



East awards dinner



West awards dinner

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2018 Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquets

November of each year is when we say a special "Thank you" to our many customers by inviting everyone to one of two annual Customer Appreciation & Awards Dinners. This year was no exception. The attendance at the annual awards dinners continues to grow. This year both locations – Winnipeg, Manitoba and Stratford, Ontario – had record attendance of about 225 guests each.

The highlight of the evening is the annual awards presentation. "Topigs Norsvin customers achieve excellent production results that are second to none in the pork production sector" said John Sawatzky Sales Manager for Canada, "and we want to recognize our customer achievements as well as their dedication to Topigs Norsvin and best practice production."

In Winnipeg, Cam McGavin, General Manager of Canada, gave a presentation recognizing the most important part of what we and our customers do – People. "Without the dedication and performance of our nucleus, multiplier and customer farms, we would not be able to achieve what we have" said McGavin. He continued by saying, "Due to the high demand for our TN70 female, we are always searching for new partners that are willing to establish new herds for multiplication." Topigs Norsvin is now the largest swine breeding company in Canada with a maternal market share of 35% in Ontario and 46% in Manitoba. This solid growth continues due to the performance of our genetics and the Topigs Norsvin Innovative Research & Development program.

In Stratford the guest speaker was Henk Janssen, Area Manager for Asia Pacific & Africa. Based in The Netherlands, Henk travels extensively to South Africa and Japan. Henk delivered a captivating and entertaining presentation drawing comparisons between Canada and Japan and South Africa. Japan has 126 million people and is 25 times smaller than Canada,

yet there are only 850,000 sows compared to 1.2 million sows in Canada. On the other hand, South Africa has 55 million people, is 7.5 times smaller than Canada with only 110,000 sows. The guests appreciated seeing the photos of the farms and the overview on how vastly the different countries function.

This year again, Topigs Norsvin customers achieved outstanding results. In 2017 there were 9 herds across Canada achieving over 30 pigs weaned / mated female / year. In 2018 there were 20 herds over 30 PSY with an average of 31.03 PSY! This year, the SMS Benchmarking data include a record number of 86 farms with 81,853 sows from Canada and Montana with herd sizes averaging 952 sows per farm, including new start-up herds.

This year the average for the best 10 herds (14%) exceeded 31 pigs weaned / mated female / year. Of the 73 farms, 70 farms are weaning more than 25 pigs / sow / year. Topigs Norsvin customer herds continue to achieve better results year on year.

The summary of the 2018 production award winners and runner-up winners are listed by category.

Herds <500 sows

Farrowing Rate		East		West	
Winner		RFW Weber (ON)	93.1%	Keho Lake Colony (AB)	96.04%
Runner-up		Tenth Line Swine Inc. (ON)	91.4%	Albion Ridge Colony (AB)	94.63%
Pigs Born Alive/litter		East		West	
Winner		Silver Corners Inc. (ON)	14.23	Cool Spring Colony (MB)	14.45
Runner-up		Hopestead Farms (ON)	14.11	Three Hills Colony (AB)	14.31
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year		East		West	
Winner		Hihajo Farms (ON)	30.62	Cool Spring Colony (MB)	32.87
Runner-up		Tenth Line Swine Inc. (ON)	29.56	Keho Lake Colony (AB)	31.60

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Herds of 501-1200 sows

Farrowing Rate	East		West	
Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS)	93.6%	Evergreen Colony (MB)	93.8%
Runner-up	Van de Bruinhorst Acres Inc. (ON)	92.7%	Fal-Ric Farms (MB)	93.8%
			Huron Colony (MB)	93.4%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	East		West	
Winner	Van de Bruinhorst Acres Inc. (ON)	14.22	Evergreen Colony (MB)	15.29
Runner-up	A-C DeGroot Farms (ON)	14.18	Blumengart Colony (MB)	14.77
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	East		West	
Winner	RFW KSU (ON)	32.01	Evergreen Colony (MB)	32.69
Runner-up	A-C DeGroot Farms (ON)	30.53	Blumengart Colony (MB)	32.21

