



In this issue:

- It's a New Tempo! - 1
- Can I Get a Witness? - 2
- TN70 – The Ultimate Parent Female! - 2
- What do our European customers think of TN70? - 3
- TEMPO – An appetite for any challenge! - 4
- NORSVIN DUROC – Total Feed Efficiency! - 5
- TALENT – Maximum value, for every market pig! - 5
- Breeding on TFE works! - 6
- Producer Profile: Evergreen Hutterian Brethren - 7
- Producer Profile: Hog Farm VanDeelen - 7
- Staff and AI Stations Listing - 8
- Topigs Norsvin Insider Quiz - 8

It's a new Tempo!

At the Tempo nucleus farm Van de Peut in the Netherlands you can see the potential of modern swine genetics. The animals are super-efficient feed converters with an average feed conversion rate of 1.82 (see the table). The best boars are achieving an astonishing FCR of 1.33, i.e., **they produce 3 pounds of pork with only 4 pounds of feed!**

The efficient production is realized in conjunction with a high daily gain and low backfat levels. This means also that the Tempo is not just a super-efficient terminal sire, but also provides offspring that have a very high yield, while maintaining an especially high percentage belly for high quality bacon production. The Tempo of today is the result of a high quality and balanced breeding program.

The pigs at Van de Peut show the power of Topigs Norsvin genetics. The genetic progress made by Topigs Norsvin is first measured and realized on the genetic nucleus farms, which provide the example for what we will soon be delivering to our customers.

The Power of Topigs Norsvin Genetics

	Tempo	
	Boars	Gilts
Weight start, lb	93.9	98.1
Weight end, lb	293.7	285.5
Daily gain, lb/d	2.8	2.7
Daily feed intake, lb/d	5.2	
FCR, lb/lb	1.82	
Backfat, mm	8.7	8.9
Loin Depth, mm	56.0	60.3

Can I get a witness?

In this issue of the *Insider*, Topigs Norsvin's customers share their experiences with our products on their farms. Small producers, mid-size, and large integrators alike all have positive feedback for how Topigs Norsvin products have improved their experience as pig producers, and have made their operations more profitable. Our sincere gratitude and appreciation goes to these customers not only for sharing their experiences with us, but also for allowing us to share their testimonials with all of you.



TN70 – The Ultimate Parent Female!

Schafer Farms, Inc. (Goodhue, Minnesota)

Schafer Farms, Inc. is a 2350-sow operation involved in both multiplication and commercial production. Their home farm site was the location for the first side-by-side comparison between the Topigs 20 and the TN70 in the USA, a comparison that was followed for six parities. "The TN70 is very sound on her feet and legs," noted owner, Brandon Schafer. "She stays in the herd and has nice depth of body, providing both uterine capacity and capacity for feed intake."

And, more muscle. "The TN70 is both leaner and has an improved temperament," commented Schafer, noting the simplicity of moving animals across scales and into stalls. "And **she is a very self-sufficient sow** that farrows easily and is quick to ramp up on feed."



Brandon Schafer, Schafer Farms, Inc.

"The TN70 defies the odds – improved reproduction, greater ease of management, improved carcass merit and production traits all together in one product."

- Brandon Schafer, Schafer Farms, Inc.

"Plus, she has the pigs," Schafer added. "The TN70 defies the odds – improved reproduction, greater ease of management, improved carcass merit and production traits all together in one product."

Milbrand Farms (Glencoe, Minnesota)

Milbrand Farms is a 275-sow farrow-to-finish operation near Glencoe, Minnesota that is owned and operated by Brian and Traci Milbrand. The Milbrands have been pig producers since 1942 when Brian's father (Lester) and grandfather (Alvin), began with Spotted Poland Chinas. Brian converted their operation to commercial production in 1994 and today the herd serves as Topigs Norsvin USA's Commercial Product Evaluation (CPE) Unit.

Milbrand Farms is currently conducting a side-by-side comparison of new TN70 F1 parent female with the Norsvin LY; the trial is now into parity 4. "A number of advantages to the TN70 became quickly apparent," commented Brian, "and it's not just better reproductive numbers. These sows are easy to keep in the farrowing house. The TN70 recovers from farrowing more quickly and ramps up on feed intake faster. She's easier to manage and she's easier to move. I liked what I had before, but this is even better."



Traci Milbrand, and a TN70 photo bomb.

"I liked what I had before, but this is even better."

