

# 09/10 PROGENY TEST RULES

## CENTER OPERATIONS

The Livestock Evaluation Center is a progeny testing station operating under the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State University.

The Center's facilities include 5 pens for 80-150 head of cattle/year, 5 pens for 100-150 head of sheep and goats/test, and 24 pens for 72-144 head of swine/test, with 2 tests per year.

### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
Livestock Evaluation Center  
C/O Glenn Eberly  
1494 West Pine Grove Road  
PA Furnace, PA 16865  
814-238-2527

## TESTING PROCEDURE

### General Description

The progeny test involves the testing of four pigs, barrows or gilts, at the Samuel E. Hayes Jr. Livestock Evaluation Center, PA Furnace, PA. Following the test, producers must exhibit at least two pigs (all four pigs are eligible) in an on-foot show at the Livestock Evaluation Center. All pigs exhibited on-foot will be subjected to ultrasonic scanning to determine loin area and fat thickness, as arranged by the Livestock Evaluation Center management. PA producers are eligible for Pennsylvania Farm Show premiums based on live and ultrasound placing. Producers will have the option of sending their pigs to slaughter as arranged by Farm Show Management or taking their pigs home. All financial obligations with the Livestock Evaluation Center must be settled prior to the release of the pigs and producer must declare their intentions prior to the start of the show.

### 1. Nomination Procedure

Four pigs will be tested (barrows or gilts) at the Livestock Evaluation Center, State College, PA. Participants will retain ownership of the pigs. Priority for accepting nominations will be in the following order:

- a. A pen of purebred pigs from a producer residing in Pennsylvania.
- b. A pen of crossbred pigs from a producer residing in Pennsylvania.
- c. A pen of purebred pigs from a producer residing outside of Pennsylvania\*.
- d. A pen of crossbred pigs from a producer residing outside of Pennsylvania\*.
- e. A second pen of purebred pigs from a producer residing in Pennsylvania, etc.

\* NOTE. Because of the Pennsylvania residency requirement of the Pennsylvania Farm Show, out-of-state producers will not be able to compete in the on-foot show, nor will they be eligible for any premiums. However, ultrasound data will be collected from all pigs and included in the final report.

To obtain the most accurate information regarding siring ability, the pigs in each pen must be from one sire, with one to four different litters represented.

### 2. Age and Weight Requirements

- a. All pigs must weigh at least 60 lbs and not more than 85 lbs when delivered to the center.

### 3. Time Schedule For Fall Test

Farrowing Dates - July 1-31.

Nomination Period – July 31, 2009 through August 31, 2009

Acceptance Notice - After August 31

Delivery Period–September 15 to September 29-Specific Delivery days will be announced in the acceptance information

Test Period – October 6, 2009 to December 29, 2009, Tagging at the Livestock Evaluation Center – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 AM, January 6, 2010.

On-Foot Show at the Livestock Evaluation Center– 1:00 p.m., January 6, 2010

### 4. Nomination Procedure

Entry fees for those entries not accepted due to insufficient pen space will be refunded. After a producer is notified that his pen has been accepted, any cancellation of entries results in forfeiture of the nomination fee.

### 5. Entry Procedure

- a. All pigs shall be examined upon arrival and at the discretion of the veterinarian in charge entries may be rejected.
- b. All pigs must be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian stating that the pigs originated from a healthy herd.
- c. All pigs must be earmarked for identification.
- d. All males must be completely castrated.
- e. All pigs should be wormed and free of external parasites before delivery to the Center.
- f. All pigs must either be from a Qualified Pseudorabies Negative Herd, or have a negative Pseudorabies test within 30 days of delivery and the herd has not been quarantined for PRV in the past 12 months.
- g. All pigs must either be tattooed or wearing an ear tag at delivery in order to comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's identification requirements.
- h. All participants in the Progeny Test must complete the National Pork Board Pork Quality Assurance program prior to entering pigs on test.
- i. **NEW RULE: Pigs must be vaccinated against Circovirus between 2-4 weeks of age.**
- j. After pigs are delivered to the Livestock Evaluation Center, the Center will adopt a biosecurity program. The program will require that individuals wishing to enter the swine building must do so during normal business hours. In addition, no visitors may enter the building who have been exposed to pigs exhibiting clinical signs of contagious diseases, including PRRS, TGE and PRV.

### 6. Testing Costs

- a. There will be a \$25.00 per pig fee (\$3 will be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Farm Show to meet their entry fee requirements). Any person who does not deliver pigs after they have been accepted will forfeit his nomination fee. Nomination fees will be refunded for all nominations not accepted due to insufficient pen space.
- b. Producers will retain ownership of the pigs throughout the test.
- c. If any animal dies or must be removed from test because of health reasons, the owner will pay all expenses incurred up to that time.
- d. Feed costs, bedding costs, veterinary costs, slaughtering charge and a yardage fee of 12 cents/day will be charged to help offset some of the miscellaneous testing costs such as postage, telephone, office supplies, etc. Also the swine check-off will be deducted for each pig slaughtered or sold.
- e. Out-of-state participants will also be charged a fee for labor and facilities which will be commensurate with the total testing costs and will be determined by the Center director. (Approximately - \$10/pig).

