

THE INSIDER

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Merry Christmas



Topigs Norsvin

2023 TOPIGS NORSVIN CANADA AWARDS BANQUETS

Topigs Norsvin Canada's annual Customer Appreciation & Awards Dinners in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Stratford, Ontario, are back on track in full force. The customer base and attendance continue to grow with more than 300 people attending in each province. These dinners present excellent opportunities to meet fellow Topigs Norsvin producers and share information. Not only does the attendance continue to climb but the level of productivity is climbing as well.

Topigs Norsvin Canada had several key events over the past year, and Cam McGavin, General Manager presented an overview to the guests. "A key accomplishment in 2023 is the completion of the 1,600-sow Innova Canada Genetic Nucleus in Manitoba," said McGavin. "This project, led by Mike Shaw, is critical to the Canadian and Global business for Topigs Norsvin. Our growth along with genetic improvement is what drives our business as well as our customers business." Along with the new Genetic Nucleus, multiplication has also been added in both Eastern and Western Canada.

Cam introduced Tom Elskamp who is the new National Sales Manager. He has replaced John Sawatzky in this role and John has been appointed the Western Canada Sales Manager. Both John and Gord Edwards (Eastern Canada Sales Manager) will report to Tom. "This being the first time attending this event, I am totally amazed at the size of your customer base as well as the loyalty shown by your customers," said Tom. "Our customers are not only a very hard-working dedicated group, but a group that recognizes the genetic tools they are given to maximize their profitability."

The highlight of the evening was the annual awards presentation. This year Topigs Norsvin customers achieved outstanding results, again surpassing previous years. Participation in the SMS Benchmarking program is voluntary. 2023 included a record number of 118 farms with 146,135 sows from Canada and Montana with herd sizes averaging 1,238 sows per farm. We continue to perform well above the average of all SMS Benchmarking herds. The average pigs weaned / mated female / year was a record of 29.12! The average sow mortality of non-Topigs Norsvin herds is 11.1%. The Canadian Topigs Norsvin herds are averaging 8.1% sow mortality, or a 24.9% lower mortality than average. The SMS Benchmarking program has a total of 854 farms with 1,557,482 sows in it. These sows represent all genetics in Canada and the USA. The best Topigs Norsvin farm is ranked Number 1 of all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 1

Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquets

PAGE 4

Producer PROFILE: Jeroen Van Boekel

PAGE 5

New National Manager - Tom Elskamp
Grass River Colony Gilt Grower

PAGE 6

Employee Spotlight: André Lavergne
Norsvin Landrace & TN Duroc in Canada

PAGE 7

Pig of the Month

PAGE 8

Canada Contacts and AI Stud Stations
Topigs Norsvin Insider Quiz

2023 Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquets *continued...*

854 farms. Of the top 50 farms in all of SMS, 26 farms are Topigs Norsvin genetics. Quite an achievement with thanks and gratitude going to our customers!

This year the average for the best 12 herds (top 10%) achieved 33.56 pigs weaned / mated female / year. Of the 104 farms, the top 42 herds (top 36%) averaged 32.16 pigs / mated female / year. Topigs Norsvin customer herds continue to achieve better results year over year.

The summary of the 2023 production award winners and runners-up are listed by category.

Herds <500 sows

Farrowing Rate	East	West
Winner	Hihojo Farm (ON) 90.0%	Good Hope Colony (MB) 92.89%
Runner-up	Peeters Family Farms (ON) 88.8%	Cool Spring Colony (MB) 91.92%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	East	West
Winner	Hog Farm Van Deelen Ltd. (ON) 15.87	Pembina Hog Farm (MB) 16.20
Runner-up	JK Rombouts (ON) 15.28	Springfield Hog Farm (MB) 15.48
		Cool Spring Colony (MB) 15.48
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	East	West
Winner	Hihojo Farm (ON) 32.70	Pembina Hog Farm (MB) 34.27
Runner-up	RFW KSUPB (ON) 32.44	Cool Spring Colony (MB) 33.69



