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TOPIGS Canada Inc./TOPIGS USA

Winter 2011



the
INSIDER

When Pigs Fly!



Arrival in China

September 18, 2011 was a day the TOPIGS Canada team may never forget! After months of preparation and attention to details, a Boeing 747 Jumbo jet lifted off from the Winnipeg airport taking 1,003 purebred TOPIGS breeding pigs to China.

This export shipment of live pigs was one of many in 2011, but unique in many ways. Due to the size of the shipment, the 747 cargo plane landed in Winnipeg to load the pigs and then flew directly to China with the TOPIGS delivery for the customer.

The Jumbo 747 has a load capacity of 100 metric tonnes (220,000 lbs). Planes of this size do not land in Winnipeg very often, so it created a bit of a "buzz" and a challenge that the cargo staff and the SeaAir forwarding company staff skillfully managed.

Kyla Ripley, TOPIGS Canada Logistics Coordinator takes the lead on all export and domestic deliveries. The process of preparing a shipment for export is a huge task and requires all details to be covered with nothing left to chance. In the case of an export to China, a federal veterinarian from China is assigned to oversee the complete process of the export even before any of the physical process begins. This veterinarian must be in Canada to approve and verify everything from the source herds, the quarantine barn, the blood testing and even the diagnostic labs. Working closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) veterinarians and the TOPIGS veterinarians is a normal process for export. The final approval occurs when the plane lifts off of Canadian soil with the pigs on board.

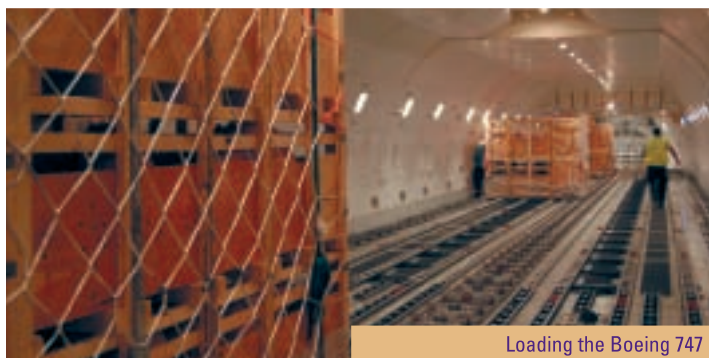


Loading pallets from the semi trailers



Dr. Wang with 24 pallets to be loaded

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Loading the Boeing 747



In the nose cone - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



High quality TOPIGS genetics, ready to fly!



Arrival at the breeding farm in China

TOPIGS genetics are in high demand around the world due to the excellent health status of the Canadian TOPIGS herds, and many countries receive live breeding pigs from TOPIGS Canada. Exports to many countries including Russia, Chile, Mexico and Japan, to name only a few, are not out of the ordinary for TOPIGS. With smaller shipments of several hundred animals, the breeding pigs are usually trucked to an airport in the USA and then flown to their final destination.

Many countries require that all breeding pigs are purebred with pedigrees that are registered with a recognized "herd book" organization. All of TOPIGS purebred lines meet this criteria and have pedigrees recognized by purebred associations. A pedigree certificate for each pig is issued by the Canadian Swine Breeders Association and accompanies the pigs to their final destination. Each pedigree shows the ancestry of the animal along with all identifying tattoos.

TOPIGS has the largest pig database (PigBase) containing more than 23 million individual pig records. No other breeding company has the volume of data that TOPIGS does, and it provides the "backbone" of continuous improvement with key components such as feed conversion, growth, productivity and meat quality. These are much more predictable with a large database, and PigBase forms the foundation of the 1.1 million gilt sales per year.

The demand for TOPIGS breeding stock continues to grow in North America as well as in the world, allowing producers to be the most efficient in their production units and stay in business for the long term.

Farm Production Efficiency and IVOGs



IVOG stations at the Terminal Boar Nucleus

Never before has on-farm efficiency been more important than now. With feed being the major cost in getting a pig to market, the current high cost of feed causes us to focus on growth and feed efficiency. However, one must consider all areas of production to gain the "Full-Efficient" effect and benefit.

