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The power of Topigs Norsvin

All over the globe we see a great diversity in how pork is consumed and pigs are produced. However, we have identified commonalities in global trends and needs, and we monitor and analyze these trends so we can meet our customers' needs and help them to face major challenges. These needs are the basis for the development of the required products and services for our current and future customer base.

The basic need is to convert feed into quality pork as efficiently and sustainably as possible. In fact all our breeding goals are derived from this principle. One of Topigs Norsvin's main focus points is Total Feed Efficiency, a concept that reduces feed costs not only in the finisher stage, but throughout the entire production chain. Furthermore, the focus is on high-producing and easy-in-use sows and on efficient, lean, and robust finishers.

Topigs Norsvin invests heavily in its research program, breeding infrastructure, and IT to realize these objectives. Breeding population sizes and the implementation of genomic selection are continuously growing and with success. In recent years, the annual genetic progress at crossbred customer level has increased by over 50%.

Our ambition is to double our genetic progress within the next 10 years to add even more value to the pork value chain. Producers will benefit from this accelerated genetic progress by being connected with the genetic program of Topigs Norsvin. By applying advanced AI technologies we can also leverage high index boars in our AI studs and AIM Worldwide affiliated studs.

Not only producers will benefit from new technologies and increased genetic progress; on a macro level this will also help to sustainably feed the world's growing population. Our efforts are all about People, Planet and Profit.

In 2016 we commercially launched a new sow line, the TN70, to complete our existing sow portfolio. We are proud of our improving existing products as well as the new combinations we have introduced as a direct consequence of the merger between Topigs and Norsvin two years ago.

Martin Bijl, MSc | Chief Executive Officer

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Apart from the products, you can continue to rely on the ongoing support from Topigs Norsvin specialists in the field of reproduction, nutrition, veterinary services, and breeding in order to maximize the genetic potential of Topigs Norsvin genetics in real-life production.

Our aim is to double genetic progress; our focus is on Total Feed Efficiency as the main trend in pig production. Our development of new products, and our high service and support level make Topigs Norsvin a partner for the whole pig production chain with the power to create added value for you - both now and in the future. So we can truly say Topigs Norsvin is Progress in Pigs.

We connect

The industry is consolidating further in North and South America. In 2020 the 50 biggest pig companies in both continents will have more than 6.5 million sows. Technology will play an important role in solving challenges at every level of production. These trends make Topigs Norsvin an important partner for the pig industry in the Americas.

We invest deeply in the relation with our clients, and we use our knowledge, innovative breeding technologies, and highly appreciated service tools to create more added value. We connect not only in relationship, but also on a technical level by integrating data from the entire production process to breed the best pig. We strive for the client having the highest financial return on his production and marketing of pork.

Peter van Kemenade, MSc MBA
Regional Director North and South America

Topigs 20 shows its potential with 69.5 pigs per sow

One of the traits successfully included in the selection index of Topigs Norsvin sows is longevity, a trait that is also often used when customers explain the strength of Topigs Norsvin. Working with a sow that produces many litters leads to lower cost per piglet produced. Furthermore, fewer gilts are needed to replace the sows. This results in less adaptation room, less labour, minimal health risks, and an overall improvement in Total Feed Efficiency.

SAT Ràfols is a Topigs 20 user that appreciates the longevity of Topigs Norsvin products. The farm is managed by the brothers David and Pep Ràfols and has 1200 sows. Ràfols is working with Gepesa, a company of the Vall Companys Group and is located in the Northeast of Spain. They have worked with Topigs Norsvin since 2008 and each year they have improved the farm's productivity and have kept the cost price per piglet down.

In November 2015, SAT Ràfols won one of the Spanish d'Or award for the highest number of weaned piglets per sow during her life, with an average of 69.5 piglets. This award highlights the combination of piglets weaned per sow and the longevity of the sow. Ràfols works with a replacement rate of 43%, which means that they have an average of 5.9 parities per sow. The longevity is also related to the mortality percentage of the sow, which in this case is 5%.



