

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

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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 :