

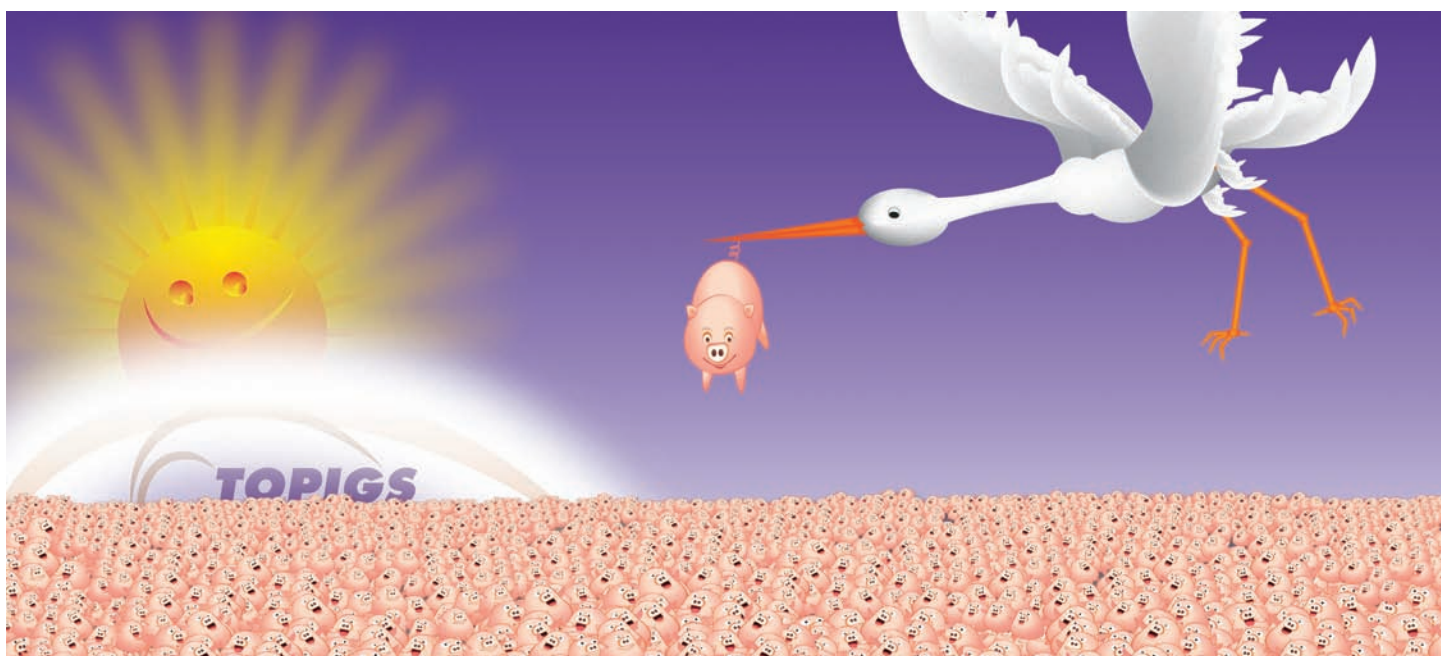
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TOPIGS Canada Inc.	
Spring 2010	



the INSIDER

20 million pigs in TOPIGS Breeding Database



TOPIGS breeding database "PIGBASE®" now contains data from more than 20 million pigs. This is by far the world's largest database of its kind. The pig which is the 20 millionth in PIGBASE® was born on February 15, 2010 at a breeding farm in the Rio Verde Nucleus of TOPIGS in Brazil.

PIGBASE® links the TOPIGS breeding farms together from around the world making a large population of breeding sows. In total there are more than 800 breeding farms included in PIGBASE®. The breeding value of a sow in Canada is therefore partly determined by the performance of her relatives in Germany, Spain, Brazil and the Netherlands.

With PIGBASE®, TOPIGS calculates the breeding value of its pigs. With PIGBASE® it is possible to be more precise than ever and quicker than ever to calculate these breeding values. Not only is it faster and more precise but we are able to select the best pigs for traditional traits such as carcass quality, growth, feed conversion, litter size and soundness. It is also possible to implement new selection criteria such as vitality, sustainability, maternal characteristics and social behaviour. PIGBASE® makes it possible to take all these aspects and apply them to a balanced breeding program.

