evaluate 96 boars. This unit furnishes 200 tested Landrace annually for purebred and commercial producers. Approximately 30 boars are tested in 7 different central test stations each year. The herd encompasses 150 sows which have complete sow productivity records, including 21-day litter weights. The farm hosts 15 production sales. In 1979, an auction of 244 head of Landrace grossed \$97,150, which is a national Landrace record. Some 100 trophies, along with 25 Premier awards, have been won at various state and national shows. For three consecutive years, they have transferred more Landrace than any other breeder. Fred has been active in the American Landrace Association, Monroe County Pork Producers, Farm Bureau and St. Peter's United Church of Christ. A reference letter summarizes Fred's accomplishments by stating, "Fred goes the extra step to promote swine performance testing and is a worthy, honest swine breeder."

**JAMES MARTI, Sleepy Eye, Minnesota**

Nominated by the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. As a youth, Jim was actively involved in 4-H and FFA, serving as 4-H Federation and FFA Chapter President. He earned the State Farmer degree and National 4-H Club Congress All Around Achievement Award. He started farming in 1965 after serving in the Korean War. His herd is primarily Hampshire, Yorkshire, Duroc and Spotted crosses. Approximately 135 litters are produced, with 10-12 sows farrowing per group. All pigs are produced in total confinement in a farrow to finish program. Replacement gilts are selected within herd. Performance records including birthdate, number of pigs born alive and weaning, milking and mothering ability scores are kept on sow cards. Lifetime records are used for culling sows rather than type. Records show an average of 8.5 to 10 pigs weaned per sow, with 19.8 pigs weaned per sow per year. Boars are selected from purebred breeders who have performance records. Yorkshire boars are selected for reproduction, length and leg soundness. Muscle qualities may be sacrificed in the Yorkshire boars, however, more emphasis is placed on muscle traits in the Hampshire sire selection. The Central Test Station is used to evaluate herd weakness. Pigs are entered in county, state and national production barrow contests. This past year, James showed the Grand Champion Minnesota State Spring Barrow Show Central Test Champion. In the 1980 Minnesota State Fair, he exhibited the 2nd and 3rd Central Test Barrows. In addition, he has won 4 consecutive county barrow shows. He serves as the Brown County Pork Producers President, on the Central Test Station Committee, Farm Bureau Board and is the Faith United Methodist Church Treasurer. Jim was honored as Minnesota 1981 Commercial Producer of the Year, 1979 Pork All-American, and Outstanding J.C. Farmer.

**TODD GORDON, Huntsville, Ohio**

Nominated by the Ohio Pork Improvement Association. As a 1963 graduate from Ohio State University in Agricultural Economics, Todd Gordon has shown outstanding leadership in the Ohio pork industry. He has worked for the Gordon Farms, a family farm corporation, since 1964 and has served as manager since 1970. This commercial hog farm for years followed the hybrid boar programs. In 1978, performance tested boars were purchased at the Ohio Swine Evaluation Station. Over the past three years, gilt replacements have been retained to improve growth and carcass quality. As a result of using performance tested boars, 93.5 percent of hogs marketed in 1981 graded USDA No. 1 when sold on a grade and yield basis. Todd has served 2 years as president of the Ohio Pork Producers Council. In addition, he was Chairman of the Ohio Pork Congress membership, consumer development and services committees. As an army infantry officer, he received the Commandants Leadership Award and the Ft. Benning Commandant Scholastic Award. He is past chairman of the United Presbyterian Church Board, and Board of Supervisors of Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District.