TOPIGS has never lost sight of producing highly productive, efficient animals that get the best results for producers. Several key factors play an important role in being "Full Efficient" including:

- **Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) of grow / finish pigs** - Feed is the highest input cost for producers. TOPIGS sire lines already exhibit excellent FCR with results of 2.25 FCR from 22.78 kg - 122.68 kg (50 lbs - 270 lbs).
- **Piglets weaned and sold per sow** - The TOPIGS 20 and 40 sow lines are the most productive sows in the world, and they have an 85-90% market share in The Netherlands. In 2010, the average piglets weaned / sow / year was at an impressive 28.1 piglets. In North America, TOPIGS herds are already showing an impressive 30+ pigs weaned / sow / year.
- **Pig mortality** - TOPIGS animals are selected and bred for vitality and survival. Ten years of data show a steady increase in the numbers born alive while

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Eastern Iowa A.I., Inc.



Eastern Iowa A.I., Inc. joined the TOPIGS USA family of boar studs in November 2011 when they received their first load of TEMPO boars. Eastern Iowa A.I. (EIAI) is a commercial semen collection facility owned and operated by Doug and Sue Petersen and their son Tyler. EIAI is located in Jackson County, Iowa, a sparsely populated pig area, and has experienced no health challenges since its start up in 1997.

Herd health and semen quality are top priority at Eastern Iowa A.I. where the health policies, practices, and facilities are designed to protect their customers' bio-security. According to owner/operator Doug Petersen, "We are always using the latest methods of ensuring a disease free product, as well as the latest technologies to ensure we deliver the highest quality semen to our customers."

Some of EIAI's current practices include:

- Genetic lines are housed in separate barns
- Strict isolation protocol is followed before boars are allowed in resident barns
- Barns are connected to a central lab with a pneumatic tube
- Shipping and receiving area is separate from boar housing facilities
- Routine monitoring of semen samples, by Dr. Chris Kuster, for concentration, motility, morphology, and bacteria
- Their own courier service with temperature monitoring devices and knowledgeable delivery people to protect the product and assure customers that they will get their order on time

The Eastern Iowa AI stud is a welcome addition to the TOPIGS USA family of boar studs. This location will enhance the distribution area and availability of the growing demand for TOPIGS sires.

TOPIGS USA Boar Studs Available From:

EASTERN IOWA A.I., INC.

Spragueville, IA

Contact: Doug Petersen

Lab/Office: (563) 689-6661

Email: dougpete@netins.net

A.I. PARTNERS

Morris, MN

Contact: Bruce Zierke

Lab/Office: (800) 247-0254

Email: bzierke@zierkecompany.com

DUTCH SIRES

New Carlisle, OH

Contact: Gene Isler

Lab/Office: (937) 846-1528

Email: piggene@aol.com



Doug, Sue, Jill, Tyler and Amy Peterson

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reducing the pre-weaning mortality. This vitality and survivability follows through to the grow / finish pigs. TOPIGS terminal sire lines each have specific attributes producing very efficient, lean market hogs that survive in the barn and make it to market.

- **Sow mortality** - TOPIGS sow herds consistently experience mortality at 5% or less. A lower sow mortality rate adds up to huge savings in the amount of feed used per sow / year while increasing the total number of piglets weaned from the herd.

While many factors play a role in being "Full-Efficient," TOPIGS Canada has recently made a substantial investment to further the improvement and progress of better FCR in grow / finish pigs.

In October 2011, TOPIGS Canada installed fifty new Individual Voluntary Feed Intake Recording in Group Housing (IVOG) feeding stations.

Forty stations were installed at the TOPIGS Canada Boar Nucleus and ten were installed at the Paradise Valley Maternal Nucleus. An IVOG feeding station for growing pigs consists of a single-space dry feeder placed on a load cell in combination with electronic identification of the pigs.

Using the IVOG stations will allow TOPIGS to measure maternal and terminal sires for individual Feed Intake, Average Daily Gain as well as calculate Feed Conversion. These key parameters along with Back Fat and Loin Depth measurements will be used to determine the TOPIGS Selection Index prior to being sold or moved to an AI station. It will greatly enhance the accuracy of the individual boar's performance ensuring that the "best of the best" are available to producers.

Terminal boars that have been tested and fed on the IVOG stations will be available for sale in early 2012.



The IVOG feeding station

TOPIGS Producer Profile - Miami Colony



Miami Colony hog production unit

Miami Colony is located 25 minutes south of Lethbridge near the town of New Dayton, Alberta. The Hutterite Colony was established in 1924 and today is home for 75 colony members. They farm approximately 9,000 acres of mixed grains and oilseed crops. The land base is used to grow feed for their diversified livestock entities of 11,500 broiler chickens, a dairy herd of 80 cows, and their 280 sow farrow to finish unit. Joe Kleinsasser has been working in the hog unit for the last eight years and been managing the farms 280 sow unit for the past four and a half years. Along with farrowing barn manager, Amos Waldner, the two of them see to the day-to-day activities of the barn.

