

The objective is to develop, without elaborate feeding, the kind of animal that performs well and produces a desirable carcass under commercial conditions. The test ends when the litter mates reach an approximate average weight of 90 kg.

Test results are presented in a report containing the following information:

- (1) owners name and address;
- (2) identity of sire;
- (3) identity of dam;
- (4) identity of individual test animal;
- (5) average daily gain (ADG) on test;
- (6) age adjusted to 90 kg live weight;
- (7) backfat thickness measured ultrasonically and adjusted to 90 kg live weight;
- (8) feed consumed per 1 kg live gain;
- (9) index of boar — the boar is ranked within the breed using a 12 month rolling average.

Before the boar is allowed to re-enter the domestic herd, he must attain an index of 100 or better (based on a rolling 12 month index of the breed), be of good type, free of physical defects and test negatively to PSS. Boars failing to meet any of these requirements are slaughtered. Those that do meet the requirements are either sold by auction or returned to the herd of origin.

B. Home Herd Testing

(1) Performance Testing

All breeders testing their stock in the government test stations must also carry out the home herd test. Testing of all potential breeding stock (boars and gilts) must be submitted by the breeder, for weighing

and backfat measurement, to ensure proper comparisons. The program is jointly administered by federal and provincial departments of agriculture. Breeders are visited on a regular basis by a provincial government swine technician who weighs boars and gilts and ultrasonically measures backfat thickness. The traits evaluated are adjusted backfat to 90 kg live weight, adjusted age to

90 kg live weight and average daily gain. The program is standardized across Canada.

Agriculture Canada enters the home test data on computer and issues reports to the breeder every three months, listing the following information:

- (a) average weight of litter for each parent probed, recorded by sire and dam with breed indicated;



Weighing and probing for home test