

## Del. boar sale Tuesday

NEWARK, Del. — Delaware's 1981 Boar Test — which is sponsored jointly by the Delaware Pork Producers Association and the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service — ends with a sale on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 a.m. at the state fairgrounds in Harrington.

The test officially began May 7. Data collected during the test period show that the 36 boars which finished had an average daily gain of 1.94 pounds per day, a feed efficiency of 2.54 pounds of feed per pound of gain, and backfat thickness averaging .68 inches.

The leading pen of boars was 4 Yorkshires owned by Edwards and Edwards of Rich Square, North Carolina. This pen had a feed conversion of 2.36 pounds of feed per pound of gain and a daily gain of 2.2 pounds. The high individual pig this year also came from the Edwards' pen. This boar had an index of 145, indicating that he was 15 percent better than the test average.

The pigs were evaluated for soundness of feet and legs as well as underlines. Boars that do not pass the soundness test are culled. The minimum index is 90 for a boar to make the sale. Boars represented in the sale are Chester White, Duroc, Spots and Yorkshire.

A good performance tested boar can improve the economics of swine production. The purpose of the Delaware test is to identify such animals and make them available to local producers. "Dollars invested in a boar to improve feed efficiency alone can return one and a half to two times the purchase price of the boar," says University of Delaware extension livestock specialist Richard Fowler, who supervised the trial.

"Careful selection and mating of offspring can result in feed savings and faster growth rates for the entire herd within a three year period," says Fowler. "A good boar is an investment, not an expense."

For a catalog of sale boars contact: Extension Livestock Specialist, Agricultural Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711; 302-738-2523.



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