

Transportation at its finest

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The transportation of live breeding stock is a critical part of the swine genetics business. Although it can be a challenge during the cold and hot times of the year, the movement of breeding stock can still be accomplished in a very safe, humane, and biosecure manner.

At Topigs Norsvin Canada we have taken the movement of live breeding animals to the next level with the purchase of a new customized Cuppers trailer. Cuppers, based in The Netherlands, is a premiere manufacturer of livestock trailers.

Our new trailer is designed with two decks and can deliver up to 48 individually penned boars. Once loaded, the entire upper deck lifts up, allowing the bottom deck to be loaded. While delivery of boars to AI studs and customers is the focus, the trailer will also accommodate 140 full-size gilts in group pens.

The aluminum trailer features a fully insulated fiberglass sandwich wall body for climate control. Twenty-four fans on the passenger side force

air into the trailer while twelve fans exhaust the inside air from the driver's side. This creates a positive pressure environment within the trailer. The ventilation system allows for the use of pleated air filters which prevent any pathogens from entering the trailer.

The animals have access to water at all times via the on-board water tank and pump system. Nipple type drinkers are located on the side wall in each pen and fold into the wall when the deck is being raised or lowered. An on-board automatic start diesel generator can keep batteries fully charged to ensure all features of the trailer continue operating even when not connected to a highway tractor. All operating features of the trailer are fully alarmed, notifying the driver of any malfunctions.

With all of these added features, this trailer is the first of its kind in North America, and with the continued growth of Topigs Norsvin in Canada and the USA, it is likely you will see this rig rolling down the highway somewhere near you. Give us a wave!



Safeguarding your business

Dear Topigs Norsvin customers and business partners,

The current worldwide development of COVID-19 represents a huge challenge and brings about global uncertainty. The crisis affects everybody, everywhere, and it creates considerable anxiety with many.

At Topigs Norsvin the impact is clearly noticeable, just as in the rest of the global pork business. Many of our offices are located in regions that are heavily hit by the virus. First and foremost, our concern remains the health and wellbeing of you, your family and our Topigs Norsvin employees.

With this memo, I want to inform you about what the company is doing to safeguard your business.

At Topigs Norsvin, we continue our genetic improvement program as scheduled, maintaining the entire breeding infrastructure and securing genetic dissemination to all our customers. At the same time, contingency plans have been designed and implemented to safeguard your business continuity. At our production facilities, we have a 100% non-visitor policy in place and have implemented social distancing. We strictly adhere to government policies stating that colleagues and their families should stay at home whenever they have a cough or feel ill.

The COVID-19 crisis also influences how we have to work. We work from home, and use video conferencing and other technology to stay in touch with each other. Our office, support, and sales teams are there for you. Also in the COVID-19 crisis, our Global and Local Technical Service Teams remain at your disposal to serve you digitally via web meetings and technical resource sharing. I encourage you to stay connected with Topigs Norsvin employees and to ask any questions you may have.

We want to thank everybody who fights this disease and crisis with all their energy, commitment, and passion. We also contribute to the fight against COVID-19 by donating personal protection equipment to medical workers; we have supplied lab equipment to test people for the prevalence of the virus, and have made donations to food banks.

In its history of more than 100 years, Topigs Norsvin has faced many difficult times and has shown resilience in overcoming these with our customers. We believe our industry also remains strong in difficult times. I am confident that together with you, we can emerge from this crisis stronger.

Thank you for your kind support. Please stay safe and healthy, and I hope that I may have the opportunity to introduce myself in person to you in better times.

Yours sincerely,
Villaume Kal
CEO, Topigs Norsvin

STRONGER TOGETHER

Topigs Norsvin - WE are here for you

Swine Management Systems (SMS) 2019 data

Topigs Norsvin recently completed its semi-annual reproduction benchmarking with Swine Management Systems (SMS), and our customers demonstrated +1.9 pigs weaned / mated female / year advantage compared to the SMS industry average! Also noteworthy is the low sow death loss experienced by Topigs Norsvin Canadian customers, and by Topigs Norsvin multipliers in both the USA and Canada.

The SMS database includes data from 815 farms and 1,458,230 sows throughout the USA and Canada. For the 2019 benchmarking, the list of participating Topigs Norsvin customers has grown to include 126 commercial and multiplication farms and 150,600 sows.

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

	# farms	# sows	pw/mf/y	Sow Death Loss%
SMS	815	1,458,230	26.93	10.0
ALL TN (US + Canada)	112	135,700	28.83	7.3
TN Canada	87	89,000	28.64	6.1
TN USA	25	46,700	29.20	9.5
TN Multiplication (US + CAN)	14	14,900	28.24	7.7



Katrin Braasch, Assistant General Manager

New Assistant General Manager at Carlo Genetics

Carlo Genetics would like to welcome and introduce Katrin Braasch as Assistant General Manager.

“Katrin comes to us with a deep background in cellular research and project management which will serve her very well within our AI Centres at Carlo Genetics. As we constantly strive to incorporate the most recent detailed analysis formats and monitor internal statistics to achieve a high standard of consistency in production, Katrin’s ability to organize and analyze multi-variable control points is a great asset.” said Kyla Ripley, General Manager for Carlo Genetics Inc.

