

August 2001

Devices used to Measure Fat Content in Animal Carcasses – Update

By: Dick Suiter

On July 11, 2001, ASTM sponsored an organizational meeting at the DoubleTree Downtown Hotel in Kansas City, MO, to continue the determination of the standards necessary for devices used to measure fat content in animal carcasses and to discuss the scope and title for the activity. Representatives from ASTM, the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, Animal research Center, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, NIST, NCWM, three State Departments of Agriculture, two State Universities, producers, producer associations, several meat packing companies and device manufactures attended the meeting. There were a total of 22 individuals in attendance. During the meeting, the name and scope of the committee were developed, four subcommittees were formed, Chairs of the subcommittees were selected and two Task Groups were formed. The structure and scope is as follows:

Title: ASTM Committee F 10 on Livestock, Meat, and Poultry Evaluation Systems

Subcommittees:

F 10.10 Design Specifications; Richard Suiter, Chair

F 10.20 Device Performance Criteria; Darryl Brown, Chair

F 10.30 User Requirements; Duane Short, Chair

F 10.40 Predictive Accuracy; Dave Meisinger, Chair

Task Group for Executive Committee Officers: John Edmonds, Ray Bjornson, Mohammad Koohmaraie

Task Group for Bylaws: Drew Azzara, James Vanderwielen

Scope: The Committee will develop standards for livestock, meat, and poultry evaluation systems. The work of this Committee will be coordinated with other organizations and governmental entities having mutual interests.

The group was unanimously in favor of continuing the effort under the organization of ASTM.

Another meeting may be scheduled later in the year to review progress of the Subcommittee and Task Groups. That meeting again is to be held somewhere in the Midwest to facilitate attendance by user and producer groups and other interested parties.

For additional background on this issue see the February 2001 issue of the Weights & Measures Quarterly. To be added to the list of interested parties, contact Dick Suiter (NIST) by e-mail at rsuiter@nist.gov or by phone at (301) 975-4406.