


PORCUS

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# PrimeCuts

Celebrating the best of our industry



Spring



# Measure what matters, deliver what counts

**The famous piglet weighing protocol of Topigs Norsvin has been yielding results for 25 years. During this period, more than 20 million piglets have been weighed either just after birth or at three weeks of age. In South Africa, this commitment to performance is just as strong: Topigs Norsvin South Africa collects data on more than 65 000 piglets each year, ensuring the right genetics deliver real value to producers.**

Over the past decade, Topigs Norsvin has demonstrated clear, measurable progress – with more piglets weaned, higher birthweights, and improved litter uniformity.

The increase in the number of piglets weaned is what counts and has risen more sharply than the number of piglets born per litter. Due to the high vitality of the

piglets, good maternal traits, and a notable increase in the number of teats per sow, a higher percentage of piglets survive compared to 10 years ago.


## **Stronger piglets contribute to better finisher performance**

Furthermore, both the number of piglets born per litter and the piglet birthweight have increased. Normally, piglets become lighter as litter size increases, but Topigs Norsvin's balanced breeding approach has prevented this.

Heavier piglets are not only important in the farrowing pen, where they ensure strong piglets and smooth colostrum intake, but also provide significant advantages in the finishing pen. Piglets that are heavier at birth tend to be heavier at weaning, meaning they face fewer challenges during weaning and the transition to the finishing phase. As a result, they perform better and are healthier as finishing pigs.

That's the essence of *Measuring what matters and delivering what counts* – reliable, data-driven performance from birth to slaughter, powered by Topigs Norsvin genetics.

# High-health, high-biosecurity standards: Inside Topigs Norsvin South Africa's legacy of excellence



Washbay

Biocontroller  
at access point



Since its establishment in 1995, Topigs Norsvin South Africa has remained a pioneer in delivering high-performance swine genetics, built on a strong commitment to high-health standards. At the outset, the business was started with the acquisition of high-health animals, laying the foundation for the core principles that continue to guide the company's focus on animal health, genetic performance, and biosecurity.

Dry shower

Dedicated internal transport

Spray race



## Why high health matters

In modern pig farming, high health is more than a status – it is a strategic asset. Topigs Norsvin SA's approach demonstrates how robust animal health underpins both performance and profitability.

- **Improved productivity:** Healthier pigs grow faster and more efficiently and maintain consistent reproductive performance.
- **Lower mortality and morbidity:** Reduced risk of disease outbreaks ensure animals stay healthy with less disruptions, leading to more predictable and reliable production results.
- **Optimised genetic expression:** In high-health environments, pigs can fully realise their genetic potential – maximising the return on advanced breeding programmes.
- **Greater economic efficiency:** Fewer treatments, better feed conversion, and extended productive lifespans contribute to a more profitable and sustainable operation.

## A multi-layered health strategy

Topigs Norsvin SA's success in maintaining high-health status for nearly three decades lies in a holistic, science-backed system that spans genetics, surveillance, logistics, and people.

### 1. Strategic isolation and biosecurity by design

From the start, genetic nucleus farms were placed in low-density, geographically isolated areas to

minimise external disease pressure. These locations were carefully chosen with natural disease barriers in mind, forming the first line of defence.

To strengthen biosecurity further, all sites enforce strict access control measures, including dual-entry systems, dry and wet shower protocols, and clearly designated vehicle routes. Feed is delivered via over-the-fence offloading, preventing external vehicles from entering controlled zones.

Additionally, the company implemented a further layer of defence by constructing dedicated transfer facilities – creating a controlled buffer between production sites and abattoirs to prevent cross-contamination through transport vehicles.

### 2. Surveillance, early detection, and data-driven decision-making

A cornerstone of Topigs Norsvin SA's health assurance is its comprehensive disease monitoring programme, designed to detect risks early and enable timely intervention. This includes daily clinical observations by trained staff, monthly veterinary inspections, and regular feedback from abattoirs. The company also utilises the breeder herd health monitoring system, endorsed by the Pig Veterinary Society of South Africa, to systematically track key health indicators. Advanced next-generation sequencing is employed to identify emerging or undetected pathogens, further strengthening the surveillance system.

Aligned with the principle, "to measure is to know", Topigs Norsvin SA relies on continuous testing and



 **Topigs Norsvin**  
PROGRESS IN PIGS



detailed data analysis to guide evidence-based decisions. This proactive, data-driven approach enhances the accuracy of health status verification and reinforces the company's commitment to high-health standards.

### **3. Compartmentalisation, veterinary oversight, and certification**

Topigs Norsvin SA operates as a registered compartment. This designation reflects the company's adherence to South Africa's highest standards for animal health and biosecurity. These protocols are enforced through biannual serological testing for critical trade-restrictive diseases, including African swine fever, classical swine fever, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, and foot-and-mouth disease. This stringent veterinary oversight allows trade and breeding operations to continue, even during regional disease outbreaks.

In addition to compartment status, Topigs Norsvin SA is also accredited under the Pork 360 certification programme by SAPPO, further affirming its commitment to traceability, food safety, and animal welfare.

Together, these credentials position the company as a trusted leader in the supply of high-health genetics to the market.

### **4. Genetic integrity without compromise**

To integrate genetic advancement with rigorous disease control, Topigs Norsvin SA utilises carefully screened imports of frozen semen from high-health boars within its genetic nucleus structure. These

imports are backed by stringent disease testing to ensure biosecurity and genetic integrity.

### **5. Biosecure transport and delivery**

Biosecurity is maintained at every step of gilt transportation. Environmentally controlled, sealed trucks reduce en-route risks, and all vehicles undergo thorough washing and disinfection both on- and off-site. Delivery routes are carefully planned to avoid exposure to other livestock operations and are coordinated according to the health status of recipient farms.

### **6. People and culture**

Trained, dedicated staff are central to success. Ongoing training programmes led by biosecurity specialists ensure consistent adherence to protocols across all teams. Regular biosecurity consultations and audits enable rapid response to risks, while fostering a culture of accountability, vigilance, and continuous improvement.

## **A legacy with its eyes on the future**

The story of Topigs Norsvin SA is not just one of careful herd management – it is a case study in how long-term commitment to health, science, and stewardship can create lasting value for its industry partners.

As new disease threats emerge and consumer demands evolve, the company continues to innovate. With rigorous diagnostics, closed-loop biosecurity systems, and genetic excellence, Topigs Norsvin SA stands as a model of what is possible when genetics meets responsibility.



# NO COMPROMISE. JUST RESULTS.

## TN70 and TN Tempo – turning every pig into profit.

When efficiency is non-negotiable and profitability is the goal, TN70 and TN Tempo offer a game-changing combination for progressive producers.



### DURABLE, HIGH-PERFORMING SOWS

TN70 sows are calm and easy to manage, with excellent milk production to support healthy, thriving litters. They excel in longevity and reproductive efficiency.



### ROBUST, UNIFORM PIGLETS

Large litters bred for robustness result in heavy, uniform, and vital piglets with low losses from birth to slaughter.



### EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH AND FEED EFFICIENCY

Both contribute to fast finisher growth and outstanding feed conversion, lowering cost per kilogram gain.



### SUPERIOR CARCASS QUALITY

The baconer delivers uniform carcasses with excellent grading – meeting producer, processor, and market demands.



### MAXIMISED PROFITABILITY

Optimised for high-performance systems focused on total economic return – fewer inputs, more output.



### LOCALLY PROVEN, GLOBALLY PERFECTED

Trusted genetics tailored for African conditions, delivering reliable performance where it matters most.