David and Pep Rafols



Topigs 20 sows at the Rafols farm

With new genetics forward to **34 weaned per sow**

Finally it works. After some restarting, pushing buttons, reconnecting wires, and clicking with the mouse, the printer produces a page with the latest production data for Antikainen sow farm in Finland. Co-owner Taru Antikainen proudly present the page. And rightly so. During the past six months the farm has produced 32.1 piglets per sow per year and production is still rising. Antikainen thinks that 34 piglets per sow per year is feasible in the near future. "But our focus is not just big numbers. We also pay a lot of attention to pig quality."

The production of 32.1 piglets is the result of a journey that the Antikainen family started back in 2005, when the production per sow was 22.2 piglets. The barns were renovated and better management practices were introduced based on advice from the slaughterhouse, premix supplier, and genetic supplier HK Scan. By 2012 production had improved to 29.2 piglets weaned.

The next step was the introduction of the TN70 sow of Topigs Norsvin in September 2013. When these sows started to produce in 2014 the number weaned received a further boost. It went up by almost 2 pigs. Now almost 70% of the sows are TN70, but this percentage is increasing fast. The whole population will be TN70 by mid-2016.

The TN70 offspring does well during finishing. Looking at the high turnover they have in the barns, Antikainen indicates a daily growth of about 1000 grams. At 61%, the meat percentage of the slaughtered pigs is clearly above the Finnish average of 59%.

At Antikainen farm the new genetics has led to some changes. At an age of about 20 days they take the biggest and strongest piglets, wean them, and move them to the baby room. In an earlier stage, piglets are also moved. After the piglets have their share of colostrum from their birth mother, they are evened out between the litters to ensure sows only have the number of piglets they have teats for. The sows will all have 13 to 14 piglets with them.

The TN70 sow also led to management changes in the Antikainen farm. We needed to give the sows more feed and of a better quality than before. "If you don't do that you will see the effects in the production quality and therefore the piglets."

Also the day of farrowing has changed. It was Friday and now it is Thursday. This gives the possibility to spend more time creating uniform litters of piglets. And this pays off. Pre-weaning mortality is 9.5%, even with litters that have 14.8 liveborn piglets.



Topigs Norsvin 20 litter at the Antikainen farm



Topigs 20 sows at the Antikainen farm



Weaners at the Antikainen Farm

Farm info: **ANTIKAINEN FARM**



Family Antikainen Farm in Aura, Finland (north of Turku) has 350 sows and 1,200 finishers. The gilts are bought at 30 kilo from a multiplier in the region and about 50% of the piglets are sold to a finisher. The farm also has 250 hectares of arable land and 100 hectares of forest. Most of the grain grown is used for feeding the pigs. Husband and wife Matti and Taru Antikainen manage the farm. Two of Matti's brothers are also shareholders and work at the farm. The farm employs six people full time.

Results Antikainen farm (70 % TN70 sows)

32.1	Weaned piglets per sow per year
2.39	Farrowing per sow per year
93.5	Farrowing rate (%)
6.5	Empty days
14.8	Liveborn per litter
13.4	Weaned per litter
30.3	Weaning age (days)



The team members are from left to right: Steve Westerby, Dirk van Griensven, Hans-Petter Rasmussen, Michael Toftelund and Johnny Larsen

Topigs Norsvin is a proud sponsor of The European All Star Barbecue Team. This sponsorship brings together two partners who are at the top in their business and who have the ambition to be even better still. Both have Dutch and Norwegian roots. The European All Star BBQ team is one of Europe's top barbeque competition teams and they show a real passion for pork. They are true ambassadors of the product who contribute and provide novel ideas for new tasty pork dishes.

They love, live and dream pork.

It is the only European team that has been invited five times to the Jack Daniels World Championship in the USA, the absolute top contest in the world for competition barbequing where only the world's best teams get an invitation to compete. The team's five fanatic barbeque specialists come from The Netherlands, Norway and Denmark.

New AI Station in Norway with USDA approval

On June 15, 2016 Norsvin SA announced the signing of the contract to begin construction of a new state of the art AI station in Norway. This station will be located close to Hamar and has a capacity of 300 boars. The station will be operational in the Spring of 2017. Both the current and the new AI stations in Norway are approved by USDA to ship semen to the USA from all boars in these studs, which will increase the volume of semen eligible for export, strengthen the genetic relationship across nucleus herds worldwide, and further reduce genetic lag.

