



2012 SWINE TESTING PROGRAM

(nominations accepted between January 1 and February 15, 2012)

PENNSYLVANIA'S LIVESTOCK EVALUATION CENTER

1494 W. Pine Grove Road, PA Furnace, PA 16865

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PURPOSE :

1. Provide a genetically sound testing program that allows both large and small swine producers to participate.
2. Provide a common test whereby the individual performance of potential seedstock boars and gilts can be compared for rate of gain, feed efficiency, structural soundness, muscularity, condition, and estimated carcass merit.
3. Provide an opportunity for purebred breeders and commercial producers to purchase performance-tested boars and gilts which have been evaluated early in life under similar environmental conditions.
4. Promote performance testing of swine in Pennsylvania and acquaint producers with its overall value.

SPONSOR :

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science, the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council, and state breed associations.

SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE :

Anyone who participated in last year's tests will automatically become members of this year's Species Advisory Committee and will begin their duties about September 1. An extension livestock specialist, appointed by the Executive Committee's co-chairmen will serve as chairman.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE :

Representation on this committee will include animal science faculty members involved in swine teaching, research, and/or extension, the attending veterinarian (or designee), a representative of The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the Station Manager of the Livestock Evaluation Center (LEC), and two producers.

Current committee members are: Ken Kephart, Chairman, Mark Kreidler, Lester Griel, Ron Miller, Jacob Pepple, Conrad Neutzel, and Greg Hubbard.

SALES COMMITTEE :

The combined Species and Technical Committees will make up the basic Sales Committee. A smaller group consisting of two individuals from the Technical Committee and five or six test participants appointed by the co-chairmen of the Executive Committee will be responsible for making and carrying out the final decisions on all sale details.

TEST GROUP :

Each test group will consist of three boars or two or more gilts by the same sire from either one or two litters. Boars and gilts will be accepted without regard to registration or breed. However, for hogs to be considered as purebred, they must meet all requirements for registration as set forth by their respective breed associations. Seedstock companies must indicate the commercial line for hogs they submit. The breed of sire and dam must be identified for F1 hogs.

In addition, for each pen of boars producers may consign one pen of two or more gilts for testing. Gilts will be accepted without regard to genetic background.

NOMINATION ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE :

1. Nominations will be accepted from January 1 through February 15, 2012. Nominations postmarked before January 1, 2012, will not be accepted.
2. First priority will be given to producers who have participated in the greatest number of LEC boar/gilt or progeny test programs in the last three years. Ties will be broken by the earliest postmark.
3. If the 12 boar pens are not filled, producers will be permitted to nominate additional pens of boars.
4. Producers who have consigned a pen of boars for the 2012 boar test will be given first priority to consign a pen of gilts. Next priority for consigning gilts will be given to producers who have participated in the greatest number of LEC boar/gilt or progeny test programs in the last three years. Ties will be broken by the earliest postmark.
5. If all 12 gilt pens are not filled, producers will be permitted to nominate additional pens of gilts. If all gilt pens still are not filled, producers will be permitted to nominate additional pens of boars.
6. Failure to follow and abide by official rules will jeopardize eligibility in future tests.

LIABILITY :

The breeder retains ownership of his hogs while on test at the LEC. However, the breeder waives any right to press claims of any type against LEC supervisors and employees and will sign a testing agreement stating that he assumes full responsibility. The cost of insurance is included in the testing charges to be paid by the owner. Owners whose hogs die during the testing period will be paid up to \$100/hog, less testing costs, out of the Boar Testing Fund. The total amount paid out shall not exceed \$600 per boar test.

DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS :

1. Boars and gilts must be born between January 1, 2012, and February 10, 2012.
2. Delivery periods(2) will be determined by the LEC following the nomination period.
Boars and gilts must weigh at least 40 lb and not more than 80 lbs at delivery.—boars and gilts not in this weight range will not be accepted.
3. *Weight per day of age must fall between .60 lb/day and 1.20 lb/day.*
4. All pigs must be ear-notched for identification.
5. All pigs must have at least six functional nipples per side.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS :

1. At delivery:
 - a. All pigs must be accompanied by an official **certificate of veterinary inspection** issued by a licensed, accredited veterinarian certifying the pigs and herd of origin are free of any signs of infectious and/or contagious disease **and certifying that the herd of origin has been free of clinical and laboratory evidence of PRRS and/or circovirus infection during the period of 120 days prior to entry to the center.** ***Certificates of veterinary inspection for pigs originating from outside Pennsylvania must be faxed to (814) - 863-6140, Attention :Dr. Lester Griel, at least 48 hrs. prior to delivery of pigs to the Livestock Evaluation Center.**
 - b. **All pigs shall be immunized with an inactivated virus product licensed by the USDA at three weeks of age against circovirus.**
 - c. **All pigs shall meet the following pre-admission testing requirements conducted within 21 days of entry to the center:**
 1. **All pigs shall be negative to a PCR test on blood for PRRS.**
 2. **All pigs shall be negative to an ELISA blood test for PRRS.**
 3. All pigs must be negative to a blood test for Brucellosis and Aujeszky's Disease (PRV), regardless of whether they originated from herds that are Brucellosis-validated and/or Pseudorabies Qualified.

