

PORCUS

sappo

Spring 2024  
Vol. 47 | No. 3

# PrimeCuts

Celebrating the best of our industry



Spring

# Topigs Norsvin opens new Delta Norway



On 14 June, Topigs Norsvin officially opened its new boar testing and research centre, Delta Norway. This marks the final element of the Topigs Norsvin strategic plan to upgrade our breeding structure, which began eight years ago. Other significant steps in this plan included centralising the nucleus breeding of the Z-line and TN Tempo in Canada, as well as building Delta Canada and Innova Canada.

New innovations and an infrastructure designed for large-scale data capture at Delta Norway will significantly boost the Topigs Norsvin genetic programme. For example, camera technology and sensors will allow us to observe pigs and select for new traits that improve animal welfare and social behaviour.

Delta Norway will test 5 000 young TN Duroc and Norsvin Landrace boars per year, which is 2 000 more than at the current Delta Norway test station. The current station will be converted into a facility for housing boars for export. The increased capacity of the testing station will allow more high-genetic-value animals to become available, meeting the growing demand for Topigs Norsvin genetics worldwide.

The increased testing capacity and new technologies at Delta Norway will accelerate genetic progress. Delta Norway is expected to boost genetic progress by an additional 10%, particularly in feed efficiency and daily gain.

This means less feed is needed, less land is used, and fewer greenhouse gases are emitted when producing pork. With the millions of Topigs Norsvin pigs worldwide, this will lead to a substantial reduction in environmental impact.

Topigs Norsvin South Africa is excited about the increased genetic progress that will result from the new Delta Norway. The Norsvin Landrace contributes to the genetics of the TN70, and we look forward to further local improvements in efficiency at the commercial level.



# Breeding for the most delicious bacon

by Jascha Leenhouders, global product manager at Topigs Norsvin



**In many countries around the world, the belly is the most valuable primal cut of the pig carcass. Pork belly is used as raw material for bacon, which is an integral ingredient in many foods.**

For years, pig genetics company Topigs Norsvin has been improving belly yield for its customers by including this trait in its genetic improvement programme.

As the only pig genetics company in the world to use computed tomography (CT) scanning, Topigs Norsvin measures carcass and primal cut composition on live animals that are subsequently used in the breeding programme. Our database contains over 50 000 animals, each with detailed information on belly yield as well as yields of other primal cuts such as loin, ham, shoulder, and ribs.

In an ongoing research project, Topigs Norsvin is now focusing further on belly quality. Through extensive market research involving packers, processors, and integrated pig producers, we have identified the belly quality traits with the highest economic value, including belly length, thickness,

lean:fat ratio, and belly firmness. Within the project, we developed tools to measure these traits on CT images. The high-quality CT resolutions allow for very precise measurements of these belly quality traits. With this information, we can accurately predict the genetic merit of each animal for belly quality.

The next step is to include belly quality traits in our breeding programme to enhance belly value for our customers and partners in the pork value chain. The results of this project also create opportunities to offer tailor-made genetic solutions for our customers. For example, by using selected boars with specific belly quality traits, we can maximise belly value for individual customers.

The research project on belly quality is scheduled to end in 2025, after which results will be implemented.



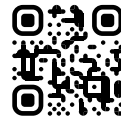
# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Topigs Norsvin: Groundbreaking ceremony marks start of joint venture nucleus farm in China



On 30 June, a groundbreaking ceremony marked the start of a nucleus farm near Wuwei in China's Gansu province. This project is a collaboration between Topigs Norsvin and Muyuan Foods, reflecting their commitment to improving pork production in China.

The new high-health nucleus farm will have a capacity of 1 200 sows and will include both maternal and terminal sire lines. It will serve as the foundation of a breeding infrastructure that provides high-quality genetics for Muyuan Foods and other producers in China.



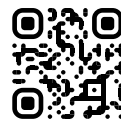
Scan this QR code to read the original article.

## FAO Meat Price Index steady in June

International pig meat prices saw a slight increase due to steady import levels. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Meat Price Index averaged 116,9 points in June, nearly unchanged from May, and 2,1 points (1,8%) lower than the same period last year. While international poultry meat prices dropped, moderate to slight increases were observed in the prices of ovine, pig, and bovine meats.

The decline in poultry meat prices was primarily due to abundant supplies from major producing countries. In contrast, ovine meat prices rose significantly due to high import demand, despite ample export supplies, as

farmers began liquidating their herds in response to unusually dry conditions in parts of Australia. Meanwhile, the slight increase in international pig meat prices was supported by steady imports and seasonally active internal sales, particularly in North America. World bovine meat prices remained broadly stable, reflecting generally well-balanced global demand and supply conditions.

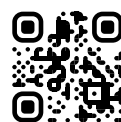


Scan this QR code to access the original article.

## France renews its ASF prevention campaign

The French Ministry of Agriculture and Food is renewing its campaign to protect the country from African swine fever (ASF).

African swine fever affects domestic pigs and wild boar in various European countries. Numerous cases have been detected in wild boar in northern Italy, close to the French border. In mid-June, Germany confirmed six new ASF cases in wild boar near Frankfurt, just 100 km from the French border, adding to previous outbreaks in other regions. African swine fever has serious economic consequences for farmers and the entire pork industry. The campaign targets specific groups with tailored messages. Precautions are recommended for all international travellers expected in France this summer, especially during the upcoming Paralympic Games in Paris, from 28 August to 8 September.



Access the original article, by scanning this QR code.

# TN70



## Mother of the most profitable finishers

### TN70

There is nothing better than a mother's milk – if you take care of the TN70, she will take care of her piglets.

**Together, the TN Tempo and TN70 offer the potential for maximum output at the lowest cost.**

- ★ TN Tempo brings you robustness, uniformity, and fast growth potential.
- ★ TN70 strengthens those qualities by contributing the best feed efficiency to the finishers compared to any other sow on the market.

# TN Tempo



## The toughest terminal sire in Africa

### TN Tempo

The terminal sire is a key driver of profits – the TN Tempo is the most reliable, efficient, and robust boar.

**Producers in Africa are seeing the effects of TN Tempo and TN70 on their farms.**

#### REDUCED LOSSES

Piglets are uniform, robust, and strong, resulting in losses below 10% from birth to slaughter. This leads to more pigs sold per sow per year.

#### INCREASED OUTPUT

Phenomenal finisher growth rates lead to increased slaughter weights. Combined with the high number of pigs sold, this places the target of 3 000 kg sold per sow per year within reach.

#### PROFITABILITY

Finishers are extremely efficient. Their high lean growth results in superior grading, which leads to increased net realisation and improved profitability.



[www.sappo.org](http://www.sappo.org)

