

unmated gilts were slaughtered at the average age and weight of 244 days and 137 kg.

Dressing out percentage was significantly lower in primiparous gilts than in control gilts (74.7 *vs* 77.4 p. 100). On the other hand, carcasses from the experimental group were significantly leaner than those from the control group : In fact, average values for lean cuts (in p. 100) (loin and ham) fat cuts (in p. 100) (backfat and leaf fat) and back fat thickness were 54.1 p. 100 ; 16.8 p. 100 and 38.9 mm respectively in the former *vs* 49.7 p. 100 ; 22.8 p. 100 and 48.0 mm in the latter. The shoulder was the heaviest in the first group while the belly was the heaviest in the control group. Except for color, other estimates of meat quality (moisture and acidity) gave the lowest values in the experimental group. The total superiority of the carcasses from primiparous gilts as compared to the controls ranged between 30 to 40 Frs.

The average cost of piglets weaned by experimental gilts (7.7 per litter) was about 100 Frs. It could have been reduced to 60 Frs if the age at first mating had not exceeded 210 days and if early weaning had been practised. However, combined production of heavy carcasses and piglets can be advised in very specific and limited market conditions : moreover, any extension of this technique needs an accurate study of its genetic (selection pressure) and demographic (replacement rate of females) incidences.

Zootechnic performances and carcass traits in pigs fed with barley and slaughtered between 90 and 120 kg live weight

J. P. BOUARD and M. LEUILLET

*Institut technique des Céréales et des Fourrages,
8, Avenue du Président Wilson,
75116 Paris*

In our experimental conditions, variation in the slaughter weight of the animals between 90 and 120 kg connected with liberal feed allowance gave the following results :

- similar growth performances ;
- higher feed conversion ratios (FCR) in the heaviest groups at slaughter.
 - FCR = 100 in group 1
 - FCR = 104 in groups 2 and 3
 - FCR = 107 in group 4 (significant difference as compared to group 1) ;
- higher dressing percentages with increasing slaughter weights : highly significant difference between group 1 (74.9 p. 100) 2 and 3 (76.7 p. 100) and 4 (77.7 p. 100) ;
- carcasses with increasing proportions of subcutaneous depot fats : highly significant difference, which does not, however, affect very much the commercial grading (grading scale of the E. E. C.).

From an economic point of view, the heaviest pigs provide the greatest advantages, irrespective of the price of the piglet. However, it would be advisable to interpret and use these results with caution on account of the number of animals involved (although large for a comparative study) and of the specific experimental conditions, in particular the choice of the feeding schedule.

This study will be pursued during the course of the year 1975.