

In this Issue:

TOPIGS Weaning Capacity	1
TOPIGS Producer PROFILE	3
TOPIGS Team Update	4
TOPIGS Insider Quiz	4

TOPIGS Canada Inc.

Fall 2011

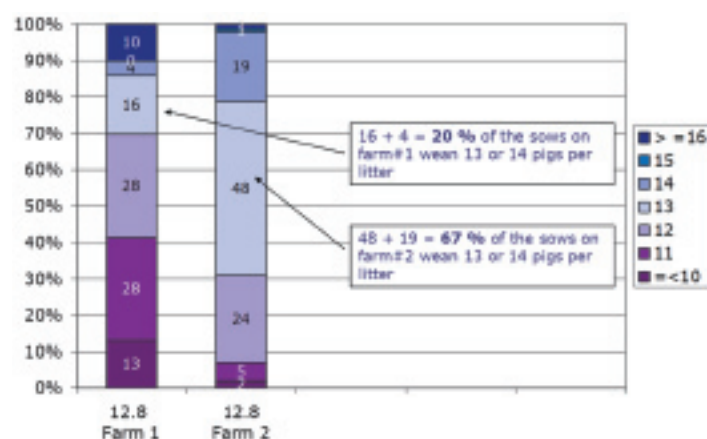


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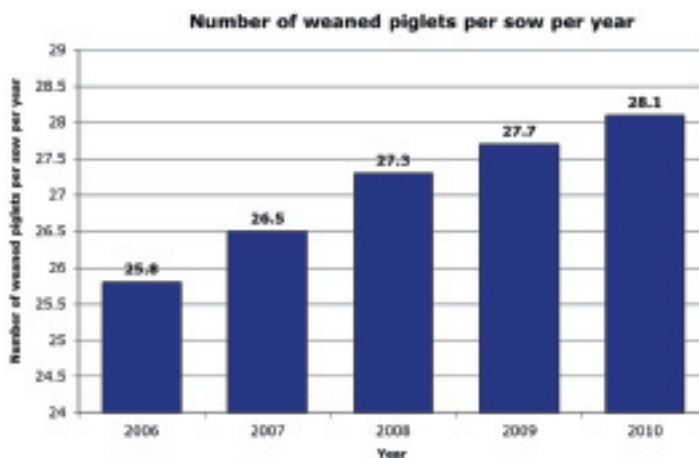
TOPIGS Weaning Capacity

"How many piglets do you wean with the sow?" is a question that can lead to interesting discussions with farmers and production managers. Often we think in number weaned as a simple average. However, an average number weaned of 12.8 pigs can be done in a number of different ways. For example, both farms in Graph 1 wean an average 12.8 pigs per litter. However, the first farm weans small litters of not more than 12 pigs and uses a lot of foster sows. These foster sows wean 2 litters totalling more than 16 piglets (cascading). The second farm weans many litters of 13, 14 and even some with 15 pigs - and uses very few foster sows. The second farm does not use artificial sows and is able to wean the pigs with the sow, without creating foster sows. Using this approach, the second farm saves a lot of trouble, labour and money.

Graph 1 - Per cent of Pigs Weaned/Litter



Graph 2 - Weaned Piglets/Sow/Year



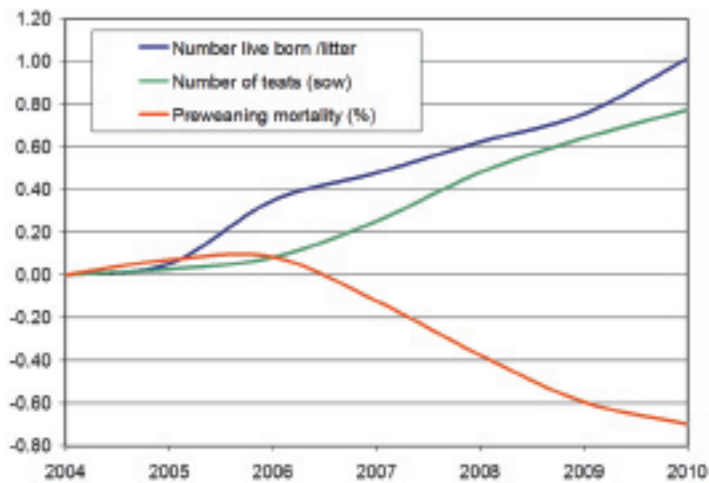
For many years, TOPIGS has led the way in sow productivity. In The Netherlands, large volumes of data prove the number of pigs weaned/sow/year has increased dramatically over the past 5-6 years. Increasing by .5 of a pig weaned annually has resulted in an increase from 25.8 in 2005, to 28.1 pigs weaned/sow/year in 2010 (Graph 2). The TOPIGS philosophy is: **"An extra pig born must be an extra pig weaned!"**

While the number of live born piglets has increased dramatically in recent years, the percentage of piglet mortality has decreased, resulting in more pigs weaned. Through selection for piglet vitality, as well as number of teats, these increases have been realized on farm (Graph 3).