Herds > 1200 sows

Farrowing Rate	East		West	
Winner	Petervale Farms (ON)	90.2%	Sunnybrook Swine Inc. Site 1 (MB)	93.5%
Runner-up	Crimson Lane Farms (ON)	89.8%	Rhineland Pork (MB)	93.4%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	East		West	
Winner	Crimson Lane Farms (ON)	13.92	Morris Piglets South (MB)	14.46
Runner-up	RFW Burnside (ON)	13.11	Morris Piglets North (MB)	14.31
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	East		West	
Winner	Crimson Lane Farms (ON)	30.16	Rhineland Pork (MB)	30.50
Runner-up	Petervale Farms (ON)	29.72	Sunnybrook Swine Inc. Site 1 (MB)	30.34



Fal-Ric Farms 93.8% Farrowing Rate



Van de Bruinhorst Acres 14.22 pigs born alive



RFW KSU 32.01 Pigs weaned per sow



The east 26+ Club



Rhineland Pork 30.5 pigs weaned per sow



The west 26+ Club

Power piglets: Sustainable survivors

Good health and high survival rates are desirable qualities for piglets in terms of efficiency as well as sustainability. From this point of view, a piglet's ability to adapt well to different conditions is of great importance, particularly because Topigs Norsvin breeds piglets for the global market. Sustainable piglets are survivor piglets.

The health and welfare of a piglet, both in the farrowing pen and in the weaner pen, are challenged by many factors from four main categories, being diseases, climate, feed and labour. Topigs Norsvin "Power Piglets" are bred to cope well with challenges from all these categories.

Low susceptibility to diseases

Although methods to further raise the hygiene level are continually improved, it will never be possible to keep all pathogens out of the farrowing and weaner pens. Therefore, immunity continues to be crucial. Good innate immunity can actually be bred into the piglet. At Topigs Norsvin this is done mainly by selecting those piglets that survive challenge best. What causes some piglets to be more resistant to diseases than others? Our researchers identify those traits at the genetic level, so they can be used to breed piglets with a higher immunity level – higher in general, but also with respect to specific pathogens and their corresponding health problems, such as respiratory diseases. This also leads to less need for treatments and antibiotics. Best performance even in times of disease outbreaks is an important characteristic of Power Piglets.

Different climatic conditions

As Topigs Norsvin piglets are born at farms all over the world, they are to thrive in different climates. Moreover, some countries show strongly varying climatic conditions between seasons. In Canada, for example, the temperature varies between +30°C in the summer and -30°C in the winter. Some countries have high seasonal variations in day length. Sows and piglets must be able to cope with this. We believe that truly robust piglets can cope with these diverse climatic conditions. Climatic stress is therefore

a good test for the robustness of our piglets, which they prove to withstand with great success.

Good digestion of various feeds

Good feed efficiency is undoubtedly one of the most important traits of a pig. Not only in the finishing phase, but in every stage of the pig's life, including the weaner phase. However, this efficiency not only depends on the piglet, but also on the composition of its feed. Some feeds contain more fibre and are harder to digest. Topigs Norsvin breeds for pigs with a high feed efficiency for a broad range of feeds, including those with a high fibre content. This is more sustainable as it enables pigs to digest different kinds of locally produced feeds or feeds that are by-products from other industries. For piglets this specifically means that they have to develop healthy intestines with a good microbial population. By testing for intestinal microbes we can tell if a piglet will be able to digest many different feeds after weaning,

Fend for themselves

Another challenge for piglets is the tendency of pig farms getting larger. This makes "low-maintenance" piglets highly desirable. Like with climatic resistance, robustness plays an important role here as well. True Power Piglets do not need much looking after. Consequently, piglets do not only need to be active and grow well, they also have to be social as social piglets are more likely to allow each other enough time to suckle or, in a later stage, feed and do not bother each other as much. This leads to fewer injuries and better growth across the entire barn.

