Pig Breeders Round Table 2026

University of Kent, Canterbury (UK)
15-16 September 2026

Agenda

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

08:30 - 10:30	**Session 1: Perspectives from major breeding organisations**
08:30	***Multi-trait modelling for a better breeding system*** - Tage Ostersen, Danish Agriculture & Food Council
09:00	***Future horizons: Digitally enhanced genetic improvement*** - Craig Lewis, GENUS PIC
09:30	***Assessment of reliabilities of estimated breeding values in pigs*** - Marco Bink, Hendrix Genetics
10:00	***Decades of progress: Breeding for resilience*** - Ron Hovenier, Topigs Norsvin
10:30 - 11:00	Refreshments
11:00-12:45	**Session 2: Studies of pig physiology and behaviour**
11:00	***Metabolomics and genomics come together to reveal genetic factors that influence pig metabolism*** - Luca Fontanesi, University of Bologna
11:30	***Genetic correlations between sow uterine prolapse and reproductive traits using first- and multiple-parity performance data*** - Eli Grindflek, Topigs Norsvin
12:00	***Improved viral detection and new in vitro models to understand the role of host genetics in viral disease susceptibility in swine*** - Daniel Ciobanu, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
12:30	***Effects of Heat Stress on Gastrointestinal Electromyographic Activity and Intestinal Parameters –*** Orsolya Csötönyi, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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12:45 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 16:00	**Session 3 - Genetic trade-offs and resilience**
13:30	***Sow longevity: phenotypic time trends, the effect of litter size, and economic values*** - Pieter Knap, GENUS PIC
14:15	***Decline of secondary traits including health traits under genomic selection and mitigation steps*** - Ignacy Misztal, University of Georgia (USA)
14:45	***Selecting for robustness and welfare in pigs using birth weight uniformity*** - Isabel Cervantes, Complutense University of Madrid
15:15	***Breeding for Animal Welfare: Can Selection Be an Ally?*** - Natalia Leite, Topigs Norsvin
15:45	***Role of behavioural flexibility in the navigation of the remixing process*** - Katja Zumer, Scotland's Rural College
16:00 - 16:15	Refreshments
16:15 - 18:15	**Session 4 - Omics & informatics**
16:15	***Telomere-to-telomere (T2T) reference genomes for the pig*** - Alan Archibald, The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh
16:45	***Identifying genomic structural variants impacting fertility in pigs*** - Marta Farre, University of Kent
17:15	***Comparative genomic resources for pig in Ensembl*** - Emily Clark, European Bioinformatics Institute
17:45	***Population genetic analyses of the Ashanti Dwarf Pig of Ghana*** - Ben Skinner, University of Essex
Time TBC	Conference Dinner included in registration

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

08:30 - 10:30	**Session 1 - Precision breeding for animal health**
08:30	***Good Neighbours: Breeding for better social behaviour*** - Simon Turner, Scotland's Rural College
09:00	***Genome Editing for Animal Health: From Pigs to Other Livestock*** - Christine Tait-Burkhard, Roslin Institute
09:30	***Linking Gilt Growth Curve to Reproductive Performance*** - Konrad Broekman, Hendrix Genetics Swine
10:00	***UKRI/BBSRC strategy for livestock biosciences*** - Katie Tomlison, UKRI/BBSRC Biosciences for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Strategy Portfolio Manager
10:30 - 11:00	Refreshments
11:00 - 13:00	**Session 2 - EFFAB-led discussion on future challenges and research directions**
11:00	***The role of EFFAB for Pig Breeders*** - Craig Lewis, Chair of EFFAB's working group on NGTs
11:15	***EFFAB's Projects and Practical Impact*** - César Gonzalez de Miguel, European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders
12:15	***Group discussion for future directions***
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch

14:00 - 15:40	**Research Session - Focus on fertility**
14:00	***Sperm head morphology and fertility: insights from high-throughput nuclear analysis of boar semen*** - Ben Skinner, University of Essex
14:20	***Genetic evaluation and genome-wide association study of sperm quality traits in Pietrain pigs*** - Martin Bauer, PIG Austria
14:40	***NutriXcell Ultra Stream medium is efficient to decrease boar sperm agglutination during storage*** - Charlene Rouillon, IMV Technologies
15:00	***The incidence of chromosomal abnormalities in porcine embryos*** - Carla Canedo-Ribeiro, GeneEmbryo
15:20	***Advanced cryobiology and biomarker-based strategies for the preservation of genetic resources in endangered indigenous pig breeds*** - Adrienn Bóka, University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest
15:40 - 16:10	Refreshments
16:10 - 17:30	**Group discussion of future directions - research focus & potential collaborative projects**
Time TBD	Dinner included for those staying in Kent

Thank you!

EFFAB European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders

University of Kent