

## Topigs Norsvin growth continues

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*New View Swine*



*Stanley Pork Ltd.*



*Moline Pork under construction*

The demand for the TN70 gilt continues in all parts of Canada and the world. The high level of interest in the TN70 comes from her reputation and success as a female that will farrow and wean large litters of robust pigs, all on her own without the use of foster sows. Her influence continues in the growing / finishing

pigs as she will contribute \$3.00-\$5.00 per pig in efficiency and grading. To better supply and serve the domestic market Topigs Norsvin Canada is establishing three new multiplication farms with a total of 4,800 sows. Located in bio-secure areas, two farms are in Manitoba while the third farm is in Ontario.

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**Stanley Pork Ltd.** – is a 1,500-sow farrow-wean unit in southern Manitoba just 6 kilometers from the USA border. Owned by Jeroen van Boekel, the newly renovated barn features the Maximus – ESF group sow gestation system and Maximus ventilation. The barn also features new Van-Osch farrowing crates and Nooyen flooring from Holland. The farm was stocked with the Topigs Norsvin Z-line gilts and will produce TN70 gilts. Farrowing will begin in December 2019 and TN70 gilts will be available in June 2020.

Jeroen has a wealth of experience with Topigs Norsvin products in other farms he currently owns and has previous multiplication experience.



Group gestation at Stanley Pork

**Moline Pork Ltd.** – is a new 1,100-sow farrow-wean unit owned by Wim and Marlies Verbruggen and family. Located in north-western Manitoba, the new construction features the Royal building system and Maximus – ESF group sow gestation system and Maximus ventilation. Farrowing equipment and floors are being supplied by Crystal Spring Hog Equipment.

The unit will be stocked with Topigs Norsvin Z-line gilts and produce TN70 gilts. Breeding of the new gilts is scheduled to begin in January 2020. The barn is totally self-contained and has its own Gilt Developer Unit. Under the Topigs Norsvin InGene program, only semen will be introduced for the internal production of Z-line replacements.

The new barn features a fully filtered positive pressure ventilation system that is controlled by Maximus Solutions Controls, for herd bio-security. The gestation area will have air operated freedom stalls from Caris Welding Ltd., allowing sows free access in groups of 24 sows. The farrowing crates will have the sow-lift feature to reduce pre-weaning mortality. Once populated, the herd will be totally closed to live animals and operate under the Topigs Norsvin InGene program. An attached Gilt Developer Unit (GDU) will house the replacement gilts. Breeding of the new gilts is scheduled to begin in January 2020.



Moline Pork under construction



New View filtration



New View Gestation



New View farrowing

**New View Swine Ltd.** – is a new 2,200 sow farrow-wean unit located near Seaforth, Ontario. Owned by Steve and Leslie Forman and family, this is their second multiplier barn in the Topigs Norsvin system. The Forman's have owned and operated Venture View Swine (700 sows) as a Topigs Norsvin multiplier since 2010.



# 2019 Topigs Norsvin Canada awards dinners



*Record attendance at the Topigs Norsvin dinners*

Winnipeg, Manitoba and Stratford, Ontario are the two locations that are “a buzz” in November of each year when we say a special “Thank-you” to our many customers by inviting everyone to one of two annual Customer Appreciation & Awards Dinners. This year was no exception. The attendance at the annual awards dinners continues to grow. This year each location had record attendance of about 250 guests each.

The highlight of the evening is the annual awards presentation. “But it’s about more than just awards,” said John Sawatzky Sales Manager for Canada. “The evening allows our customers to meet many other customers and discuss any topics they want, and to learn about what their neighbor is doing.”