- f. Total proceeds for the hogs after slaughter will be forwarded to the Livestock Evaluation Center from the processor, after which the station manager will make settlement with each participant.
- g. Final payment to all test participants will be made as soon as all testing bills have been received. In most cases, payment will be made within 30 days of the date of the sale of the last hogs.

#### 7. Testing Results

All test information will be sent to the owner as soon as possible after the conclusion of the test and all test information will be made available to the public.

#### 8. Testing and Exhibition Procedures

- a. When the progeny group is delivered to the Center, they will undergo an acclimation period until the test starts on October 6, 2009. The purpose of this adjustment period is to allow all pigs to become adjusted to facilities, feed, etc.
- b. Pigs will be started on an 18% protein, pelleted ration. When the pen averages 125 lbs to 150 lbs, they will be switched to a 16% protein, pelleted ration.
- c. The pigs will be weighed at least every 14 days. A report will be sent to the consignors following each weighing.
- d. Pigs will be weighed and taken off test on December 29, 2009. This weight will be used for all calculations. Pigs will also be ultrasonically scanned for carcass data following the last weighing.
- e. Following the test, producers must exhibit at least two pigs (all four pigs are eligible) in an on-foot show at the Livestock Evaluation Center. Producers will have the option of sending their pigs to slaughter as arranged by Farm Show Management or taking their pigs home. All financial obligations with the Livestock Evaluation Center must be settled prior to the release of the pigs and producer must declare their intentions prior to the start of the show. PA producers are eligible for Pennsylvania Farm Show premiums based on live and ultrasonic scan placing. Pigs will be tagged and tattooed at the Livestock Evaluation Center from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on January 6. The live show will begin at 1:00 p.m. on January 6, 2010. All breeds will be shown together within respective barrow or gilt classes.
- f. Up to three barrow classes, and up to three gilt classes will be shown, each divided by weight.
- g. On-foot placings will be independent of growth data and ultrasonic measurements.
- h. Ultrasonic placings will be determined by calculating % acceptable lean using the current NSIF guidelines for calculating fat free lean, and will be independent of growth data and live placing. Ultrasonic calculations will be adjusted for sex. There will be one carcass class, up to 15 placings.
- i. A champion and reserve champion overall, as well as 13 additional placings, will be selected on the basis of lean gain per day which will be calculated from both growth and ultrasonic data.
- j. See Farm Show Premium List for premium amounts.

#### 9. Evaluation Procedure

- a. The data to be secured from the test are rate of gain, feed efficiency, and days of age to reach 250 lbs.
- b. Pigs will be scanned ultrasonically for fat depth and loin eye area.

#### 10. Value of Testing to Breeder

- a. If a boar is siring undesirable offspring, the breeder should eliminate him from his breeding herd.
- b. This information will permit the breeders to do a more efficient job of selection for the traits measured.
- c. These data will also aid the breeder considerably in the selling of littermates and half-brothers and sisters of the tested stock.
- d. With this information and the weaning weight that one can secure at home, for sow productivity, the breeder has the records that can aid materially in family and pedigree selections for his own herd.
- e. Keeping records does not change what an animal will transmit. But, records must be utilized to locate and use the genetically superior individuals if genetic improvement is to be made.
- f. The acceptance and use of new ideas and information is essential to progress in any business.

**ENTRY FORM**  
**SWINE PROGENY TEST & LIVE SHOW AT 2010 PA FARM SHOW**  
(May be Photo copied)

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Number of litters from which the pigs will come \_\_\_\_\_

Farrowing date(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate Delivery Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sire (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. Number \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Registered \_\_\_\_\_ or Commercial \_\_\_\_\_

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Upon acceptance of any of my animals for test at the Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center, I, as owner, do hereby accept full and complete responsibility and liability for my animals during all phases of the program, such as pre-test, official test, post-test, sale, etc. I have read and agree to abide by the rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of the program now in existence or hereafter adopted by the LEC Executive Committee for this test.

I further authorize employees of The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, The Pennsylvania State University, The Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council and any other person or organization connected with the management of the program to act as my agents in connection with the program, including any sale of the animals. Provided, however, that the above mentioned employees or organizations shall not be liable for any loss, claims or suit by me arising out of my participation in the program, including but not limited to, the sale of the animals.

The Exhibitor agrees that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its agencies and instrumentalities including but not limited to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of General Services will not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury sustained by or done to the person or property of the undersigned even if such loss, damage or injury is the result of the negligence or gross negligence of the above named parties. Further, the exhibitor agrees that he shall be responsible for and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the above-named parties for any loss, damage or injury caused by the exhibitor, his employees or agents to the person or property or another.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(owner's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

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Fall entry dates are July 31 - August 31.

Delivery dates are September 15-29.

The \$25/pig (\$100/pen) entry fee includes the Farm Show Entry Fee and must be sent in with nominations.

Make check payable to: PPPC Boar Testing Fund, and send to: PA Dept. of Agriculture, Livestock Evaluation Center, 1494 West Pine Grove Road, PA Furnace, PA 16865.