



Villaume Kal, CEO

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Topigs Norsvin appoints new CEO

Topigs Norsvin is pleased to announce the appointment of Villaume Kal (49) as its new CEO. He will make up the Board of Directors of Topigs Norsvin alongside the current directors, Cor van Hertrooij (CFO) and Hans Olijslagers (CTO). The Dutch Mr. Villaume Kal starts in his new position on March 16, 2020 and will succeed Martin Bijl, who left Topigs Norsvin in 2019.

Previously Villaume Kal was CEO of NIZO, one of the world's leading companies in contract research for better food and health. Earlier in his career, he was CEO of Rousselot, part of Darling Ingredients. Before that, he held various management and executive positions at Royal DSM.

"We are very pleased with the appointment of Villaume Kal. He brings over 25 years of international experience in commercial and operational excellence, next to strategy and business development," Mark Tijssen, chairman of the supervisory board, stated. "His knowledge of the Chinese and North American market is of great value and will help Topigs Norsvin to further develop these key regions."

"I look forward and feel privileged to contribute to the success of Topigs Norsvin," commented Villaume Kal. "It is an honor to become CEO of this innovative world leader in swine genetics, and successfully utilizing the market potential of the company and its innovative powers makes this position very attractive."

Our five focus areas

Topigs Norsvin is more than the best genetics. With a comprehensive international research department and a technical services team, our customers can fall back on unsurpassable knowledge and support and tailor-made solutions. We rapidly and efficiently deliver the best genetics available and help our clients to maximize the potential of our products.

The Topigs Norsvin research and technical service teams work in five platforms:



Reproduction

In this platform, our researchers develop and aggregate knowledge about male and female fertility. The technical services team advises on best practices for on-farm fertility. This leads to more effective and faster distribution of superior genes and better fertility results. They also help AI centers to be cost-efficient and quality-oriented.

Robustness and Animal Welfare

The research program on robustness and animal welfare contributes to the breeding of robust pigs that perform without production dips. Pigs that can cope with challenges. Achieving higher animal welfare is one of the goals. Our veterinarians advise producers and other partners on health and biosecurity, and they facilitate in the genetic dissemination process.

Feed and Feed Efficiency

The feed and feeding platform technical service team develop feed formulation and feeding strategies. The obvious products are feed manuals for the different lines and crosses. The researchers focus on proper modelling of weight and feed intake development. They develop tools to increase genetic progress in feed efficiency.

Meat and Carcass Quality

The platform on meat and carcass quality contributes to a safe and efficient production of tasty pork. This means improving lean meat content and the quality and number of valuable cuts from carcasses. The technical services team develops and shares knowledge. They offer solutions for challenges faced by slaughterhouses, processors, packers, and retailers.

Genetics and Genomics

The genomics and genetic platform realizes and implements breeding improvements. Using and developing the latest technology like genomics, machine learning, and improved statistical models, boosts genetic progress. Breeding program managers implement the best breeding strategy on our nucleus farms and on our customers' farms.

Feedstuffs podcast

Topigs Norsvin will be sponsoring four "Feedstuffs in Focus" podcasts in 2020. The first was an interview with Dr. Jenelle Dunkelberger, Geneticist with Topigs Norsvin USA, who discusses "Swine Genetics and Robustness to Disease" and is available now on both Google Podcasts and Apple Podcasts.

Feedstuffs
in Focus 

Available now on your
favorite podcast platform



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Producer PROfile - Jace Kracht, Kracht Family Farms

Topigs Norsvin welcomes Jace Kracht, a new producer in the US swine industry! Jace lives on the Kracht Family Farm in Edgerton, Minnesota, which is focused on beef cattle and corn production, but Jace has always been interested in working with pigs. Jace is a 15-year old sophomore at Edgerton Public High School and recently took delivery of his first 30 TN70 gilts.

Previously, Jace had purchased some small groups of bred sows that were marked for cull. He farrowed the sows and finished the pigs. "I like the TN70 because she has a high number of piglets and produces a lot of milk," reported Jace.

