Policies of the Indiana Swine Evaluation Station

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
Pigs to Pork

SELECTION

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Purpose

The Indiana Swine Evaluation Station offers a service to the swine breeders of Indiana whereby accurate performance records on brood sow and herd sire productivity and on their progeny's gainability, feed conversion and carcass quality may be secured.

This station will be used by Indiana purebred swine breeders to littertest and progeny test breeding stock. The production and carcass data collected on littermates will assist the breeder in the selection of replacement breeding stock and in the production of more desirable breeding animals for sale to purebred and commercial producers. The data collected at the station, on the progeny from different boars, will supplement records which the breeder may obtain on progeny from the same boar through the Hoosier On-Farm Testing Program.

Direction

1. This station will be operated by Purdue University.

2. Participation in this program will be limited to swine breeders of the State of Indiana.

3. Certifications will be authorized by the Executive Committee of the Indiana Livestock Breeders' Association.

4. The general policies of the operation of this station will be subject to the recommendations of an Advisory Committee. This Advisory Committee shall consist of two men from each recognized state swine association -- each man to be elected or appointed for a term of two years.

Participation

A. Eligibility

Any member of the Indiana Livestock Breeders' Association, or anybody who becomes a member by the payment of the $1.00 annual membership fee of this association, is eligible to participate in this program.
B. Nominations

1. Litters must be eligible for registry and meet all qualifications and conditions outlined herein.

2. Litters must be free of disqualifying inherited defects as defined by the respective breed association, such as swirls, hernia or ridgling boars.

3. Sow must be in the ownership of an Indiana breeder at farrowing.

4. Litter size must be of not less than eight pigs.

5. Breeder must nominate eligible litter(s) within ten days after farrowing. Nominations must be received at Purdue within twenty days.

6. Nomination fee of $1.00 per litter shall be enclosed with the nomination form. No refunds.

7. Nomination forms are available at the county extension agent's office. (When completed, it is preferred that they be sent to Indiana Swine Evaluation Programs, Animal Sciences Department, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana 47907, through the county agent's office.)

8. Litters duly nominated in the Hoosier On-Farm Swine Testing Program may be transferred to this program and vice versa without additional charge.

C. Weaning Weight of Litter

1. Production Registry weight standards for the respective breeds must be successfully met in order for the eligibility to continue.

2. Litter weights shall be taken at birth, 21, 35 or 56 days of age, according to appropriate breed association.

3. Extra pigs nursed on other sows will not count in the litter P.R. weight.

4. Eight or more pigs nursed by their mother must be raised to weaning age.

5. A litter which has met the Production Registry requirements of its respective breed may be substituted for a duly nominated litter for an additional fee of $2.00.

D. Health Regulations

1. No animal will be accepted from premises on which any swine are under state quarantine for any reason.

2. Livestock Sanitary Board Form 22A will be completed. In addition, the inspecting veterinarian and the owner will certify to the best of their knowledge that none of the following diseases or conditions have prevailed in his herd during the time periods designated prior to the delivery of the pigs to the swine evaluation station.
a. Swine Dysentery--1 year  
b. Transmissible gastroenteritis--3 months  
c. Non-specific enteritis, "Necro" salmonellosis, diarrhea of a serious nature--1 year  
d. Atrophic rhinitis--1 year  
e. Pneumonia--acute outbreaks of respiratory disease--1 year  
f. Acute erysipelas--3 months  
g. Jowl abscesses--3 months  
h. Hog cholera--3 months  
i. Abortions involving more than five percent of the herd regardless of etiology--4 months  
j. Myoclonia congenita (shakers, jittery pigs)--No time limit; pigs from litters showing this condition shall not be accepted.

3. Health of individual pigs:

a. Pigs shall show no sign of any disease.  
b. Male pigs must be castrated and castration wounds healed.  
c. Pigs may be vaccinated with modified hog cholera virus and serum at any time before delivery. (The term modified virus as used here means live commercial preparations of hog cholera virus which have been attenuated by serial passage through rabbits or tissue culture.) The date of vaccination and the name of the product used for vaccination shall be shown on the official health certificate.

4. Delivery of pigs to the station:

a. Pigs shall not be delivered by a commercial carrier. They may be delivered in the owner's car or truck, provided that it has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected if it has been previously used to transport livestock.

