

# Market hog evaluation guide published by NPPC

After two years of work by swine and meat specialists from 13 states, a new uniform guide for evaluating market hogs is being released by the National Pork Producers Council.

"Procedures to Evaluate Market Hogs" is a 20-page

booklet produced by the NPPC in cooperation with the American Meat Science Association, animal geneticists, animal scientists and related industry personnel from across the country. Most of the work on the procedures was done by

NPPC's Evaluation Coordination Committee.

"For some years there has been a growing demand for a uniform system of evaluation. A system where the basic figures from production and carcass test information could be inserted and information obtained for comparison and industry improvement," J. Marvin Garner, NPPC executive vice president and chairman of the committee, said.

"The committee has presented this procedure as not the ultimate or perfect system, but as a basis from which we hope to assist the pork industry in developing a better system."

Dr. R. G. Kauffman, meat specialist with the University of Wisconsin and committee member, explained that the intent of the

guidelines is to identify market pigs that excel in both production efficiency and carcass desirability.

"The procedures include methods for combining production records, live visual appraisal and carcass characteristics," Kauffman said. "It is believed that such an approach will measure excellence in genetic improvement and practical swine management. It should also improve the efficiency of administering contests, especially in the collection and interpretation of carcass data."

Kauffman added that the guidelines should also supplement efforts presently being made to improve market pigs through on-the-farm testing, central testing stations, breed improvement programs, live-carcass competitions of excellence

## Questionable sales made

Reports have been received by EPA that high-pressure telephone salesmen have been misrepresenting the use and quality of Federally - registered products in soliciting sales of pesticides, mostly herbicides, to farmers.

These practices started as early as March 1974 and have been intensified in first one state and then another. Their unsubstantiated claims included assurances that the product could be used with crops, would provide at best three to six

years of weed control, and they failed to indicate that the product was in diluted strength.

Most farmers who ordered the herbicides, or agreed to take them, found upon delivery that the label did not confirm the claims of the telephone salesman. In practically every instance the label specifically read for "non-crop" use.

Reports received to date indicate that sales promotions have been directed in the State of New York, West Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Arizona, California, and Nevada.

In most cases, the products are Federally registered and the labeling complies with the requirements for ingredients of the pesticide product. State permits to sell the product have been obtained by the distributors. The manufacturers are apparently not involved, only the distributors who obviously are operating paper companies under more than one name and sometimes with the same officers and address.

The salesmen decline to give the names or location of the distributor they represent, to leave their telephone number or to furnish printed information on their product.

It is impossible for legal action to be taken without documentation, which is only verbal contact between salesman and farmer.

The best way for a farmer to insure that he is not "taken" by these deceptive practices is to follow these rules: 1. Read the label before purchasing. 2. Order only from a known dealer or a responsible catalogue company.

and other evaluation activities.

"The information provided in the guidelines is not the final answer to market pig evaluation," Kauffman said. "It is a reflection of opinions collectively agreed upon by several representatives of the industry, supplemented by suggestions from producers, meat processors and educators. As the industry progresses and new information becomes available to support the need for changes, revisions will be made."

The guidelines feature a four-page, full-color center-section illustrating loin eye area and fat depth at sixth and tenth rib, backfat thickness, seam fat scores, marbling scores, color scores and a skinned defatted ham. Also included is a recommended data collection form.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of "Procedures to Evaluate Market Hogs" should write the NPPC at 4715 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312. The price per copy is 80 cents. The full-color center-section is also available in volume numbers of 10 or more at 10 cents each.

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