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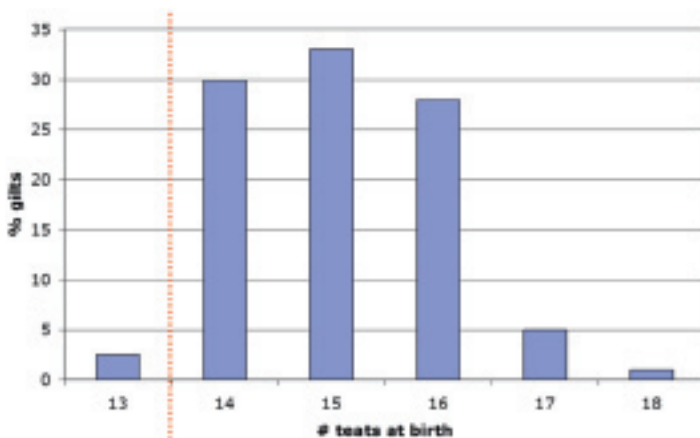
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Graph 3 - Piglets Born and Teat Selection



Calculated as the average between the phenotypic averages of Z-line and N-line until August 2010, the average number of teats at day 1 in the TOPIGS 20 is 15.1. The number of functional teats at 6 months of age is approximately 0.3 teats lower and, in nursing sows, 0.5 teats lower than the number of teats at birth. Gilts with less than 14 functional teats at the end of rearing are not sold.

Graph 4 - Gilt Teat Count



Weaning capacity = number of piglets weaned with the sow.

TOPIGS improves the weaning capacity of sows by selecting on BLUP breeding values for mothering ability,

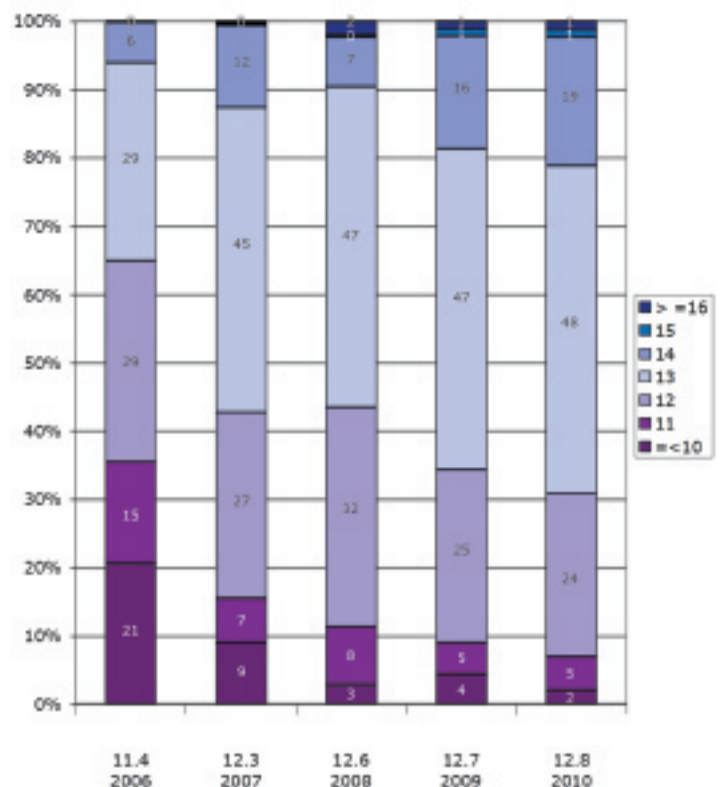
and for number of teats via the piglet weighing protocol. This concept is called **BALANCED BREEDING**. Most competitor breeding programs still neglect the balanced breeding concept, and are only breeding for number of piglets, forgetting for example about the number of teats.

With appropriate management, it is possible to wean a large number of pigs per litter from each sow without nurse offs or foster sows. Only limited use of artificial sows and/or nurse sows is necessary. Nurse or foster sows are sows weaning two litters sequentially. Foster sows normally wean over 16 piglets in one lactation period and have a higher number of lactation days.

The TOPIGS 20 farm in Graph 5 demonstrates it is possible to wean large number of piglets with the sow, and only a limited number of nurse sows (wean ≥ 16 piglets) are required. To be able to do so, the sow needs a large number of teats and the feeding management should be optimized.

Graph 5 - Increases in Pigs Weaned/Litter

Farm#2 over the last 5 years → Increase in % sows weaning ≥ 13 piglets



Producer Profile – The Schafer Family



Hay Creek - The new multiplication unit

Brandon and Monica Schafer returned to the sixth generation family farm near Goodhue, Minnesota in 1994 after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. At university, Brandon gained a degree in Animal Science with emphasis on animal production. He returned to the farm to raise livestock, and they joined his father and brother in the family business.