HiHojo Farm 32.70 PSY

Herds of 501-1200 sows

Farrowing Rate	East	West
Winner	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS) 91.6%	Evergreen Colony (MB) 97.0%
Runner-up	Paragon Farms - Salem (ON) 91.2%	Sturgeon Creek Colony (MB) 94.5%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	East	West
Winner	Knollcrest Farms (ON) 15.72	Trileaf Colony (MB) 16.10
Runner-up	Wohlgemuth Farms (NS) 15.42	Evergreen Colony (MB) 15.86
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	East	West
Winner	Jomimaro Farms (ON) 33.10	Evergreen Colony (MB) 35.93
Runner-up	Kuijpers Key Farm (ON) 32.94	Interlake Colony (MB) 34.01



Knollcrest Farms 15.72 Born Alive



Jomimaro Farms 33.10 PSY

Herds >1200 sows

Farrowing Rate	East	West
Winner	Paragon Farms - Wright Sow (ON) 93.9%	Sunnyside Colony (MB) 93.2%
Runner-up	Paragon Farms - Willowcreek (ON) 90.4%	Silver Pine Swine Site 1 (MB) 92.4%
Pigs Born Alive/litter	East	West
Winner	Crimson Lane Farms (ON) 15.20	Stanley Pork (MB) 15.66
Runner-up	Paragon Farms - Maple (ON) 15.04	Hidden Valley Colony (MB) 15.13
Pigs Weaned/Sow/Year	East	West
Winner	K&D Acres (ON) 31.58	Sunnyside Colony (MB) 33.34
Runner-up	Petervale Farms (ON) 31.39	Rosebank Colony (MB) 32.56



Cool Spring Colony 33.69 PSY



Evergreen Colony 35.93 PSY



Paragon Farms - Maple 15.04 Born Alive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...

2023 Topigs Norsvin Canada Awards Banquets continued...



An award is also given for the best new herd start-up in both Western and Eastern Canada. In the West, the winning herd with 420 sows went to Greenwood Colony of Fort MacLeod, Alberta.

Best New Herd Start-up Western Canada Greenwood Colony (AB)

Average Parity: **1.13**
Born Alive/Litter: **13.90**
Weaned/Litter: **12.61**
Weaned/Sow/Year: **29.26**

In the East, the winning herd with 3,500 sows went to Cedar Villa's Thiel Unit of Zurich, Ontario.

Best New Herd Start-up Eastern Canada Cedar Villa Farms Inc. (ON) THIEL UNIT

Average Parity: **0.99**
Born Alive/Litter: **13.71**
Weaned/Litter: **12.86**
Weaned/Sow/Year: **33.03**

In 2023, the 28+ Club Award was presented to 85 farms with a total of 105,004 sows! This award is presented to the herds producing 28.0 pigs weaned / mated female / year or more. The average result from the winners in this year's 28+ Club was 30.36 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 expresses a big "Thank-you" to all of our loyal customers and looks forward to continuing to contribute to this pursuit of excellence.



Eastern 28+ Club



Western 28+ Club

PRODUCER PROFILE: JEROEN VAN BOEKEL



Morris Piglets North Staff



Stanley Pork Staff



Morris Piglets South Staff



Rhineland Pork staff

“All big things come from small beginnings. The seed of every habit is a single, tiny decision” (James Clear). This quote exemplifies the achievements of Jeroen van Boekel. Jeroen immigrated from The Netherlands to Canada in October of 2001. He had chosen Manitoba as the ideal place to purchase a pig farm and took possession of his first Canadian farm upon his arrival in a new country.

From the small beginning of a 680-sow farm, Jeroen’s pig production business has now grown to include five barns on four sites with almost 10,000 sows. All sites are farrow-wean farms except for his last acquisition which is a 700-sow farrow-finish unit. This unit is currently empty and waiting to be populated.

