

## FOREWORD

The first effort to establish guidelines for swine improvement programs occurred when 25 individuals representing test station managers, supervisors and extension swine personnel met in Des Moines, Iowa, March 6, 1974. This group organized the National Association of Swine Testing Stations which had as its objective the standardization of test station programs. At its September 10th meeting held at Austin, Minnesota, the membership invitation was extended to include the National Pork Council, National Association of Swine Records and the Agricultural Press. Subcommittees dealing with testing procedures, data reporting index standardization, ration and health standards, on-farm programs and education were appointed by President Delmar Gerdes.

To more appropriately describe the goals of the organization, the National Association of Swine Testing Stations was reorganized March 13, 1975 at Kansas City, Missouri, under the name of "National Swine Improvement Federation". The first landmark of foregoing years of work was achieved in November 1976 with the publishing of the "Guidelines for Uniform Swine Improvement Programs".

Since that historic point, five symposiums dealing with on-farm and central test programs have been held at St. Louis, Missouri. In 1981, a joint meeting was held with the National Pork Producers Council at Des Moines, Iowa. A seventh conference was held this year in Des Moines, Iowa. Through invitation papers and committee meetings, NSIF developed the theme, "Commitment to Genetic Improvement". This proceedings is a summary of the papers presented at the Symposium and Annual Meeting held December 5, 6 and 7, 1982 at the Hyatt House, Des Moines, Iowa.

The Symposium was organized to deal with the problem of implementing the NSIF guidelines and to encourage producers to participate in on-farm and central performance testing programs. The Symposium provided an environment to discuss problems within the swine industry and to initiate future genetic and selection programs.

The Federation wishes to recognize Merrill Smith, who served as program chairman, and Charles Christians, who coordinated the conference.

We hope you will find this proceedings interesting and useful. If additional copies are desired, they are available at five dollars per copy. Your continued support and dedication are needed for NSIF to achieve its overall objective of pork improvement through swine breeding.



Charles J. Christians  
NSIF Secretary-Treasurer  
101 Peters Hall  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
(612) 373-1168