

PORCUS

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Primecuts

Celebrating the best of our industry



AUTUMN



TN Tempo

Topigs Norsvin's best-selling boar worldwide

TN Tempo is a terminal boar for producers that focus on low-cost production of mainstream pork.

The local breeding programme for the TN Tempo is focused on continuous genetic progress and accelerating the speed with which top genes are transferred to commercial farms.

Customers value TN Tempo offspring for their unique vitality and uniformity, especially from birth to early life. They are easy to work with and require less labour input compared to competitor boars. TN Tempo offspring exhibit outstanding finishing performance related to high growth rates and excellent feed efficiency. Furthermore, a strong focus on survival results in low mortality rates from birth to slaughter, contributing to overall low cost of production.

Decades of genetic improvement in robustness have turned TN Tempo into a 100% all-natural, non-gene-edited boar that is tolerant against a wide variety of diseases. When using TN Tempo, processors can expect carcasses with fewer defects and higher carcass yields compared with the competition.

Topigs Norsvin South Africa's vision for TN Tempo is to maintain the status of No.1 robust boar, while giving our customers the highest possible overall profit. Through continuous improvement and changing in line with market demands, TN Tempo stand the test of time and remains Africa's boar of choice.



TN70

The No. 1 choice of pork producers

Since the introduction of the TN70 in global markets in 2015, the Topigs Norsvin parent sow has become the No.1 in the world.

Currently, almost one in four sows in the world is a TN70. Today, everybody is talking about balanced breeding, but it is the success of combining 41 different traits linked to the TN70 breeding goals that made the TN70 so successful. Merging the Norsvin Landrace and the Z-line almost 10 years ago was the starting point of combining two perfect worlds.

With TN70, our customers produce large litters of heavy, vigorous piglets that show high survival rates from birth to market. This is a result of our pioneering work on genetic improvement of piglet survival that we started more than 20 years ago.

As with all our genetic products, robustness is a key factor in our breeding programme. The results on our customer farms and in trials confirm our success: TN70 shows consistently lower sow mortality rates than the competition.

Besides reproduction traits, carcass and finisher traits are also considered, which makes the TN70 an ideal choice for markets focused on efficiencies.

Our vision for TN70 is to breed a self-sufficient sow, that requires less labour compared to the competition. TN70 gilts have sufficient teats to nurse their piglets and are docile and careful mothers. Talking to customers, it is the ease of the sow and her mothering ability that make the difference. How the TN70 takes care of her own piglets is mentioned many times in customer conversations.

Since the TN70's introduction in the South African market in 2020, these strengths have also brought TN70 to the No. 1 position in the local market. As herds are nearly fully converted, the benefits of the TN70 are seen throughout the value chain.

Given the challenges the industry faces in the coming years, such as diseases, animal welfare, and labour shortage, the TN70 is ready to serve customers worldwide. Our future-proof breeding programme for TN70, including free-farrowing facilities in our nucleus Innova Canada, will ensure that TN70 will remain the No. 1 choice of pig producers worldwide.

Progressive pig farmers who wish to benefit from the TN70's immense contribution to an efficient and profitable business can contact Topigs Norsvin South Africa.

LOCAL NEWS

Topigs Norsvin South Africa implements genomics

This year marks the implementation of yet another innovation in the local breeding programme of Topigs Norsvin South Africa. The addition of genomic data for breeding value estimation and selection will bring tremendous advances in genetic improvement. The sampling of pure-line animals at Rietfontein Nucleus started towards the end of 2023. Since then, a regular schedule for exporting samples has been established and genotyping is routinely done. The first animals for which genomic data was incorporated in breeding value estimation were available for selection in February.

Utilising genomic information increases the rate of genetic improvement through:

- improved accuracy in estimating relationships between animals;
- accounting for the direct effect of markers with known direct effects on specific traits; and
- verifying parentage.

The addition of genomics to Topigs Norsvin South Africa's breeding programme will contribute to between 30% and 40% faster genetic progress. Our customers can expect to see the effect of this in increased performance improvements at a commercial level in the near future.



Absa raises R1,5 million for sustainable school gardens

Absa continues its commitment to community impact with the launch of sustainable food gardens in schools across five provinces. As the title sponsor of the Absa RUN YOUR CITY Series since 2021, the bank's 2023 campaign – Together we can do more, Siyabangena – encouraged participants to raise funds through the fitness app Strava. For every kilometre ran or walked by a Team Absa member, the bank pledged a donation of R1, totalling R1,5 million raised.

The funds have been allocated to establishing

sustainable food gardens in five selected schools and communities, including Mautse Primary School in Rosendal, Ndunakazi Primary School in KwaXimba, Strelitzia Primary School in Bethelsdorp, Ennis Thabong Primary School in Hartbeespoort, and Northern Cape Agricultural High School. Jabulile Nsibanyoni, head of sponsorships at Absa, expressed gratitude to participants, emphasising the initiative's impact on community growth and development. Absa's partnership with Urban Harvest ensures schools receive training and tools for sustainable gardening, promoting experiential learning and environmental responsibility.



On-farm semen handling best practices

At Topigs Norsvin, seminal doses containing our genetic material are produced under strict quality control guidelines, ensuring the delivery of high-quality doses to our customers. To maximize shelf life and subsequent reproductive performance, correct handling and storage of semen doses at the sow unit are vital.

Semen arrival and storage

Semen delivery

- Follow the veterinary recommendations for bio-secure dose entry.
- The semen should be delivered directly into a designated temperature-controlled area.

Prepare the storage unit in advance

- The storage unit is for semen doses only.
- Place the unit in a room with a controlled environment.
- The unit should be kept clean and the temperature stable.
- Routinely inspect the unit.

