

THE INSIDER

WINTER 2020 EDITION

| DECEMBER 2020

| WWW.TOPIGSNORSVIN.CA



Merry Christmas



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Do you remember all the fears and concerns of the millennium year – and then nothing happened? Well twenty years later we have experienced a year like never before. COVID-19 has impacted everything we do including how we do business. July saw unusually low prices for the summer season. The market price hit record lows and weaner pigs were selling for \$3.00, if you could sell them at all. Pork processing plants struggled to stay open in the face of the Corona virus. However, the hog producers in Canada are a resilient bunch. Our industry has risen to the challenge and continued to produce the best quality, number one protein product in the world – pork.

In this Christmas season I want to remind you of the pleasant experiences, of the many things we have to be thankful for. We may be inconvenienced with masks and an inability to travel; no in-person meetings and not even being able to see family. This too shall pass. However, we have other freedoms that many in the world can only imagine. Look around you, there are many things we take for granted every day. Count your blessings.

During these very different times, on behalf of myself and all the Topigs Norsvin Canada staff, I want to wish you and your family all the best of the Christmas season and a very good New Year in 2021.

Cam McGavin, General Manager
Topigs Norsvin Canada Inc.

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2020 TOPIGS NORSVIN CANADA AWARDS BANQUETS

Winnipeg, Manitoba and Stratford, Ontario are the two locations that are “a buzz” in November of each year when we say a special “Thank-you” to our many customers by inviting everyone to one of two annual Customer Appreciation & Awards Dinners. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 this year, we were not able to meet in person and celebrate the successes with all our customers. Just because we could not all be together does not mean we would not like to recognize the hard work and success of our customers’ farms.

This year, Topigs Norsvin customers once again achieved outstanding results. In 2019 there were 22 herds across Canada achieving over 30 pigs weaned / mated female / year with an average of 31.25 PSY. In 2020 there were 30 herds over 30 PSY with an average of 31.27 PSY! This year the SMS Benchmarking data included 100 farms with 102,900 sows from Canada and Montana, with herd sizes averaging 1,029 sows per farm including new start-up herds.

The average for the best 17 herds this year exceeded 31 pigs weaned / mated female / year. Of the 100 farms, 89 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 2020 production award winners and runner-up winners are listed by category.

Herds <500 sows				
Farrowing Rate				
	East		West	
Winner	Hihojo Farm (ON)	92.1%	Keho Lake Colony (AB)	94.81%
Runner-up	RFW Weber (ON)	91.7%	Ponteix Colony (SK)	91.44%
Pigs Born Alive/litter				
	East		West	
Winner	Hihojo Farm (ON)	15.29	Springfield Hog Farm (MB)	14.88
Runner-up	Penetics Inc (ON)	15.19	Glenlea Swine Barn (MB)	14.68
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year				
	East		West	
Winner	Hihojo Farm (ON)	32.06	Cool Spring Colony (MB)	33.39
Runner-up	Silver Corners Inc (ON)	31.63	Horizon Colony (MB)	31.65

Herds of 501-1200 sows				
Farrowing Rate				
	East		West	
Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS)	92.6%	Evergreen Colony (MB)	96.7%
Runner-up	RFW Lone Pine (ON)	91.1%	Garden Plane Colony (SK)	93.4%
Pigs Born Alive/litter				
	East		West	
Winner	VandeBruinhorst (ON)	14.72	Evergreen Colony (MB)	16.02
Runner-up	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS)	14.66	Trileaf Colony (MB)	15.41
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year				
	East		West	
Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS)	32.53	Evergreen Colony (MB)	33.76
Runner-up	A-C DeGroot Farms (ON)	31.91	Trileaf Colony (MB)	32.04

Herds >1200 sows				
Farrowing Rate				
	East		West	
Winner	Tuckersmith Pork Ltd. (ON)	91.0%	Sierra Swine Inc (MB)	92.8%
Runner-up	Stonywood (ON)	90.2%	Sunnybrook Swine Site 2 (MB)	92.6%
Pigs Born Alive/litter				
	East		West	
Winner	Crimson Lane Farms (ON)	14.51	Morris Piglets South (MB)	14.33
Runner-up	J & B-Greenway (ON)	14.25	Morris Piglets North (MB)	14.27
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year				
	East		West	
Winner	Corner Ridge Farms Ltd (ON)	32.00	Rhineland Pork (MB)	30.45
Runner-up	Tuckersmith Pork Ltd (ON)	30.70	Super Gro Gilts 1A (MB)	29.66

Each year we present an award for the Best New Start-up Herd in Eastern and Western Canada. This year our two well- deserved herds are Hidden Valley Colony in Manitoba, and Devereaux Farms Inc. in Ontario.

