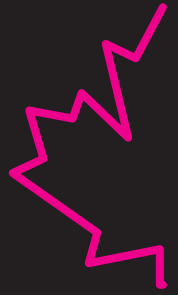


# THE INSIDER

WINTER 2021 EDITION

| DECEMBER 2021

| WWW.TOPIGSNORSVIN.CA



*Merry  
Christmas*



## 2021 TOPIGS NORSVIN CANADA AWARDS BANQUETS

For the second consecutive year, we have been unable to host our annual Customer Appreciation & Awards Dinners due to the COVID Pandemic. Normally, 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 them to one of our two annual events. Although we could not be together, it doesn’t mean we would not like to recognize the hard work and success of our customer’s farms.

This year again, Topigs Norsvin customers achieved outstanding results. In 2021 there were 26 herds over 30 PSY with an average of 31.40 PSY! This year the SMS Benchmarking data included 101 farms with 115,720 sows from Canada and Montana with the average herd size at 1,029 sows per farm.

This year the top 10% of herds averaged 32.31 pigs weaned / mated female / year. Topigs Norsvin customer herds continue to achieve better results year on year.

The summary of the 2021 production award winners and runner-up winners are listed by category of herd size.

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## 2021 Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquets continued...

Herds, 500 sows			
<b>Farrowing Rate</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	Deveraux Farms (ON) 92.8%	Valley Lea Farms (MB) 94.36%
Runner-up	Hijojo Farm (ON) 91.2%	New Haven North (MB) 91.98%	
<b>Pigs Born Alive/litter</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	Hijojo Farms (ON) 15.51	Springfield Hog Farm (MB) 15.46
Runner-up	Hog Farm Van Deelen Ltd (ON) 14.89	Keho Lake Colony (AB) 15.36	
<b>Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	Hijojo Farms (ON) 33.31	Cool Spring Colony (MB) 33.11
Runner-up	Hog Farm Van Deelen Ltd (ON) 32.03	Roseglen Colony (AB) 32.50	

Herds of 501-1200 sows			
<b>Farrowing Rate</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS) 93.8%	Evergreen Colony (MB) 95.4%
Runner-up	Van de Bruinhorst Acres Inc. (ON) 89.2%	Sturgeon Creek Colony (MB) 92.7%	
<b>Pigs Born Alive/litter</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS) 15.31	Evergreen Colony (MB) 16.03
Runner-up	RFW KSU (ON) 14.84	Trileaf Colony (MB) 15.85	
<b>Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS) 31.97	Evergreen Colony (MB) 34.05
Runner-up	Van de Bruinhorst Acres Inc. (ON) 31.67	Sturgeon Creek 32.61	

Herds >1200			
<b>Farrowing Rate</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	RFW Burnside (ON) 89.3%	Silver Pine Site 1 (MB) 93.4%
Runner-up	Petervale (ON) 89.1%	Sunnybrook Swine Site 2 (MB) 93.1%	
<b>Pigs Born Alive/litter</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	New View Swine Ltd (ON) 14.73	Stanley Pork Ltd. (MB) 15.57
Runner-up	RFW Burnside (ON) 14.67	Moline Pork Ltd. (MB) 14.68	
<b>Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year</b>	<b>East</b>		<b>West</b>
	Winner	RFW Burnside (ON) 31.18	Stanley Pork (MB) 31.11
Runner-up	Adare Pork (ON) 30.60	Porcherie Gauthier Ltee 1A (MB) 30.74	

In previous years awards have been presented to herds achieving 28.0 or more pigs weaned / mated female / year and enter our 28+ Club.

The 28+ Club Award was presented to 62 farms with a total of 74,484 sows! This award is presented to the herds producing 28.0 or more pigs weaned / mated female / year. The average result from the winners in this year's 28+ Club was 29.75 pigs weaned / mated female / year. Compared to 2020, in 2021 the 28+ Club was 0.12 PSY higher with 11,846 more sows in this prestigious group. The award recognizes

the excellent work of customers in attaining these numbers and demonstrates the genetic potential of Topigs Norsvin breeding stock.

