Topigs Norsvin
PROGRESS IN PIGS

THE INSIDER

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2024 TOPIGS NORSVIN CANADA AWARDS BANQUET

As November rolls in, it's always a guessing game whether we'll see the start of winter or enjoy a little more fall. One thing we can always count on, though, is the highly anticipated Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquets. In true Topigs Norsvin Canada fashion, our dedicated producers turned out in record numbers at both our Winnipeg, MB, and Stratford, ON events. The banquets offered a perfect blend of recognition for outstanding production achievements and opportunities for producers to connect.

The Western banquet's emcee, Russ Penner, kicked off the Winnipeg event with some humor, but he quickly turned to the heart of the matter; he highlighted Topigs Norsvin's deep-rooted commitment to family values and its collaborative approach with customers. Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Russ commended producers for their hard work, strong management, and the dedication of their barn teams. "Thank you for your trust in our genetics; your success is our success, and together we will continue to improve."

At the Eastern banquet, Veronica Anderson expressed appreciation for the continued partnership and commitment to excellence in the swine industry.

Reflecting on the evening, Cam McGavin, Topigs Norsvin Canada's General Manager, remarked, "The atmosphere was warm and inviting, with attendees eager to share stories, discuss their work, and forge deeper connections. This evening, in particular, highlighted the importance of those connections — with customers and with the dedicated barn staff who work day in and day out to bring their expertise to life."

The main event, the presentation of awards, was preceded by exceptional meals and camaraderie. This year, Topigs Norsvin customers achieved remarkable results, once again surpassing previous years. Participation in the SMS Benchmarking program is voluntary, and 2024 saw a record-breaking 131 farms with 167,385 sows across Canada, with herd sizes averaging 1,278 sows per farm and an average PSY of 29.58. It is always a pleasure to recognize the top herds and celebrate their accomplishments.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 1
Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquets

PAGE 4
Producer PROfile: Van Roessel Pork Ltd.

PAGE 5
Pig of the Month

PAGE 6
Unlocking Genetic Potential: Topigs Norsvin's Commitment to Producers

Employee Spotlight: Sheldon Friesen

PAGE 7
Pieter Van Den Boogaard Appointed as Business Development Representative

Insider INSIGHT: Storing Semen for Optimal Quality

PAGE 8
Canada Contacts and AI Stud Stations

Topigs Norsvin Insider Quiz

Topigs Norsvin
PROGRESS IN PIGS

2024 Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquet continued...

Herds <500 sows

Farrowing Rate	**East**		**West**	
Winner	Peeters Family Farms (ON)	95.4%	Spring Point Colony (AB)	90.67%
Runner-up	Les Elevages Lemay (QC)	89.8%	Pembina Hog Farm (MB)	89.80%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	**East**		**West**	
Winner	Hog Farm Van Deelen Ltd (ON)	15.41	Pembina Hog Farm (MB)	16.54
Runner-up	Elevage Quali-Porc (QC)	15.22	Cool Spring Colony (MB)	15.89
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	**East**		**West**	
Winner Tie	Les Elevages Lemay (QC)	32.63	Pembina Hog Farm (MB)	35.52
Winner Tie	Elevage Quali-Porc (QC)	32.63		
Runner-up	RFW KSUPB (ON)	32.56	Cool Spring Colony (MB)	34.45

Herds of 501-1200 sows

Farrowing Rate	**East**		**West**	
Winner	Knollcrest Farms (ON)	93.1%	Evergreen Colony (MB)	97.1%
Runner-up	Paragon Farms - Arnold (ON)	92.5%	Trileaf Colony (MB)	94.3%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	**East**		**West**	
Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS)	15.99	Trileaf Colony (MB)	16.12
Runner-up	Knollcrest Farms (ON)	15.80	Evergreen Colony (MB)	15.98
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	**East**		**West**	
Winner Tie	Kuijpers Key Farm (ON)	33.47	Evergreen Colony (MB)	36.50
Runner-up	Root 44 Farms (ON)	32.82	Trileaf Colony (MB)	35.55

Herds 1201 - 2000 sows

Farrowing Rate	**East**		**West**	
Winner	Paragon Farms - Wright Sow (ON)	92.3%	Sunnyside Colony (MB)	92.1%
Runner-up	Jomimaro Farms (ON)	90.9%	Silver Pine Site 1 (MB)	92.0%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	**East**		**West**	
Winner	Jomimaro Farms (ON)	15.65	Stanley Pork (MB)	15.54
Runner-up	Crimson Lane Farms (ON)	15.01	Hidden Valley Colony (MB)	15.16
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	**East**		**West**	
Winner Tie	Jomimaro Farms (ON)	35.51	Sunnyside Colony (MB)	34.36
Runner-up	RFW Burnside (ON)	31.23	Stanley Pork (MB)	33.64

