

Report on the 36th Research Swine Days
(Journées de la Recherche Porcine)
Paris, France, February 3rd-5th, 2004
<http://www.journees-recherche-porcine.com/>

Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement

Each year, since 1969, the **National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)** and the **Technical Institute for Pig Production (ITP)** organise "The Research Swine Days". The aim of these "Swine Days" is mainly to ensure a rapid transfer of the research results to practice. The number of participants is about 700 on average (with more than 100 coming from foreign countries). About sixty communications are presented each year, covering a wide range of topics (Nutrition, Genetics, Pathology, Management, Economy, Housing, Environment, Welfare ...).

The 36th issue of this meeting was officially opened by Ms Marion Guillou, general manager of INRA. She introduced the meeting, and more specifically the first day of presentations, dealing with the first results of a large project called "Porcherie verte" (Green Piggery). This project involves a large number of research teams in France, in several areas such as environment, welfare, nutrition, health, odour control, etc.

Genetics session

The session dealing with genetics involved the six following presentations :

- Comparison of neuroendocrine stress responses and carcass composition in five pig breeds. Preliminary data from the European project: "QualityPorkGenes" (*Pierre Mormède et al*)
- Analysis of the diversity of some French breeds and lines of pigs using genetic markers in the framework of a wide European survey (*Louis Ollivier et al*)
- Estimation of realised genetic trends in French Large White pigs from 1977 to 1998 for production and meat and fat quality traits using frozen semen (*Thierry Tribout, et al*)
- From QTL detection to analysis of biological functions: an example dealing with the porcine chromosome 7 and body composition traits (*Hélène Gilbert et al*)
- Development of a genetic traceability system in pig based on the sequencing of SNP-rich regions (*Bernard China et al*)
- Between and within breed variation of farrowing length. Relationships with litter size and peripartum mortality in piglets (*Laurianne Canario et al*)

Other sessions with papers related to genetics

Animal Health

- Effect of the Pietrain breed on clinical post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS). A cohort study in four farrow-to-finish herds (*Nicolas Rose et al*)

Welfare and Management

A group of papers presented in this session were more or less related to the consequences of hyperprolificacy in swine production systems.

- Effect of birth weight on the feed conversion ratio of growing-finishing pigs (*Nathalie Quiniou et al*)
- Modelling of growth and feed consumption of pigs from birth to slaughter: updating of the coefficients used to standardise the performance criteria in technical-economic management (*Alexia Aubry et al*)
- Effects of body composition of gilts before first farrowing on their longevity (*Yannick Le Cozler et al*)
- Management of hyper-prolificacy in 2002 : what impact on technical results and sow longevity ? (*Sylviane Boulot*)
- Survival and growth rate of suckling piglets in the SPF herd of AFSSA at Ploufragan (*Roland Cariolet et al*)
- Influence of individual birth weight and litter size on survival rate, postnatal growth, slaughter performance and meat quality in pigs (*Yannick Le Cozler et al*)
- Acquisition of passive immunity in the piglets and production of colostrum in the sow (*Jean Le Dividich et al*)
- Litter size influences piglets' behaviour at the udder and their growth (*Pierre Orgeur et al*)
- Economic incidence of high prolificacy in pig commercial herds: comparison of 11 scenarios (*Claudie Gourmelen et al*)

This meeting was attended by a lot of delegates, mainly coming from France, but also from abroad. Several papers were also presented by foreign research teams, coming from Belgium, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands, Brazil, Columbia, Germany and Canada. Three papers were presented by Canadian researchers, in the Feeding session.

The Swine Research Days are an excellent place to hear about very recent research results and transfer of these results to practical use. Year after year, this meeting is becoming more and more international, regarding audience but also speakers. It is also an important opportunity for networking with geneticists from other countries, but also with researchers working in other areas, and with experts from different sectors of pig industry.

More information is available at the following URL :

<http://www.journees-recherche-porcine.com/>