The farms are all located in south-central Manitoba and near Jeroen’s home town of Carman. While Jeroen is involved on a daily basis, the recent appointment of two Production Managers for his system allows him to focus on the bigger picture of his business, without having to be in the barns. Steve Martens and Abe Buhler have been long-term employees of Jeroen. They are in the barns every day communicating with the barn managers and staff to ensure they are maximizing the productivity of each herd.

Of the four barns in production, Stanley Pork is a 1,400-sow Topigs Norsvin multiplier producing TN70 gilts. The weaner gilts are purchased by Grass River Colony near Glenella, Manitoba. Gilts are then purchased back to supply the other three farms of Rhineland Pork, Morris Piglets South, and Morris Piglets North. These farms are all 2,600-sow units using the TN Duroc as the terminal sire and selling commercial weaner pigs.

The farms of Jeroen van Boekel are performing well. In recent SMS Benchmarking data, the total of 9,000 sows are averaging 31.34 Pigs Weaned / Mated Female / Year. The Stanley Pork multiplier with purebred

Z-line sows is currently averaging 32.34 Pigs Weaned / Mated Female / Year. Jeroen is a firm believer that such a high producing herd at the multiplier level impacts the continuously improved performance of his other farms receiving these gilts. All of Jeroen’s farms were award winners at the recent Topigs Norsvin Awards dinner in Winnipeg.

	Stanley Z-Line	Rhineland TN70	Morris Piglets S. TN70	Morris Piglets N. TN70
Ave. Parity	2.59	2.65	2.25	2.26
Wean to 1st Service Days	4.69	5.68	5.65	5.66
Farrowing Rate	89.2%	91.1%	89.1%	91.8%
Total Born/litter	18.23	16.36	16.87	16.53
Born Alive/litter	15.66	14.86	15.06	14.90
Ave. Weaning Age	22.6	21.7	22.8	22.4
Pigs Weaned/litter	13.43	12.97	12.82	12.74
Pigs Weaned/sow/year	32.34	31.50	30.95	31.01

Jeroen has been fortunate in acquiring and retaining good staff at all of his farms. “They are the key to being productive and successful” he said. “With challenges of record high feed prices and other production pressures, good people working with good genetics is a must. We see every small detail as an opportunity to be more efficient.”

He is constantly positioning his farms to be the most productive and efficient. Having experienced what the Topigs Norsvin program can deliver gives him confidence that his farms are on the leading edge and will survive for years to come.

TOPIGS NORSVIN CANADA INC. ANNOUNCES NEW NATIONAL SALES MANAGER

Key appointment enhances Topigs Norsvin Management team

Effective Oct 16, 2023, Tom Elskamp joined the Winnipeg-based staff of Topigs Norsvin Canada Inc. as National Sales Manager. In his new role, Tom will focus on business development, customer support, and sales management for Canada.

Tom is well known in the Canadian swine industry. He has considerable experience in working with producers, packers, and related specialists. "Tom will be a valuable asset to the Topigs Norsvin Canada sales team as he embraces this new responsibility and assumes his leadership role," said Cam McGavin, Managing Director for Canada.

"Working in the swine pharmaceutical industry for the past 26 years has allowed me to work side by side with some of the best swine producers on the globe," said Tom Elskamp. "Their relentless pursuit for increased production and efficiency in every aspect of their business has taught me that new technologies, open communication, and partnerships are key to their success" Tom added, "I'm excited to be part of the Topigs Norsvin Team of experts, and I look forward to building new partnerships and enhancing existing customers' long-term goals and objectives."

Tom can be reached at (204) 981-2579 or tom.elskamp@topignorsvin.ca



Tom Elskamp

GRASS RIVER COLONY GILT GROWER

Grass River Colony is located near Glenella, Manitoba. They were established in 1974 and currently have a population of just over 100 people. Their enterprises of grain farming, dairy, poultry and hogs create ample employment opportunity for them.