The Schafer family has deep roots in the scenic landscape of Eastern Minnesota. The rolling hills and deep slopes are more adaptable to livestock than crop production. The Schafer Farm was already a Century Farm with a reputation of producing high quality breeding bulls for beef production.

With the return of Brandon to the family farm, the Schafers made the decision to grow the farm in hog production. Brandon took hold of that part of the farm with his father and brother focusing on the bull production and sales. Eventually they built the herd and production up to a 1600 sow farm, selling weaned pigs to a private party. The Schafers stocked the herd from a local family-owned genetic company. With proper management and excellent help in the barn, production was good. Monica manages a boar stud owned by the farm that provides fresh semen to keep conception rates high.

As the hog industry economic pressures grew in 2008 and 2009, it became evident that the local genetic company the Schafers were relying on could not continue to provide the genetics they needed. The search began for a supplier that could provide the best genetics and have similar values as the Schafer family. Brandon and Monica were both very comfortable with the TOPIGS organization and the people. The TOPIGS products appeared to be leading the industry and the decision was made to transition to TOPIGS.

The Schafers began by using maternal semen from TOPIGS and purchased live terminal boars for the boar stud. Then they introduced N line (Dutch Landrace) gilts into the herd. As the transition toward 100% TOPIGS continued, the sow productivity increased. With their former genetics they were achieving 23.5 pigs per sow per year. When the herd reached 50% TOPIGS, the number of pigs per sow had increased to 29.4. Today, with the TOPIGS 20 females, they are achieving 31.4 pigs weaned per sow per year!



Left to Right: Brandon, Monica, Kenny (front), Max (back), Kendrah, Madison

The Schafers are now in the final stages of completing construction of a new 700-sow TOPIGS multiplier farm named Hay Creek. The farm is being stocked with TOPIGS Z Line (Dutch Large White) gilts. Breeding of the newly stocked females began late August. Brandon will use N Line maternal semen to produce TOPIGS 20 gilts. The TOPIGS 20 is one of the most prolific females in the world, and is well known for its ease of management and very high productivity.

Brandon and Monica have four children that are active on the farm and in sports. They also own 375 beef cows that are in genetic multiplication. Becoming a new multiplier is exciting, and they look forward to a long-term, successful relationship with TOPIGS.



The Schafer Farm

TOPIGS Canada Inc. Announces New Business Development Representative

Key appointment enhances TOPIGS Canada Sales & Service team



TOPIGS Canada is pleased to announce that Rick Beunen joined its staff as Business Development Representative in June 2011. Rick will be based out of St. Thomas, Ontario, and in his new role, Rick will develop sales and provide customer support in southern Ontario.

Rick Beunen is well known to the Ontario swine industry. After graduating in 1987 from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science Honours degree,

Rick began his career in the swine genetics business. For sixteen years, he was responsible for the marketing and service of swine breeding stock clients throughout Canada and the U.S.A. In 2003, he joined Maple Leaf Agri Farms (Formerly Elite Swine) and managed the Ontario multiplication system.

"Rick is well respected by Ontario producers and his extensive knowledge of swine production brings great value to the TOPIGS team," said John Sawatzky, Sales Manager at TOPIGS.

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.

Rick looks forward to being part of the progressive attitude and excitement that is a TOPIGS trademark. He may be reached by phone (519) 317-7403 or by email rbeunen@topigs.ca

For more information, contact John Sawatzky, TOPIGS Canada Inc.
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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 October 31, 2011. Winners will receive a \$20.00 Walmart or Canadian Tire gift certificate. 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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TOPIGS INSIDER Quiz

What is the name of the multiplier built by the Schafers?

What is the average number of teats on a TOPIGS 20 on day 1?

What are the pigs weaned/mated female for the Schafer TOPIGS 20s?

What is the annual increase of pigs weaned/sow/year for TOPIGS?

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

TOPIGS INSIDER Quiz Winners

Here are the winners from last issue: Mike De Brouwer, New Scotland Farms Ltd. Blenheim, ON; Jared Wollman, New Haven Colony North, MB; Levi Waldner, Blumengart Colony, MB; Dan Fillion, Super Gro 2 and 3, MB; Elias Henry Wipf, Parkland Colony, AB; Sam Waldner, Evergreen Colony, MB; Jonathon Hofer, Rosebud Colony, AB; Ed Entz, Big Stone Colony, MT; Lyndon Waldner, Rock Lake Colony, MB; Freddy Waldner, Good Hope Colony, MB

Each winner receives a TOPIGS 1GB memory stick. The TOPIGS rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!

TOPIGS Canada Inc.

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