For customers of TOPIGS genetics this means that they can achieve very high level performance results using pigs with the highest genetic merit.

TOPIGS has two approaches for improving the genetic value of its animals: firstly, through traditional breeding techniques and secondly, by developing and implementing new breeding techniques such as genomics. The second approach also includes searching for new traits for selection. These new breeding techniques accelerate the genetic progress. Examples of new traits implemented in the breeding goals are carcass and meat quality, mothering ability, sow longevity and piglet vitality. Traits such as post-slaughter factors that reduce carcass quality will also be part of the breeding goal.

All TOPIGS breeding value calculations are performed with the help of PIGBASE®, the largest, most sophisticated database of its kind in the world. PIGBASE® currently contains data from more than 20 million pigs from almost 800 farms worldwide. The data stored in PIGBASE® covers the entire production chain making it a powerful monitoring tool.

More about PIGBASE® can be found at www.topigs.com

TOPIGS Ontario Customer Appreciation Dinner



TOPIGS held its second annual Ontario Customer Appreciation Dinner on November 18, 2009 at the Arden Park Hotel in Stratford. The event was well attended by over 100 producers and industry personnel. The evening gave TOPIGS customers an opportunity to meet some of the new staff acquired from the GAP Genetics acquisition. The guest speaker for the evening was Jeroen van Boekel of Stephenfield, Manitoba. Jeroen is the owner of two sow farms totalling about 1,400 sows and owns the first TOPIGS 20 herds

in Canada. In his presentation, Jeroen featured his two farms - Greyland Pork and Mystique Pork. His talk focused on how he produces 30 pigs per sow per year. TOPIGS Sales Manager John Sawatzky also presented an overview of the acquisition of GAP Genetics by TOPIGS and the transitions made over the past year. An excellent meal was once again provided by the Arden Park Hotel. All were entertained by "The Year in Review" slide show to end the evening.

TOPIGS Sow Productivity Continues to Increase

The productivity of TOPIGS maternal line sows continues to increase year on year. Preliminary numbers from sow herds in The Netherlands show positive results with increases in pigs weaned per litter and pigs weaned/sow/year. The initial numbers indicate over 200 sow farms producing more than 30 pigs weaned/sow/year. The final numbers from 2009 will be compiled and released over the next few weeks.

The continuing increases seen in the TOPIGS commercial herds are not surprising when the nucleus and multiplication herds in the breeding pyramid continue to show dramatic improvements. Driven by an intensive selection program based on hundreds of thousands of pigs and the PIGBASE® genetic program at the Institute for Pig Genetics (IPG) year on year increases are inevitable.

Recent 14-month performance results from herds of purebred Dutch Large White nucleus farms around the world show some impressive numbers. A total of 121 farms with the TOPIGS Z Line female and a combined total of 89,956 litters show the average pigs weaned/sow/year is 26.6 pigs. See Table 1.

Table 1

Z Line Nucleus Farms	All Farms	Top 25% of all Farms	All Dutch Farms Only	Top 25% Dutch Farms	International Farms (all)	Top 25% International Farms
No. of Farms	121	29	40	8	81	18
No. of Litters	88,956	24,762	23,729	7,250	65,227	13,636
Avg. Pigs Born Alive/litter	12.0	13.1	13.2	13.5	11.5	12.4
Avg. Pigs Weaned/litter	10.7	11.6	11.5	11.8	10.4	11.3
Pigs Weaned per Sow/year	26.6	29.2	28.5	29.9	26.0	28.7

Note: "All Farms" includes farms worldwide, "Dutch Farms" includes only farms located in The Netherlands, and "International Farms" include farms in all countries other than the Netherlands. TOPIGS customers can rest assured that they will benefit from this intensive selection program and that they will have access to the most productive genetics available today-- and in the future.