- Brian Milbrand, Milbrand Farms

"It was the merger that brought this product together [TN70 = Topigs Z-line x Norsvin Landrace]. Topigs Norsvin keeps bringing improved products to the market and to our operation," Brian continued, "The fact that Topigs Norsvin is a farmer-owned company that understands pork production is evident in the barn. **They have good people and provide great support.**"

Starlite Colony (Starbuck, Manitoba)

The TN70 is off to a great start at the 600-sow Starlite Colony in Starbuck, Manitoba. "At selection, the TN70 gilts had high numbers of quality teats and very good structure", reports James Hofer, Hog Manager. "I was surprised at the selection rate. Virtually 100% of our TN70 gilts were selectable and of high quality."

"Our new TN70 gilts cycle like a clock and stood very well for breeding."

– James Hofer, Starlite Colony

It gets better. "Our new TN70 gilts cycle like a clock and stood very well for breeding," continues Hofer. "The TN70 gilts have a good disposition. They move well and are easy to handle. We are impressed with the TN70 and feel we are making a good step forward."

Kalmbach Feeds, Inc. (Upper Sandusky, Ohio)

Kalmbach Feeds, Inc. is a 25,000-sow producer engaged in both commercial production and multiplication with Topigs Norsvin. Data for the new TN70 are beginning to flow in this system. "Productivity looks like it's going to be pretty amazing," reports Ben Zientek, Swine Production Manager. "The gilts are delivering high numbers born alive and the underlines are great. We can definitely wean 15 on the gilts."

"We can definitely wean 15 on the gilts."

– Ben Zientek, Kalmbach Feeds, Inc.

And the future looks bright. "These animals look more durable from weaning. They grow faster and their structure has been improved. TN70's are great milkers, easy to manage in the farrowing house, and easy to work with," added Zientek. "Our multiplication supplies a number of external producers, and they are telling us the same things. They are anxious to roll their herds to 100% TN70, and so are we."

What do our European customers think of the TN70?

"EVERYBODY will want this sow"

- Toon Janssen, the Netherlands; the first Dutch farmer to test the TN70.

"Ich will 'ne coole Sau"

- I want the cool sow (easy to manage)

"TN70 farrows really easy. Even with these big litters, piglets have high birth weights, are vigorous and uniform. TN70 piglets are the perfect start for a successful finisher performance"

- Ulla Ketola, HKScan, Finland

"Newborn piglets are very lively and vital. Weaners are heavy and uniform"

- TN70 customers, Finland

"TN70 rearing gilts grow very fast"

- D. Møller, Denmark

"TN70 milking capacity is exceptional with good udder exposure"

- TN70 customers, Norway & Finland

"With TN70, we achieve high throughput in the finisher barn"

- Taru Antikainen, TN70 customer, Finland

"TN70 is STRONG, ROBUST and agile"

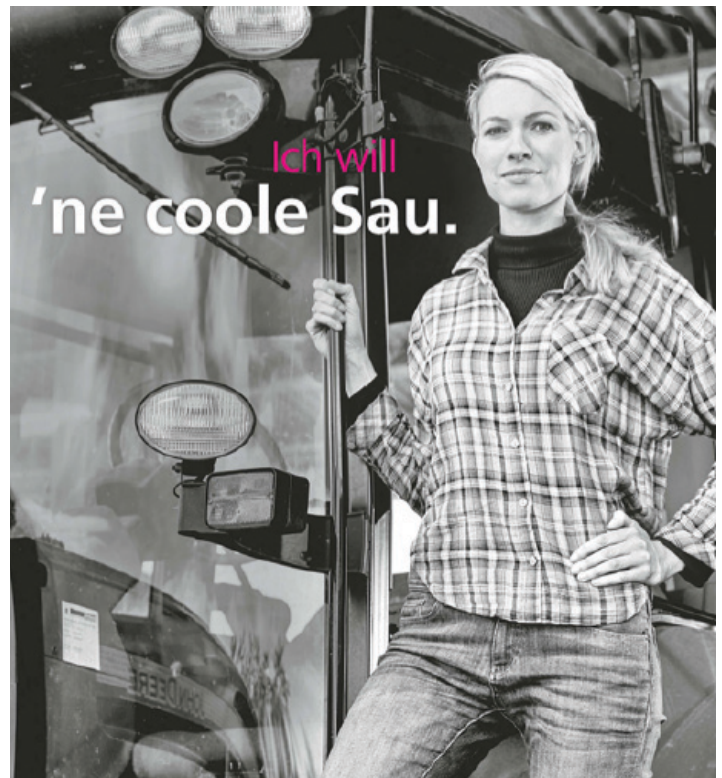
- TN70 InGene customer, Norway

"TN70 is the best mother I've ever worked with"