Herds 2001+ sows

Farrowing Rate	**East**		**West**	
Winner	Paragon Farms - Willowcreek (ON)	92.4%	Morris Piglets South (MB)	92.4%
Runner-up	K&D Acres (ON)	90.4%	Sunnybrook Swine Site 2 (MB)	91.9%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	**East**		**West**	
Winner	AshV Sow Site (ON)	14.88	Morris Piglets South (MB)	15.26
Runner-up	Paragon Farms - Maple (ON)	14.72	Crocus Country Pork (MB)	15.18
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	**East**		**West**	
Winner Tie	Tuckersmith Pork Ltd (ON)	31.20	Morris Piglets South (MB)	32.42
Runner-up	Paragon Farms - Willowcreek (ON)	31.16	Crocus Country Pork (MB)	32.22



Russ Penner



Stanley Pork Highest Born Alive



Various Morris Piglets Staff and Awards

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...

2024 Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquet continued...



An Eastern Feast!



Eastern Banquet



East 28+ Club

28+ Club Awards
This year, we were thrilled to present the 28+ Club Award to 105 farms, representing 80% of the Topigs Norsvin Canada herds and a combined total of 134,049 sows! Impressively, the 2024 farms in the 28+ Club averaged 30.50 pigs weaned per mated female per year—a clear testament to the dedication and skill of these producers.



West 28+ Club

Best New Herd Start-up:
The recipient of Best New Herd Start-up in the West was Cypress Colony of Saskatchewan. Cypress Colony's average parity was 1.0, with an average of 14.2 piglets born alive per litter, 13.44 piglets weaned per litter, and a PSY of 34.4! In the East, the Best New Herd Start-up award went to Corner Ridge Farms in Ontario. Corner Ridge Farms has an average parity of 1.31, 13.66 piglets born alive per litter, 12.75 weaned per litter and a PSY of 30.96. Congratulations to both Cypress Colony and Corner Ridge Farms!

Benchmarking Data Summary:
A total of 934 farms were included in the SMS benchmarking data, with an average sow inventory of 1,811 per farm. Among these, 200 farms were Topigs Norsvin herds (69 in the United States and 131 in Canada), with an average of 1,743 sows per herd. The average farrowing rate for the combined benchmarked herds was 85.5%, which was consistent with the average for the 200 Topigs Norsvin herds. However, the 131 Canadian Topigs Norsvin herds achieved an even higher average farrowing rate of 86.5%. Topigs Norsvin herds also stood out by weaning 1.2 more piglets per sow per year than the combined SMS benchmarking average. Within this group, Topigs Norsvin Canada herds excelled further, achieving the highest PSY at 29.58—surpassing both the combined SMS benchmarked herd average of 27.87 and the Topigs Norsvin United States herd average of 28.61. Sow loss was another key area of distinction. Topigs Norsvin Canada herds reported an average sow loss of 8.6%, compared to 9.6% for Topigs Norsvin United States herds and 11.1% for all SMS farm herds.

When comparing Topigs Norsvin herds (348,544 sows across 200 farms) to non-Topigs Norsvin herds (1,342,805 sows on 734 farms), the results were striking. Topigs Norsvin herds weaned 1.90 more pigs per mated female per year, increasing the value of each sow by $85.50 annually. Additionally, Topigs Norsvin herds demonstrated a 2.5% lower sow mortality rate, equating to approximately $0.95 in savings per weaned pig, based on estimates from large U.S. integrators.

This year, Topigs Norsvin Canada herd summaries were organized by farms with and without health challenges. Among the 13 herds reporting health challenges, such as PRRS or other production-limiting diseases, the impact on performance was evident. Despite these obstacles, these health-challenged herds still achieved an impressive average PSY of 27.96. This remarkable achievement emphasizes the power of robust genetics and strong management practices, even under significant pressure. Furthermore, it highlights the critical importance of eradicating diseases to unlock the full potential of production systems.

The Topigs Norsvin Canada team extends a heartfelt "Thank you" to all our loyal customers for their dedication and trust. We look forward to supporting you on the path to even greater success!

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PROGRESS IN PIGS

PRODUCER PROFILE - VAN ROESSEL PORK LTD.



Van Roessel Family



Future Farmer

Van Roessel Pork Ltd., founded in 2015 by Scott and Teresa Van Roessel, began as a 900-sow farrow-to-wean operation in Mitchell, Ontario, operating from two barns. In 2022, the business expanded and relocated to a larger facility near Cromarty, Ontario, featuring a state-of-the-art, 3200-sow farrow-to-wean barn. When asked about the motivation for the new barn, Scott explained, "Disease pressure, efficiency, and the benefits of loose housing all played a key role in our decision to build new and expand in that area."

