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Reproduction performance parameters in Iberian pig farms

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Abstract. Technical efficiency of the production is very important for cost control. As an industry, swine producers need to collect production data to use these to make decisions on their farms. Producers need benchmarks to compare their farm performances. There are few reproduction performance parameters about Iberian pigs. A total of 8 farms and 3400 sows providing data in a routine have been included in this first study summarizing 2009 results. Data were imported from different software brands, uniformized and merged in a single data base, from which the analysis was performed using Pigchamp© software, obtaining the following mean values: weaning to service interval = 8,4 days, farrowing rate = 75 %, returns to estrus = 18,4 %, total born = 8,3, born alive = 7,8, weaned piglets = 7, number of litters per sow and year = 2,11, piglets weaned per sow and year = 14,4. The aim of this paper is to provide a first structured batch of the most important reproductive parameters.

Keywords. Iberian pig – Productivity – Benchmarking.

Paramètres de rendement reproductif dans des fermes de porc Ibérique

Résumé. L'efficacité technique de la production est très importante pour le contrôle des coûts. Comme dans toute industrie, les producteurs de porcs ont besoin de recueillir des données productives pour la prise de décisions dans leurs fermes ; et ils ont besoin de paramètres de référence ("benchmarks") avec lesquels comparer le rendement de leurs fermes. Aujourd'hui, il y a peu de données sur l'efficacité reproductive du porc Ibérique. Dans ce travail on analyse les résultats de 2009 pour un total de 8 fermes et 3.400 truies incluses dans une routine de recueil et d'analyse de données. Ces données ont été importées de différents logiciels de gestion, elles ont été standardisées et consolidées dans une base de données qui a été analysée avec le logiciel Pigchamp© de gestion de fermes porcines, pour obtenir les valeurs moyennes suivantes : intervalle sevrage-saillie = 8,4 jours, taux de mise-bas = 75%, retour en œstrus = 18,4%, nés totaux = 8,3, nés vivants = 7,8, cochons sevrés = 7, nombre de mises-bas par truie et année = 2,11, cochons sevrés par truie et année = 14,4. Le but de ce travail était de fournir un premier rapport sur les principaux paramètres reproductifs.

Mots clés. Porc Ibérique – Productivité – "Benchmarking".

I – Introduction

Technical efficiency of the production is very important for cost control. As an industry, swine producers need to collect production data to use these to make decisions on their farms. Producers need benchmarks to compare their farm performances. Iberian pig is a non improved rustic breed and there is a lack of reproduction performance parameters about it. The aim of this paper is to provide a first structured batch of the most important reproductive parameters as tool for benchmarking.

II – Materials and methods

1. Animals

A total of 8 farms and 3400 Iberian breed sows were studied.

2. Measures and analysis

This first study summarizes the production results of 2009. Data were imported from different software data bases, uniformed and merged in a single data base in order to analyze it with the Pigchamp© software. Overall approach was based in the differential diagnosis proposed by Dial *et al.* (1992) and the split of non productive days was based in the six components proposed by Koketsu (2005).

III – Results and discussion

Figure 1 shows the tree of productivity, with the following mean values: weaning to service interval (WSI) = 8.4 days (July and August were the months with the highest WSI and December was the one with the lowest WSI, these were 10 and 6.7 days respectively); farrowing rate (FR) = 75% (according to mating month, May had the highest FR and August had the lowest FR, these were 86.8 and 61.1% respectively); returns to estrus = 18.4%; total born = 8.3; born alive = 7.8; weaned piglets = 7; number of litters per sow and year = 2.11; and piglets weaned per sow and year = 14.4.

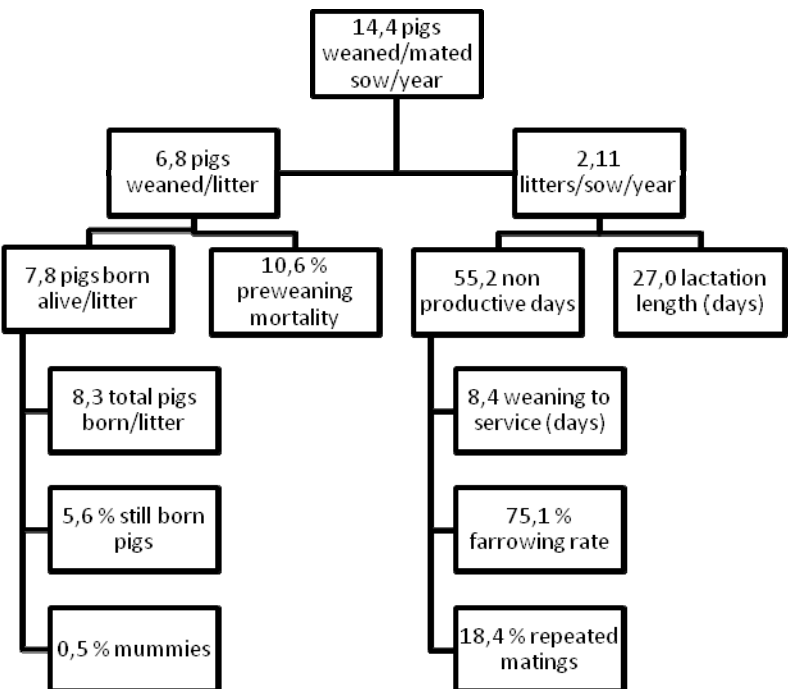


Fig. 1. Tree of productivity for the Iberian breed.

According to the pig industry standards (i.e. Carr, 2004) the FR is low (75% vs <82 to consider it a problem to improve), the WSI is high (8.4 days vs >7 to consider it a problem to improve), and the number of litters per sow and year is too low (2.11 vs. <2.3 to consider it a problem to improve). The number of litters per sow and year is clearly affected by the very high number of non productive days (Koketsu, 2005).

The WSI and FR monthly differences show a clear seasonal pattern, where the hot summer affects the reproductive performances.

The prolificacy performances are explained by the physiological differences of the Iberian breed.

IV – Conclusions

These results show an overall different reproductive performance with other breeds that can be explained both for the physiological differences and the management. The knowledge derived from this data should be used to compare farms and to establish objectives of reproduction performance.

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