- TN70 multiplier, Belgium

"TN70 is easily able to rear 13-14 piglets herself"

- TN70 customer experiences, Finland



"TN70 fits very well in our system. She is robust and strong. The TN70 takes good care and has high milk production – her piglets weigh more at birth and at weaning. The uniformity of the litters has improved. This leads to better quality slaughter pigs. The finishers stay uniform with above average meat %. The combination of TN70 with Norsvin Duroc gives high meat quality. You TASTE the difference."

- Peter H., Swedish integrator

TEMPO – The boar with an appetite for any challenge!

Tenbrook Pork (Morris, Minnesota)

Tenbrook Pork is an 8500-sow farrow-to-wean operation owned by Roger Koosmann and Jim Nordquist. "The first thing we noticed with the Tempo boar was a pop in live born," described Nordquist. "The pigs are clearly more robust and so even, so uniform." Koosmann concurs. "The weaner pigs are nice and even when we deliver to our customers, not to mention large and robust. Our customers are impressed with what they receive."



Roger Koosmann and Jim Nordquist, Tenbrook Pork.

"The first thing we noticed with the Tempo boar was a **pop in live born**."

- Jim Nordquist, Tenbrook Pork

"One of our customers went through a health challenge and reported that the Tempo-sired pigs did great anyway," shared Koosman. "He was excited to get another group to see the performance in a healthy environment."

"The weaner pigs are **nice and even** when we deliver to our customers, not to mention **large and robust**. Our customers are impressed with what they receive."

- Roger Koosmann, Tenbrook Pork

"The uniformity we see in the farrowing house is maintained through marketing," Nordquist added. "It's not uncommon to hear **that these pigs have grown quickly and evenly** and that our customers closed out their barns after only one pull."

Schlichting Farms (Rice, Minnesota)

Schlichting Farms is a 2nd generation enterprise with 1200 sows (farrow-to-finish) as well as 3,500 acres of potatoes, corn, and edible beans. "We market our pigs at heavy weights, almost 300 lbs. Tempo-sired finishers are easy to manage and they **grow quickly to market weight**," shared John Petron, Production Manager.

"Our kill sheets are **FANTASTIC!**"

- John Petron, Schlichting Farms

And how are your kill sheets? "Our kill sheets are fantastic! We get great cut-outs and very high carcass yields at heavy market weights."

Paustian Enterprises, Ltd. (Walcott, Iowa)

The Paustian's began raising hogs in Eastern Iowa in 1856. Well over 150 years later, with the 5th and 6th generations running the farm, the tradition continues at Paustian Enterprises, Ltd., a 1,200-sow farrow-to-finish operation near Walcott, Iowa.

"We don't do much sorting out in the finisher – **they are uniform**."

- Kent Paustian, Paustian Enterprises, Ltd.

Kent Paustian was an early adapter of the Tempo boar. "Tempo-sired pigs have demonstrated good growth rate and low death loss. They're heartier – **they can handle stress**," comments Kent. "And they're very uniform. We don't do much sorting out in the finisher – they are uniform."

Petron Farms (Rice, Minnesota)

At Petron Farms, the benefits of the Tempo boar are realized and appreciated throughout this 650-sow farrow-to-finish system. Jeff Petron, who oversees farrowing, observes "very few runts." Brother Danny, who oversees finishing, takes over when the pigs are weaned. "Tempo-sired pigs are noticeably heavier entering nursery. I don't need a scale to measure the difference – they are way bigger."

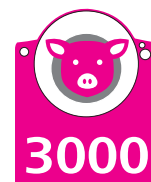
"Tempo-sired pigs are noticeably heavier entering the nursery. I don't need a scale to measure the difference – **they are way bigger**."

- Danny Petron, Petron Farms

Willie Petron, Jeff and Danny's father, adds that "**the pigs grow quickly to heavy weights**. We see lower death loss, fewer tail-enders and fall-outs, and we are happy with our kill sheets (Morrell, 285-lb average)."



PRESENT IN
54
COUNTRIES



BOARS ARE
CT-SCANNED
3000
EACH YEAR



1.6 MILLION
CROSSBRED
GILTS/YEAR



9 MILLION
DOSES OF SEMEN/YEAR



700 EMPLOYEES
WORLDWIDE



28
SCIENTISTS
HAVE A PHD DEGREE

NORSVIN DUROC – Total Feed Efficiency!



