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TN70 gilts in training section

University of Manitoba and Topigs Norsvin Partnership

Since its inception in 1906, the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba has been a leader in the agri-food industry in Manitoba. The standard of excellence it has attained in its teaching and research programs is recognized across Canada and around the world. The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences has earned a reputation for its high-calibre programs that include a two-year applied diploma program, five bachelor programs in agriculture, agribusiness, agroecology, food science, and human nutritional sciences, and graduate studies across seven departments. Students benefit not only from the expertise of staff in the Faculty, but also from the close proximity of other faculties on campus, federal research facilities, and a vibrant Winnipeg-based agricultural community.

The Faculty has a long history of discovery and innovation that has contributed to the research excellence reputation of the University of Manitoba. The research programs of faculty members have also fostered the research training opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as other highly qualified personnel; training that has helped the Canadian agriculture industry grow, and cultivated the next generation of food systems researchers.

Research is also the foundation for faculty expertise that permits the Faculty to distinguish itself in teaching and to provide informed and sound outreach, particularly for the agriculture sector in Manitoba, but increasingly to global agro-food and nutrition / wellness communities.

The faculty research themes can be captured in these categories: safe, nutritious and healthy food; sustainable crop and livestock production systems; sustainable and healthy bioproducts and biomaterials; and land and water resources management.

A key component of the University is The Glenlea Research Station located approximately 20 km south of the University of Manitoba Fort Garry campus. Glenlea was officially opened in June 1966 by then-premier Duff Roblin. The station is operated by the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences with financial support from Manitoba Agriculture and the University of Manitoba. Glenlea consists of approximately 1,200 acres, a swine unit, a beef feedlot and a 60-head dairy unit. Land plot areas are used for Plant Science, Soil Science and Entomology, as well as being used by the Long Term Manure & Crop Management Field Laboratory, the Trace Gas Manitoba (TGAS MAN) Greenhouse Gas Field Emission Site, and the Glenlea Long Term Crop Rotation Study.

The station provides the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences with facilities and services necessary for its teaching, research and outreach programs and is the site for major infrastructure associated with the National Center for Livestock and the Environment (NCLE), as well as the Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre. In addition to research facilities, the station has a teaching role for undergraduate degree and diploma students and outreach function to rural and urban communities.

The Glenlea Swine Research Unit is comprised of a 140-sow farrow-to-finish production facility which is representative of the majority of current commercial pig housing.

Animal management and housing emphasize animal health and welfare. Strict biosecurity measures are followed routinely. The sow herd is kept in group housing except during farrowing and for specific research projects requiring individual accommodation. Nursery rooms and grow-finish areas are designed to duplicate commercial operations but have the flexibility to accommodate research applicable to the pork production industry.

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TN70 gilts

Research areas include nutrient utilization, gut microbiome, reproduction, animal environment and housing, behaviour, and welfare. Additionally, long-term research examines the cycling of nutrients and microbes through the farm ecosystem.

With the support of Manitoba Pork Council, Growing Forward 2, New Standard Ag and the University Research Support Fund, approximately \$100K in upgrades has been completed in the swine facility this year. This includes the addition of electronic sow feeders to the farrowing unit and reorganizing of the breeding unit to allow for more pig interaction and the use of electronic sow feeders.

The unit received 188 TN70 gilts donated by Topigs Norsvin (Canada) in January 2018 and is in the process of growing them and getting ready to start batch breeding, with first farrowing expected in June. The TN70 gilts were supplied by Mayfair Colony Farms near Killarney, Manitoba. Phillip and Paul Gross, along with their dedicated staff, made it possible to supply each TN70 with full pedigreed history for detailed studies going forward. The gilts will be bred to high-indexing, single-sire Tempo terminal semen. With this combination, Topigs Norsvin and the University will collaborate on many joint research projects and data capture.



A view into the gestation area



Don Chaput (Supervisor) and Archimedes Isit (Ag Attendant)

The unit is overseen by Don Chaput (Supervisor) along with Archimedes Isit (Ag Attendant) and two casual support members Svetlana Ponsin and Dustin Goderis.

The herd can be seen by the public through viewing windows at the Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre which is attached to the swine production unit.