4. All pigs must be negative for Leptospirosis by the microscopic agglutination assay for the following serovars: *L. pomona*, *L. hardjo*, *L. grippothyphosa*, *L. canicola*, *L. icterohemorrhagica* and *L. Bratislava*. The interpretation of negative shall be made by the examining veterinarian in light of herd history and vaccination status of the animals. The attending veterinarian should be contacted if questions arise.

- c. *All pigs* must be treated for internal and external parasites prior to delivery to the LEC.
 - d. *Any pig* exhibiting signs of disease at delivery may be rejected.
 - e. *All pigs* are subject to **emergency** regulations which may be adopted between time of acceptance and time of delivery **by state or federal regulatory officials**.
 - f. Pigs *will not be accepted* from a farm vaccinating for PRV, and no PRV-vaccinated swine will be accepted for entry at the center. These statements must appear on the health charts.
 - g. Additional requirements may apply to Pigs originating from transitional herds.
 - h. **All pigs must be transported to the center directly from the farm of origin in vehicles that have been properly cleaned and sanitized. Multiple premises in a given geographic area may pool trucking responsibilities on any given delivery day provided that the trucks are owned and operated by one of the consignors.**
 - i. **Prior to the admission of any pigs to the center for a given test, the manure pit shall be emptied and the facility properly cleaned and disinfected with agents recommended for the control of PRRS virus.**
2. The Attending Veterinarian will oversee the health of the pigs while on test at the LEC. If, in the opinion of the veterinarian and LEC station manager, any hog becomes ill or injured to the extent that performance can no longer be accurately measured, or if there is a threat to the other hogs as a result of that condition, the animal will be removed from the LEC and disposed of according to the best interest of the owner.
3. After test:
- a. All boars and gilts eligible for sale will be blood tested and negative to Brucellosis and Aujeszky's Disease (Pseudorabies) within 30 days of the sale date.
 - b. An official certificate of veterinary inspection will be issued for each boar or gilt sold.
 - c. It is recognized that the sale could be cancelled or delayed by an outbreak of an infectious and/or contagious disease **including clinical evidence of PRRS infection at any point during the test.**

NOTE: For any questions concerning health requirements please contact the Attending Veterinarian: Lester C. Griel, Phone: 814-865-7697, email: leg1@psu.edu.

TESTING PROCEDURES:

1. There will be a minimum seven-day adjustment period before the test starts.
2. The *on-test weight* will be recorded when a pen averages 80 lbs, ± 5 lbs., or 14 days after arrival—whichever comes first.
Adjustment of average daily gain for on-test weight. Pigs with heavier on-test weights will gain faster than those with lighter starting weights. By adjusting for starting weight, the final indexes will provide a more appropriate representation of the pigs' genetic potential. The adjustment that is recommended by the National Swine Improvement Federation (NSIF) is as follows:
.005 lb/day for each pound above or below an on-test weight of 80 pounds (pigs with on-test weights less than 80 lbs will have a positive adjustment and vice versa).
3. Each pen will receive a special 18% protein ground stress ration for about two weeks, then a regular 18% protein pelleted ration for the next two weeks. After 30 days on test, all pigs will finish on a 16% protein pelleted ration. The Technical Committee will decide the formulation of the ration.
4. Pigs will be weighed every 14 days, and a progress report sent to the owner at least every other weight period.

5. No boars or gilts will be sold unless the official registration certificates, where applicable, have been provided to the test station manager prior to the sale.
6. The test will stop when pens of boars and gilts average 250 lbs, or about July 24—whichever comes first. Whenever possible, test results will be adjusted to 250 lb.
7. Final feed efficiency will be calculated for the individual pens at the end of the test. Appropriate adjustments will be made in case of death or disease loss.
8. Boars and gilts will be scanned at the end of test for fat thickness and loin-eye area.
9. Boars and gilts will be scored for underlines and feet and legs prior to the sale by the Sale Committee.
10. Hogs will be removed from test only upon the recommendation of the LEC Station Manager and attending Veterinarian.
11. Gene testing for stress will be available on an elective basis. The test station must be notified at least 30 days prior to the sale if testing is requested.
12. Allow producers to consign a pen of two or more gilts for each pen of boars that they have entered. Producers may consign either purebred or crossbred gilts.
13. A portion of the gilts will be sold during the Performance Tested Boar Sale. The sale committee will score the gilts for structural soundness and underline and will determine how many gilts to offer in the sale.
14. Rate of gain data will be reported for gilts, as well as ultrasound scan information.