Grass River has always been in pig production and historically had a 450-sow farrow to finish operation. In 2018 they decided to depopulate their sow herd and become a wean-finish producer. Having had Topigs Norsvin genetics before depopulating, they were interested in becoming a gilt grower, and in August of 2018 the first weaner gilts arrived. Being located in a very low pig population area, they were ideally situated with their farm to maintain their high health status.

Since January 2020, Stanley Pork has been the supplier of TN70 weaner gilts to Grass River receiving approximately 425 gilts per week. These gilts are then sold at various ages by the Topigs Norsvin sales team across Canada and Montana.

The Manager Randy Waldner and his team of Zach Wollman and Ray Stahl do an excellent job of raising the TN70 gilts. In the past year their wean-finish mortality has only been 1.6%. The quality of teats and legs is second to none. The gilts go on to customer farms ready to work and provide top production for their new owners.

Grass River Colony has been very pleased with their decision to work with Topigs Norsvin and look forward to many more years in this business relationship.



Grass River Colony

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ANDRÉ LAVERGNE

I grew up on a dairy farm but during my agricultural degree at Laval University, I became interested in pig production and have been in the business ever since. I was employed for nine years by a genetics company supervising nucleus farms, multipliers and commercial farms from Canada, USA, Mexico and Brazil. That gave me the opportunity to learn a lot, especially the different ways and types of pig production.

Since the early years working with the genetics company, I have spent 16 years training and teaching pig production to students and immigrants. I have also been working with farms on animal welfare audits for Organic, Certified Humane, and Raised Without Antibiotics programs.

In January 2021, I joined the Topigs Norsvin Canada team as the Sales and Technical Support for the province of Québec. It feels good to be back in the genetics business. I am pleased to be part of a great team and company like Topigs Norsvin. They are a pleasure to work for. My role is to develop the Québec market and support the producers in any way they may need.

In my time off, I enjoy spending time with my family and being outdoors hunting, fishing and trapping.



André Lavergne

NORSVIN LANDRACE & TN DUROC IN CANADA



Norsvin Landrace



TN Duroc

All major lines of Topigs Norsvin are tested in a rigorous, detailed testing program including CT scanning at completion at a weight determined by our complex genetic program, usually in the range of 120 kg to 130 kg. The maternal Z-line boars and terminal TN Tempo boars are all tested at Delta Canada near Woodlands, Manitoba. The maternal Norsvin Landrace boars and TN Duroc boars are all tested in Delta Norway. In Norway the construction of the new Delta test station with more boar capacity is in full swing. See the Fall Issue of the Insider.

So how do we maintain the pace of genetic improvement with the Norsvin Landrace and TN Duroc lines in Canada? Our goal is to provide our customers with the best genetic material in the swine production sector. Since January of 2020, Topigs Norsvin Canada has been importing the very best boar semen of the Norsvin Landrace and TN Duroc lines on a weekly basis. Semen from Norway is delivered weekly

to our Canadian nucleus farms in a fresh state much like getting it from a local stud.

The impact of doing this for almost four years has been significant. The Topigs Selection Index (TSI) for the Norsvin Landrace and the TN Duroc has increased 12 TSI points annually.

While the importation of fresh semen from Norway is expensive, our customers are now beginning to reap the benefits of this imported semen. Norsvin Landrace continues to be a stellar performer on the maternal traits while also contributing greatly to the growth, feed conversion and grading of her offspring. The TN Duroc is in high demand and known for its growth rate, feed conversion, uniformity and grading.

PIG OF THE MONTH



SEP

September 2023 - Cool Spring Colony (Manitoba)

The Pig of the Month for September 2023 is a TN70, tag #1039. She is on the farm of Cool Spring Colony, Manitoba. This powerhouse female is a great example of TN70 longevity. She has completed 11 parities, with an average of 18.8 pigs born alive, 6.3% stillborn pigs, and weaning an average of 14.8 pigs per litter! With an average lactation length of 24.8 days, she has been weaning a whopping 36.4 pigs per year!