Knowing how piglets cope under different challenges enables Topigs Norsvin to continuously select even more robust piglets and do research into their specific traits. Additionally, monitoring piglet performance under stressful conditions provides good proof of the robustness of a specific generation of piglets. Only piglets that keep up their performance in spite of challenges deserve to be called Power Piglets.

World Pork Event 2018



In October, Topigs Norsvin customers from around the world gathered in Madrid, Spain for Topigs Norsvin's biannual World Pork Event. "The global pork arena is changing very rapidly. It's very dynamic," commented Martin Bijl, CEO Topigs Norsvin, "By arranging World Pork Event 2018, we offer our customers and other stakeholders the opportunity to learn about those relevant trends and developments in order to be better prepared for the future. On top of that, it is an excellent networking opportunity as well."

The theme for the 2018 conference was ***Should pork be as efficient as poultry? Meeting efficiency and quality demands of the pork industry of tomorrow*** and presentations included:

Business and business drivers of Vall Companys

Mr. Kiko Abenia, Commercial Director Pork, Vall Companys, Spain

Protein efficiency: how can pigs compete against Poultry?

Dr. Egbert Knol, Research Director Topigs Norsvin, The Netherlands

What to expect from future science and technology to improve efficiency?

Prof. Dr. Leo den Hartog, Director of R&D Trouw Nutrition, The Netherlands

Biosecurity and the difference between pork and poultry?

Mr. Brad Heron, Production Director Pork division Cherkizovo, Russia

How does pork compete in an ever changing protein world?

Mr. Robert M. "Bob" Ruth, Vice President at The Clemens Food Group, USA

Tomorrow's consumer – Are you ready?

Mr. Michael Uetz, Principal Midan Marketing, Chicago, USA

Trends in production, trade and consumption

Mr. Justin Sherrard, Global Strategist - Animal Protein, Rabobank, The Netherlands

In addition to the two-day conference, participants had the opportunity to visit local swine producers and tour Ibérico ham and other pork production facilities. "The world is changing, and we need to adapt as Topigs Norsvin, but also as a global pork industry," added Bijl, "We plan to host another World Pork Event in 2020."

Producer PROfile: Springfield Colony



Large pen auto-sort Tempo pigs

Springfield Colony was established in 1950 near Anola, Manitoba. The community of just over 100 people has always been very progressive and strives to be the best in all they do. The hard-working members keep themselves busy and occupied with the various enterprises of crop farming 7,500 acres, cabinet manufacturing, 30,000 broilers and of course the swine operation.

Kenny Kleinsasser is the manager of the 500 sow Farrow-Finish swine production unit. In the past they had been a long-term customer of another well-known genetics company for many years. In August 2012, feeling that their supplier's program wasn't improving their genetics or performance, they purchased their first Topigs 20 gilts. About a year later they also decided to switch to the TN Tempo as their terminal sire. They have never looked back and are very impressed with the results and improvements they have seen since making those decisions more than six years ago.

herd and upgrade the equipment, facility and herd health status. There was no decision to make in terms of a genetic supplier. With the results they had achieved prior to the de-populate it was an obvious choice to re-populate with Topigs Norsvin.



Happy sows in gestation



Springfield farrowing room

Having a typical barn built many years ago with sow stalls and rapidly aging equipment, a decision was made in late 2016 to de-populate the

The barns were fully upgraded to the point of being brand new on the inside. The stall gestation crates were replaced with the electronic Gestal group sow housing equipment. Only enough stalls were retained in the breeding barn to house sows after breeding for the first 35 days after insemination. Sows are bred to batch farrow 48 sows every two weeks. Once safely in-pig, sows are moved from the stalls to the Gestal pens in 2 groups of 24 sows with two Gestal feeding spaces per group. RFID tags allow each sow to be fed to her specific requirements from breeding to farrowing. "The group housing has worked well. Gilts are very easy to train and use the feeding spaces virtually on their own" said Kenny. Once a gilt is trained, she remembers this for the rest of her life. Electronic feeders were also installed in the farrowing rooms. The Gestal Solo lactation feeder allows programming of daily feeding curves along

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with frequency of feeding. Feeding lactating sows is now much easier and sows are performing even better than with the hand feeding in the past.