Katrin holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Manitoba and B.Sc. (Hons) in Biochemistry from the University of Winnipeg. At the University of British Columbia, Katrin completed a Post Doctoral Fellowship, planning and executing a project to develop a novel scale-down approach for clonal cell

selection with integrated protein analysis, using cell culture techniques to improve a critical step in bioprocess development. Incorporation of image-based analysis in these disciplines has direct cross over benefits to understanding and working with the CASA and cell count programming in place at Carlo Genetics.

“After several years of research in biotechnology and experiencing different sectors of Manitoba’s agriculture industry, I am excited to become a part of the Carlo family. As a leader in science for swine genetics both inside and outside of Manitoba, Carlo’s constant dedication to quality, customer service, and especially innovative technologies makes this position very attractive to me,” said Katrin.

Katrin can be reached at (204) 371-0411 or katrinbraasch@carlogenetics.com

Producer PROfile - Buckeye Pork



*Buckeye Pork employees:
 Front row (left to right): Jacy Graber, Jessica Jenkins, Deon Morter
 Back row (left to right): Mark Graber, AJ Graber, Dustin Thompson, Nick Churchill*

Production within the Kalmbach Swine Management (KSM) system has broken one record after another in recent months. At BrennCo B, a TN70 sow farrowed 29 liveborn piglets with NO stillborns and NO mummies! After three parities, her totals are 62 liveborn, 1 stillborn, and 1 mummy. At Union Pork, a Z-line (Large White) sow broke the total born record for the system with a 34 TB! This sow has a 22.86 lifetime total born average and 13.33 wean average over 6 parities.

Even better than individual sow performance, Buckeye Pork (Forrest, Ohio) recently weaned 14.35 piglets per sow across their 1500-sow farm, setting a new record for weekly performance in the KSM system. The farm crew is doing a great job, but they attribute their success to the TN70 parent female as well.

“Buckeye Pork was built over 30 years ago, and historically had struggled to compete with the newer, high tech sow farms that followed KSM’s growth. Once we invested in improving the facility and the team, we saw significant production improvements,” described Bill Trythall, Sow Production Supervisor for KSM, “However, once we introduced TN70 genetics, we noticed a paradigm shift in production.”

“Buckeye Pork is poised to routinely clear over 13.5+ pigs per sow,” added Trythall, “We credit Topigs Norsvin genetics as a major reason for this success.”



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Topigs Norsvin growth continues



Stanley Pork gestation

In the December 2019 Insider we announced the establishment of three new multipliers in Canada. We are very pleased to announce that all three stockings of these multipliers have gone very well. All three farms were stocked with purebred Z-line gilts to produce the TN70 F1 female and are now in full production at the sow barn production stage. As expected, the Z-line gilts are performing extremely well. Gilts are adjusting well to the group or freedom stall housing environment used in these barns.

Stanley Pork Ltd. began farrowing in late December and is weaning an average of 12.2 pigs / litter with recent weeks of 12.6 and 12.8 pigs weaned per litter. Their previous experience was with purebreds from a competing genetics company. They made the decision to depopulate and re-stock with the Z-line females. "We have never seen production like this before, especially in a gilt startup. We are very happy and impressed with the productivity of the Z-line female" commented Steve Martens, Production Manager. "Our last few weeks we are weaning over 700 pigs per week which is virtually all from gilt litters" he added.



Moline Pork gestation



New View first litter

New View Swine Ltd. began weaning pigs in May, the same month they finished filling with Z-line females from the nucleus herd. The fill went very well, despite having to transport the animals over 2,500 kms through much of the winter. Steve Forman's experience as a Topigs Norsvin multiplier at his Venture View unit has been invaluable as he navigates running a site with new features such as the fully filtered positive pressure ventilation system. As expected, the lift-crates in the farrowing room are showing a positive effect on pre-weaning mortality. With excellent breed-back, we expect to have 2.50 litters / sow per year which will result in almost 28 pigs weaned / sow / year as a purebred startup herd.



Stanley Pork litter of 13 pigs



Moline Pork litter of 13 pigs

Moline Pork Ltd. began farrowing in late April. A new barn build with new concrete typically comes with startup challenges. These challenges have been minimal despite the group housing of gilts and being trained on the Maximus ESF on new concrete. The first few weeks of weaning have averaged 11.8 pigs / litter with many gilts achieving 12+ weaned. This will only improve as older parties begin to farrow and wean.



Marie & Megan Blais with the first litter



New View TN70 weaners

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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 **July 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 March 2020 issue will receive a \$20.00 gift card.

Wilma Brubacher, Westlane Acres, ON; Tiffany Duncan, Beck Farms, NS; Kelvin Kleinsasser, Concord Colony, MB; Jerry Hofer, New York Colony, AB; Sarah Wurtz, Horizon Colony, MB; Daniel J Wipf, Oaklane Colony, AB; Paulus Wipf, Rockport Colony, USA SD; Timothy Waldner, Meadowview Hogs, USA SD; Dwayne D Wollman, Ponteix Farms Ltd., SK; Dennis Wipf, Vanguard Farms, SK.

The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!

1. What is the average pw/mf/y of all 112 Topigs Norsvin Farms? _____

2. What type of filters are used in the new Topigs Norsvin Trailer? _____

3. After 3 parities, how many total liveborn has the TN70 sow had at BrennCo B? _____

4. What is the average pigs weaned/litter at the Stanley Pork multiplier? _____

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____ Email: _____

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