These two developments are of great strategic importance for Topigs Norsvin, but especially for our activities in the Americas as they result in a significant increase in the number of nucleus level boars from which semen can be shipped to the USA. Peter van Kemenade, regional director for North and South America states: "This is a strong commitment to our customers. We can deliver genetic progress of our Norsvin Duroc and Norsvin Landrace lines faster and on a larger scale to our customers to create even more added value. We can also capture more performance data on crossbred animals in the Americas to supplement our genetic engine in Norway."

Norsvin Landrace and Duroc Boars – now available in Canada

Since the merger of Topigs & Norsvin in June of 2014, Topigs Norsvin Canada has been actively working to introduce the Norsvin Landrace and Norsvin Duroc lines into Canada.

In January 2015, the first Norsvin Duroc and Norsvin Landrace boars entered an approved Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) quarantine facility in Manitoba. This quarantine facility is owned by Topigs Norsvin Canada and provides a secure location and environment for the importation process. All imported breeding swine require a CFIA-managed, 30-day (minimum) quarantine prior to release in Canada. After the approval and release by CFIA, the boars were delivered to various AI station quarantines across Canada. Each quarantine and blood testing process takes 6 weeks, so the timeline is quite lengthy before boars are being collected in the AI stations.



In addition to the live boar importations, embryo transfers of both the Norsvin Landrace and Norsvin Duroc lines were conducted to introduce these pure lines into the Topigs Norsvin Canadian nucleus farms. The piglets born from the embryo transfers will form the base of the Duroc and Landrace breeding programs in Canada. All embryos and boars were supplied from the Topigs Norsvin USA nucleus in Wisconsin. To eliminate genetic lag, the Wisconsin nucleus imports fresh semen directly from Norway every 28 days to coincide with their batch farrowing program. The Topigs Norsvin Canadian nucleus farms are also importing semen directly from Norway. Upon completion of testing at 130kg (286 lbs.) and full CT Scanning in Norway, boars must have the highest Index scores to qualify for supplying semen to the nucleus farms. Only boars of the highest genetic merit, with superior off-test performance and best structural quality, will be used.

Merry Pigs - unique and hand made

When the merger of Topigs & Norsvin occurred in 2014, Topigs had a large inventory of Parastone pig statues marked with the Topigs logo. To avoid having to dispose of these unique pigs, one of the staff members had a terrific idea. An agreement was made with Hint & Tint to “re-inspire” the pigs. Our “Merry Pigs” are the result of a special collaboration with several artists. Each pig is hand painted and has its own unique design. The artists work at Hint & Tint, a studio/shop where people with disabilities can discover and develop their talents and skills. Together they make and sell original, handmade products of high quality.

In this issue each of our Insider Quiz winners will receive one of the unique “Merry Pigs” as their prize.



One of the unique Merry Pigs

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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

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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 October 31, 2016. The first 10 entries drawn with the correct answers will receive a unique Merry Pig. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver the prize. Employees of Topigs Norsvin and their subsidiaries are not eligible.

How many boars will the AI station in Hamar, Norway house? _____

What is the potential lifetime pigs produced of the Topigs 20 sow? _____

How many pigs/sow/year has the Antikainen herd increased since 2005? _____

What is one of the main focus points of Topigs Norsvin? _____

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____ Email: _____

Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners

Here are the winners from the last issue: Thaddeus Gross, Clearview Colony, MB; Paul Waldner, Golden View Colony, SD; Paul Wurtz, Upland Colony, SD; Kevin F. Hofer, New York Colony, AB; Wilma Brubacher, Westlane Acres, ON; Andrew Tschetter, Blumengart Colony, MB; Dave Entz, Starbrite Farming Co. AB; Joe J. Hofer, Midway Colony, MT; Susanna G. Wurz, Sand Lake Colony, SK; Scott Kenyon, Total Swine Genetics, ON

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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