In early December 2009, the colony management decided to de-populate their sow herd due to very low hog prices. The de-population allowed for some renovations on the unit. Even before the barn was completely empty, Miami Colony had decided to populate with TOPIGS as their new genetic supplier. "We decided to go with TOPIGS because we had heard how prolific the TOPIGS 20 F1 was, and TOPIGS offered us the complete sow and boar package that we were looking for," said Joe. In July of 2010 the first group of TOPIGS 20 gilts and Tempo boars entered the barn.

Prior to the barn fill it was determined that an in-house F1 gilt multiplication would be used. So during the fill TOPIGS Large White Z-line gilts and N-line Dutch Landrace boars were brought in to produce replacement TOPIGS 20 F1 gilts. The main goal for the in-house program was to limit the number of barn entries and to have gilts grow and acclimate easily into their herd. All replacement purebred gilts and boars enter the herd through a quarantine process in a barn located east of the colony. "The TOPIGS Z-line sows produce litters with a high born alive, meaning high potential of replacement gilts in each litter," said Joe.

The herd has now been farrowing for one year and production has been outstanding! Miami currently has a born alive of 13.1 and is weaning 28 pigs / mated female / year with an average parity of 1.4. As the herd matures production continues to move upward, which is evident as records indicate, parity 2 sows have a born alive of 14.2 and weaning 13.1 pigs / litter. "I find the TOPIGS 20 sow to be a very docile and easy to manage sow in the farrowing crate," said Amos. "We have used other genetic suppliers in the past where we needed to babysit the sow. The TOPIGS 20 does most of the work for us. They eat and milk very well. We have a weaning weight of 8.5 kg per at an age of 26 days which makes for a good start in the nursery."

Miami has been breeding the TOPIGS 20 to the TOPIGS Tempo terminal boar. This is a combination that not only works all over the world but is performing very well for Miami Colony. "They produce very strong vital piglets that grow very well in all areas of our barn. The Tempo is also a very aggressive and active boar in the breeding barn, which makes my job easier," added Joe. Miami Colony currently markets their hogs at Thunder Creek Packers in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The Tempo sired hogs have been doing very well. At a live weight of 118 kg (260 lbs) their hogs are yielding a 61mm loin and an Index of 109.2. This high Index means they are receiving 9.2% over the average market price.

Joe and Amos are excited to see the high level of production in their new herd but are even more excited to see what level of production they will be able to achieve with a mature sow herd. They believe that 32+ pigs / sow / year is attainable in their herd. However, one thing they know for sure is that with TOPIGS it is going to get even better in the future.



A quality litter

TOPIGS Canada Inc. Hosts Customer Appreciation Night

TOPIGS Canada Inc. hosted a record attendance of over 150 customers from across Manitoba and South Dakota on November 3, 2011, at the annual customer appreciation and awards banquet. Special guests included federal veterinarians from Canada, Russia and China, as well as Mr. Willem Steyn, Nutritionist from TOPIGS International, who presented an overview on developing a successful feeding program.

The highlight of the evening was the awards presentation for achieving various levels of production with TOPIGS genetics over a period of one year. This year's data from participants included more than 45,000 sows from Western Canada with herds averaging over 1,000 sows per farm. Top producing TOPIGS customer herds are now achieving more than 30 pigs weaned / sow / year, more than 14 pigs born alive per litter and weaning over 12 pigs / litter.

Here is the summary of the production award winners and runners-up listed by category.