The first Topigs 20 and TN70 gilts arrived in the newly remodelled facility in September, 2017. On January 31, 2018 they were back in the pig production business when the first gilt farrowed. This first farrowing was a sign of good things to come as she delivered a total of 17 high quality live piglets.

In the start-up of their herd they have averaged 13.93 pigs born alive with a 10.2% pre-weaning mortality rate and weaning 12.49 pigs per litter on gilts. This rockets their production to about 31 pigs weaned / mated female / year just in the start-up phase. Kenny already sees this

performance increasing especially with the TN70 second and third parity sows farrowing well over 14 pigs born alive and weaning over 13 pigs per litter. Initial performance of the grow-finish pigs is also exceptional. Pigs are raised in large groups from weaning to finishing using auto-sort rooms housing one weaning week per room. Growth has been very good at about 150 days to market at 125kg liveweight. Grading at Maple Leaf in Brandon is over 110 Index with backfat at 17.0 mm, loins of 62.3 and 61.1% carcass lean yield.

Working with a high health herd and a “new” facility is a dream come true for Kenny Kleinsasser and his production team. From the smooth high performing start-up, they are confident their farm will be one of the most efficient in the country and they see even better performance coming once they reach a balanced parity sow herd.



TN Tempo growers with training scales



High quality TN Tempo weaners

Mothering abilities help the piglet for life

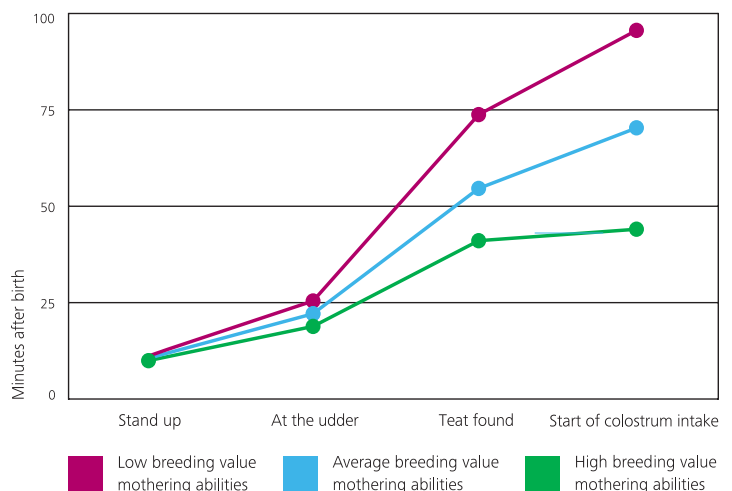
A good mother is more than an effective milk producer. From research we know that a good mother has a higher glucose level in the blood before farrowing so as to provide nutrients to the unborn piglets. Her behavior also significantly contributes to the survival of her offspring. A calm mother prevents crushing her piglets, gives them time to drink colostrum and stimulates her piglets to come to the udder by her behavior. Our researchers found that she does this, for example, with her voice, her behavior, the way she lies and the shape of her teats.

A sow's character is heritable. We found genetic variation and breed on these. There is a clear difference in the time that piglets need to start drinking colostrum. Without interventions by the caretaker, piglets of sows with high breeding value for mothering abilities started drinking colostrum about 45 minutes after birth. With piglets born from a sow with a low breeding value this took over 90 minutes. See the graph.

Piglets that get colostrum quickly and in sufficient amounts have a flying start, as they get a health boost and enough energy to develop fast. This perfect start pays off. These pigs have a higher survival rates and perform better compared with pigs that had a start with less of later colostrum even in the finishing stage.