5. Measures to be taken at the station:

a. Pigs which have not been vaccinated for hog cholera will be vaccinated with modified hog cholera virus and serum as soon as possible after delivery to the station.  
b. Each pig will be blood tested for brucellosis and leptospirosis.  
c. Each pig will be treated for external and internal parasites.  
d. Each pig will be inoculated with erysipelas bacterin.

6. Any pig which becomes a threat to the health of other swine at the station will be removed.

E. Entrance to Station:

1. A representative pair of pigs (preferably barrow and gilt) shall be delivered to the swine evaluation station between 51 and 61 days of age.
2. The selection of the pair of pigs will be made by the owner.

3. When the pigs are delivered to the station, they become property of the swine evaluation station to assist in covering the station operating costs.

4. While the best possible care will be provided for the pigs, the station cannot be held responsible for death losses or other losses beyond its control.

F. Testing Procedure:

1. Each pair of pigs will be individually weighed and started on test at 62 to 64 days of age, and continue on test until a market weight of 200 to 220 pounds is reached by each pig.

2. Pigs will be weighed individually on the same day of the week at bi-weekly intervals.

3. All pigs will be self-fed the same standard ration (16% ration to 120 pounds, 13% ration from 120 pounds to market weight). Complete weight records will be kept on all feed consumed.

4. It is recommended that those duly nominated litters which meet all qualifications but are refused entrance to the station because of lack of pen space be tested through the Hoosier On-Farm Swine Testing Program.

5. It is recommended that littermates (both boars and gilts) to the "test pigs" be weighed and probed for backfat at about 200 pounds. The probes should be adjusted to a 200 pound live weight basis.

G. Carcass Information:

1. Each pair of pigs will be slaughtered at a meat packing firm in Indiana where satisfactory results can be obtained for the collection of information and disposal of the products.

2. Detailed carcass data, such as hot and/or chilled carcass weight, length, backfat thickness, loin eye area, trimmed ham weights, and trimmed loin weights, will be obtained.

H. Feed Efficiency, Gainability, and Carcass Standards:

1. The feed requirement standard will be different for the Spring and Fall test periods. In the Spring test (pigs farrowed from December 1 through May 31) the standard will be 325 pounds of feed per 100 pounds of gain. In the Fall test (pigs farrowed from June 1 through November 30) the standard will be 340 pounds of feed per 100 pounds gain.

2. Each pig must weigh 200 pounds at a maximum of 175 days of age to qualify for litter certification.
3. Carcass standards used will be those recently adopted by the National Association of Swine Records. These standards are:

   a. Live weight at station--180 to 220 pounds
   b. Loin eye area (minimum)--4.00 sq. in.
   c. Length (minimum)--29.0 inches
   d. Backfat thickness (maximum)--1.6 inches

Certification

1. If each one of the pair of pigs meets all of the above standard requirements, the litter will be "certified" by the Executive Committee of the Indiana Livestock Breeders' Association and be known as an Indiana Certified Meat Litter.

2. Each Indiana Certified Meat Litter shall receive one certificate without cost. Additional certificates for individual pigs from the "certified" litters shall be supplied at a cost of one dollar each.

3. An Indiana Certified Meat Sire certificate will be issued for a boar that has sired five litters that qualify as Indiana Certified Meat Litters from five different sows, not more than two of which are full sisters or dam and daughter.

4. Each additional Indiana Certified Meat Sire Certificate shall be supplied at a cost of $10.00.

5. The repeat mating of a boar and a sow that have produced an Indiana Certified Meat Litter shall be known as an Indiana Certified Mating. One certificate shall be issued for the pigs of these litters without cost, and additional certificates shall be supplied at a cost of one dollar each.

Publication of Data

1. All data secured on each pair of pigs will be made available to the breeder.

2. Complete records of the performance of all litters which qualify for certification will be released for publication periodically as certifications are made.

3. Identity of pigs while in the station shall be known only to the operator of the station and the breeder, if the breeder so chooses. He may elect to have his name, address, and sire of the litter posted over the pen.

4. Complete records of the performance of all litters will be released for publication with each litter identified by a code number.

   The station is intended to secure accurate performance records through which superior strains within each breed may be identified and through which the individual breeder may evaluate the performance of his stock.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE INDIANA SWINE EVALUATION STATION