Don and Bert Huftalin with two of their Spirit of Excellence Awards.

Hufco, LLC (Malta, Illinois)

For the third consecutive year, Don and Bert Huftalin have received the Spirit of Excellence Award, recognizing Hufco, LLC as a quality supplier to Hormel Foods Corporation. The award is given annually to those that supply Hormel with high-quality, consistent products. While this award reflects the Huftalin's husbandry and management skills, they give their genetic supplier some credit as well.

Norsvin Duroc-sired pigs hit the Red Box.

"The Norsvin Duroc **had an immediate effect on the uniformity of our end product, making it easier and quicker to close out a room.**"

- Bert Huftalin, Hufco, LLC

"The Norsvin Duroc had an immediate effect on the uniformity of our end product, making it easier and quicker to close out a room," noted Bert Huftalin, a fourth-generation hog farmer. "We see few lights and a great rate of gain. They even maintain uniformity when health-challenged."

Bon Homme Colony (Tabor, South Dakota)

"Our experience with the Norsvin Duroc is that it improved our feed conversion by more than 0.3 over our previous genetics," states Herman Stahl of Bon Homme Colony. "We saw improved growth rate with **more uniform pigs to market.** Our wean-to-finish mortality rate was much lower with fewer culls."

"Our wean-to-finish **mortality rate was much lower with fewer culls.**"

- Herman Stahl, Bon Homme Colony

Upland Colony (Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

"We see great improvement with the Norsvin Duroc in **feed efficiency, durability and growth rate,**" reports Cornelius Wurtz, Upland Colony. "The biggest gain has been the 0.35 lower feed conversion over our previous supplier. We used to be concerned with durability but we don't any more with these pigs."

"The biggest gain has been the **0.35 lower feed conversion over our previous supplier.**"

- Cornelius Wurtz, Upland Colony

TALENT – Maximum value, for every market pig!

J&B Swine, Ltd. (Parkhill, Ontario)

Joris Masschelein (J&B Swine, Ltd.) has been using the Talent boar for the last three years on his 850-sow farrow-to-finish operation. The farrowing house is experiencing over 30 pigs / sow / year with 1.5% total cull/death loss in the nursery. "The pigs are very easy to work with," comments Joris. "We are very happy with our decision to use Talent."

"Wean-to-finish producers need to **maximize the value of every market pig, and that's what you get with the Talent boar.**"

- Joris Masschelein, J&B Swine, Ltd.

But it's the other end of the production chain where the Talent gets the most credit. "Wean-to-finish producers need to maximize the value of every market pig, and that's what you get with the Talent boar," describes Masschelein. "We can market anywhere from 106 kg to 120 kg [dressed weight] and still get 85% Yield Class 3 at Olymel; a definite improvement over our previous genetics supplier."

Chanco Farms (Moorefield, Ontario)

Dave Brubacher operates a finishing operation (Chanco Farms) that has been purchasing Talent-sired pigs for the last three years. "Upon arrival, the batches are nice and even – very even – and the piglets are robust," comments Brubacher. "Talent-sired pigs are easier to handle and exhibit less stress when being moved. We see zero tail biting and navel sucking. We really like working with these pigs."

"... our **carcass weights have increased 5 kg with the Talent boar.**"

- Dave Brubacher, Chanco Farms

"We close our barns out in the same amount of time as we did with our previous genetics, but we are marketing heavier pigs. With the same amount of time in the finisher, our carcass weights have increased 5 kg with the Talent boar."

Tre-Castle Pork (Palmerston, Ontario)

Tre-Castle Pork has been working with the Talent boar for over five years. "It's a good pig on the sow," comments Les Brubacher. "The piglets are robust, but gentle. The sows and the piglets work well together." Robustness of the Talent is also realized in the nursery. "Talent-sired weaner pigs are very hearty", comments Brubacher. "They can cope with disease, and with the stress of disease."

"The finishing pigs treat each other well. We see no tail biting whatsoever."

- Les Brubacher, Tre-Castle Pork

The temperament of the Talent is appreciated in the finisher as well. **"The finishing pigs treat each other well,"** continues Les. "We see no tail biting whatsoever. Talent-sired pigs are social without being aggressive."



problems with tail biting or aggression," describes Kuijpers. **"It's all there.** The Talent boars gives us good, consistent and predictable performance."