Organise semen doses at arrival

- Remove the doses from their secondary packaging and place them horizontally to allow air circulation and temperature stabilisation.
- Discard expired doses.

Temperature of storage

Optimal semen storage temperature – between 16 °C and 18 °C

- Boar sperm are particularly sensitive to temperature variations.
- Keeping semen doses at a stable and adequate temperature is essential for optimal reproductive results.

Out of range or fluctuating temperatures

- Temperature fluctuations must be avoided.
- When semen is stored in temperatures higher or lower than recommended, shelf life is shortened.





Semen handling on the day of breeding

- 1 Heat check the sows.
- 2 Ensure the semen is suitable for use. Check the expiry date of the semen. Evaluate the semen under the microscope to ensure that it is alive with good motility.
- 3 Only take the exact number of doses needed to the insemination section. Once the doses are removed from the storage unit, they should not be returned.
- 4 Place the doses in an insulated carrier. Add clean gel packs at between 16 °C and 18 °C to keep the temperature of the carrier stable. Always keep the lid closed while breeding the sows.
- 5 Follow Topigs Norvin recommendations on artificial insemination best practices.

Temperature management

- Equip the unit with a minimum–maximum thermometer or data logger.
- Check temperatures daily.
- Equip the unit with surge protectors or a battery back-up system.
- Prevent blockage around the air circulation system.

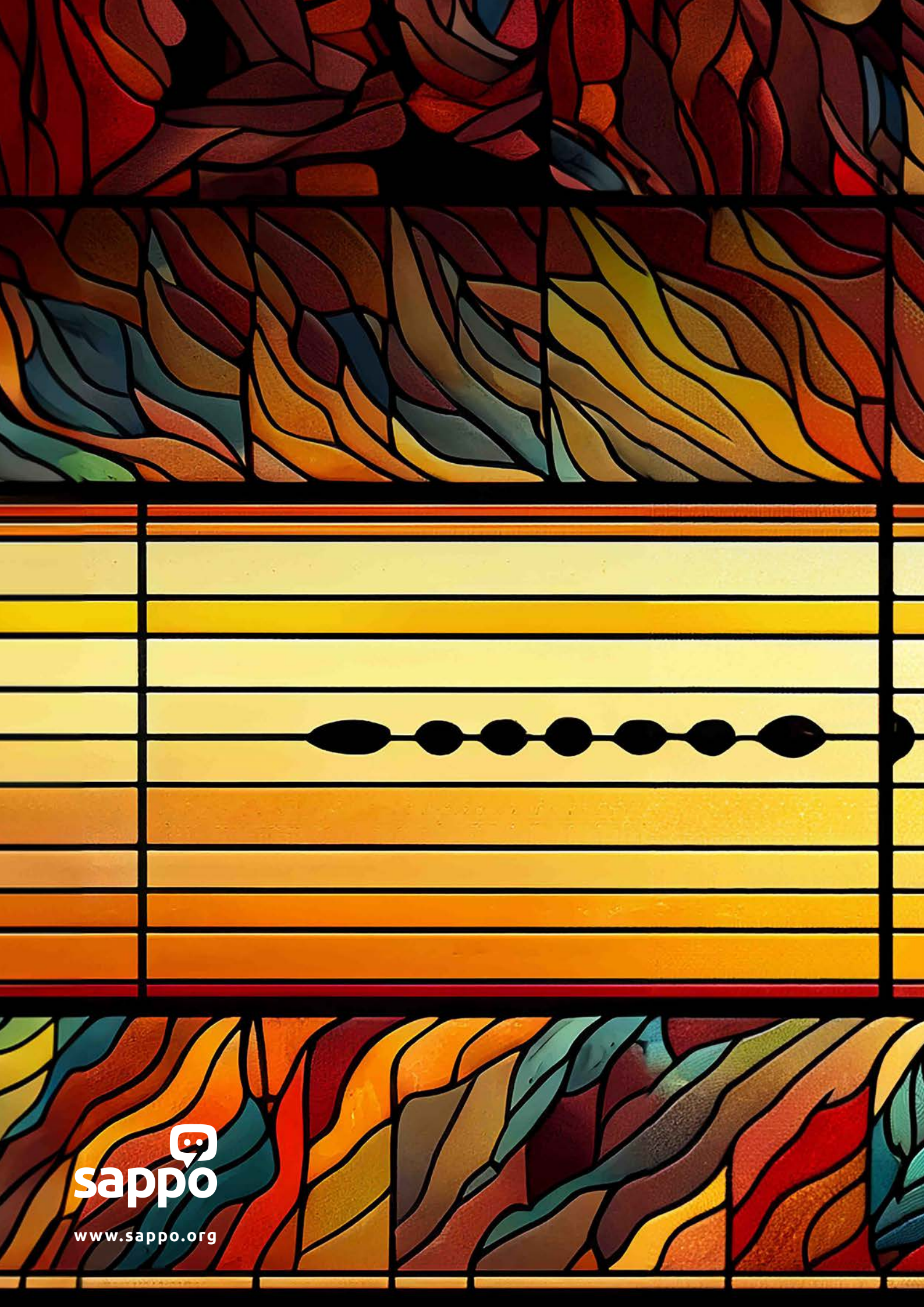
Semen doses rotation during storage

Do not rotate semen doses.

The rotation of semen doses should no longer be performed for artificial insemination practices as it has the potential to negatively affect sperm quality and reduces semen shelf life.

Conclusion

Following basic best practices will ensure the continued quality of the semen dose at insemination, giving every opportunity to realise the genetic potential within every Topigs Norsvin semen dose.




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