

a herd health program that is supervised by the provincial governments. As well, extensive health surveys are conducted and maintained on a continuing basis, by Agriculture Canada health inspectors, through the sampling of blood from mature swine at all federal government inspected slaughter plants. This provides continuing, up-to-date monitoring of the health of the Canadian herd.

All tests required by a country importing swine from Canada are performed by Agriculture Canada's veterinarians, or practicing veterinarians accredited by the department, with samples and specimens tested only at an Agriculture Canada laboratory.

This painstaking application of modern veterinary science enables the most discriminating importers to buy from the Canadian herd with complete confidence in the health of their purchases.

# Performance Testing

Swine testing in Canada was inaugurated in 1928. Since 1937, the industry has had access to a uniform national station testing system that provides breeders with a sound basis for the assessment of their breeding stock. This system is known as the National Record of Performance (ROP) Swine Testing Program. The program consists of three parts: station testing, home performance testing and sow productivity.

The program is voluntary; however, it is virtually impossible in Canada today to sell a purebred breeding animal without performance records. At present, all of the Canadian purebred herds are in the testing program.

## A. Station Testing

Station testing is carried out in one of seven Agriculture Canada test

stations throughout Canada. These test stations are operated and managed solely by Agriculture Canada employees and all stations are operated in the same manner and style of management. This uniformity provides the opportunity to compare results on a national basis.

Station testing is designed to assess boar performance and determine his comparative merit. Two litter mates are sent to a test station and are fed a standard pre-test ration until they reach an approximate average weight of 30 kg, at which time they enter the test. The two litter mates (penned together on concrete flooring) are then put on a nationally standardized test ration — eating and drinking at will from self-feeding and self-watering containers in each pen.

## 1983 Station Tested Boar Performance Summaries

### National Breed Averages

BREED	NO. BOAR	ADJUSTED AGE	ADJUSTED AVERAGE BACKFAT	AVERAGE DAILY GAIN	FEED CONSUMED PER KG LIVE GAIN
Yorkshire	1851	152	13.3	0.85	2.54
Landrace	1268	152	13.5	0.83	2.62
Lacombe	124	143	15.6	0.91	2.50
Hampshire	147	157	12.1	0.84	2.55
Duroc Jersey	334	153	13.2	0.82	2.55
Commercial	61	153	12.3	0.82	2.56
Spot	72	156	13.7	0.81	2.74
<b>TOTAL Boars</b>	<b>3857</b>				