

DONALDSON INTERNATIONAL

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NEWS
FROM CANADA

DONALDSON INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK LTD.

RR 2 Tavistock, Ontario N0B 2R0 CanadaTel: 519 462 2401 Fax: 519 462 2891

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WHAT'S NEW

AT DONALDSON INTERNATIONAL

It has been a very busy summer here in Ontario. In April we participated at the AgroFood Tech99 show held in Beijing. The show drew a large amount of visitors, and there was a huge interest in Canadian swine genetics.

We have also come to an agreement with a company in Liaoning Province, in China.

We have also come to an agreement with a company in Liaoning Province, in China. This will be a Joint Venture GGP nucleus breeding farm, that is stocked with the best quality pure lines of Canadian Yorkshire, Landrace and Duroc. It will be a few years before we are in full production, but we plan to have superior Yorkshire X Landrace (F1) gilts available to domestic customers, and lean, muscular, heavy built pure Duroc boars for sale as well.

We have also established a Joint Venture in Brasil. This will be managed exactly the same as our joint venture in China. We will sell Canadian F1 gilts and pure Canadian Duroc boars.



THE MOST RUGGED AND PHYSICALLY SOUND LANDRACE IN THE WORLD

The Canadian Landrace female is well known for its mothering ability, temperament, longevity and prolific production. The Landrace female is used in purebred and crossbreeding programs. The Canadian Landrace males have an excellent temperament, making them easy to work with and are very dependable breeders. The Landrace breed is in high demand for its average daily gain, feed conversion, length and leanness. Most countries that are recognized leaders in genetic quality, such as Denmark, have Landrace with similar performance as the Canadian Landrace. However, there is a significant difference between the Canadian and Danish Landrace breeds. In Canada, all pigs are raised indoors on hard concrete slatted floors; this makes for very tough living conditions. In order for an animal to survive on concrete slatted floors, these pigs must have a thick bone structure and be physically sound on their feet and legs. Canadian geneticists identified that animals with poor feet and legs, typically the Landrace breed, would not survive on hard concrete slatted floors. During the last 20 years, Canadian geneticists and breeders have been selecting for feet and leg soundness. Growing pigs in this system, the pigs with weak feet and legs actually self eliminate themselves from the breeding program. Over the last 20 years, Canadians have developed a Landrace that has a very big

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bone structure, and is very elite on its feet and legs. Due to strict regulations in Scandinavian countries such as Denmark, farmers are forced to raise their pigs on straw. These very comfortable living conditions allow for pigs with weak legs to stay unseen until they are noticed limping around a pen with a sore leg. When these pigs that have been raised on straw are moved into a new environment with hard concrete slatted floors, it just takes a few weeks to notice the pigs with feet and leg problems. Culling pigs for feet and legs is very costly, especially if you have just imported breeding stock. We have visited many farms in China over the years. Several farms have imported Landrace from countries such as Denmark. I have asked them how they like the Danish Landrace they had imported. They said that they like the pigs, except they have a lot of problems with feet and legs. Some people I had talked to had culled 50% of their imported Landrace within the first year. This makes the price of the imported breeding stock double! I have also spoken with many people that have imported Canadian Landrace; they said that they have never seen such a strong Landrace that performs good as well. Canada has much to offer, from superior technology to a well rounded breeding program, which excels in every aspect of quality and performance. If you would like more information on the Canadian Landrace, please contact us.

CANADA HOLDS LEADING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Environmental concerns are growing rapidly in agriculture today. In North America and Europe, there is a lot of emphasis on manure management. The restrictions of manure application does pose a threat to the swine industry throughout the world. Imagine a pig that may excrete slightly less manure and as much as 50% less phosphorous, the component targeted most in the swine industry related environmental problems. Researchers at the University of Guelph have developed an AEnviro-pig@ which can do so. This special pig's mother was implanted with an embryo that had the phytase gene injected into the embryo. This phytase gene allows the pig to generate large amounts of phytase in one of

its saliva glands. Phytase allows the pig to utilize phosphorus found in feedstuffs like corn and soybeans. Ruminants like cows and sheep can do this naturally, but plants that contain phosphorus simply passes through monogastrics like pigs and chickens, adding significantly to waste output. With this gene, pigs are much more efficient utilising phosphorus. There is hopes of reducing feed costs of about \$1.70 per pig, due to less phosphorus that needs to be supplemented in the pigs' diet.

There is still more research that needs to be done using this gene, but the future looks very bright on the environmental side, and of course expense side.

AN INVITATION TO VISIT BREEDING HERDS IN CANADA

Jim and I would like to invite you to visit Canada to tour some of our best breeding herds and see what we have to offer. We look forward to hearing from you, whether by fax, phone, or E-mail. We are always interested to hear what is happening in China. If we could be of any assistance for advice on breeding

programs, health issues, or improving your genetics, we would be more than happy to help you.

We are looking forward to hosting you in Canada!

Reagan Donaldson
Sales and Marketing Manager

DONALDSON INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK LIMITED

RR 2 Tavistock, Ontario, CANADA N0B 2R0 Tel: 519 462 2401 Fax: 519 462 2891
E-mail: dill@execulink.com Web Site: <http://www.donaldsoninternational.ca>



- **Jim Donaldson**, President
- **Reagan Donaldson**, Sales and Marketing Manager
- **Nancy F. Weicker** (Mrs.), Administrative Manager