An award is also given for the best new, start-up herd in both Eastern and Western Canada. The winners of this category are:

Western Canada – Moline Pork Ltd. is an 1,100-sow pure Z-line multiplier in Manitoba.

1.21 - Average Parity  
 14.68 - Born Alive/Litter  
 12.60 - Weaned/Litter  
 28.89 – Pigs Weaned/Mated Female/Year

Eastern Canada – Les Élevages Lemay Inc. is a 500-sow TN70 herd in Quebec.

1.17 - Average Parity  
 13.92 - Born Alive/Litter  
 12.36 - Weaned/Litter  
 31.60 – Pigs Weaned/Mated Female/Year

### 2021 SMS Benchmarking Summary

SMS Benchmarking - 52 week period ending July 3, 2021				Born Alive		Sow	
	# Farms	# Sows	Ave. Inv.	Far. Rate	per Litter	PW/MF/Y	Death Loss
<b>SMS All Farms</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>1,663,712</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>84.8%</b>	<b>13.56</b>	<b>26.52</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
<b>Topigs Norsvin Farms Only</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>115,720</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>86.3%</b>	<b>13.92</b>	<b>28.53</b>	<b>7.6%</b>

The Topigs Norsvin Canada team sends a big Thank-You to all of our loyal customers, and we look forward to continuing to work with our customers on this pursuit of excellence.

## GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Topigs Norsvin Canada is receiving \$2.2 million in Canadian and Manitoba government grants, which will go towards three different research projects over the next five years:

1. Enhancing competitiveness and sustainability of pork production through increased feed efficiency, improved carcass quality, and higher animal welfare standards by innovative application of microbiome profiling, computer tomography, and genomics
2. Advancing sow reproductive knowledge and management practices for optimal lifetime productivity and embryo transfer success
3. Innovative application of artificial intelligence, machine learning, behavioral science, and genomics to enhance resource efficiency for environmental sustainability of sow farms in Manitoba using welfare-friendly production

“These grants are very helpful to fund infrastructure, but also provide ongoing support for applied research utilizing students and staff from the University of Manitoba. We have an excellent collaborative arrangement with the University of Manitoba, and it’s helped us further some of the research projects we’re working on today,” stated Topigs Norsvin Canada’s General Manager Cam McGavin.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...**

# TEAMWORK WITH PROGRESSIVE LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT



**Marcos Amorim and Andrew Huckerby**

The Progressive Group of Companies Inc., (“Progressive”) is a 40,000+ sow system based out of Niverville, Manitoba. It prides itself on its ability to be adaptable while still achieving high levels of swine production. Since 2008, Progressive has been a key account of Topigs Norsvin.

The Topigs Norsvin Canada technical support team, led by Marcos Amorim, is constantly assessing performance, giving support, and providing advice to the Progressive barn managers to ensure our products are performing at the highest level. “Our main goal is to build a relationship with the customer, show them what they can achieve, and then develop strategic action plans to attain those goals. This involves creating scenarios on how to implement new practices effectively and efficiently,” said Marcos Amorim.

In 2021, the new TN Canada gilt grow out, HBH Pork, began production. Topigs Norsvin supplies the young gilts from their

multiplier Moline Pork, owned and managed by Wim Verbruggen. Ownership of the gilts then transfers, and they make their way to the HBH Pork site where Progressive becomes involved in their management.

“Working with the Topigs Norsvin team has been fantastic. Not only are the TN70 gilts incredibly easy to work with, but the staff is as well. Whenever we need help or advice there is always someone to call who can answer our questions. Working with Marcos has been a true delight. I can call him any time of any day and he is always ready to answer questions or adjust his schedule so he can make a visit to the barn,” stated HBH Pork barn manager, Andrew Huckerby.

“Working with Andrew, PLM and the other Topigs Norsvin Canada key accounts is all about cooperation, communication, and helping them achieve optimum performance,” said Marcos. Teamwork!!

## Government Grants continued...

Funding for these projects is provided by the Ag Action Manitoba Program-Research and Innovation, through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. “Our government is pleased to support the work of our producers through these innovative projects that will

accelerate agricultural innovation, promote knowledge transfer to producers, advance value-added opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and support sustainable agricultural development in our provincial pork industry,” said Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Ralph Eichler.