Hidden Valley Colony

Average Parity 1.21
Born Alive / Litter 13.99
Weaned / Litter 12.90
Weaned / Mated Female / Year 29.47

Devereaux Farms Inc.

Average Parity 1.0
Born Alive / Litter 13.81
Weaned / Litter 12.45
Weaned / Mated Female / Year 30.63

We changed the 26+ club this year to the 28+ club. The 28+ Club Award was presented to 61 farms with a total of over 62,638 sows! This award is presented to the herds producing more than 28.0 pigs weaned / mated female / year. The average result from the winners in this year’s 28+ Club was 29.63 pigs weaned / mated female / year. The award recognizes the excellent work of customers in attaining these numbers and demonstrates the genetic potential of Topigs Norsvin breeding stock. The Topigs Norsvin Canada team thanks all our loyal customers, and we look forward to continuing to contribute to this pursuit of excellence.



John Homan and Dirk Homan, Hihojo



Penetics - Gary Pennings, Ben Pennings, and Veronica Anderson, Topigs Norsvin

PRODUCER PROFILE - HIDDEN VALLEY COLONY



Gestal feeding stations

Hidden Valley Colony was established in 1968, located in the beautiful rolling hills five miles south of Austin, Manitoba. With a population of 140 people, they have developed many different agricultural enterprises such as grain cart manufacturing, a swine herd, a cattle herd, crops and more! While farming on 7,800 acres, Hidden Valley Colony has become well known for their excellent corn yields while their dairy cattle are known to be milked with state-of-the-art robotics.

Father and son duo Dave and Alfred Maendel manage the 1,400-sow farrow to finish swine operation with help from six barn staff and one feed mill worker. In 2018, the herd was depopulated to renovate the sow barn to create group sow housing. The renovations at this time also included the development of a new nursery barn, a new finishing barn, and a new office / shower area. In the new group sow housing, they are using the Gestal feeding

system, whereas prior to renovations their gestating sows were on straw. With the new system in place, sows are introduced to group housing at 35-40 days after breeding.

Near the end of 2019, Hidden Valley Colony began repopulating their barn with Topigs Norsvin Genetics. They wanted to reap the benefits of using the Topigs Norsvin InGene program and produce their own TN70 gilts internally. Pure Z-line (Large White) gilts from the Genetic Nucleus were brought in at the start of the herd fill. The majority of the gilts are TN70 gilts from Grass River Colony near Glenella, Manitoba.

After their start-up in 2019, their first round of gilts weaned an average 12.90 piglets. They are currently weaning some Parity 2 sows and their average weaned / sow has increased to 12.99. Most weeks now they are seeing an average of over 13 piglets weaned per sow! Not only do the numbers

show the progress Hidden Valley Colony has made with Topigs Norsvin Genetics, but the staff notice the improvements too. "Those TN70s are doing all the work!" stated Jonah Kleinsasser (Farrowing Room).



Gilt gestation pen

Hidden Valley uses the TN Tempo Select terminal boar semen. This proves to be a very good combination producing high-performing uniform pigs. Excellent performance from wean to finish is being realized including very good grades at market. Hogs are sold to Maple Leaf Foods

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

Producer PROfile - Hidden Valley Colony *continued...*



Breeding room

in Brandon. Current carcass weights between 105-110 kg are yielding a 109.5 Index with 65.8mm loin depth 16.5mm back fat. Average days to market from birth are very good at 170 days.

