

IV. — REPRODUCTION AND HERD MANAGEMENT

First results of an inquiry into the age, length of useful life and causes of culling of service boars in production herds

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The purpose of this study was to determine more accurately the age of boars when they enter the herds, their length of useful life and the causes of their culling. The inquiry was done in 87 herds belonging to 13 co-operative organizations distributed over the whole country and including 283 boars.

The mean size of the herds was 86.4 sows and the number of sows per service boar 22. One herd out of five used artificial insemination as an alternative. The proportion of boars in the pre-service period was very low (0.1 per herd).

When entering the herds boars were 203 days old, on an average. There was no important variation between breeds, but 28 p. 100 of the breeding animals were less than 6 months old at their arrival in the herd.

The mean age of service boars was highly variable: 615 days (\pm 295 days), crossbred boars being 56 days older, on an average; 53 p. 100 of the breeding animals had been on service for less than one year and only 15 p. 100 for more than two years.

Though the mean age of culling was 23 months, one boar out of five was culled before 13 months.

The main causes of culling were: reproductive disorders and locomotor disorders (32 p. 100) as well as age or an excessive weight (23 p. 100). Miscellaneous causes represented 13 p. 100 of culling.

This inquiry should be pursued for a better understanding of the possible differences between genotypes and the mode of preparation of young boars before their first service.

Efficiency of Guelph's and SCK₇ extenders for prolonged preservation of liquid boar semenM. PAQUIGNON ⁽¹⁾, J. BUSSIÈRE ⁽²⁾, F. BARITEAU ⁽²⁾
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Two experiments were made to test the efficiency of Guelph's and SCK₇ extenders in improving the length of maintenance of the fertilizing ability of boar spermatozoa in comparison with that obtained with the BL₁ extender. Each semen doses contained 3.10⁹ total spermatozoa and was adjusted to 100 ml with Guelph's and BL₁ extenders and to 25 ml with the SCK₇ extender. The doses were stored at + 15 °C. At insemination the doses prepared with the SCK₇ extender