Cam McGavin, General Manager of Topigs Norsvin Canada, gave a presentation on the new developments occurring in Canada this year. “We have been working hard to get new multipliers up and running due to a lack of supply and a high demand for the TN70 female. With three new multiplier farms totaling 4,800 sows, we should have somewhat of a gilt supply” said McGavin. He continued his presentation by explaining how these new farms will help fill holes in inventory, which will allow for sales to continue and grow. The final topic of the presentation was focused on two new developments that will help with biosecurity. The first development is the new Topigs Norsvin filtered boar trailer being created by Cuppers in The Netherlands. The second development is Steve’s Livestock’s new Heat Treatment Facility which is being constructed along Highway #1 east of Winnipeg; a low pig density and low pig traffic area. Topigs Norsvin is the largest swine breeding company in Canada with solid growth continuing due to the performance of our genetics and the Topigs Norsvin Innovative Research & Development program.

Peter van Kemenade (Director, North America and South America) was the guest speaker at the Stratford dinner. Peter gave an overview of what he has seen in his travels around the world - particularly the Chinese market. “The growth of Topigs Norsvin isn’t isolated to

Canada; we see it everywhere globally” he said. “Doing business with 35% of the Pork Powerhouses in the USA is an achievement.” The world is changing and more of the sows are in fewer hands. So being able to supply the big systems is important.

This year again, Topigs Norsvin customers achieved outstanding results. In 2018 there were 20 herds across Canada achieving over 30 pigs weaned / mated female / year with an average of 31.06 PSY. In 2019 there were 22 herds over 30 PSY with an average of 31.25 PSY! This year, the SMS Benchmarking data included a record number of 103 farms with 98,703 sows from Canada and Montana, with herd sizes averaging 958 sows per farm, including new start-up herds.

This year the average for the best 13 herds (12.6%) exceeded 31 pigs weaned / mated female / year. Of the 103 farms, 93 farms are weaning more than 25 pigs / sow / year. Topigs Norsvin customer herds continue to achieve better results year on year.

The summary of the 2019 production award winners and runner-up winners - listed by category.

## Herds <500 sows

<b>Farrowing Rate</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>	
Winner	Hihojo Farm (ON)	92.4%	Keho Lake Colony (AB)	97.17%
Runner-up	Tenth Line Swine Inc (ON)	90.4%	VDK Farms (AB)	92.90%
<b>Pigs Born Alive/Litter</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>	
Winner	Silver Corners Inc (ON)	14.90	Pembina Hog Farm (MB)	14.75
Runner-up	Hihojo Farm (ON)	14.76	Cool Spring Colony (MB)	14.62
<b>Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>	
Winner	Silver Corners Inc (ON)	32.98	Cool Spring Colony (MB)	33.10
Runner-up	Hihojo Farm (ON)	31.07	Keho Lake Colony (AB)	32.04

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### Herds of 501-1200 sows

Farrowing Rate	East		West	
Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS)	92.9%	Evergreen Colony (MB)	96.0%
Runner-up	RFW Lone Pine (ON)	91.6%	Trileaf Colony (MB)	94.8%
Pigs Born Alive/Litter	East		West	
Winner	VandeBruinhorst (ON)	14.54	Evergreen Colony (MB)	15.42
Runner-up	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS)	14.52	Starlite Colony (MB)	14.99
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	East		West	
Winner	VandeBruinhorst (ON)	31.59	Evergreen Colony (MB)	33.43
Runner-up	A-C DeGroot Farms (ON)	30.83	Starlite Colony (MB)	31.70



### Herds >1200 sows

Farrowing Rate	East		West	
Winner	Kevlin Farms (ON)	91.1%	Sunnybrook Swine Site 2 (MB)	93.4%
Runner-up	Stonywood (ON)	91.1%	Sunnybrook Swine Inc Site 1 (MB)	92.8%
	Tuckersmith Pork Ltd (ON)	90.9%		
Pigs Born Alive/Litter	East		West	
Winner	J & B-Greenway (ON)	14.16	Morris Piglets South (MB)	14.19
Runner-up	RFW Burnside (ON)	14.02	Morris Piglets North (MB)	14.05
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	East		West	
Winner	RFW Burnside (ON)	31.47	Super Gro Gilts 1A (MB)	29.68
Runner-up	Corner Ridge Farms Ltd (ON)	31.01	Quinfield Farms LTD (MB)	29.52



