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TOPIGS Canada Inc.

Spring 2009



Genetics Operations Purchase

TOPIGS Canada Inc. has completed the purchase of the swine genetics business operations and assets from Maple Leaf Agri-Farms.

"The swine genetics of Maple Leaf Agri-Farms, combined with the existing activities of TOPIGS in Canada, form a perfect basis for the future developments of our business in Canada," said Martin Bijl, CEO of Pigure Group. "With this purchase, we expand our market share and acquire market knowledge that make it possible to grow further."



Under the terms of the sale, TOPIGS Canada Inc. acquired Maple Leaf Agri-Farms' genetics business, including the assets of Lean Team International, a marketing arm of the genetics business, along with a nucleus farm located in Manitoba, Canada. The two companies have also formalized an agreement where TOPIGS Canada will supply genetics to Maple Leaf Agri-Farms hog production operations.

"TOPIGS has a strong reputation as a world leader in swine genetics and we are pleased that the company recognized the value in our genetics business and our

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TOPIGS Worldwide



Pigure Group Building, Vught, Netherlands

TOPIGS is 77.5% owned by Pigure Group Pig Breeders Co-operative, owned by 3,000 member pig farmers in the Netherlands. The remaining shares (22.5%) are owned by fresh-meat processor Vion Food Group.

Pigure Group also includes TOPIGS Netherlands, Varkens KI Nederland and AIM Worldwide. In addition, Pigure Group has subsidiaries, joint ventures, affiliates (including the Institute for Pig Genetics research), and distributors in more than 30 countries worldwide. Pigure Group publishes its own magazine: Varkens.

TOPIGS produces 1.1 million gilts per year, over 6 million doses of semen, and has a market share of over 85% in the Netherlands.

As a valued partner of large integrations and meat processors, TOPIGS plays a full part in the production chain – not only as a genetics supplier, but also as a partner in the tracking and tracing process.

Genetics

TOPIGS supplies the genetic basis for successful pig farming in the form of semen/boars and sows. The scale upon which TOPIGS operates makes it possible to deliver customized solutions that best suit your farm and market.

Healthy Pigs

Animal health is increasingly important. TOPIGS has been working on a healthy pig herd for years. A number of our international nucleus farms, including Canada, have specific pathogen free status. TOPIGS also applies strict biosecurity protocols for all its breeding companies in order to prevent the transfer of diseases.

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TOPIGS Tempo Boar

The TOPIGS Tempo is a synthetic boar line developed in the Netherlands in 1976 as a sire line from the Large White and Pietrain breeds. Since then, the line has been bred pure, meaning that the boar is produced only by crossing two Tempos.

The Tempo is the result of vigorous selection for meat quality, low back fat, deep loin muscling and conformation. He is fully stress free and homozygous white, and has the TOPIGS high gain capacity.

Tempo boars are produced and tested out of the TOPIGS nucleus unit in Kipling, Saskatchewan. This herd was established in 1994. The Kipling Unit, concentrating on finisher traits, is one of the four major international genetic improvement centres for TOPIGS. Because of the excellent health status of the Kipling nucleus facility, boars are delivered worldwide.

Piglet Vitality

In 1993, TOPIGS set out to find the genetic differences in survival between families. Through the collection of data on over 600,000 piglets, TOPIGS researchers found genetic variation for survival does exist and can be predicted. Once proven, TOPIGS began to include piglet vitality in breeding value calculations for the Tempo boars. As a result, Tempo offspring are very uniform, with strong survival and adaptation traits.

The Tempo Experience

With the onset of circovirus challenges around the world, the Tempo boar is proving to be a very effective tool in the fight.

Netherlands

Dr. Sam De Snoek has seen many farms challenged with PMWS in the past years. "The Tempo was a good solution. His offspring have a higher feed intake and are stronger. This makes the extreme mortalities on farms with PMWS go down to the normal level."

South Africa

Dr. Pieter Vervoort: "Farms using the Tempo boar as a terminal sire do not see the typical symptoms of PMWS or PDNS and there is no loss of production, although over 90% of the animals on these farms test serologically positive for circovirus."



Canada

A 1,500 sow farrow to finish operation reports a significant improvement by using the TOPIGS Tempo boar. "We don't see the circovirus challenges as in the past. Even in the midst of a mycoplasma outbreak, they just keep eating."

High performance characteristics of the TOPIGS Tempo progeny include excellent growth, viability and meat/carcass quality.

