

## Comparison of the crossbred progeny of *belgian landrace* and *pietrain* boars

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Both *Belgian Landrace* and *Pietrain* boars were randomly used by A.I. on French *Landrace* × *Large White* sows of commercial farms. Females and castrates from resultant litters were sent to an experimental station where they were fed *ad libitum* (test starting at 30 kg) and slaughtered at about 100 kg. Data were recorded on 164 pigs from 21 litters sired by 12 *Belgian Landrace* boars (XLB) and on 152 pigs from 22 litters sired by 5 *Pietrain* boars (XPP). Daily feed consumption was 10 p. 100 ( $P < 0.001$ ) higher in XLB pigs which excel XPP pigs in average daily gain on test ; however an interaction sex × breeding group ( $P < 0.01$ ) was evidenced for the latter trait : the advantage of XLB was larger in barrows (111 g) than in gilts (57 g). The same interaction tends to exist for food conversion ( $P < 0.15$ ) : 3.16 vs 3.37 in barrows, 3.23 vs 3.27 in gilts for XLB and XPP groups, respectively. No significant difference between breeding groups was found in dressing out percentage, average backfat thickness, weight of backfat and weight of ham ; however XPP pigs had a shorter carcass ( $P < 0.001$ ), a higher weight of loin ( $P < 0.001$ ) and a lower weight of leaf fat ( $P < 0.05$ ). A slight superiority of XLB pigs as compared to XPP pigs was found with respect to meat quality, assessed 24 hours *post mortem*. The 3-way cross with *Belgian Landrace* boars showed a mean advantage of about 11.5 F per pig on the 3-way cross with *Pietrain* boars in overall economic merit but due to the interaction sex × breeding group for fattening cost, the difference was larger in barrows (17.5 F) than in gilts (5.5 F).

## Study of the malignant hyperthermia syndrome in *pietrain* breed : first results

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A sample of 138 *Pietrain* females and castrates was subjected to a 5-minute anaesthesia with halothane, at an age of about 80 days. Thirty-nine of them, denoted (+), exhibited the malignant hyperthermia syndrome after an average 2 1/2 minute anaesthesia while the others