Évaluation génétique pour la survie périnatale et la variabilité du poids à la naissance dans le Programme canadien pour l'amélioration génétique des porcs

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Genetic evaluation for piglet perinatal survival and piglet birth weight variability in the Canadian Swine Improvement Program

Selection for increased litter size has been very efficient in the past 15 years in the Canadian dam line populations, mostly thanks to the use of BLUP selection on total number born. Other sow productivity traits such as perinatal piglet survival and individual birth weights have been collected and evaluated in recent years as a means to facilitate the selection of piglet survival from birth to weaning. Specific data adjustments and statistical models were developed to provide accurate genetic evaluations and the predictive value of estimated breeding values (EBVs) for perinatal survival was checked *via* the analysis of daughter records of two groups of boars with either high or low EBVs for this trait. Other potential traits include birth weight homogeneity and average birth weight. Based on the amount of data collected, significant genetic gains could be achieved in these traits using proper selection indices.