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Morris Piglets - North & South - over 14 born alive



Corner Ridge Farms -31.01 PSY



Super Gro Gilts 1A - 29.68 PSY



Quinfield Farms - 29.52 PSY

This year the 26+ Club Award was presented to 87 farms with a total of over 88,000 sows! This award is presented to the herds producing more than 26.0 pigs weaned / mated female / year. The average result from the winners in this year's 26+ Club was 28.81 pigs weaned / mated female / year. The award recognizes the

excellent work of customers in attaining these numbers and demonstrates the genetic potential of Topigs Norsvin breeding stock. The Topigs Norsvin Canada team thanks all of our loyal customers and looks forward to continuing to contribute to this pursuit of excellence.

## Skylab expansion

Topigs Norsvin USA and AiPartners are pleased to announce the expansion of the Skylab boar stud near Morris, MN.

Skylab is currently a 335-boar facility (including isolation), and is exclusively Topigs Norsvin genetics. This number will double to 670 boars with the addition of a second barn at the same location. "We're excited about the expansion," commented Bruce Zierke, co-owner of AiPartners. "Because the first barn is working so well, the new barn will be identical in design to the first." The new barn is targeted to begin stocking in February 2020.

Skylab is a joint venture between AiPartners and Topigs Norsvin USA that began production in 2015. "Building on our strong success with AiPartners at Skylab over the past four years, we made the decision to double the operation at the site," described Les Cain, COO for Topigs Norsvin USA. "We have every confidence that we will continue to build business with our partner given their dedication to providing Topigs Norsvin and our customers with first class product and service."

"Topigs Norsvin genetics are performing very well for our customers," added Bruce. "The combination of a great genetic product, with the highest quality semen and service, makes for a great partnership."

**AiPartners**  
 Collection & delivery service.



Skylab expansion

# Swine Management Systems (SMS) 2018/2019

Topigs Norsvin recently completed its annual reproduction benchmarking with Swine Management Systems (SMS), and our customers demonstrated +1.77 pigs weaned / mated female advantage compared to the SMS industry average. Topigs Norsvin females further differentiated themselves in terms of sow death loss (7.2% Topigs Norsvin vs. 9.9% SMS average).