Opened in 2011, the Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre is the first hands-on facility which explores the ways in which food is made in Canada. It serves as an ideal site for an increasingly urban youth population to discover how food is grown and raised, and the agri-food industry's important role in feeding the people of this province and around the world.

Throughout the Discovery Centre, interactive exhibits take visitors on a journey which explores modern farming that provides healthy food for Manitoba and the world. Visitors travel from the farmer's wheat field to the kitchen table. For many, the highlight of these exhibits is viewing windows into a real working pig barn, where visitors peek into a day in the life of a pig. The Centre also explores how the agri-food research done



Cam McGavin, Dr. Karin Wittenberg, Mike Shaw

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by University of Manitoba scientists is helping address the challenges in food security, nutrition and health, sustainable production, and environmental stewardship.

The swine exhibit at the Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre (FFDC) gives visitors a view into the various sections of an operational hog barn. Due to industry biosecurity measures, the majority of people would never get the opportunity to observe the inner workings of a Manitoba hog barn.

School groups, general public and child care centres that book a program at FFDC have the unique experience of being able to witness the interaction between animals, farrowing, weaning, and handling of hogs in

accordance with industry standards. This allows FFDC to actively deliver public trust messaging regarding modern industry practices and Faculty research.

Topigs Norsvin Canada Inc. would like to thank the following University Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences staff members who were instrumental in bringing this agreement to fruition:

- Dr. Karin Wittenberg, Dean
- Dr. Martin Scanlon, Associate Dean (Research)
- Dr. Tracy Gilson, Operations Manager, Glenlea Research Station
- Dr. Laurie Connor, Animal Science Professor
- Dr. Martin Nyachoti, Head/Professor

Webinar Sow Feeding: Fine Tuning Pays Off

On December 12, Topigs Norsvin gave a webinar on sow feeding. Modern sows produce at a high level. Feeding them for maximum performance means knowing exactly what they need.

In the webinar we explained the latest developments and how to use these in daily practice. We have produced this webinar to enable our clients to gain maximum benefit from our genetics.

Go to the "News" section of our website for links to watch the webinar and learn more about fine tuning of sow feeding. On this page you also can download the presentations and other information.



New: CSR Magazine

The new CSR magazine of Topigs Norsvin tells about the efforts we make for a more sustainable production of pork. The magazine demonstrates the contributions of Topigs Norsvin to our customers and stakeholders. Developments in breeding and research are also mentioned in the magazine.

CSR stands for Corporate Sustainability Report or Corporate Social Responsibility. Sustainability is key for the future of our planet and is becoming an increasingly important factor in our economies. For pig farming, sustainability and societal demands are of major importance. We see growing demands for lower environmental impact and better animal welfare.



Producer Profile: Calvern Farms Ltd.



Cal Penner had the perfect opportunity to get into the business of farming. Cal's parents, Vern and Martha began their farming career in 1970 near Argyle, Manitoba. Having grown up on the farm, Cal was a natural successor to managing the farm and Calvern Farms Ltd. was established in 1981. Five years later, a key partner was added to the business when Cal married. His wife Cathy was not a farm girl but actively became involved with the various roles of farming and hog production.

The diversity of the farm has always consisted of arable farming -- growing cereals, special crops and sunflowers, as well as producing hogs. From having 10-15 sows in the early years, the farm expanded to 150 sows in 1980, and then in 1997 a depopulation and expansion to 400 sows took place. Looking for a better return than a commercial farrow-to-finish farm, Cal and Cathy took on the challenge of being a gilt multiplier, and they produced gilts for a breeding company for about 7 years before converting the herd back to commercial production.

In 2015 it was decided to depopulate the 400-sow herd and do some much-needed renovations. In early 2016 discussions began with Topigs Norsvin about the potential of becoming a Tempo sire-line Genetic Nucleus farm. The size of the farm as well as the location were ideal for bio-security and production volumes. The Penners had experience being a gilt multiplier, but they knew that being a Genetic Nucleus added considerable data recording and specialized breeding procedures and testing. An agreement was struck and the farm began its conversion to a 525-sow farrow-to-finish operation. The production of Tempo boars would be a key link to the new boar testing barn (Delta II) to be built by Topigs Norsvin, only 30 kilometres away. Together with the Tempo Genetic Nucleus at Windy Acre Farms, a total of 1,000 Tempo sows will

now contribute boars to the Delta II boar testing station. "We saw Topigs Norsvin as the most innovative and dynamic company in the swine breeding stock business and that's why we chose to participate with them in this unique opportunity," said Cal.