Despite already having full days of "chores, school, and chores," Jace is ready to take on more. He rented a barn from his neighbor, Harlan Spronk, and ordered some TN70s. Jace will synchronize the gilts into his batch farrow system and breed with TN Tempo semen. Jace added, "The TN Tempo will give me fast-growing, muscular pigs that will finish."

Welcome to the swine industry, Jace!



Jace Kracht, Kracht Family Farms, & Craig Jarolimek,
Sales & Business Development Manager for Topigs Norsvin USA

New employees at Topigs Norsvin USA



Patty Rodel, Sales Manager

Topigs Norsvin USA is pleased to announce the appointment of Patty Rodel as Sales Manager. Patty grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota and first gained experience in the swine industry while working as a farrowing technician at a local sow farm during her high school years. "I am passionate about the swine industry and am excited to be joining the Topigs Norsvin team" said Patty. "I look forward to applying my current skills and learning new ones as I grow into my new role." Patty received her bachelor's degree in Animal Science from the University of Minnesota.



Brandy Jacobs, Multiplication and Sales Support Technician

Topigs Norsvin USA is pleased to announce the appointment of Brandy Jacobs as Multiplication and Sales Support Technician. Brandy grew up in southeast Iowa where she developed her passion for working with livestock and has earned B.A and M.S. (nutrition) degrees from Iowa State University. Previously, Brandy has worked for The Maschhoffs, Alltech, and Kalmbach Swine Management. "I am excited to take my knowledge and experience to the next level" commented Brandy. "This role will allow me to assist in improving the overall productivity of the Topigs Norsvin genetics for our customers."



Ashley Brinks, Marketing and Genetic Support Technician

Topigs Norsvin USA is pleased to announce the appointment of Ashley Brinks as the Marketing and Genetic Support Technician. Ashley grew up on a family farm in West Central Iowa raising cattle and hogs and is a recent graduate of Northwest Missouri State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in Animal Science and Agriculture Communication. "Growing up in Iowa has given me a passion for working with both pigs and people," commented Ashley. "I am excited to begin my journey as a team member with Topigs Norsvin and to utilize my degree both in the office and the nucleus."

R & D team visited Canada



R & D Team at Delta Canada

At Topigs Norsvin, Research & Development (R & D) is a key component to the success of our customers and continued genetic improvement. In February, the R&D team gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba to discuss the five focus areas at Topigs Norsvin and to have a formal startup of research collaboration in Canada: "North America Sustainable Pork."

In attendance were twenty-three team members from seven countries including The Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, Brazil and Canada. Led by Dr. Egbert Knol and Dr. Eli Grindflek, the team represented all five research platforms. These platforms are: Genetics & Genomics, Reproduction, Health & Behavior, Feed & Feed Efficiency, Meat & Carcass Quality. Presentations from all departments were given.

To get a better understanding of the breeding structure, pork production and pork processing in Canada, the team visited Delta Canada, Glenlea Research Station, University of Manitoba, University of Alberta, Country Meats, James Valley Colony, and attended the Manitoba Swine Seminar. Egbert Knol was one of the speakers at the Swine Seminar.

The main goal of the visit was team building and exchanging information about results and ideas on research topics within Topigs Norsvin. During the visit, a variety of topics were discussed, including current research projects, how to maximize opportunities for continuous improvement, provide effective solutions, and add even more value to customers.

Along with the hard work came some leisure time to experience true Canadian activities -- attending a Winnipeg Jets hockey game and an evening of axe throwing.



Dr. Egbert Knol



The axe throwing

Customer award winners



Chris Hoffman, Lazy Hog Farm
Photo courtesy of National Pork Board, Des Moines, Iowa

Chris Hoffman, America's Pig Farmer of the Year

Pork Checkoff has recognized Chris Hoffman (Lazy Hog Farm, McAlisterville, Pennsylvania) as the 2019-2020 America's Pig Farmer of the Year. This annual award recognizes a pig farmer that demonstrates industry leadership and a commitment to connecting with consumers. Chris produces TN Tempo x TN70 pigs at his 1400-sow farrow-to-finish farm. Hoffman was named America's Pig Farmer of the Year after an on-farm audit of animal health, safety and management practices, a series of personal interviews, and an online vote.



