



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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COLOSTRUM HERITABILITY IN SOWS

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Introduction

Pork production has experienced tremendous genetic progress, which has been achieved an increase in litter size and survival of young piglets; this resulting in an increase of piglets at farrowing and negative consequences as higher variability in weight and higher percentage of weak piglets that compromise his vitality and require intensive care.

Thinkinpig studied heritability of colostrum since colostrum is the first food for piglets at birth being essential the intake to reduce mortality pre-weaning. The aim of this study is to analyze colostrum heritability and assess this parameter to include in selection programs.

Materials and methods

GP litters were weight at birth, at 24 hours after birth and at weaning in two cycles as it would be possible. Also productive results of gilts from those litters were registered after first parity.

The productive results (average weight at birth at 24 hours and at weaning of gilts, average daily gain in each moment, mortality of litter at weaning) and productive results at first parity of gilts (average weight at birth and at 24 hours) were registered to calculate colostrum intake and colostrum production of sows to assess colostrum heritability.

Results

The results indicate that there is a low heritability in colostrum production because of average daily gain at 24 hours ($p=0,0035$). Correlations were evaluated using the Spearman's coefficient. A multiple regression model was run with 2 variables to explain heritability of colostrum (parity and number of born alive piglets).

Conclusion

1. parity and number of born alive piglets are positively correlated with average daily gain in 24 hours ($p<0,001$). 2. The average daily gain at 24 hours suggests low heritability in colostrum production.