Cal and Cathy are both very "hands on" in the barn along with the hired staff of three. The Penner's two children, Nikki and Eric also help in the barn when they're not in university. "We couldn't be a Genetic Nucleus without the work done by our excellent staff because during the busy planting and harvesting seasons, our staff must be capable of managing the day-to-day tasks of the nucleus," said Cal. Cathy manages the farrowing while Carlito Goyal manages the breeding. Tim Coppins



Newly weaned Tempo pigs 10.2 kg at 21 days

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Carlito Goyal and Tim Coppins with a recent H@ms Marketing award



Cathy, Cal, Nikki and Eric Penner

manages the growing section, and Matthew Abrahams covers wherever needed and also keeps the unit clean and tidy.

The Penner family is very active in their church as well as many other recreational activities. Cal and his daughter Nikki are both seasoned pilots and love to fly whenever time permits. Cathy, Nikki and Eric are all musically inclined and play various instruments. Owning and living on a

busy farm doesn't allow much time for leisure, but travelling and various recreational activities are done whenever possible.

The Penners and their staff are excited about their new venture and look forward to seeing their first animals enter the Delta II boar test station in July of this year.

Sergeant Layton Black

Sergeant Layton Black, Jr was a "Screaming Eagles" paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division during World War II. He survived the war and returned home to Ohio to work the family farm with his two brothers. More than thirty years after the D-Day invasion at Normandy, Sergeant Black began writing his memoirs and later published a book "The Last First Sergeant" about his experiences in the war.

On September 17, 1944, Sergeant Black and just under 7,000 paratroopers jumped into an area close to Sint-Oedenrode, The Netherlands as a part of the "Market Garden" campaign. Their company liberated the town of Sint-Oedenrode from the German army and defended the area until late November.

In 2013, Sgt. Black's nephew, Bryan Black was touring Topigs Norsvin's headquarters in Vught, The Netherlands, and had the opportunity to visit Sint-Oedenrode, less than 20 km away.

Bryan met the town historian, who was a boy of 12 when the Americans liberated the town. With the help of a translator, the historian recognized the crossroad and the house that Sgt. Black had dug in to defend (photo). Today, Bryan continues the Black family farming tradition; he is responsible for the selection of Topigs Norsvin gilts for Kalmbach Feeds, Inc.



Sint-Oedenrode



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AI Stud Stations

Grand Vertex

Canton, IL
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

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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. Corneliu Oltean
(888) 259-7594

Sunrise Genetics

Amherst, NS
Mike MacDonald
(902) 661-7883

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Gordonville, PA

Abe Fisher - Sales Agent
(717) 615-8378

Hamilton, IL

Terry Turner - Sales Agent
(309) 337-5291

AgCentral

Canistota, SD
Keith Letcher - Owner, Sales Manager
(605) 661-5819

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, 2018**. 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 2017 issue will receive a \$20.00 gift card. Here are the winners from the last issue:

Aaron Waldner, Plainview Colony, AB; Kevin Hofer, New York Farms, AB; Levi Waldner, Blumengart Colony, MB; Philip Mandel, Roseglen Farming Co., AB; Isaac P. Hofer, Eagle Creek Colony, MT; Justina Hofer, Garden Plane Colony, SK; Adrian Waldner, Westwood Farms, SD; Reuben John Wurz, Albion Ridge Colony, AB; Jacob Waldner, Coolspring Colony, AB; Dan Walter, Spring Point Colony, AB. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!

Which line of boars does Calvern Farms produce? _____

What is the sow herd size at the Glenlea Swine Research Unit? _____

How many total sows contribute Tempo boars to the Delta II boar testing station? _____

Which was the first company to start breeding against boar taint? _____

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____ Email: _____

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