Each year Topigs Norsvin Canada presents an award in Eastern and



Group gestation pens

Western Canada for the best new start-up herd in the past year. Hidden Valley was a well-deserved winner of this award. With the excellent performance and a newly renovated barn, the very qualified Hidden Valley staff are excited to be back in pig production, and we look forward to seeing them on the award winner list in future years.

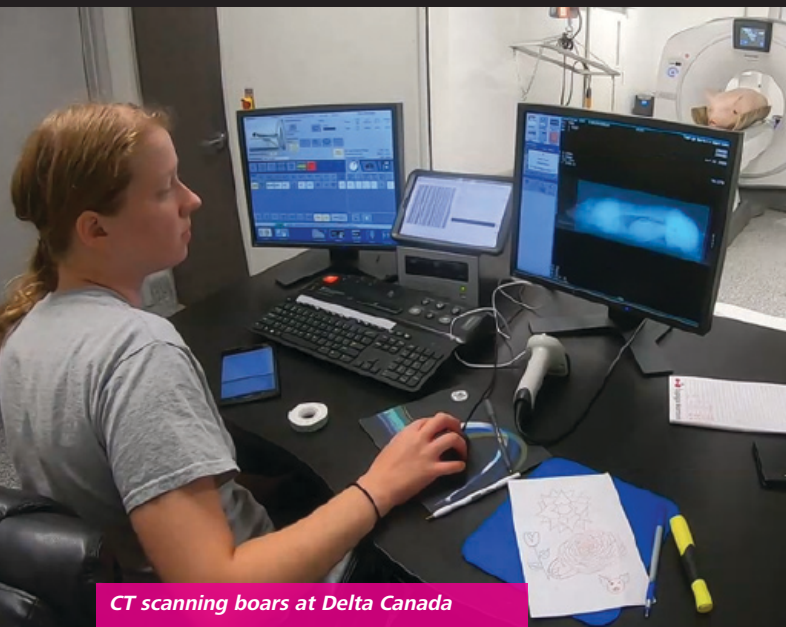
DELTA CANADA RESEARCH CENTER SUMMER STUDENT - LUCY BROEKMAN

Lucy Broekman was a summer student for Topigs Norsvin at the Delta Canada Research Centre in 2020. She is currently attending school at Lakeland College in Vermillion, Alberta where she will graduate with a

diploma in Animal Science Technology.

Lucy grew up near Olds, AB on her family's hog farm. The Broekman's have a 330 sow farrow to finish swine operation that she has participated in. Though they have put their roots in Alberta, their origins are from the Netherlands where they maintain strong connections. Lucy worked in all areas of their swine operation from breeding to farrowing to finishing. As a result, she knows the effort involved in running a hog farm.

Lucy heard about Topigs Norsvin through her work on the farm. Broekman Hog Farms has been using Topigs Norsvin Genetics for their terminal sire and maternal production for many years. When applying for a summer program, Lucy reached out to a few different companies, but it was Topigs Norsvin that ultimately gave her the best opportunity to work in a research facility. Lucy was scheduled to work from May to August, but due to COVID-19 her time at Delta Canada got cut short; she was there from July until August. During her time at Delta Canada Lucy was in the main test area where she would focus on barn chores and CT scanning. When she was not doing CT scanning Lucy would complete Lean Muscle Scanning on boars, collect rope samples for health monitoring and other daily tasks in the barn.



CT scanning boars at Delta Canada

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Delta Canada Research Center summer student - Lucy Broekman continued...

Lucy was very impressed with the team she got to work with. She says that the Delta Canada team was able to make her feel welcome to Topigs Norsvin. Barn manager, Alex Yanguéz, did a great job welcoming her in and balancing her learning with tasks that needed to get done. Lucy's time at Delta Canada made a lasting impression on her. Before her work at Delta Canada, Lucy believed that Topigs Norsvin was a normal genetics company. By the end of August, she had gained a new appreciation of how much work and effort it takes to run a successful research facility and a successful genetics program. She would like to someday own and operate a large sow barn. Until then she plans on gaining more experience in sow barns by working in nucleus farms, multiplier production barns and large commercial facilities. Topigs Norsvin would like to wish Lucy all the best with what her future holds!