In addition to the pork operation, Scott also manages a significant cash-crop and broiler farm, working alongside his parents Ed and Barb Van Roessel. The new barn is designed with an H configuration, with separate areas for dry sow/gestation on one side and farrowing rooms on the other. The dry sow stalls feature panels for the tunnel ventilation which allows for lots of fresh air movement during the warmer months. Scott appreciates the tunnel ventilation system, which helps maintain optimal airflow throughout the facility, as well as the barn's layout, which facilitates the easy movement of gilts and sows. The large farrowing crates, measuring 6' x 9', are another feature that Scott values for their functionality.

The gestation barn also incorporates EFS technology to comply with regulations. When discussing the training process for gilts, Scott noted, "We place the gilts in a pen on their own and leave the feeding station doors locked open for 48-72 hours. If needed, the barn staff will assist any gilts that are struggling, but generally, they adapt quickly."

To enhance biosecurity, the facility includes a dedicated outbuilding for staff and visitors to change into farm boots before entering the barn.

The operation is supported by a dedicated team of nine employees, including Barn Manager Justin, who ensures the barn runs efficiently. On occasion, Scott and Teresa's 10-year-old son, Austin, helps out on weaning days.

For the herd, Scott chose to stock the barn with Topigs Norsvin TN70 gilts and receives his replacement Topigs Norsvin TN70 gilts from Mae-Mart Farms' Cedarlane barn. This decision was based on the gilts' proven performance records and Scott's knowledge of their successful outcomes in the farrowing room. Currently, the herd boasts a 92.4% farrowing rate and weans 13.7 piglets per litter, which translates to 34 pigs weaned per mated female per year.

When asked about the key to the operation's success, Scott emphasized, "The staff. Talented, hardworking, and dedicated people are essential to success." Looking ahead, Scott mentioned, "In the future I'd like to expand, but for now we are happy where we are."

Outside of work, Scott and Teresa enjoy spending time with their four children—Austin (10), Ben (6), Liam (5), and Hallie (1)—participating in activities such as fishing, ATVing, and playing hockey.

We wish Scott, Teresa, and their team continued success in their production. The herd start-up has gone smoothly, and Topigs Norsvin Canada looks forward to supporting them as their operation continues to thrive.



Van Roessel Staff

PIG OF THE MONTH



September: Trileaf Colony, Manitoba

Topigs Norsvin Canada Pig of the Month for September is TN70 sow J 206 from Trileaf Colony, MB. J206 farrowed her fourth litter in mid-August, where she had 16 piglets born alive. She recently was successful in weaning 15. Her lifetime average has been 15.5 born alive, 0.75 stillborn, and 15.25 weaned. We are looking forward to another great parity in the future for J 206. Congratulations to all at Trileaf Colony!



October: Erik Reitzema, Ontario

Topigs Norvin Canada Pig of the Month for October is TN70 sow 0069 from Erik Reitzema. This impressive sow farrowed 20 piglets, with 19 born alive; she weaned a remarkable 18. Congratulations to Erik Reitzema, his wife Henrike, and their five children who farm near Newton, Ontario. We are looking forward to continued incredible performance from 0069.



November: Sunset Colony, Montana

Topigs Norsvin Canada Pig of the Month for November is sow 1370 of Sunset Colony in Roundup, Montana. This sow farrowed her second litter in early November with 22 born alive and 23 total born. She is a rock star feeding her current litter. In her first litter, she had 17 born alive and weaned 15. She is quite an impressive sow – congratulations to all at Sunset Colony.

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UNLOCKING GENETIC POTENTIAL: TOPIGS NORSVIN'S COMMITMENT TO PRODUCERS

Hello! My name is Ana L.P. de Souza, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Nutrition Support Specialist for Topigs Norsvin Canada. Over the past few weeks, I've had the privilege of visiting farms and feed mills across Canada and the United States, working alongside the dedicated Topigs Norsvin Canada Sales and Technical teams.


Ana L.P. de Souza, Ph.D.

During these visits, I met with producers from diverse operations, including Hutterite Colonies, and had the chance to present on how Topigs Norsvin's genetics can enhance farm productivity.

Together, we explored topics such as:
- The unique farmer-driven structure of Topigs Norsvin, created through a partnership between Norway and the Netherlands in 2014.
- The company's impressive €34 million R&D budget for 2024, showcasing its commitment to genetic innovation.
- Key breeding traits like longevity, adaptability, and performance under varying conditions.

Additionally, we delved into practical strategies for achieving longevity and maximizing productivity, focusing on:
- TN Duroc: Breeding goals and genetic trends.
- TN Tempo: A terminal boar line designed for efficiency and quality.
- TN70: Proven performance trends across diverse production environments.

