

Boar Testing Program Under Way

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.)— Pennsylvania's official boar testing program is under way. There are 19 pens of four boars each, which are placed on test from swine producers throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

This year there are nine pens of Yorkshires; four pens of Hampshires; two pens of Durocs; and one pen each of Berkshires, Chester Whites, Landrace and Spotted boars.

The four boars in a pen must be by one sire and out of one or two litters. The small boars must be delivered between 40 and 65 pounds and prior to reaching 80 days of age. They are given either a 7- or 14-day adjustment period, depending on their size and then they are weighed on official test.

Once on test, the pigs have unlimited access to a self-feeder. The boars are weighed every 14 days and a progress report is generated for average daily gain, lifetime weight per day of age, and pen feed efficiency.

When the pen average weight reaches 230 pounds, the pen is taken off test and the boars are hand-fed and exercised daily. The boars will have their final average daily gain calculated and ratioed, the days to 230 pounds will be computed, and a final pen feed efficiency and ratio will be determined.

The boars will all be ultrasonically scanned to determine their backfat thickness and loin eye area. A percent lean cuts value

will be determined for each boar and they will have to meet minimum requirements for soundness, underline, and scrotal development.

Each boar will have his final index calculated for his average daily gain, feed efficiency, and backfat thickness. After all the evaluations, the top 40 to 50 boars will be selected to be sold in Pennsylvania's 13th performance

tested boar sale. The sale is scheduled for the Wednesday evening of Ag Progress Days, August 15, 1990 at 6:00 p.m. The sale will be held in the Ag Arena on the Penn State Campus.

The boars are gaining at a record pace so far on test. The 32 boars that have completed their testing period have come off test maintaining an outstanding average ADG of 2.25 pounds per day.

A pen of Yorkshire boars have already completed the test and set a new record for pen average daily gain. The average for this pen's daily gain through the entire test was 2.50 pounds per day.

For more information on the boars on test or the boar sale, contact Glenn Eberly, director, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16803, (814) 238-2527.

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