Lean muscle scanning

2020 STEVE'S LIVESTOCK HEAT TREATMENT FACILITY

At Topigs Norsvin Canada we take the transportation of our animals very seriously. We want to ensure that each animal is being transported in the most humane and bio-secure manner.

In 2019, Steve's Livestock Transportation was looking to increase their trailer heat treatment capacity due to the increasing demand for this service. In cooperation with Topigs Norsvin and other breeding stock providers, they took the first steps to find and purchase a bio-secure location for a new heat treatment facility that would be dedicated to heat treating the livestock trailers of the participating breeding stock companies.

After eight months of construction, the facility went into production on August 27, 2020. This new facility has the ability to heat treat approximately 32 trailers per day. One of the environmental improvements is



Heat Treatment Facility

that this new bake bay is 30% more energy efficient than the original. Each trailer is treated for 45 minutes (15 minutes of which is at a temperature of 167°F). Since many viruses and diseases are killed at differing

temperatures, Steve's Livestock wanted to be prepared for any future viruses or disease outbreaks. That is why the new facility can reach temperatures greater than 167°F.

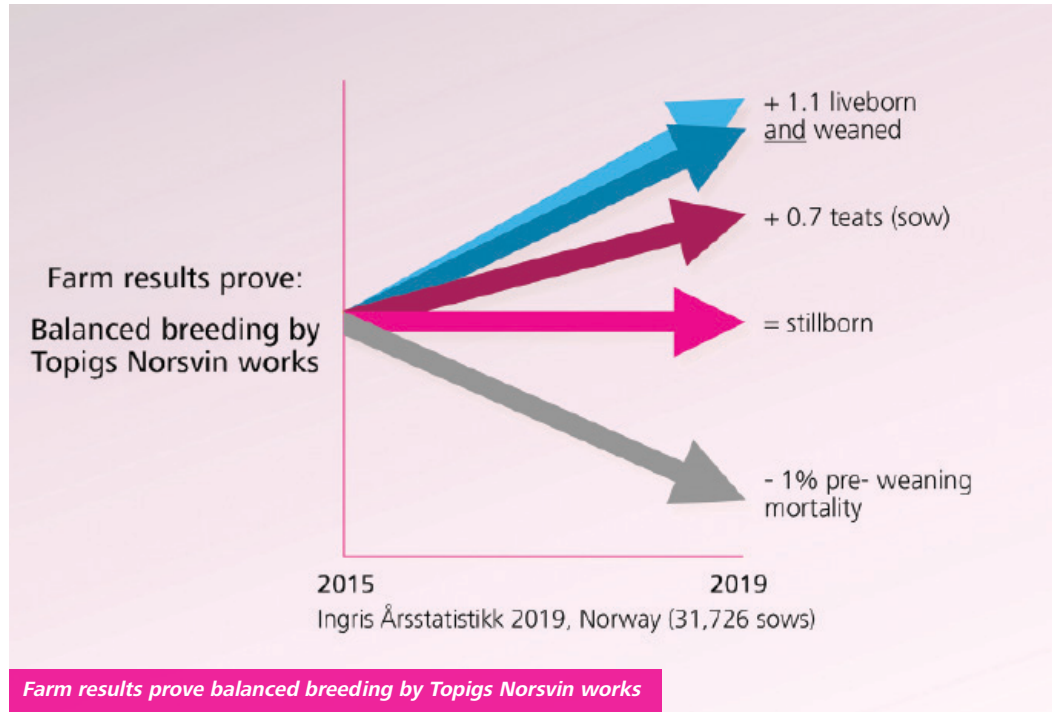
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INDEPENDENT NORWEGIAN FARM DATA PROVE: BALANCED BREEDING BY TOPIGS NORSVIN WORKS: EVERY EXTRA PIGLET BORN IS ALSO WEANED

Recent farm data from Norway show that the number of liveborn piglets born per litter has improved by 1.1 in the last four years (2015-2019). The same data show that the number of weaned piglets also improved with 1.1. At the same time, pre-weaning mortality was reduced. The independent statistical organisation Ingris gathered these farm data, and almost all of the 31,726 sows in the database are Topigs Norsvin TN70.

