Comparison of fattening performances of Large White, Belgian Landrace and Cross-Bred pigs

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A. E. C., Société de Chimie organique et biologique, 03600 Commentvy

A single feed (3 300 digestible kcal, 17.5 p. 100 of crude protein) was given ad libitum to pigs weighing between 20 and 95 kg. The animals were either Large White (LW) or Belgian Landrace (LB) or Cross-Bred (CR) (half castrated males, half females).

The daily mean intake of the females was 10 p. 100 lower than that of the males. The LB pigs consumed 5 p. 100 less feed than the LW, and the CR 5 p. 100 more. The LB reached 90 kg 7 days later and the CR 16 days earlier than the LW. Feed efficiency was the highest in the CR pigs and the lowest in the LB pigs.

As regards body composition, carcasses of the females were of better quality than those of the castrated males (loin/backfat ratio : + 38 p. 100). As compared with LW, this ratio was 27 p. 100 higher in CR and 50 p. 100 higher in LB. When fed ad libitum and on a free choice, a cereal-based diet (9.5 p. 100 of crude protein) and a complementary feed (50 p. 100 of crude protein), LW and LB pigs (castrated males and females) consumed a ration the protein level of which gradually decreased from about 20 p. 100 at 30 kg live weight, to 14 p. 100 in LB of both sexes and in LW females and to 12.5 p. 100 in castrated LW after 60 kg live weight.

Factors affecting selection of boars in a closed line with a low degree of inbreeding

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The aim of this study was to establish a programme for the selection and utilization of boars in a closed line with a low degree of inbreeding.

If we admit that it is necessary to have at least 4 boars on service simultaneously, this study may lead to the following simple rule :

Every 21 days, selection of a new young boar and elimination of the boar which has already performed the greatest number of services.

On condition of an equivalent utilization of each boar and of a random mating programme excluding sib or half-sib matings, this method may give the following results :