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TOPIGS Canada Inc.

Spring 2011



# Producer Profile - Red Willow Open House New Group Housing Sow Barn in South Dakota



Some of the open house guests

On February 4, 2011 Red Willow Colony hosted an open house for its new sow barn. The public was invited to tour the modern new facility, enjoy a nice dinner, and learn about the barn's loose housing system and electronic sow feeding system. The brand new 1,100 sow unit was built at the new location for Red Willow Colony situated near White, South Dakota, USA. Red Willow Colony is branching from Riverside Colony of Huron, South Dakota.

The barn is a first of its kind in the state of South Dakota because of its unique design and automated systems. The new barn has even drawn the supportive attention of invited guest and Governor of South Dakota, Dennis Daugaard, who attended the open house and addressed the crowd. Other speakers at the event included Tim Kurbis of New Standard Ag Inc. and Craig Jarolimek of TOPIGS USA. An estimated crowd of 500 people were in attendance.

Red Willow Colony did their homework before making a decision on a genetics company they wanted to work with. Visiting several production units of various genetics gave them the opportunity to evaluate the benefits and production capabilities of each genotype. TOPIGS is a research driven, fact based company with a breeding and selection program second to none. This results in breeding animals that can deliver the best performance in the barn. As the second largest pig breeding company in the world and active in more than 50 countries, a visit to TOPIGS Netherlands gave Red Willow the confidence that TOPIGS could deliver what they needed.

They chose TOPIGS as the company they wanted to work with and will be a multiplier herd for TOPIGS USA. This new supply of high-health TOPIGS 20 F1s will be of great benefit for farmers looking for increased sow production and efficiency. The TOPIGS 20 is well known in North America and around the world for having large numbers of uniform piglets and for having excellent mothering ability. TOPIGS 20 offspring is lean and well suited for the U.S. pork industry.

Red Willow Colony hog barn will be managed by Dale Waldner. Dale looks forward to working in the new environment and with TOPIGS breeding stock. At the time this article was published, the sow barn was complete, while the nursery and finisher barns are scheduled to be built starting in the spring of 2011. Stocking the unit with the highly prolific TOPIGS Z Line GGP females began in February.

The Red Willow hog barn's key features include:

- Group housing for gestation sows. Nesting boxes provide sows with a place to rest and escape potential bully sows.
- Electronic Feeding using the Nedap Velos Feeding Stations (6 stations for every 250 sows): Each sow can be kept in ideal condition. The feeding station reads the sow's Electronic ID tag and dispenses controlled amount of feed. Sows enter one end of the feeding station, a back gate locks them in until they finish eating, then releases them. Sows in queue nudge out the departing sow to take her place.

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# TOPIGS Terminal Boars – Focus on Performance

With the abundance of boar lines available on the market today, how can you decide what line is best suited for your farm and whether there really are any differences between them?

TOPIGS has continued to quietly strive to breed lines that work for you – realizing that every farm has its own set of challenges, strengths and goals. Whether your focus is in the farrowing room, increasing efficiencies, or looking to hit a specialty grid, TOPIGS can provide you with the best combination to suit your needs.

The TOPIGS breeding program is stringent. From a minimum of 4,000 individually performance-tested boars, only the best 40 boars are selected as a father for the next generation. Breeding values are calculated based on individual feed intake, feed conversion, and ultrasonic loin and fat depth measurements on live animals. Boar performance is measured to market weights that average 120kg. Carcass evaluations and DNA fragment tracing are also utilized to ensure the progression of an economic boar line with sustainable rapid genetic progress.



## TOPIGS Tempo

The TOPIGS Tempo is a synthetic boar line developed in the Netherlands in 1976. He has been molded and shaped since then with heavy selection on feed intake, piglet vitality and robustness. The Tempo is now a pure line, meaning that the boar is produced only by crossing two Tempos. The result is a homozygous white, stress-free boar that produces progeny with a high gain capacity and the ability thrive in adverse conditions such as heavy disease challenge. Tempo litters are very even and remain so through finishing making the Tempo progeny ideally suited for all-in-all-out systems. Tempo progeny are able to endure suboptimal feed quality and continue to thrive in less than ideal housing conditions with minimum management.

## TOPIGS Talent

The TOPIGS Talent line is a Duroc type pure line, bred specifically for modern production systems. The Talent breeding goal focuses on low feed conversion and high daily gain to ensure feed costs remain low. Talent finishers excel in carcass and meat quality with excellent loins and hams. Genetic selection for this line pays particular attention to cost of production while balancing the need for piglet vitality and survival. All this makes Talent the most efficient feed to pork converter. The Talent is an excellent cross to both the TOPIGS 20 and TOPIGS 40 sow.

## TOPIGS TopPi

The TOPIGS TopPi is a purebred, stress-free Piétrain boar. He is known for high lean yield and muscling. The extreme muscling provides for excellent carcass value on most grids but especially for those with bonuses for loin depth. The very lean TopPi boar is well suited to the TOPIGS 40 sow in a stable health environment. This combination yields strong piglets with low feed conversion and high meat percentage.

