

Pig Breeders Round Table 2026



University of Kent, Canterbury (UK)
23 - 24 - 25 March 2026

Agenda

Monday, 23 March 2026

13:30 - 17:30	Arrival
18:30	Pub Crawl not included in registration

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

08:30 - 12:30	Talks
08:30	Updates in pig genetics research at UGA - Daniela Lourenco, Associate Professor, University of Georgia (USA)
09:00	Multi-trait modelling for a better breeding system - Tage Ostensen, Head of Development, Danish Agriculture & Food Council (DanBred)
09:30	Commercial Test Herds: Whats Next? - Richard Leach, Director of Genetic Services, Smithfield Premium Genetics
10:00	Decades of Progress: Breeding for Resilience - Ron Hovenier, Senior Service Geneticist, Topigs Norsvin
10:30 - 11:00	Refreshments
11:00-12:30	Talks - Physiology
11:00	Metabolomics and genomics come together to reveal genetic factors that influence pig metabolism - Luca Fontanesi, Full Professor, University of Bologna
11:30	Genetic correlations between sow uterine prolapse and reproductive traits using first- and multiple-parity performance data - Joe Menwer Tabet, Researcher Topigs Norsvin

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Tuesday

12:00	Effects of Heat Stress on Gastrointestinal Electromyographic Activity and Intestinal Parameters - Orsolya Csötönyi, PhD Student, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences
12:15	Role of behavioural flexibility in the navigation of the remixing process -Katja Zumer, PhD student, Scotland's Rural College
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:30	Talks - Genetic trade-offs
13:30	Decline of secondary traits including health traits under genomic selection and mitigation steps - Ignacy Misztal, Professor, University of Georgia (USA)
14:00	Litter size: are we at a tipping point? - Laura Boyle, Scientist, Teagasc
14:30	Heat Stress Is a Genetic Problem: Are We Breeding the Wrong Pigs for a Hotter World? - Serdal Dikmen, Professor, Bursa uludag University
15:00	Linking Gilt Growth Curve to Reproductive Performance -Patrick Charagu, Senior Geneticist, Hendrix Genetics Swine
15:30 - 16:00	Refreshments
16:00 - 17:30	Talks - Omics and informatics
16:00	Telomere-to-telomere (T2T) reference genomes for the pig -Alan Archibald, Chair of Mammalian Molecular Genetics, The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh
16:30	Identifying genomic structural variants impacting fertility in pigs -Marta Farre, Senior Lecturer in Genomics, University of Kent
17:00	Comparative genomic resources for pig in Ensembl -Emily Clark, Team Leader, European Bioinformatics Institute
17:30	Population genetic analyses of the Ashanti Dwarf Pig of Ghana -Ben Skinner, Lecturer in Genetics, University of Essex
18:30	Conference Dinner included in registration

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Wednesday

Wednesday, 25 March 2026

09:00 - 10:30	Talks - Breeding for resilience
09:00	Selecting for robustness and welfare in pigs using birth weight uniformity - Isabel Cervantes, Associate Professor, Complutense University of Madrid
09:30	Good Neighbours: Breeding for better social behaviour - Lucy Oldham, Research Associate, Scotland's Rural College
10:00	Breeding for Animal Welfare: Can Selection Be an Ally? - Natalia Leite, Global Genetics and Genomics Platform Lead, Topigs Norsvin
10:30	Assessment of reliabilities of estimated breeding values in pigs - Marco Bink - Team lead genetics & genomics, Hendrix Genetics
11:00 - 11:30	Refreshments
11:30 - 12:45	Talks - Policy
11:30	The role of EFFAB for Pig Breeders - Craig Lewis, Chairman and César Gonzalez de Miguel, Director, European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders
11:45	EFFAB's Projects and Practical Impact - Cagla Y. Kaya, Program Manager, European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders
12:15	Development of New European Legislation on Animal Welfare and Its Impact on Pig Farming in Europe and particularly in Bulgaria - Sonya Ivanova, Associate Professor, Agricultural academy - Bulgaria, Agricultural Institute - Shumen
12:45 - 13:00	Wrap-up and lessons learned
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch

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Wednesday

14:00 - 15:40	Research Workshop - Fertility
14:00	Sperm head morphology and fertility: insights from high-throughput nuclear analysis of boar semen - Ben Skinner, Lecturer in Genetics, University of Essex
14:20	Genetic evaluation and genome-wide association study of sperm quality traits in Pietrain pigs - Martin Bauer, Genetics assistant, PIG Austria
14:40	Storage temperature shapes sperm longevity but not thermal resilience in porcine semen - Sally Wood, Student, University of Kent
15:00	NutriXcell Ultra Stream medium is efficient to decrease boar sperm agglutination during storage - Na Li, Field Trial Scientist, IMV Technologies
15:20	The incidence of chromosomal abnormalities in porcine embryos - Carla Canedo-Ribeiro, Founder GeneEmbryo
15:40 - 16:15	Refreshments
16:15 - 17:30	Group discussion, potential collaborations
18:30	Dinner included for those staying in Kent

Thank you!