I N D E X :

1. The following index is recommended by the National Swine Improvement Federation.
2. Boar Index = $100 + 52 X$ (boars daily gain - test group avg. daily gain) - $68 X$ (pen feed efficiency - avg. feed efficiency) - $92 X$ (boars backfat - test group avg. backfat).
3. Gilt Index will be the NSIF Gilt Index including feed efficiency
4. The average boar or gilt will index 100 points, so a boar or gilt indexing 110 points is 10% above average.

B O A R S A L E :

1. All hogs eligible for sale must be offered for sale. The following options for exclusion of boars from the sale are available to producers participating in the boar test program:
 - a. If a boar performs well enough to be selected as the *Hog College Boar* for the National Barrow Show.
 - b. If the consignor elects to exhibit a boar in another national show, or a state fair show and sale.
 In any case, each consignor may designate only one boar for exclusion from the LEC sale.
2. All breeds, including crossbred and F1 boars will be indexed together.
3. Additional hogs may be culled because of other considerations. Hogs must score at least satisfactory for feet and legs and at least satisfactory on underlines. The scoring system will be: *E* for Excellent, *S* for Satisfactory, and *U* for Unsatisfactory.
4. Boars and gilts not eligible for the Performance Tested Boar/Gilt Sale will be permitted to return home. *The consigner must notify the test station manager within two days after hogs are scored by the Sale Committee if the hogs are to be returned home. All other hogs will be marketed for slaughter approximately one week prior to the sale. Any no-sale hogs remaining at the test station at that time will be marketed for slaughter.*
5. **All Boars and Gilts offered for sale will be assessed a 10% Sales Commission on the final sale price. Boars and Gilts offered for Sale which do not receive a bid will be assessed a 10% Commission on the Minimum Bid Price. Boars and gilts offered for sale which do not receive a bid will remain the possession of the breeder.**
6. The Sale Committee's decision on all sale details will be final, including such items as number of boars and gilts to be sold, minimum sale price, and *minimum index*.

7. The following options for blood tests for Porcine Stress Syndrome (PSS) are available to producers participating in the boar test program:
 - a. If a boar on test is a registered Yorkshire, Hampshire, Duroc, or Landrace, the producer must abide by the rules set forth by the National Swine Registry (NSR). NSR states that boars must test negative or be guaranteed to test negative to the PSS gene prior to sale. If a boar tests positive after the sale, the consignor must refund the purchase price of the boar, as well as the costs of the blood test.
 - b. If a boar on test is not an NSR breed, the producer has the option of (1) abiding by NSR rules; or (2) making no claim as to the PSS status.
 - c. The PSS status of each boar and gilt will be listed in the sale catalog (test negative, guaranteed to test negative, or no claim as to PSS status).

The LEC will collect the blood sample and arrange for testing. However, registration papers, where applicable, for each hog designated for the blood test must be delivered to the LEC no later than July 5, 2012, and the producer must agree to reimburse LEC for all testing costs. If registration papers are not received by July 5, the respective hogs will not be tested.

TESTING COSTS:

1. A \$25 per pig nomination fee will be applied to the testing cost for all pigs that are delivered. Anyone 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.
2. Sixty-five (\$65) dollars per pig will be due when the pigs are delivered. The owner will be billed for any required additional funds.
3. 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.
4. A yardage fee of \$.12/day/hog will be charged to help offset miscellaneous testing costs such as postage, telephone, and office supplies. The swine check-off fee also will be deducted for each hog sold through the Performance-tested Sale.
5. A Veterinary labor charge may be assessed per pig.
6. Feed costs for each pen will be recorded and deducted from the owner's account.
7. Out-of-state participants will also be charged a fee for labor and facilities commensurate with the total testing costs. The amount (approximately \$10/hog) will be determined by the LEC station manager.
8. All sale expenses such as advertising, auctioneer, and catalogs will be determined as a percentage of the sale gross and deducted from the selling price of each hog sold.
9. 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 sale date.

TEST RESULTS:

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

BOAR/ GILT TEST NOMINATION FORM
PENNSYLVANIA LIVESTOCK EVALUATION CENTER

PLEASE PRINT

Owner's name _____ Telephone _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Breed _____

Date you most recently participated in a boar or progeny testing program _____

*E-mail address _____

Veterinarian's Name/Address/Phone number _____

Pens of Boars you would like to test? _____ containing 3 Boars per pen

Pens of Gilts you would like to test? _____ containing _____ Gilts per pen (2 or more/pen)

TESTING AGREEMENT

Upon acceptance of any of my animals for testing at the Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center, I, the owner, do hereby accept full and complete responsibility and liability for my animals during all phases of the program, including pretest, official test, post-test, and sale. I have read and agree to abide by the rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of the program, both 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, 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 participation in the program, including, but not limited to, the sale of the animals.

(owner's signature)

(date)

Nomination Date: January 1 through February 15, 2012

Nomination Fee: \$25/pig (due with this form)

Nominations must be accompanied by check.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO P.P.P.C. BOAR TESTING FUND

Send nomination fee and form to:

PA Department of Agriculture
Livestock Evaluation Center
1494 West Pine Grove Road
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865

(E-mail: ghubbard@state.pa.us)