500 Sows or Less Category:

Farrowing Rate

Winner with 93.7% - Albion Ridge Colony of Picture Butte, Alberta
Runner-up with 93.0% - VDK Farms of Three Hills, Alberta

Born Alive

Winner with 13.10 - Spring Lake Colony of Swift Current, Saskatchewan
Runner-up with 12.94 - Arnold van Ginkel of Leslie, Alberta

Pigs Weaned/Mated Female/Year

Winner with 28.40 - Keho Lake Colony of Barons, Alberta
Runner-up with 28.35 - Albion Ridge Colony of Picture Butte, Alberta

501 - 1,200 Sows Category:

Farrowing Rate

Winner with 94.0% - Mystique Pork of Stephenfield, Manitoba
Runner-up (tie) with 93.1% - Lakeside Colony of Cranford, Alberta
Runner-up (tie) with 93.1% - Starlite Colony of Starbuck, Manitoba

Born Alive

Winner with 14.20 - Mystique Pork of Stephenfield, Manitoba
Winner with 14.10 - Greyland Pork of Fannystelle, Manitoba

Pigs Weaned/Mated Female/Year

Winner with 30.60 - Mystique Pork of Stephenfield, Manitoba
Winner with 30.20 - Greyland Pork of Fannystelle, Manitoba

1,200 Sows or More Category:

Farrowing Rate

Winner with 93.0% - The Dutch Barn of Cardale, Manitoba
Runner-up with 92.5% - Blue Ribbon Swine of Grunthal, Manitoba

Born Alive

Winner with 13.40 - The Dutch Barn of Cardale, Manitoba
Runner-up (tie) with 12.80 - Quinfield Farms of Lowe Farm, Manitoba
Runner-up (tie) with 12.80 - Super Gro 1A of Labroquerie, Manitoba
Runner-up (tie) with 12.80 - Ptarmigan Swine of Rosenfeld, Manitoba

Pigs Weaned/Mated Female/Year

Winner with 30.10 - The Dutch Barn of Cardale, Manitoba
Runner-up with 28.20 - Quinfield Farms of Lowe Farm, Manitoba

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Blue Ribbon Swine



Greyland Pork



Interlake Colony



Mystique Pork



Quinfield Swine

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A new award presented this year was the **Best New Start-up Herd**. This award is presented to a new herd that did not have a full year of production and achieved outstanding results. The winner of this first-time award was Interlake Colony of Teulon, Manitoba. This 750 sow herd had an average parity of 1.4 achieving performance of 12.94 pigs born alive/litter, 11.4 pigs weaned/litter and 29.22 pigs weaned/mated female/year.

This year the **26+ Club Award** was presented to 29 farms! This award is presented to the herds weaning 26.0 pigs/mated female/year or more. The award recognizes the hard work of customers in attaining these numbers and demonstrates the genetic potential of TOPIGS breeding stock. Comments from customers included:

- "The TOPIGS females are highly productive and so easy to work with and manage."
- "The TOPIGS sows return to estrus quickly after weaning and breed easily."
- "There is definitely less management required for TOPIGS sows."
- "Compared to our previous genetics, we are now weaning more and better pigs with less labour."
- "TOPIGS has done a great job on breeding females that require less labour and is something other genetic companies have been unable to provide for me."

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening a wonderful success. We look forward to seeing more great results in 2012!



Starlite Colony



SuperGro 1A



The Dutch Barn



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. Entries to be received by January 31, 2012. Winners will receive a stainless steel TOPIGS travel mug. If you wish, the TOPIGS rep in your area will deliver the prize.

Employees of TOPIGS and their subsidiaries are not eligible.

Please contact us for more information:

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(204) 981-0243

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(519) 440-8128

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(519) 317-7403

Ron Musick, Manitoba Business Development
(204) 223-3193

Sergio Sosa, Manitoba & Saskatchewan Business Development
(204) 792-0776

Kyle Klompke, Alberta, Saskatchewan & Montana Business Development
(403) 763-0835

Craig Jarolimek, USA Business Development
(701) 866-4444

Brent Eyler, Eastern USA Business Development
(937) 733-8532



TOPIGS INSIDER Quiz

How many IVOG stations were installed at the TOPIGS Terminal Boar Nucleus?

What make and model of airplane was used for the China export?

Who won the Best New Herd Start-up award?

How many pigs were on the shipment to China?

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

TOPIGS INSIDER Quiz Winners

Here are the winners from last issue: Joe Wipf, Vanguard Colony, SK; Janelle Nagel, Gorrie, ON; Ryan Glanzer, Hillside Colony, SD; Enoch Wipf, Big Sky Colony, MT; Mark Waldner, Sturgeon Creek Colony, MB; Joe Schotman, Clinton, ON; Randy Waldner, Grass River Colony, MB; Samuel J. Waldner, Kyle Colony, SK; Edward J. Entz, Big Stone Colony, MT; Kenneth Entz, Crystal Spring Colony, AB. Each winner receives a \$20 Walmart or Canadian Tire gift card. The TOPIGS rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!

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