Piglet activity related to the breeding value for mothering abilities



Swine Management Systems (SMS) 2017/2018

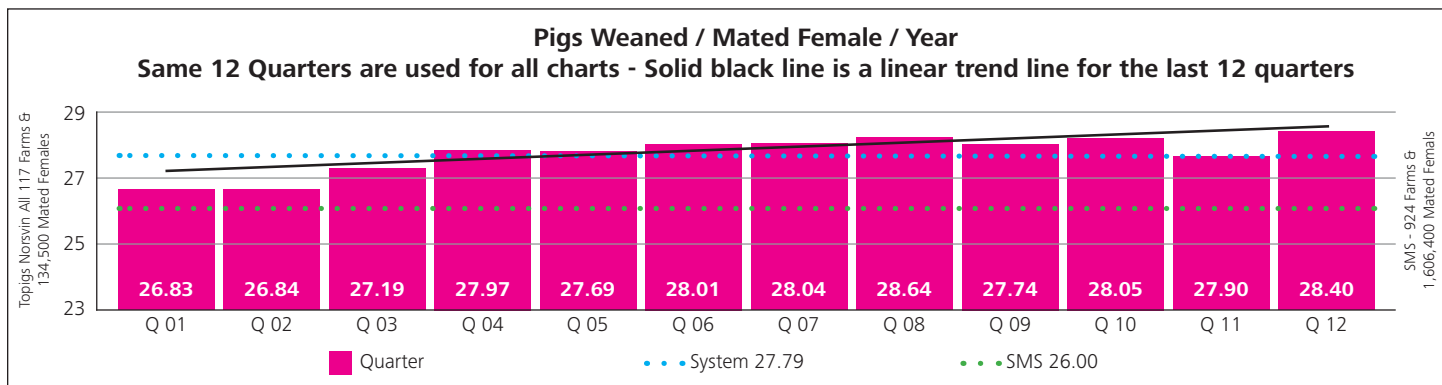
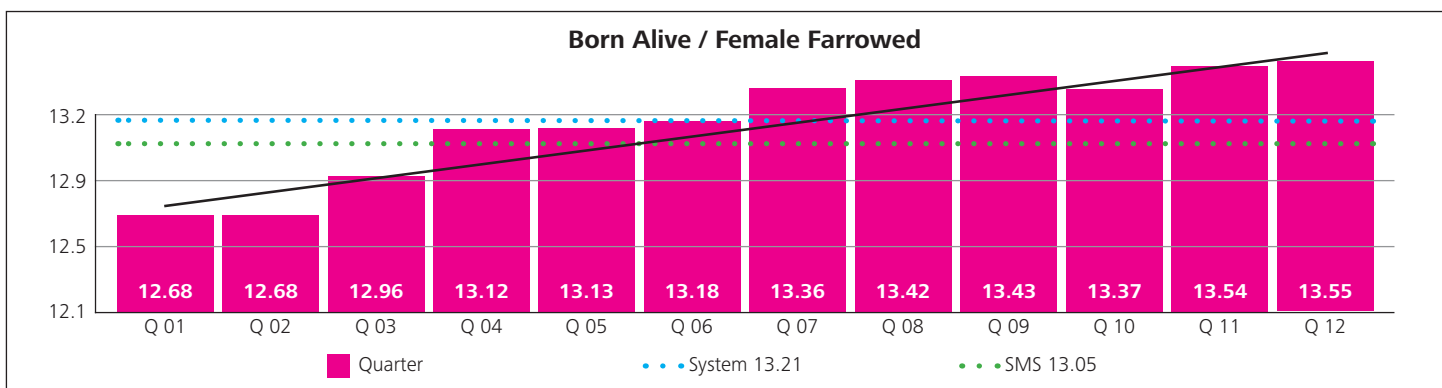
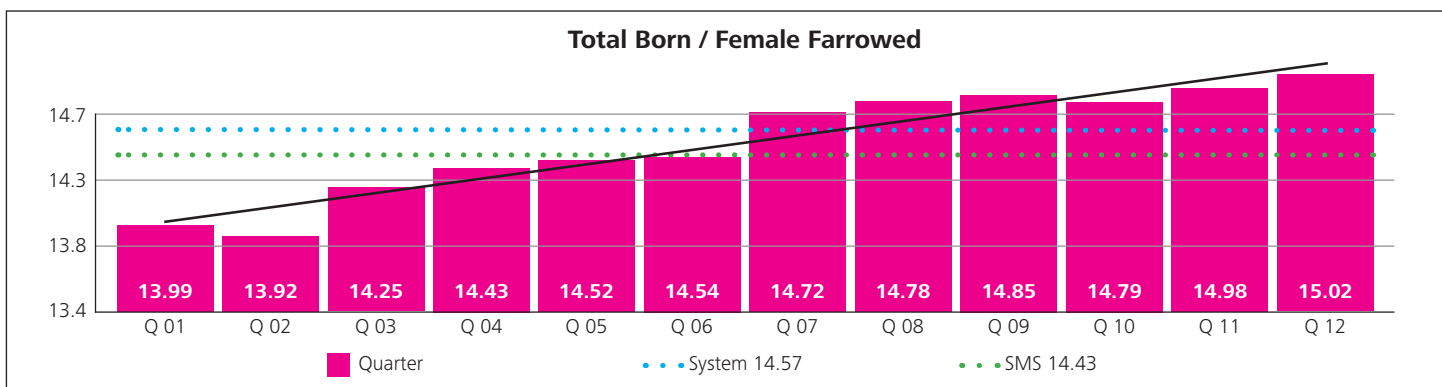
Topigs Norsvin recently completed its annual reproduction benchmarking with Swine Management Systems (SMS) and our customers demonstrated +2.0 pigs weaned / mated female / year advantage compared to the SMS industry average! Also noteworthy is the low sow death loss experienced by Topigs Norsvin Canadian customers and by Topigs Norsvin multipliers in both the USA and Canada.

