

The Value of Breeding Stock

As the world search for more efficient methods of meat production continues, increasing attention is focussed on swine production and the opportunities it opens for the development of a stable and economical meat supply.

For centuries, the pig, feeding on whatever kind of forage was available, has been used to produce meat for man. This principle of usage has not changed but the methods of feeding and management have been dramatically improved. Industrialization of pig meat production is now well advanced in many countries. Large enterprises with hundreds of breeding sows are commonplace creating a specialized agrobusiness from the cottage industry of the past.

Foundation breeding stock of the highest quality is paramount

among the major requirements of the commercial producer. High quality breeding stock implies a capability of superior performance and the uniform transmission of that capability to succeeding generations. Four of the basic criteria of performance in swine are: litter size at weaning, growth rate, feed conversion efficiency and carcass merit.

Most swine populations throughout the world can be improved through the introduction of breeding stock in which desired characteristics have been genetically concentrated.

This booklet outlines the beneficial characteristics of Canadian breeding stock and how they meet quality requirements.