



July 15, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

# **O.I. Awarded \$50,000 USDA Grant**

Osborne Industries, Inc. was recently awarded a \$50,000 research grant by the United States Department of Agriculture. The grant funds are provided by the Department's Small Business Innovation Research Project.

According to O.I. Technical Director, Ron Bates, the grant will fund the development of an automated swine weighing system.

The automated weighing system, Bates explained, will be designed to assist swine producers in reducing the cost of production and help them to meet increased packer demands by providing timely, individual animal weight information while minimizing labor inputs.

Bates further explained, "Feed costs account for 60% of the cost of production and improving feed program management can provide far reaching improvements to the profitability of swine operations. Secondly, packing firms, who purchase and process pork for consumption, financially penalize producers for animals not meeting specified weight guidelines."

Research for the project will be conducted at the Company's Swine Demonstration Farm located just south of Osborne.

Upon completion of the research, O.I. will be eligible for a \$250,000 follow-up commercialization grant, according to O.I. Vice-President of Marketing and Engineering, Ron Thibault.

USDA officials report that of the 428 Small Business Innovation Research Project grant applications submitted in 1995, O.I.'s research proposal was one of only 63 grants awarded by the Department.

O.I. is a leading manufacturer of a growing array of innovative products for agriculture and industry.

---

**Osborne Public Relations**

---

P.O. Box 388 • Osborne, KS 67473 • Ph: 785-346-2192 • Fax: 785-346-2194  
Email: [mkt@osborne-ind.com](mailto:mkt@osborne-ind.com) • Web: [www.osborne-ind.com](http://www.osborne-ind.com)