Carcass Performance: TOPIGS Tempo x TOPIGS 40

No. of head	63,417
Dress wt. kg	94.7
Back fat, mm	18.2
Loin depth, mm	63.6
Lean yield, %	61.0



TOPIGS Nucleus Unit and Genetic Improvement Centre, Kipling, Saskatchewan



TOPIGS Tempo Offspring

TOPIGS Profile – VanderZanden Family Farm



Like many Dutch immigrants before them, the VanderZanden family sold their farm in the Netherlands and moved to Canada. Franz, Hannie, and their three daughters purchased a farm near Highgate, Ontario where they decided to build a new barn to continue their life in the pig industry.

In the Netherlands, the VanderZanden's had a 450 sow, farrow to partial finish operation. A TOPIGS customer there as well, they utilized TOPIGS 20 sows crossed with the TOPIGS Tempo boar. In Canada, they decided to build a 600 sow farrowing barn as well as an attached nursery. They began filling their barn with TOPIGS 40 gilts in June of 2007 and crossing them with the Tempo boar.

Adapting to the Canadian Swine industry has had its challenges but the VanderZanden's have worked hard to make their new farm successful. Despite their years of experience, the difference in environment, feeding, marketing etc. between the Canadian and Dutch swine industries has meant that they have had to learn new and different ways to produce pigs.

The extreme market challenges of the past year have also prompted them to start to contract finishing their pigs instead of selling them in the highly volatile weaner/grower market. They also recently purchased a 2,500 head finishing barn, allowing them to finish some of their animals themselves.



Through 2008, working with a young sow herd averaging 1.5 parities, they achieved over 11 pigs weaned per litter. Weaning at an average age of 26 days, they weaned 26.5 pigs/ mated female/ year. With the herd now at an average parity of 2.4 and having raised pigs in Canada for over a year, Franz and Hannie are set to improve upon production numbers in 2009.

While they miss many aspects of the Dutch culture and swine industry, the VanderZanden family has built their new life in Canada. With determination, hard work and adaptability, they have established themselves as successful producers.



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people," said Glen Gratton, VP MLAF Genetics. "Maple Leaf Agri-Farms is looking forward to drawing on TOPIGS global expertise and to building a strong working relationship as our genetics supplier for our hog production operations in Manitoba."



TOPIGS is a world leader in pig genetics and, through its subsidiaries, agents and distributors, is active in more than 30 countries worldwide. With superior genetics, knowledge, and reproduction technology in the field of pig genetics, TOPIGS produces more than 1 million gilts per year and over 6 million doses of semen. Headquartered in Vught, the Netherlands, TOPIGS employs about 500 people worldwide and had sales of €73 million in 2007. TOPIGS exports from its High Health SPF Nucleus farms in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Maple Leaf Agri-Farms is an independent operating company of Maple Leaf Foods Inc., a leading food processing company, headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Maple Leaf Foods employs approximately 23,500 people at its operations across Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Asia. The company had sales of \$5.2 billion in 2007.

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Services

TOPIGS not only supplies genetics, but also genetics-related services and assistance. We provide service and assistance in the fields of breeding, reproduction, fertility and other matters directly related to genetics, making it possible for producers to achieve maximum results. We also strive to provide you with the highest possible quality, maximum yield, and low cost.

Expertise

Pig farming in the 21st century is a knowledge-intensive industry. TOPIGS, through its research institute IPG (Institute for Pig Genetics), is an important centre of expertise for the entire pig production chain. IPG is at the forefront of knowledge in genetics, breeding value estimations, and reproductive techniques. IPG is also a leading knowledge generator in the areas of carcass and meat quality.



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, 2009, the first ten entries drawn with the correct answers will win a pair of handmade, genuine deerskin TOPIGS gloves. 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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the INSIDER Quiz

Who is the majority owner of TOPIGS? _____

What year was the TOPIGS Tempo boar developed? _____

What was the VanderZanden's average parity in 2008? _____

What is the name of the TOPIGS research institute? _____

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Top Ten Quiz Entries

The winners of the Quiz from the last issue are as follows:

Lorna Hofer (Garden Plane Colony, SK), Don Kleinsasser (Kingsbury Colony, MT), Dave Entz (Starbrite Colony, AB), Ben D. Hofer (Plain Lake Colony, AB), Philip Kleinsasser (Camrose Colony, MT), Bryan Waldner (Tri-Leaf Colony, MB), Spurs Waldner (Cool Spring Colony, MB), Mike R. Mandel (Britestone Colony, AB), Winston Penner (Winston Penner Farm, MB), Edward J. Entz (Big Stone Colony, MT)

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