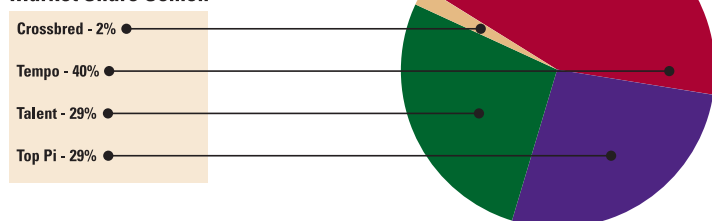
TOPIGS Semen in 2009 -- 3.59 million doses

In 2009, the Dutch cooperative AI organizations delivered a total of 3.59 million doses (approximately 6 million tubes) of TOPIGS semen. This is 0.2% more than in 2008.

The Tempo continues to be the most used terminal boar with a market share of 40%. From the Tempo line 1.33 million doses were produced. The Talent and Top Pi boars each had a market share of 29% with 940,000 doses and 950,000 doses respectively. The remaining 2% of semen sales came from crossbred terminal TOPIGS boars.

The distribution of TOPIGS maternal line semen equalled 300,000 doses in 2009.

Market Share Semen



TOPIGS Producer Profile - Spring Lake Hutterite Colony



The Spring Lake Hutterite Colony is located approximately 45 km southeast of Swift Current, Saskatchewan. The colony currently has a total population of 77 people. The base enterprise of the colony is the 18,000 acres of fertile farmland that produces good crops and is also used for grazing their cattle herds. Along with the TOPIGS herd of 350 sows, the colony operates a dairy herd of 88 cows and 290 beef cows.

Dave Hofer is the manager of the farrow to finish hog enterprise. The colony made a decision to depopulate the total herd in the spring of 2008 and began filling with high health TOPIGS gilts in September 2008. When asked why he chose to stock his new herd with TOPIGS, he replied "I was very impressed with the research and the genetic program behind the animal. I wanted a gilt that I didn't need to baby sit, as help is sometimes scarce in the barn. I had some experience with the Dalland sows several years ago and liked what I saw."

Through the past several years Dave has seen and experienced the changes from Dalland to the new TOPIGS lines. His sows have very good feed intake in lactation and are very efficient. He is currently feeding a maximum of 7.7 kg (17 lbs) in lactation and weaning at 23+ days of age. The sows maintain good body condition and wean large uniform litters of over 11 pigs per litter with a young herd of only 1.5 average parity. Dave is impressed with the new TOPIGS 20 sow line. They have been producing large uniform pigs, something he hasn't ever experienced before. He likes the fact that the TOPIGS selection program is focused on pigs weaned per litter. "If you can't wean them you can't sell them."

Prior to the depopulation in 2008 Dave took the opportunity to try gilts from other genetic companies. He didn't find anything that compared to what he was accustomed to with TOPIGS. He is impressed with the conformation and leg structure of the TOPIGS



20. This truly is a sow that will stand up to the rigors of confinement housing. Longevity in a sow herd is valuable and by having a strong, durable and highly productive sow all rolled into one package is critical to maximize profitability.

The TOPIGS 20 sows are bred only to the TOPIGS Tempo terminal boar. This line was originally a Dalland line that was retained by TOPIGS. While having tried other boar lines, Dave always came back to the Tempo boar and has seen the improvements over the years. The back fat has been greatly reduced while maintaining all the other traits he likes. The Tempo boar is well known for siring litters of pigs that are more viable at birth and wean at heavy weights. This results in having uniform growers and finishers throughout the barn. The Tempo boar is proven to increase litter size by about .5 of a pig per litter born alive. The Tempo boars come from the Kipling nucleus. Dave takes great comfort in the fact that the Kipling nucleus has the highest indexing Tempo herd of all the Tempo herds around the world.

All mating is done with boars and no AI is used on the farm. "The Tempo boars have higher libido than the Duroc boars I tried in the past. I also believe that the Tempo boar is one of the main reasons I don't have to vaccinate any pigs for circo virus. We don't see any symptoms of circo virus issues at all," says Dave.

