

2-week period. Heritabilities (h^2) and genetic correlations (r_A) were estimated from sire components of variance and covariance in the total sample as well as by breed and by sex. Estimates of h^2 of 0.13 ± 0.01 and 0.27 ± 0.01 were obtained for AGE and BT respectively in the total sample. The LW breed showed larger estimates of h^2 than the FL breed (0.15 vs 0.10 in AGE, 0.32 vs 0.19 in BT). This breed difference has also been found for similar traits in central testing stations. The estimate of h^2 in BT was higher in gilts than in boars (0.30 vs 0.22), and this may be partly due to the larger average batch size for gilts than for boars (31 vs 26). Genetic correlation between AGE and BT was surprisingly found to be positive (0.16 ± 0.03) and therefore favourable in terms of the breeding objective. A number of points are discussed in search for possible means allowing to increase the accuracy of breeding value estimation in on-farm testing.

**A contribution to the study of the genetic control of pig meat quality.
Heritability of the « Napole » technological yield**

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The « Napole » technological yield (NTY) was measured on meat samples of 100 g collected on 2469 pigs from the P 66 *Penshire* and P 77 *Pen Ar Lan* synthetic lines. Estimate of heritability was $h^2 = 0.36$. However, data available on the progeny of 70 boars showed that a major dominant gene would be responsible for the appearance of the « acid meat » syndrome. The dominant allele RN^- would maintain NTY below 90 p. 100. The allele rn^+ , when it is at the homozygote state, induces a NTY higher than 90 p. 100. This gene would be involved in muscle carbohydrate metabolism and might be assimilated to the « Hampshire effect » already demonstrated by MONIN *et al.* in 1984 (Journées de la Recherche Porcine en France, **16**, 59-64).

**Evaluation of Chinese \times European crosses in French herds :
first results obtained in the Poitou-Charentes area**

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The characteristics of 322 litters born from 132 *Large White* \times *Meishan* or *Jiaying* sows born at Le Magneraud and distributed at about 105 kg into 18 herds of the Poitou-Charentes area were compared to those of 2287 litters born from 1321 herd contemporaries (whose 4/5 were issued from the *Large White* \times *French Landrace* cross.).