"... pay big premiums for our pigs,"

- Hein Kuijpers, Kuijpers Key Farms

Kuijpers Key Farms (Strathroy, Ontario)

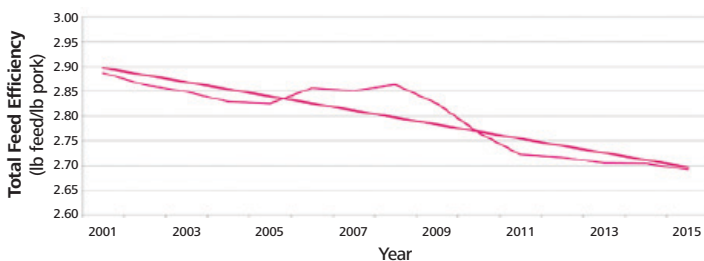
Hein Kuijpers operates a 600-sow farrow-to-finish operation that includes large-group auto-sort finisher barns (500-625 / group) with food courts. "The Talent-sired pigs grow quickly and we have no

"We market our pigs to Conestoga – they expect pork quality that qualifies for export to Japan and pay big premiums for our pigs," added Hein. "And they appreciate us at the docks because they know our pigs will just walk off the truck, quick and easy."

Breeding on TFE works!

Topigs Norsvin regards feed efficiency in the entire production chain as being the most important feed efficiency characteristic. We call it **Total Feed Efficiency (TFE)** and it is defined as the total amount of feed needed to produce one pound of live weight slaughter pig. This total amount includes the feed needed for rearing gilts, sows, piglets and grower-finishers.

Data from 631 Dutch farms were available and offered us the opportunity to calculate the TFE of the Dutch pig sector over the last 14 years. **TFE had been reduced by 7.0%** during this time period – an average of 0.5% per year (see Figure).



Feed drives profit. Roughly 70% of feed costs can be assigned to the grower-finisher phase. The remainder is equally distributed over feed costs for sows and for piglets during nursery. In selection programs, only feed efficiency during the grower-finisher phase has traditionally been taken into account. Thus, a relatively large proportion of the feed usage has been disregarded.

Reducing losses

Preventing losses was always an important criterion in the Topigs Norsvin breeding goal and focused on the farrowing and lactation survival of piglets. Now, grower-finisher survival is a part of the selection

index as well. Application of the TFE concept in our breeding program, makes Topigs Norsvin genetics the most efficient feed to pork converters because our sows and finishers both demonstrate low feed conversion and low mortality.

The role of longevity in TFE

Longevity contributes to better TFE. It does so because longevity increases the number of piglets per litter and reduces the number of non-productive days. We improve longevity by selecting for stronger feet and legs and for disease tolerance, traits which further reduce mortality in all phases of production.

The role of lactation efficiency in TFE

A high and continuous feed intake of the sow during lactation ensures a good start of the productive life of piglets, a good prospect for the next cycle of the sow, and a lower labor requirement for the farmer. From a breeder's perspective, lactating sows should ideally have a high and continuous intake of feed that is efficiently converted to milk for her piglets.

The role of vigorous piglets and finishers in TFE

Non-vigorous animals that die are bad for TFE because they have consumed feed and provide no return for the producer. Vigorous pigs are ready for life with a healthy appetite. And yes, appetite is good. An animal needs to eat before it can grow. Non-vigorous pigs are slower, more prone to disease, and more sensitive to temperature changes.

The role of finisher efficiency in TFE

Obviously, selection for TFE includes finisher feed efficiency - a vital aspect of pig production and the main goal in our breeding program. With rising feed prices, our R&D efforts will continue to focus on improving Total Feed Efficiency as this will have the largest impact on our customers' profitability.

Producer Profile: Evergreen Hutterian Brethren

In October 2013 the Evergreen Hutterian Brethren re-populated their 650-sow farm near Somerset, Manitoba, Canada. Having used other genetics in the past, they have never regretted their decision to populate the unit with the Topigs 20 and Topigs Z-line GGP females for their InGene program.

Under the management of Sam Waldner and his team, the herd is performing beyond expectations. As a young herd they are about to farrow their first 6th parity sows. In the 12 months of 2015 they averaged 30.7 pigs weaned/mated female. Semen is all purchased from the Carlo Genetics AI station and delivered fresh to the farm. In the start-up phase Tempo semen was used and since then they have conducted trials on a few other terminal sires. After their in-barn trials they always come back to Tempo.