The data are another proof that the breeding philosophy of Topigs Norsvin is working: Every piglet born must also be weaned at the sow. By not only breeding for big litters but also taking in account the robustness and vitality of the piglets and the mothering abilities of the sows, it is possible to produce more pigs per sow per year without increasing losses. The fact that a sow now has an average of 0.7 teats more than four years ago is an example of improved mothering abilities.

The strong and vigorous pigs also have a problem-free start of production which pays off during the whole production phase: fewer losses during finishing, more efficient feed use, fewer health problems and labor input.



In this way, the breeding goals of Topigs Norsvin contribute not only to higher production but also to higher and better - so a more profitable - pig production. It combines this with fulfilling the demands of society by

contributing to better animal welfare and more sustainable production.

Visit <http://tn70.topignorsvin.com> to learn more about TN70.

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Steve's Livestock Heat Treatment Facility continued...

During the development stage of construction, Steve's Livestock worked hand in hand with CFIA to ensure this facility would be a success. The greatest improvement has been the increase in biosecurity. It is located on a 115-acre lot surrounded by trees and forests in Ste. Anne, Manitoba. As an added precaution, the facility is enclosed by a fully operational "wild boar proof" perimeter fence with a "wild boar proof" automatic access gate.

Customers should feel reassured knowing that their animals are being transported on a trailer that has been cleaned and disinfected in the most secure and remote location available to date. It is truly the first of its kind! The site has given Steve's Livestock the ability to continue to offer biosecurity solutions to the highest health herds in North America.



Heat Treatment Facility - Aerial View

TOPIGS NORSVIN CANADA INC. ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY SERVICES

We are pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2021, Dr. Brad Chappell will join the Topigs Norsvin Canada team as Director of Veterinary Services, based out of the Canadian head office in Winnipeg. In his new role, Dr. Chappell will be responsible for all the health programs at both the nucleus and multiplication level in Canada.

Dr. Chappell is a very dedicated and committed veterinarian. After starting his career in a mixed practice, he joined the Sheridan, Heuser & Provis (SHP) business in 1999. SHP was focused only on swine health and served many of the herds in Manitoba. SHP evolved into Swine Health Professionals, where Brad has been a partner for the past 21 years. His detailed focus on health and production management has benefitted many producers in the pork sector.

"Brad has been working with the Topigs Norsvin Canada team for the past 10 years and we are very excited to have him join our senior management group. He brings the kind of experience and vision that we need as we move forward with the expansion of our nucleus and multiplication programs in Canada. Our customers will be better served with Dr. Chappell in charge of our veterinary programs," said Cam McGavin, General Manager of Topigs Norsvin Canada.

Brad, and his wife Monica, reside just outside of Winnipeg close to Oakbank, MB. Over the years he has served as president of the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA), the Western Canada Association of Swine Veterinarians (WCASV), and the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV).



Brad Chappell



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Sunrise Genetics
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Mike MacDonald
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Carlo Genetics Inc.
Ste. Anne, MB
Kyla Ripley
(204) 355-4012

C & M Genetics
Lucan, ON
Dr. Corneliu Oltean
(888) 259-7594

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 or Email: info@topignorsvin.ca

Entries are to be received by **January 31, 2021**. 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.

1. What months was Lucy Broekman originally scheduled to work at Delta Canada?

2. How many of the herds participating in the 2020 Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards achieved 30+PSY?

3. What is the overall greatest improvement with Steve's Livestock's new Heat Treatment Facility?

4. How long has Dr. Brad Chappell been working with the Topigs Norsvin team?

Name:

Address:

Phone #: Fax #: Email:

Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners

Winners from the September 2020 Fall issue will receive a \$20.00 gift card. Julia Hofer, Miami Colony, MB; Helen Waldner, Evergreen Colony, AB; Ruth Hofer, New York Farming, AB; Rhoda Wipf, Rockport Farms, USA SD; Zachary Grosz, Riverside, USA SD; Jessica Vehof, Bright Pork Livestock, ON; Dan Entz, Waldeck Colony, SK; Joe Wipf, Vanguard Farming Co, SK; Tiffany Duncan, Beck Farms, NS; Leanna Maendel, Sturgeon Creek Colony, MB. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!