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 fed 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 (37 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