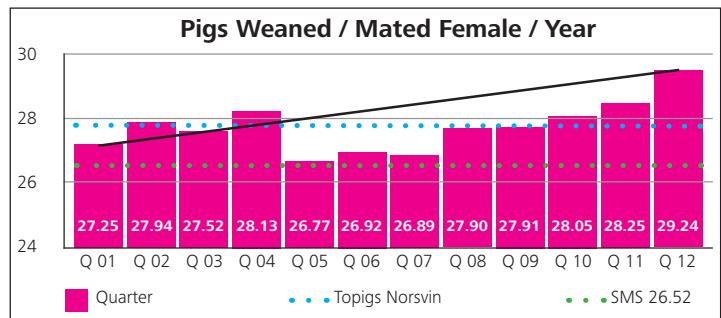
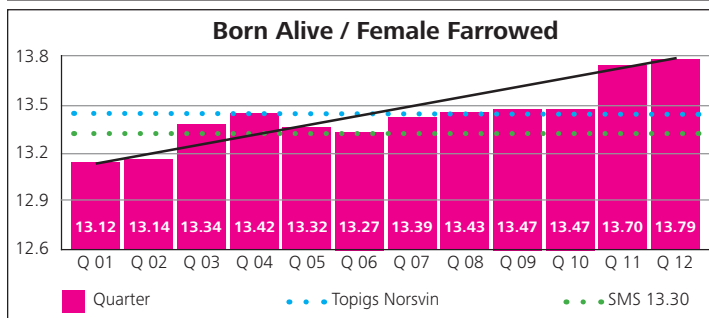
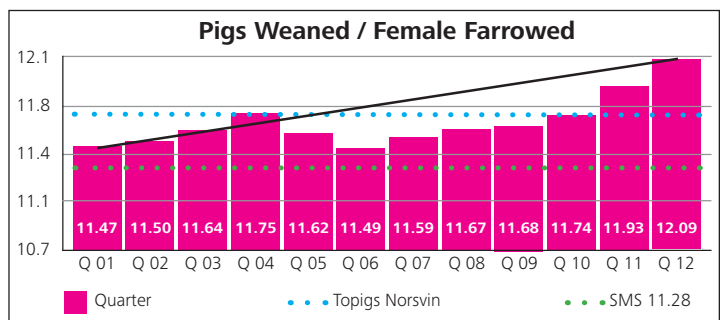
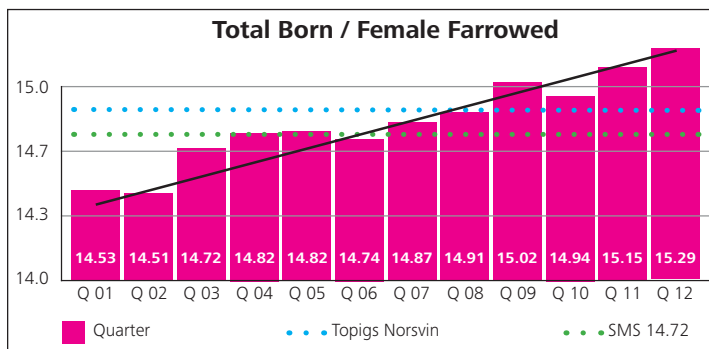
The SMS database includes data from 814 farms and 1,485,009 sows throughout the USA and Canada. For the 2018/2019 benchmarking, the list of participating Topigs Norsvin customers has grown to include 139 farms and 159,600 sows.

Report	# farms	# sows	52-week Q3, 2018 - Q2, 2019				
			Total born	Live born	weaned / mf / year	pre-wean mortality	sow death loss
SMS - all	814	1,485,009	14.85	13.40	26.59	14.9%	9.9%
Topigs Norsvin CAN/USA - all	139	159,600	15.10	13.61	28.36	12.6%	7.2%
TN CAN/USA - multipliers	17	13,833	15.74	13.89	28.72	12.1%	7.0%

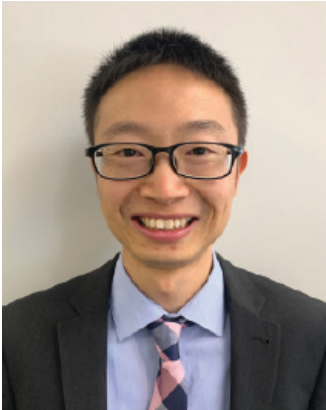
"We continue to see steady growth in Total Born, Live Born, and Number of Pigs Weaned," commented John Sawatzky, Director of Sales for Topigs Norsvin Canada. "Our numbers continue to improve year-on-year, but the trendlines demonstrate that Topigs Norsvin has these products pointed in the right direction." The products John is referring to include Topigs Norsvin's grandparent Large White (Z-line) as well as their flagship parent female, the TN70.

Topigs Norsvin customers enjoy significantly better than average performance in terms of both pre-weaning mortality and sow death loss as well, including the multipliers. Customers using the TN70 also report improvements in both finisher performance and carcass cut-outs.

Participation in the SMS benchmarking program is provided by Topigs Norsvin to its customers twice per year at no cost. Customers receive detailed reports, including a wide variety of reproduction metrics, and performance trendlines for each sow farm in their production system. The benchmarking reports allow customers to compare their production to industry averages, and also provide an anonymous comparison to other Topigs Norsvin customers using the same products.



