

**Estimation of boar taint in entire males on the slaughter line  
by examination of the genital tract**

M. BONNEAU, Pascale RUSSEIL

*I.N.R.A., Station de Recherches sur l'Élevage des Porcs,  
Saint-Gilles, 35590 L'Hermitage  
France*

At the present time, rearing of young boars for meat production is impossible in most countries since no satisfactory method is available for the detection of boar taint on the slaughter line. The purpose of the present study involving 451 young boars was to determine whether an examination of the genital tract could be used to estimate fat androstenone level. Coefficients of correlation between fat androstenone content and Cowper gland length ranged from 0.46 to 0.59 depending on boar groups. Multiple regressions taking into account additional criteria led only to a minor increase in the accuracy of fat androstenone estimation. The carcasses were divided into two classes « untainted » or « doubtful » using a threshold value of the estimator : « Cowper gland length », determined with the lowest possible number of errors. This threshold value varied as well as the proportion of carcasses in each of the two classes depending on the emphasis laid either on the errors of under-estimation (detrimental to consumers) or on the errors of over-estimation (detrimental to farmers).

**Relationship between the development of the muscle  
and its collagen content in the pig**

A. BALAND, G. MONIN

*I.N.R.A., Station de Recherches sur la Viande, Theix, 63122 Ceyrat  
France*

The relationship between the development of the muscle and its hydroxyproline content was studied in 24 pigs of 3 genotypes with different muscle development : *Large White*, halothane non sensitive *Pietrain* and halothane sensitive *Pietrain*.

In our experimental conditions, no clear relationship was found between those two characters. It would be necessary to carry out further studies on a large number of breeds and to take into account other criteria pertaining to muscle development such as loin and ham percentages relative to live weight.

**Effect of genotype on ham composition in female pigs  
Comparison of *Belgian Landrace*, *French Landrace*, *Pietrain***

B.L. DUMONT, T. BOULLEAU

*I.N.R.A., Laboratoire de Recherches sur la Viande, 78350 Jouy-en-Josas  
France*

The differences in the anatomical composition of ham from female pigs were studied in the following breeds : *French Landrace* (FL), *Belgian Landrace* (BL), *Pietrain* (P). The