The unit farrows 16 sows per week. The current weaning age is at 23.5 days with the goal being 26 days. Sows are weaning 11.1 pigs per litter with some months as high as 11.7 pigs per litter with an average of 7.5 kg (16.5 lbs) per pig.

Dave has seen the transition of TOPIGS over the years and he likes the direction being taken by the new management since TOPIGS purchased GAP Genetics. There are now many more TOPIGS



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customers that he can share information with and is receiving good on farm support from TOPIGS. Having a very good comfort level with TOPIGS as a company and product performance, Dave made the decision to produce his own TOPIGS 20 gilts in-house. The TOPIGS N Line GP boars and Z Line GP gilts have moved into the herd and will begin producing the 20 line.

Dave's final comment: "I did not choose to be the manager of the hog production unit, but the good Lord chose me to this job, and I will perform it to the best of my ability." Dave looks forward to a long term relationship with TOPIGS. Technical support along with excellent products will allow the Spring Lake unit to maximize productivity and profits for years to come.

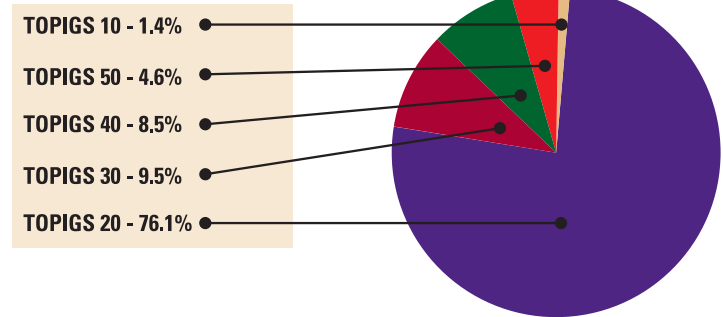
TOPIGS Gilt Sales - Increase of 2% in the Netherlands

The total sales of TOPIGS gilts in the Netherlands in 2009 was about 360,000 animals. This is an increase of 2.2% compared to 2008. In 2009 the production of TOPIGS was again about at the same level as in 2007.

TOPIGS continues to dominate the Netherlands with over 85% market share in both semen and gilt sales. There are approximately 1 million sows in The Netherlands.

TOPIGS breeders produced 220,000 gilts in 2009 compared to 214,000 in 2008. An additional 140,000 gilts were produced via the InGene (In house) nucleus systems in 2009 compared to 136,000 for 2008.

Market Share Gilts



The sales increase is partly due to many farms expanding in 2009. Also there were many farms that purchased or produced more gilts to catch-up from not replacing sows in a bad year of low market prices in 2008.

The TOPIGS 20 sow continues to dominate the market with 76% share of all gilts sold in The Netherlands. The TOPIGS 30 gilt came in second at 9.5% and the 40 gilt a close third with 8.5% of total sales. The remaining 6% of gilt sales came from the TOPIGS 50 and TOPIGS 10 lines.



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. From entries received by April 30, 2010, the first ten entries drawn with the correct answers will receive a TOPIGS mini Thermos or flashlight. If you win, the TOPIGS rep in your area will deliver the prize.

Employees of TOPIGS and their subsidiaries are not eligible.

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TOPIGS INSIDER Quiz

In what country was the 20 millionth pig born? _____

What is the average pigs weaned/sow/year for all farms with TOPIGS Z Line sows? _____

Which boar line has the highest percentage of semen sales in the Netherlands? _____

Which gilt line will Spring Lake Colony produce in-house? _____

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Top Ten Quiz Entries

The winners of the Quiz from the last issue are as follows: William Wurz, Lathom Colony, AB, Justin Stahl, Bon Homme Colony, MB, Lorna J Hofer, Garden Plane Colony, Jacob Waldner, Coolspring Colony, MB, Jaron Waldner, Tri-Leaf Farms, Jorden DeJong, DeJong Hogs, AB, Derek Hofer, James Valley Colony, MB, Fons Vanden Broek, Broek Farms Inc., ON, Arnie Waldner, Green Wood Colony, AB, Danny G Hofer, Plain Lake Pork, AB

Each winner will receive a TOPIGS winter toque. The TOPIGS rep in your area will deliver the prize.

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