

## ❖ Traceability a Key Issue in today's Primary Production Industries.

In the wake of the infamous BSE crisis, leaders in the Canadian Swine Industry have made a concerted effort to address issues surrounding foreign and domestic animal disease and food safety. It is their goal to foster and maintain our nation's reputation for producing safe pork products. An integral aspect of this process is developing a reliable and accountable traceability system for Canadian swine. The CSBA policy of tattooing all piglets while still with their dams, as well as having pigs registered and logged in the national database, are crucial steps in ensuring the safety of our product and protecting customers and producers in the event of a food safety crisis. The Canadian Pork Council is working to develop and implement a national identification and traceability program, and CCSI and the CSBA are participating in this effort. Principles considered important include that:

- The ID is grossly visible to an inspector
- The ID is legible in both live and dead animals
- The costs borne by the system are optimised
- The method lends itself to automation.

The National Hog Identification and Traceability Working Committee has scheduled meetings this fall to seek input from stakeholders on a proposed national swine traceability system. For more information, please contact Dr. Pramod Mathur at (613) 233-8872 or visit the Canadian Pork Council website at [www.cpc-ccp.com/traceability.htm](http://www.cpc-ccp.com/traceability.htm).

## ❖ CCSI to Host Annual NSIF Meeting In Ottawa, December 1-2, 2005

The Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement (CCSI) will be hosting this year's National Swine Improvement Federation (NSIF) Annual Conference. In conjunction with the NSIF meeting, CCSI is also hosting an international conference on swine genetics where speakers are expected from Eastern & Western Europe, and from Asia. The NSIF meeting focuses on the role of genetic improvement for breeders, producers, packers and the swine industry at large. More information is available online at [www.nsif.com](http://www.nsif.com).

## ❖ Litter Registration Price to Increase to \$12.50 October 1, 2005. Last Chance to Register Old Litters at Reduced Price!

This is the last chance for producers to register litters older than 18 months at \$5.50 per litter. Keeping your herd up to date is an important part in an effective genetic improvement program and to food safety and traceability. Special thanks to everyone who has taken the time to bring their herds up to date so far.

Don't forget that automatic registration is also an option. Probed pigs would be automatically registered at CLRC with no additional work for you. And since pigs are registered young, there is no worry about having to pay the higher price later on!! For information or for assistance in bringing your herd up to date, please contact Jim Groves or Tracy-Lynn Reside at (613) 233-8872 or visit the CSBA website.

## ❖ Controlling Leanness and Uniformity: IGF2 Gene Testing Now Available to Canadian Swine Breeders.

DNA tests for the IGF2 gene are now available for Canadian pigs through the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement Inc. (CCSI). IGF2 stands for Insulin-like Growth Factor 2 and two forms of this naturally occurring gene have been identified. In extensive research trials, progeny of IGF2 +/+ boars have had increased lean yield and uniformity, while those of untested boars had lower lean yield and more variability. The IGF2 gene is especially useful in herds that target higher lean yield in market hogs but would like to have fatter sows. The gene is paternally expressed, meaning that all progeny will have the same gene expression as their sire, regardless of the dam's genotype. Members of CCSI are very excited about the potential that this testing offers to the national swine improvement program. For detailed information about the IGF2 gene, how it can help improve your herd and testing information, please visit [www.ccsi.ca/IGF2/](http://www.ccsi.ca/IGF2/) or contact Pramod Mathur, or Yuefu Liu at (613) 233-8872.

❖ **PayLean® Food Supplement Approved for use in Canada**

The feed ingredient, Paylean® has now been approved for use in Canada. It will be available this fall for Canadian swine producers according to Elanco Animal Health. With the approval, Canada has become the 23rd country to allow using the product in swine.

Paylean® is a trademark of Elanco's brand of ractopamine, a chemical known to enhance growth in meat animals. It is recommended for use for an average of the last 28 days prior to slaughter. According to Elanco, Paylean® improves average daily gain and feed efficiency by 10-15%, increases lean growth by 25-37% and shows no adverse effects on meat quality.

As a feed supplement, Paylean® enhances swine productivity and is especially effective with better genetics. Research by Schinckel and colleagues indicates that while increased growth due to Paylean® can be seen in all pigs, the most dramatic increase is seen in pigs that already have a greater genetic potential for lean growth. Genetic improvement is still the engine of the swine industry.

Some trials in the US implied that studies are needed to check for possible unfavourable effects of Paylean® on meat quality and stress susceptibility. In Canada, research trials are being planned at CDPQ and Prairie Swine Centre. They will look at the economic impact in Canadian hogs and analyze for any adverse effects on critical factors such as the high quality of Canadian pork. In May of this year, the Genetics Committee of CCSI suggested that any breeders on the national testing program that plan to use Paylean® on their purebred stock should contact CCSI, so that effects on genetic evaluation can be monitored and appropriate recommendations and adjustments can be made.

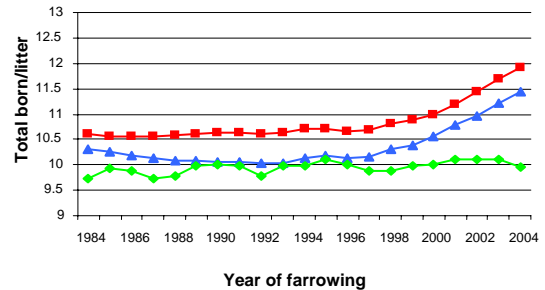
More information on this topic is available on line at [www.thepigsite.com/BusinessDirectory/Focus.asp?Display=2724](http://www.thepigsite.com/BusinessDirectory/Focus.asp?Display=2724).

❖ **Genetic Improvement Trends in 2004**

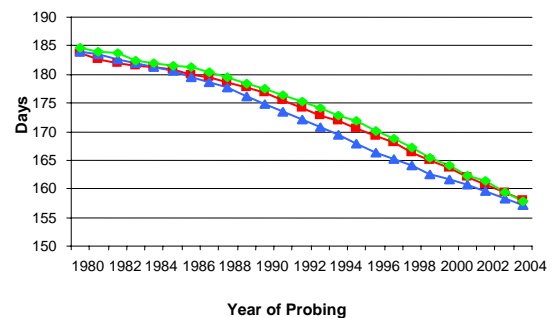
Again in 2004, CCSI was pleased to report significant genetic improvements for evaluated traits in the Canadian Swine Improvement Program. The

following graphs were presented in the 2004-2005 CCSI annual report and show the tremendous genetic improvement in Yorkshire, Landrace and Duroc lines over the past two decades.

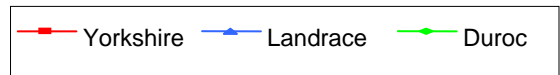
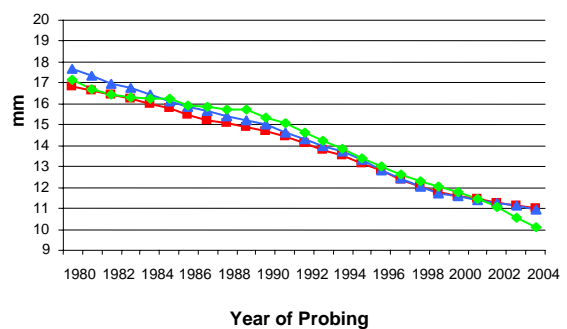
**Genetic Trends for Litter Size**



**Genetic Trends for Age at 100kg**



**Genetic Trends for Backfat at 100kg**



For more information or to view the 2004-2005 CCSI Annual Report, please visit the Annual Reports section of CCSI's website at [www.ccsi.ca](http://www.ccsi.ca).