John Guikema, Snider Farms

John Guikema, Swine Herd Manager Award

The Michigan Pork Producers Association recognized John Guikema (Snider Farms, Hart, Michigan) as the recipient of the 2020 Swine Herd Manager award. The Swine Herd Manager Award is given annually by Michigan Pork Producers Association to an individual who demonstrates superior commitment, knowledge and leadership in the role as a manager of a pork production operation. Congratulations, John!



New boar stud partnership in the USA

Topigs Norsvin USA is pleased to announce a new boar stud partnership with BoarMax of Shelbyville, Missouri. With the addition of TN Tempo and Norsvin Duroc boars, BoarMax will house over 700 boars under HEPA filtration and air conditioning at its 80-acre base of operations in Shelbyville. BoarMax has experienced no disease outbreaks in its 24-year history.

The BoarMax mission is simple – to provide:

- The Safest, Healthiest Semen in the Industry
- Exemplary Service – Second to None
- Highest Quality Semen That Exceeds Expectations!

"We are excited to add the Topigs Norsvin terminal sires to the list of products that we provide to our customers," commented Dr. Steve Patterson, DVM, owner of BoarMax, "We have always recognized that genetic improvement is paramount for production results and optimal return on investment. Topigs Norsvin is clearly dedicated to increasing profitability via genetics for US swine producers."

In addition to founding BoarMax in 1996, Dr. Patterson also owns and operates Passion for Pigs Veterinary Service, LLC in Shelbyville, Missouri, and is founder of the "Passion for Pigs" Seminar and Trade show.

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AI Stud Stations

Grand Vertex

Canton, IL
Dr. Doug Groth
(217) 357-2811

Eastern Iowa AI

Spragueville, IA
Doug Peterson
(563) 689-6661

Mar-Ke Semen Service

Sharon, WI
Keith & Marie Rithamel
(262) 736-2345

Ai Partners-Skylab

Morris, MN
Bruce Zierke
(320) 760-3504

Whole Hog AI

Hartington, NE
Ron Brodersen
(402) 254-2444

Commercial Concepts A.I., Inc.

Needmore, PA
J. Mac Magee
(800) 573-4577

Ostler Sires

Frankfort, IN
Tawny Ostler
(765) 776-2156

Long Creek Semen Center

Danville, IA
Luke Newton
(319) 392-2004

Barlow Semen Center

Eads, CO
Dale Stewart
(719) 729-3444

BoarMax, Inc.

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Dr. Stephen Patterson
(573) 633-2264

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AgCentral

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AI Stud Stations

Magnum Swine Genetics Inc.

Fort Macleod, AB
Andrew Buesekom
(888) 553-4844

Carlo Genetics Inc.

Ste. Anne, MB
Kyla Ripley
(204) 355-4012

Total Swine Genetics Inc.

Tillsonburg, ON
Stuart De Vries
(800) 844-9913

C & M Genetics

Lucan, ON
Dr. Cornelius Oltean
(888) 259-7594

Sunrise Genetics

Amherst, NS
Mike MacDonald
(902) 661-7883

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 **April 30, 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 Winter 2019 issue will receive a \$20.00 gift card. Here are the winners from the last issue: Adam Wipf - Wymark Farming - SK; Dennis Wipf - Vanguard Colony - SK; Peter P. Waldner - Evergreen Colony - AB; Ruth Hofer - New York Farming - AB; Jonathan Wipf - Milford Farms - AB; Randon Waldner - Evergreen Colony - MB; Maria Kleinsasser - Hidden Valley Colony - MB; Charleen Waldner - Eagle Creek Colony - MB; Timothy Waldner - Meadowview Hogs - SD, USA; Matthew Wurtz - Jamesville Colony - SD, USA. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!

1. How many R & D team members met in Winnipeg in February? _____
2. How old is the producer in this month's Producer PROfile? _____
3. Name one of the five focus areas at Topigs Norsvin. _____
4. What line of semen is Jace Kracht using on his TN70 females? _____

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____ Email: _____

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