“Topigs Norsvin has a commitment to sustainable pork production and the welfare of our pigs. The government’s support announced here today will help us achieve that goal,” said McGavin.

# NEW TOPIGS NORSVIN NUCLEUS IN CANADA INVESTING IN GENETIC PROGRESS THAT FITS FUTURE MARKET DEMAND



Hans Olijslagers



GN2021

*Topigs Norsvin is investing in a new nucleus in Manitoba, Canada. This new element in the breeding structure of Topigs Norsvin will be the focal point in breeding the Z-line, one of the lines of the TN70 sow. Another aspect of the plan is the modernization and upgrade of existing nucleus farms in Manitoba.*

It is the biggest investment in the history of Topigs Norsvin and will lead to increased genetic progress and breeding with future animal welfare legislation in mind. We pose seven questions to Hans Olijslagers, CTO of Topigs Norsvin, about the new nucleus, the upgrade in breeding infrastructure, and the benefits these bring to customers around the world.

## What is Topigs Norsvin building in Manitoba?

Hans Olijslagers: "The investment in Canada includes the construction of a brand new nucleus for our Z-line. This Great Grandparent unit will, together with a smaller location elsewhere in Manitoba, be the top of the breeding pyramid of this line. The second part of the plan is to renovate and upgrade existing nucleus farms in Manitoba for the TN Tempo, Norsvin Duroc, and Norsvin Landrace lines.

When all building and renovation activities are completed, the nucleus population of the Z-line will be increased by 40%. The nucleus population of the Norsvin Duroc will be more than doubled. This is all part of our global breeding structure master plan. We are developing rapidly and need to align our breeding structure to the growing demand of our products."

## Why is this new Manitoba nucleus important for Topigs Norsvin?

Olijslagers: "This project is very important for Topigs Norsvin. To stay ahead of the competition, we must ensure that the engine of genetic

improvement runs at full speed. And the new nucleus contributes substantially to this. The facility will also enable us to supply more terminal boars and more and bigger batches of Z-line females. This is needed to meet the rapidly growing demand for TN70 sows and our TN Tempo and Norsvin Duroc boars worldwide.

It is also important because we are the second biggest genetic supplier in the world. That creates a big responsibility to the industry and especially to our customers. We have to minimize the risk of disturbances in the genetic progress and its dissemination. With this new nucleus, we can more rapidly implement new breeding innovations and protocols, and we can act with greater flexibility. We need to ensure that our genetic progress engine runs flawlessly at top speed.

When genetic progress is made at the level we achieve then every disturbance is visible. You can compare what we are doing to the performance of a Formula One or Indy Car racing. Every tiny detail makes a big difference to the speed.

Especially the bigger and integrated companies depend on and also demand highest genetic progress and constant availability of it. With this new nucleus, we will increase our reliability as a genetic supplier."

## What will the new nucleus contribute to faster genetic progress?

Olijslagers: "Genetic progress in the Z-line will increase by 10%. As this line is one of the parents of the TN70, the genetic progress of the TN70 will be 5% higher. That difference might not be seen in one year, but after five years, it is substantial and clearly noticeable, and it will contribute to our customer's success."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

# PRODUCER PROFILE: BLUE RIBBON SWINE INC.



**Blue Ribbon Farrowing Room**

Since the first Mennonites came to Canada in the 1870s and settled in Manitoba, the region southeast of Winnipeg has always been known for being an intensive agricultural area. Land was of good quality, and capable of growing excellent crops to produce feed for livestock and poultry. So much so, that what is now the City of Steinbach never had a grain elevator to buy locally grown grains. The local farmers chose to market their grain through dairy, hogs and poultry. Family farms were established and prospered from the grain they grew to be used as feed.