"With Tempo we have heavier hogs with higher grades, larger loins, and higher lean yield."

– Sam Waldner, Evergreen Hutterian Brethren

Tempo sires fast, efficient and uniform

Finisher hogs are raised in large pen auto-sort rooms with approximately 400 hogs per pen, Sam comments "We are using Tempo because of its very fast, efficient growth and uniformity. Tempo-sired pigs also have very low mortality and our large rooms empty out sooner than hogs sired by other boar lines. We sell more full-value hogs. In 2015 our hogs averaged 163 days from birth to 125 kg [275 lbs]. The mortality rates from wean to finish averaged 2.8%. The carcass grades at Maple Leaf have also been very good. With Tempo we have heavier hogs with



higher grades, larger loins, and higher lean yield. In our comparisons, Tempo-sired hogs returned CAN\$ 3.46 more than our hogs from a competing terminal sire. This does not include the added value we receive for lower mortality, faster room cleanouts, and better growth."

The Evergreen team is always striving for even better performance. Since the merger of Topigs and Norsvin in 2014, new breeding lines have become available to producers in Canada. Using the Norsvin Landrace semen, Evergreen already has some TN70 females in the nursery and will compare them to the Topigs 20 females. "The Topigs 20 sow already uses much less feed than our previous genotype and we are looking to the TN70 to make us even more feed efficient," says Sam.

Producer Profile: Hog Farm VanDeelen

The VanDeelen Family immigrated to the Langton, Ontario area in October 2004 and started into the swine industry on a 600 sow farrow-to-finish operation. Wijnand, along with wife Beppie and sons Gerwin and Wijnand, ran the operation. In June of 2009 they were contacted by Gord Edwards about becoming a multiplier for Topigs. The VanDeelen's decided that multiplication was not for them, but they did become long-term commercial customers.

In 2014, another son, Rien, immigrated to Canada to join his family and was interested in getting his own swine operation started. With knowledge of the past interest to work with the VanDeelen family, Rien approached Topigs Norsvin to see if there was still interest in a VanDeelen multiplier. A contract was signed, a farm was purchased near Burford, Ontario and the project was underway. The farm that Rien purchased was an empty farrow-to-finish operation. The best of the existing barns were renovated for finishing and a new 450-sow loose housed farrowing and nursery unit was constructed. The new farrowing unit is equipped with Vereijken crates with lift floors and Nedap electronic feeding stations.

Construction on the sow barn continued through the summer of 2015. During the construction, the renovated finishing barn was stocked with Z-line gilts from the Topigs Norsvin nucleus herd in Manitoba. The Z-lines were bred to Norsvin Landrace semen creating Canada's first flow of the new TN70 parent female.



Dutch student Dinant van Dijk with Rien VanDeelen.

The VanDeelen's hosted an open house for their new barn on September 26, 2015 which was attended by hundreds of fellow Ontario producers. Three weeks later the bred and open gilts being held in the finishing unit were moved into the new sow unit.

The first TN70 parent gilts produced by the VanDeelen multiplier will be ready for sale in May and June of 2016.

The first TN70 litter – 16 weaned.



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AI Stud Stations

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

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(217) 357-2811

Eastern Iowa AI

Spragueville, IA
Doug Peterson
(563) 689-6661

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
(402) 254-2444



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 July 31, 2016. The first 10 entries drawn with the correct answers will receive a \$20.00 Walmart gift card. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver the prize. Employees of Topigs Norsvin and their subsidiaries are not eligible.

What is the average Feed Conversion of Tempo boars at the Van de Peut farm? _____

How many sows are in the Hog Farm VanDeelen multiplier herd? _____

At Evergreen, how much more did Tempo sired hogs return than a competing terminal sire? _____

How many pigs are TN70 gilts capable of weaning, as reported by Ben Zientek of Kalmbach Feeds? _____

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____ Email: _____

Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners

Here are the winners from the last issue: Candace Waldner, Blumengart Colony, MB; Cliff Waldner, Tri Leaf Colony, MB; Dawna Ashley Maendel, Rosebank Colony, MB; Sean Wipf, Springfield Colony, MB; George L. Wollman, Ponteix Colony, SK; Will D. Waldner, Plainview Colony, AB; Jason Hofer, Spring Lake Colony, SK; William Van De Bruinhorst, Clinton, ON; Shana Waldner, Westwood Colony, SD; David Gross, Rock Lake Colony, MB

Each winner receives a \$20.00 Walmart Gift Certificate. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!

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