How should you decide which boar line will work best for you? Consider the total economy. The economics of which boar line to utilize is not only based on carcass evaluation, but also on farrowing room, nursery and finishing barn performance including mortalities, feed conversion and gain. Also take into consideration the sow line used, health status of the herd, diet ingredients available and the possibility of the use of growth promoters.

The TOPIGS terminal boars are available in AI stations across Canada and the USA. Contact the TOPIGS representative in your area for assistance in evaluating the best boar line for your needs.



# TOPIGS Canada Inc. Announces New Business Development Representative

## Key appointment enhances TOPIGS Canada Sales & Service team

On February 1, 2011, TOPIGS Canada announced that Sergio Sosa joined its staff as Business Development Representative. Sergio will be based out of the TOPIGS Winnipeg office. In his new role, Sergio will develop sales in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He will also be responsible for technical support to customers in Western Canada.

"Sergio's extensive knowledge of swine production brings great value to the TOPIGS team," said John Sawatzky, Sales Manager at TOPIGS.

Sergio Sosa obtained his Degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1978 at the State University of Puebla, Mexico. His years of experience gained in various production roles in both Dairy and Swine units will be invaluable. He has managed large commercial and multiplier



Sergio Sosa

swine production farms. In his previous nine years of employment Sergio was a Swine Consultant Specialist, travelling extensively throughout Western Canada, the USA and Mexico.

TOPIGS Canada is a leading swine genetics supplier in North America. TOPIGS produces and develops sound, profitable pig genetic programs and breeding systems for commercial hog production and is one of the largest genetics companies in the world with business activities in over 50 countries.

Sergio looks forward to being part of the progressive attitude and excitement that is a TOPIGS trademark as he moves into his new role. He may be reached by calling (204) 792-0776 or email at: [ssosa@topigs.ca](mailto:ssosa@topigs.ca)

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Farrowing



Gestation nesting areas



The Nedap Electronic Feeding Stations

- Automatic heat detection station keeps track of the amount of time spent by a sow visiting a boar. A computer records data and marks sows that are in heat.
- Gilt training and breeding area.
- Strict bio-security measures. Walk through shower-in, shower-out and fumigation room for disinfection of tools and supplies.

The barn shows its top quality equipment and construction throughout. There is no doubt this will be a very successful venture for Red Willow. TOPIGS is very pleased to have Red Willow Colony as part of our team and would like to congratulate them on their beautiful new farm.

# TOPIGS Breeding Boars with Low Boar Taint



Dr. Franz-Josef Stork

With societal pressure rising in North Western Europe against physical castration, TOPIGS announced in November 2010 that they would be able to deliver breeding animals proven to be a low risk for boar taint.

Ongoing genetic selection and tracking have made it possible to offer certain breeds to customers, which through their ancestry have proven a reduced risk of boar taint. The main causes of boar taint are the hormones androstenone and skatole.

TOPIGS introduced the concept to the German market at a special press conference at EuroTier, in Hanover, Germany. In addition, TOPIGS also shared new insights in productivity indicators.

With regard to the boar fattening, Dr. Franz-Josef Stork said that his company began selecting and breeding boars with low boar taint (BTL boars) some years ago, and he is convinced this is the future trend: "It is not a matter of whether boar fattening will come – but how quickly," said Dr. Stork.

## Dam Line

The possibility now exists to market these animals. In addition, TOPIGS also selected on boar taint effects in the dam line of the breeding pyramid.

Special bio-markers will be delivered together with the boars. This can be proven at slaughterhouses using SNP technology.

Boars are known to grow more efficiently. Castration, however, is common in the majority of pig producing countries in an attempt to avoid boar taint. In many countries, retailers and slaughterhouses are anxious to allow entire males to be slaughtered at their plants.

Related websites: [www.topigs.com](http://www.topigs.com), [www.eurotier.de](http://www.eurotier.de)



## 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 April 30, 2011; winners will receive a TOPIGS cap and t-shirt. 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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## TOPIGS INSIDER Quiz

How many sows will Red Willow have?

What sow line was used to populate the Red Willow barn?

Who is the new Business Development Rep for TOPIGS in Canada?

Which boar line is the most efficient feed to pork converter?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Top Ten Quiz Entries

The winners of the TOPIGS Insider Quiz from the last issue are as follows: Bethany Gross, Clearview Colony, MB, Ike Waldner, Pondera Colony, MT, Levi Hofer, Springdale Colony, MT, Joe Schotman, Schotman Farms, ON, Joseph Wollman, Long Lake Colony, SD, Bill Waldner, Birch Creek Colony, MT, Ike Entz, Rock Lake Colony, AB, Joe J. Waldner, Upland Farms, SD, Joe J. Wipf, Martinsdale Colony, MT, George Hofer Jr., Millerdale Colony, SD

Each winner will receive a TOPIGS toque. The TOPIGS rep in your area will deliver the prize - congratulations!

### TOPIGS Canada Inc.

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