

A first evaluation of the Duroc breed

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considered, for ADG, as a consequence of group-feeding the two sibs in a common pen and, for meat quality traits, as an effect of the « common slaughter-day environment », as the two sibs were usually slaughtered on the same day. Phenotypic and genetic correlations between ADG and FCR were lower than the usual estimates under individual feeding. The genetic correlations between meat quality and the other traits were low, the highest one being obtained for FCR (0.23 ± 0.16).

A first evaluation of the *Duroc* breed

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The *Duroc* (D) breed was compared to the *Piérain* (P), *Belgian Landrace* (B) and *Hampshire* (H) breeds in terms of their respective merit as sire line of a 3 way-cross involving *French Landrace* × *Large White* dams. Fattening and carcass data were recorded on 573 pigs sired by a number of boars from the 4 breeds (10 P, 15 B, 13 H and 11 D boars) and fed *ad libitum* from 32 to 101 kg liveweight. Means of XP (n = 141), XB (n = 144), XH (n = 140) and XD (n = 148) pigs respectively were (two means with the same superscript are not different at the 5 p. 100 level) : 728^a, 792^b, 845^c and 801^b for average daily gain (g) ; 2.62^a, 2.78^b, 2.95^c and 2.86^b for daily feed consumption (kg) ; 3.66^a, 3.54^a, 3.51^a and 3.54^a for food conversion ratio (kg feed/kg gain) ; 76.2^a, 76.2^a, 75.5^b and 75.0^b for carcass weight (kg) ; 94.7^a, 98.2^c, 96.3^b and 96.9^b for carcass length (cm) ; 24.5^a, 24.7^a, 25.0^a and 24.4^a for average backfat thickness (mm) ; 53.5^a, 52.9^{ab}, 52.5^{ab} and 52.0^b for estimated lean percentage. In ultimate pH and colour of meat, the XH type differed (p < 0.01) from the three other genetic types which gave similar results in this respect : meat from XH pigs exhibited a lower ultimate pH and a paler colour. The overall economic merit of the pigs from the four 3 way crosses was estimated, taking into account fattening cost and commercial value of the carcass : on this basis, the XB and XH types were similar and both were better than the XD and, to a greater extent, XP types. This first evaluation of the *Duroc* suggests that this breed has not to play a major part as a sire breed or as a component of a crossbred boar for terminal crossing, at least in the present conditions of pig production in France.

Comparative study on the reproductive performance, fattening performance and carcass quality of *Creole* and *Large White* pigs in Guadeloupe

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Reproductive performance of a sample of *Large White* sows imported from France was compared to those of a local breed (*Créoles*).

Age and weight at puberty were 171.4 days and 52.3 kg, respectively for the local breed and 275 days and 107 kg for the *Large White* pig, but no difference was observed between weaning-oestrus and weaning-successful mating.