Henervic Farms switched from dairy to hogs in 1976 with three separate sites running 650 sows farrow to finish. Blue Ribbon Sow began as a 3,000-sow farrow-wean unit, built in 2002, a time when hog production was increasing in Manitoba. Shortly after this expansion, the three older sites were converted to finishing and the sow production was contained exclusively to Blue Ribbon Sow. In 2013, the third generation took over ownership of the hog production side from Henervic Farms and became Blue Ribbon Swine Inc. The production at Blue Ribbon has always been “top notch” under the ownership and management of the Peters and Sawatzky families. In November 2017, tragedy struck when fire destroyed the whole farrowing barn and half of the gestation barn, leaving only about 1,500 sows with nowhere to farrow. Luckily, temporary farrowing facilities were found nearby. Late gestation sows were farrowed and the remainder were sold as culls.

The families have been in hog production all their lives and a decision was made to rebuild the sow barn, into what is now a 3,500 sow farrow-to-finish multi-site operation. The new sow barn was constructed, and the first sows farrowed in February of 2019.

Along with the sow unit there are two nursery sites and five finisher sites.

The third generation owners are Craig Sawatzky (Sow Production Manager), Daryl & Jerome Sawatzky (Nursery / Finisher Managers) and Lyle Peters (Financial Manager, Crop specialist).



**Gestation Barn**



**Content and happy TN70 gilts**

In the barn design, group sow housing was incorporated using the Maximus Electronic Sow Feeding system. Gestating sows are housed in groups of 36 per pen from day 30 post-breeding. Having come from a stall gestation barn, the group system was something new to the team. “The group system has worked well for us,” stated Craig Sawatzky, “Both group and stall systems have their advantages. We have had good success with getting sows on feed with very minimal training required. I have a great team and our production is very good.”

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...**

## PRODUCER PROFILE continued...

### Norsvin Duroc x TN70 litter

Blue Ribbon uses the TN70 female and the Norsvin Duroc terminal boar semen from Carlo Genetics AI stud. Regular benchmarking is done with Swine Management Systems (SMS). Sows farrow in groups every ten days and are weaned around 26 days. The most recent 52-week period shows results of 29.38 pigs Weaned / mated female, a 90.0% Farrowing Rate, with 14.75 Born Alive / litter and weaning 12.56 Pigs / litter. This is excellent production for a large sow herd like this, and it takes a great team to achieve these results.

All hogs are marketed to the HyLife plant in Neepawa. HyLife exports the majority of its pork to Asian markets and requires Duroc sired hogs. The Norsvin Duroc fits this program very well in both meat quality and in-barn performance. Recent data on 36,000 hogs shows a wean-finish (7kg -135kg, 15.4 lbs to 297 lbs) performance of 835 grams (1.84 lbs) ADG, with a 2.32 Feed Conversion. Along with excellent performance they have an average wean-finish mortality of 4.44%. "These animals are robust and do very well for us," said Craig. Blue Ribbon has consistently been at the top of its

benchmarking group in Canada for ADG, feed conversion and livability. As well as top three in days to market and KGs."

As four young families owning a large system like this, they are very optimistic about the future of hog production. To have the facilities, a good production team, and access to the most productive and efficient genetics from Topigs Norsvin, will allow them to be some of the most efficient producers in the world.



Norsvin Duroc x TN70 litter

## New Topigs Norsvin nucleus in Canada continued...

### In the new nucleus, Topigs Norsvin has opted for loose farrowing. Why are you doing that?

Olijslagers: "We are breeding pigs that need to fit market needs in five years' time. We follow developments in society and legislation closely and in many places in the world, we see an increased focus on animal welfare. Housing sows in groups during gestation is already mandatory in many countries and more countries will follow suit. We have implemented group housing during gestation in most nucleus farms for decades.

Now a discussion on loose housing of the sows during farrowing has started in several countries. We have to take our responsibility by breeding and selecting pigs that can produce in this kind of housing. Only then can we assure our customers that our genetics will comply with future housing systems and market demands. The Norsvin Landrace line in Norway has been bred in loose farrowing systems for many years. The Z-line will now be bred in that way too."

### Several years ago, Topigs Norsvin built Delta Canada in Manitoba. Now you are establishing this new nucleus. Why do you invest so much in this part of Canada?

Olijslagers: "Canada, and especially Manitoba, is one of the best regions in the world for high-health nucleus pig breeding. It is a region with low pig density. There are no other pigs in the surroundings of our new location. Due to this low pig density, it is possible to breed with a high-health status. Furthermore, the international airport in Winnipeg makes it easy to transport pigs and semen to every country in the world.