By optimizing feeding strategies and tailoring management practices, Topigs Norsvin helps producers unlock the full potential of their operations. If you're looking to elevate your farm's productivity, we're here to support you every step of the way. Let's work together to achieve your goals!


Technical Producer Meeting in Manitoba


Technical Producer Meeting in Montana

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: SHELDON FRIESEN


Sheldon Friesen

Hi, I'm Sheldon Friesen, and I'm proud to serve as the Business Development Representative for Topigs Norsvin customers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Montana. I joined the company in 2019 and am based out of Red Deer, Alberta.

I was born in Steinbach, MB, and grew up in Lethbridge, AB. Agriculture has always been a big part of my life, especially within the swine industry, which has been a key part of my family's legacy. I'm honored to carry that tradition forward. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Lethbridge, which has helped strengthen my background and provided me with additional skills and knowledge to thrive in this field.

When I'm not working, I love exploring the great outdoors—whether that's hiking in the mountains, camping, or visiting Alberta's many craft breweries. I have a strong appreciation for wildlife, and working with livestock feels especially rewarding, making my role here all the more fulfilling.

As Topigs Norsvin continues to grow, I'm committed to contributing to our success and driving innovation within the swine sector. I'm excited about the future and look forward to being part of this journey with our team and customers.

PIETER VAN DEN BOOGAARD APPOINTED AS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE



Pieter Van Den Boogaard

Topigs Norsvin Canada Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Pieter Van Den Boogaard as Business Development Representative. Effective November 18, 2024 he joined the Topigs Norsvin Eastern Canada Business Development Team.

Pieter grew up on a commercial farrow-to-finish hog farm near Gorrie, Ontario. Since graduating from F.E. Madill Secondary School in June 2023, he has held a management position at his family's farm.

"Pieter's hands-on experience with Topigs Norsvin's genetic programs, gilt development, and overall farm production management will make him a valuable asset to our team," said Gord Edwards, Eastern Canada Sales Manager. Pieter stated, "I am excited for this incredible opportunity to join Topigs Norsvin, learn, bring value to the company, and help achieve its goals."

Veronica Anderson, Ontario Sales and Logistics Coordinator, commented, "As our market share continues to grow in Ontario, Topigs Norsvin wants to ensure that our customers receive the support they need to reach the full potential of our genetics. I am excited that Pieter has the capability to help guide our customers toward success."

Pieter can be reached at (548) 994-0315 or pieter.van.den.boogaard@topigsnorsvin.ca

INSIDER INSIGHT

STORING SEMEN FOR OPTIMAL QUALITY

1. Cool & Consistent:
Store in a temperature-controlled spot (16–19°C).

2. Keep it Chill:
Avoid temperature swings to extend shelf life.

3. Hold Steady:
No flipping or rotating doses in storage

4. Just What You Need:
Only bring today's doses to the breeding barn.

For more semen storage and handling tips, scan the QR Code.

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Katrin Braasch
(204) 371-0411
Order Desk (204) 355-4012

C & M Genetics
Lucan, ON
Dr. Corneliu Oltean
(888) 259-7594

CIPQ S.E.C.
Saint-Lambert de Lauzon, Québec
(418) 889-9748

Magnum Swine Genetics Inc.
Fort Macleod, AB
Andrew Buesekom
(888) 553-4844

Ontario Swine Improvement
Innerkip, Ontario
Rod de Wolde
(519) 469-3010

Sunrise Genetics
Amherst, NS
Mike MacDonald
(902) 661-7883

Total Swine Genetics Inc.
Tillsonburg, ON
Stuart De Vries
(800) 844-9913

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 or Email: info@topigsnorsvin.ca

Entries are to be received by **February 1, 2025.** 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. PLEASE INCLUDE FULL COMPANY NAMES AND ADDRESS DETAILS OR YOU WILL BE INELIGIBLE.

1. What is the average number of sows in the Topigs Norsvin Canada herds?

2. Who won the Eastern New Herd Start-up Award?

3. What does Scott say is the key to the farm's success?

4. What is the third point for the Insider Insight?

Name:

Address:

Phone #: Fax #: Email:

Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners
Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners from the 2024 Fall (September) issue will receive a $20.00 gift card.
Dave Wipf, Parkland Colony, Alberta; Samson Hofer, New York Colony, Alberta; Michael M. Kleinsasser, Kingsbury Colony, Montana; Eli Wipf, Elk Creek Colony, Montana; Alvin Waldner, Brantwood Colony, Manitoba; Quentin Kleinsasser, Suncrest Colony, Manitoba; Martin Wipf, Willow Creek Colony, Alberta; John Waldner, Neudorf Colony, Alberta; Levi Entz, Cypress Colony, Saskatchewan; David Peter Wipf, Suncrest Colony, Alberta.