

REPRODUCTION AND SOW PRODUCTIVITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Gene Isler, Secretary

The Reproduction and Sow Productivity Committee was chaired by Gene Isler in the absence of Kenneth Drewry. The committee acknowledged the years of leadership Dr. Kenneth Drewry had given to the development of sow productivity guidelines.

The committee identified several areas of research needs and future program topics for review. These areas are:

Boar Related Topics

1. Identification of sub-fertile boars
2. Sexual maturity patterns
3. Evaluation of boar libido and breeding behavior
4. Breed and individual boar differences in:
 - a. Sperm quality
 - b. Sperm quantity
 - c. Freezing ability
 - d. Fresh semen storage differences

Sow Productivity Topics

1. Value of pig birth weight as a selected trait and its inclusion into the sow index.
2. Genetic changes in sow herd productivity as a result of NSIF sow index selection