All our breeding facilities in Canada are about a one-hour drive from Winnipeg and this big city and its environs are attractive to live in. This is an advantage when hiring the workforce. And another key factor: Canadians want to breed pigs. They have the mindset, knowledge, and skills needed for running a nucleus farm.

By the way, Manitoba is not the only region in the world where our nucleus farms are located. We also breed in Europe. And we have several satellite nucleus farms around the world. These units are just one generation of genetic progress behind the nucleus farms."

### Delta Canada is about a one-hour drive away from the new nucleus. What is the connection between the two?

Olijslagers: "Young Z-line boars from the new nucleus will be tested and CT scanned at Delta Canada. The best boars will be used for the next generation at the new nucleus or will be transported to AI centers and customers in North America and the rest of the world. This will make Delta Canada a hub for the genetic progress achieved in the new nucleus.

The females born on the new nucleus will also be raised in a yet to be built rearing unit a few kilometers from the main location of the new nucleus farm. They will be used for the next generation at the nucleus or will be exported."

### When will the first animals produced on the new nucleus be available for customers?

Olijslagers: "We plan to populate the new nucleus in the summer of 2022. This means that the first animals will be available for our customers in the first quarter of 2023."

# PIG OF THE MONTH



**September 2021: Evergreen Colony, MB**

Topigs Norsvin Canada's Top Pig of the month for September is 1668, a TN70 sow from Evergreen Colony in Manitoba. 1668 has weaned 8 litters for a total of 125 pigs. Her lifetime average born alive is 16.4 and a weaned/litter average of 15.6 over the 8 parities! This is another great TN70 producer!



**October 2021: Silver Corners Inc., ON**

Topigs Norsvin Canada's Top Pig of the month for October is 1327 from Dennis and Tara Terpstra's barn, Silver Corners Inc. in Brussels Ontario. This lovely lady is a TN70 sow who has had four litters, each of which did better than the last. Her lifetime average total born is 20.8, her lifetime average born alive is 18.2 and she has weaned an average 15.2 piglets in her four parities. 1327 is a great producer and we're all excited to see how she does on her fifth parity!



**November 2021: New Rockport Colony, AB**

Topigs Norsvin Canada's Top pig of the month for November is 8801, a TN70 sow from New Rockport Colony in Alberta. This wonderful sow is about to wean her third parity. Her previous two parities averaged 17 BA and 13 weaned. On her third parity, she is set to wean 16 piglets with her gorgeous underline only seen on the TN70. Congratulations to the good people at New Rockport Colony. This is another great TN70 producer.

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**Magnum Swine Genetics Inc.**  
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**Total Swine Genetics Inc.**  
Tillsonburg, ON  
Stuart De Vries  
(800) 844-9913

**Sunrise Genetics**  
Amherst, NS  
Mike MacDonald  
(902) 661-7883

**Carlo Genetics Inc.**  
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(204) 371-0411

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

**CIPQ Inc.**  
Saint-Lambert de Lauzon, Québec  
(418) 889-9748

**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 **February 28, 2022**. 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.

- How many farms were part of the 28+ club in 2021?
- Who is the barn manager at HBH Farms?
- How many Topigs Norsvin projects will the government grants fund?
- In 2002, how many sows did Blue Ribbon Swine start with?

Name:

Address:

Phone #:  Fax #:  Email:

**Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners**

Winners from the October 2021 Fall issue will receive a \$20.00 gift card. Jacob Waldner, Coolspring Colony, MB; Joey Waldner, Blumengart Colony, MB; Kayla Campbell, Birnam Pork, ON; Dorcas Weber, 1452 Elderslie Aaron Townline, Dobbinton ON; Joseph D Waldner, Swift Current, SK; Brenda Mandel, Pennant Colony, SK; Thomas M Wurtz, Albion Ridge Colony, AB; Dave Waldner, Evergreen Colony, AB; Phileman Waldner, Decker Colony, MB; Samuel L Wurtz, Three Hills Colony, AB. The Topigs Norsvin rep in your area will deliver your prize. Congratulations!