# Key appointment enhances Topigs Norsvin's R & D team



Topigs Norsvin Canada is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Victor Lei as Research and Development Manager. Dr. Lei's responsibilities will be to oversee Topigs Norsvin Canada's Research and Development activities, initiating improvements in the genetic and product development program, and directly overseeing the quality of data collection, including CT scanning. He will maximize the viewing experience for clients and other visitors to

Topigs Norsvin's state-of-the-art Delta Canada boar testing station. He will also further develop strong links and collaborations with Canadian universities and other industry partners.

Originally, from China, Dr. Lei completed his undergraduate degree in Animal Science, and his Masters degree in Animal Genetics and Breeding at Sichuan Agricultural University, China. During this time

he worked with industry people on meat quality measurements and animal breeding theory interpretation. Recently, he received his PhD degree in Animal Science from University of Alberta, Canada, focusing on "Impact of genetics on meat quality of pigs and beef cattle." Dr. Lei's interests include; Animal Genetics, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Carcass and Meat Quality, Molecular Genetics, Muscle Biology, Proteomics, Quantitative Genetics, and Statistics.

Dr. Lei has published many peer reviewed papers in a variety of distinguished international journals. He has over eleven years of experience working with farm animals (pigs and cattle), which gave him the passion for working in the swine industry. "It is my great honour to join Topigs Norsvin, the world's most innovative swine genetics company, and I am eager to interact with people at Topigs Norsvin, as well as our customers and cooperative partners. I am committed to continuously learning and growing with the company to achieve the highest level of my ability and potential." Dr. Lei will be based in Winnipeg at the Topigs Norsvin Canada head office, but will have a direct link to Topigs Norsvin's International Research Group.

# Topigs Norsvin summer internship program – Josh Ulbricht



Josh Ulbricht of Jackson, Minnesota is in his junior year at the University of Minnesota -Twin Cities working toward a double-major in Animal Science and Ag Business. Josh grew up on a small nursery-to-finish swine operation and spent six weeks this past summer working on-farm to collect data for a Topigs Norsvin research project.

"After I graduate, I hope to stay in the Midwest and work in the financial sector of the commercial

livestock industry" Josh shared. "I look forward to building strong ties in the swine genetics industry, and appreciate the opportunity to perform independent, hands-on research during my internship at Topigs Norsvin."

Josh's friends and colleagues at Topigs Norsvin USA thank him for his hard work this summer and wish him the best as he completes his undergraduate education.

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**Carlo Genetics Inc.**  
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**C & M Genetics**  
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(888) 259-7594

**Sunrise Genetics**  
Amherst, NS  
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## Topigs Norsvin Insider Quiz

### How to Play

Please answer the questions in our Insider Quiz. All the answers are in this newsletter. Then fax, mail or email your answers, along with your name, address, and phone number to:  
Fax: 204-489-3152  
Email: info@topignorsvin.ca

Entries are to be received by **January 31, 2020**. The first 10 entries drawn with the correct answers will receive a \$20.00 gift card. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver the prize. Employees of Topigs Norsvin and their subsidiaries are not eligible.

### Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners

Winners from the Fall 2019 issue will receive a \$20.00 gift card. Here are the winners from the last issue: Nelson Smith - Smith Farms - PEI; Tiffany Duncan - Beck Farms - NS; Jerry Hofer - New York Farming - AB; Sammy Wipf - Rockport Farms - SD; Robbie Alverson - Fiedler Finishing - MN; Lorraine Waldner - Eagle Creek Colony - MB; Gerhard Hofer - Horizon Colony - MB; George Wollman - Ponteix Farming Co. Ltd. - SK; Mary Ann Waldner - New Rockport Colony - AB; Mark Zekveld - Oinkspektations - ON. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!

1. How many multiplication sows are being added in Topigs Norsvin Canada? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is the newly appointed Research & Development Manager for Topigs Norsvin Canada? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many herds in the SMS Benchmarking program weaned over 30 PSY? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many total sows (Canada & USA) were in the most recent SMS Benchmarking? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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