The SMS database includes data from 924 farms and 1,606,396 sows throughout the USA and Canada. For the 2017/2018 benchmarking, the list of participating Topigs Norsvin customers has grown to include 112 farms and 128,743 sows.

Participation in the annual SMS benchmarking program is provided by Topigs Norsvin to its customers at no cost. Customers receive detailed reports, including a wide variety of reproduction metrics, and

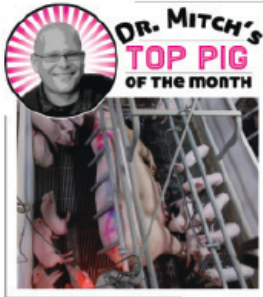
performance trend lines for each sow farm in their production system. The benchmarking reports allow customers to compare their production to industry averages, but also provides an anonymous comparison to other Topigs Norsvin customers using the same products.

52-week Q3, 2017 - Q2, 2018				
Report	# farms	# sows	p/mf/y	sow death loss
SMS - all	924	1,606,396	26.2	9.90%
Topigs Norsvin Canada/USA - all	112	128,743	28.2	6.70%
Topigs Norsvin Canada (without multipliers)	75	72,841	28.2	5.00%
Topigs Norsvin USA (without multipliers)	27	47,461	28.2	9.50%
TN CAN/USA - multipliers only	10	8,441	27.9	6.00%



Dr. Mitch's Top Pig of the Month

Dr. Mitch's Top Pig of the Month first appeared in Topigs Norsvin's social media outlets in December 2016. Since then, we have thoroughly enjoyed the stories and photos shared by our customers. The most recent winners are below:



September 2018

Dr. Mitch's Top Pig of the Month for September 2018 is TN70 sow # G103213 and she comes to us all the way from Russia! In her most recent parity, this sow demonstrated 18 total born and 18 born alive. She nursed 18 and weaned 17. G103213 is part of the Cherkizovo herd of 80,000+ sows converting to 100% TN production. Read more about Cherkizovo here: <http://ow.ly/yscv30Y0zt>

Previous winners can found on our social media pages – please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to receive the most recent news and updates from Topigs Norsvin.