OCT

October 2023 - Crimson Lane Farms (Ontario)

Topigs Norsvin Canada's Top Pig of the Month for October is Sow 4952 from Crimson Lane Farms near Palmerston, Ontario. 4952 is a TN70 sow who just had her 8th litter with 22 born alive! She has a lifetime average of 17.1 born alive and 13.1 weaned. She is an excellent mother, and we are excited to see how she continues to produce!



NOV

November 2023: Kingsbury Colony (Montana)

Topigs Norsvin Canada's Top Pig of the Month for November is Sow 818P from Kingsbury Colony, Montana. 818P is a TN70 sow who farrowed her ninth litter in November and had 14 piglets born alive! She has a lifetime average of 16.6 born alive and 13.1 weaned. 818P has been a great producer for Kingsbury Colony and continues to impress!

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Topigs Norsvin Canada
Unit 1, 20 South Landing Drive
Oak Bluff, MB
Canada R4G 0C4
www.topignorsvin.ca

Tom Elskamp
National Sales Manager
(204) 981-2579
tom.elskamp@topignorsvin.ca

John Sawatzky
Western Canada Sales Manager
(204) 981-0243
john.sawatzky@topignorsvin.ca

Gordon Edwards
Eastern Canada Sales Manager
(519) 440-8128
gord.edwards@topignorsvin.ca

Veronica Anderson
Ontario Business Development
Representative
(519) 440-6226
veronica.anderson@topignorsvin.ca

Rick Beunen
Ontario Business Development
(519) 317-7403
rick.beunen@topignorsvin.ca

Jeff Crossman
Ontario Business Development
Representative
(519) 496-4923
jeff.crossman@topignorsvin.ca

Sheldon Friesen
Alberta Business Development
Representative
(403) 331-1109
sheldon.friesen@topignorsvin.ca

Russ Penner
Manitoba Business Development
(204) 770-1885
russ.penner@topignorsvin.ca

André Lavergne
Québec Business Development
Representative & Technical Support for
Québec and Ontario
(418) 551-1142
andre.lavergne@topignorsvin.ca

Tassi Edwards
Ontario Business Development
Representative
(519) 531-1187
tassi.edwards@topignorsvin.ca

Wes Friesen
Alberta Business Development
Representative
(403) 330-8380
wes.friesen@topignorsvin.ca

Xavier Temple
Customer Relations Liaison
(204) 390-7975
xavier.temple@topignorsvin.ca

AI STUD STATIONS

Alberta Swine Genetics
Nisku, AB
Greg Lebowa
(800) 691-3060

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

Magnum Swine Genetics Inc.
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(888) 553-4844

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Mike MacDonald
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Ontario Swine Improvement
Innerkip, Ontario
Rod de Wolde
(519) 469-3010

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

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 15, 2024**. 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. How many sows were in the Canada SMS Benchmarking?
2. Which farm is the Best New Start-up herd in Eastern Canada?
3. How many TSI points have been added to the Norsvin Duroc & TN Duroc annually?
4. Which of Jeroen's farms weaned 32.34 Pigs / Mated Female / Year?

Name:

Address:

Phone #: Fax #: Email:

Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners

Topigs Norsvin INSIDER Quiz Winners from the September 2023 Fall issue will receive a \$20.00 gift card. Jennifer Waldner, Eagle Creek Colony MB; Dan Waldner, Sturgeon Creek Colony MB; Mark P. Hofer, Hillcrest Colony MT; Joseph M Kleinsasser, Kingsbury Colony MT; Tabea Wipf, Vanguard SK; Martha Wipf, Swift Current SK; Kaleb Hofer, New York Colony AB; Brian Waldner, Clover Leaf Colony AB; Hardy Mandel, Shamrock Colony AB; Maria Weber, Listowel ON.