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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FIRE<sup>®</sup> Testing Now Easier with Windows<sup>®</sup>**

Osborne Industries, Inc. announces the release of its new, more versatile, Windows<sup>®</sup>-based WinFIRE<sup>™</sup> software. FIRE<sup>®</sup> performance testing is used by leading commercial research facilities and universities worldwide.

The introduction of the WinFIRE software makes the FIRE (Feed Intake Recording Equipment) system a completely mature performance testing application, according to Company spokesmen. Researchers can now automatically collect measurements of individual feed intake, body weights, and other performance characteristics for genetic, feed, and pharmaceutical testing even easier with WinFIRE than with earlier DOS programs. The WinFIRE program was written exclusively by Osborne and has been thoroughly tested and approved by independent users worldwide.

The WinFIRE software delivers a long list of new features that greatly expand the range of useful performance testing information, according to the Company.

First, the WinFIRE data is presented in a new graphical format as it is collected, permitting the operator to easily see data trends as they develop. This real time presentation makes it much easier to understand the data, spot exceptional animals, and see and diagnose operating problems quickly if they occur.

Second, a whole range of new data management tools makes the WinFIRE data much easier to view and to understand in detail. The usual FIRE reports include many new adjustable filters to sort the information from the inevitable "noise". Improved off-test, backup/restore, data import/export, and diagnostics utilities make this program much easier to learn and to use. WinFIRE also manages the daily body-weight measurements from the ACCU-ARM<sup>®</sup> weigh race in a much improved way to make this information easier to use and understand.

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— more —

Finally, the WinFIRE program is now fully integrated with the VIA (Visual Image Analysis) system, recently developed for Osborne by Silsoe Research Institute

“Our goal for Year 2000 is to release all our automated electronic management (EARS™) applications with new Windows-compatible user interfaces. We are right on schedule,” explains Ron Thibault, VP Marketing & Engineering. “The FIRE system has become the worldwide standard for performance testing of individual animals kept in groups. Creating the WinFIRE program simplifies and streamlines FIRE testing. Now we are working to simplify the hardware so even commercial producers can economically track the performance of their animals”.

Osborne Industries is a diversified manufacturer of innovative products for agriculture and industry.

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