Do you have a pig on your farm worthy of our "Top Pig of the Month" title? Submit your photos and information to info@topignorsvin.us, info@topignorsvin.ca, or to your local Topigs Norsvin representative. If your nomination is selected by Dr. Mitch to be "Top Pig of the Month," you will receive a Topigs Norsvin water bottle.



October 2018

Dr. Mitch's October Top Pig of the Month is TN Tempo boar 4259BE, the first boar to be CT-scanned and complete the testing protocol at Topigs Norsvin's new boar test facility, Delta Canada. 4259BE quickly grew to 313 lbs (142 kg) by September 25, when the CT scan was conducted.



November 2018

Dr. Mitch's Top Pig of the Month for November 2018 is Z-line (Large White) sow # 457 at Buckthal Farms LLC, Topigs Norsvin USA's newest multiplication partner located near Bicknell, Indiana. In her first litter, #457 produced 16 TN70 piglets and weaned 15. Welcome to the Topigs Norsvin family, Buckthal Farms! Photo: Buckthal Farm employees Chad, Ernesto, Courtney, Ruben, and Juan.



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TN USA - @TopigsNorsvinUSA
 TN Canada - @TNjs1234

Twitter:

TNUSA - @topignorsvinus
 TN Canada - @topignorsvinc1

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Topigs Norsvin USA

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Eastern Iowa AI

Spragueville, IA
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Mar-Ke Semen Service

Sharon, WI
Keith & Marie Rithamel
(262) 736-2345

Ai Partners-Skylab

Morris, MN
Bruce Zierke
(320) 760-3504

Whole Hog AI

Hartington, NE
Ron Brodersen
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Commercial Concepts A.I., Inc.

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J. Mac Magee
(800) 573-4577

Ostler Sires

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Tawny Ostler
(765) 776-2156

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(717) 615-8378

Hamilton, IL

Terry Turner
(309) 337-5291

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Magnum Swine Genetics Inc.

Fort Macleod, AB
Andrew Buesekom
(888) 553-4844

Carlo Genetics Inc.

Ste. Anne, MB
Kyla Ripley
(204) 355-4012

Total Swine Genetics Inc.

Tillsonburg, ON
Stuart De Vries
(800) 844-9913

C & M Genetics

Lucan, ON
Dr. Corneliu Oltean
(888) 259-7594

Sunrise Genetics

Amherst, NS
Mike MacDonald
(902) 661-7883

Topigs Norsvin 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
Email: info@topignorsvin.ca

Entries are to be received by **January 31, 2019**. 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.

Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners

Winners from the Fall 2018 issue will receive a \$20.00 gift card. Here are the winners from the last issue:

Jason Entz, Starbrite Colony, AB; Sheldon Entz, Brant Colony, AB; Michael Davis, Horizon Colony, MB; Melinda Gross, Clearview Colony, MB; Elizabeth Murphy, James Valley Colony, MB; Eddy Wipf, Wymark Farming Co. Ltd, SK; Samson Wipf, Oaklane Farms, SD; Albert Stahl, Newport Colony, SD; Steven Waldner, New Rockport Colony, AB; Joshua R. Hofer, Tschetter Colony, SD. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!

1. How many Topigs Norsvin Canadian herds weaned over 30 PSY in 2018? _____

2. What is the average pigs weaned/litter on gilts at Springfield Colony start-up? _____

3. What is the average pw / mf / y of TN CAN/USA - multipliers only? _____

4. Piglets of sows with high breeding value start drinking colostrum ?? minutes after birth? _____

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____ Email: _____

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