

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	<i>Multi-trait modelling for a better breeding system</i> - Tage Ostersen, Danish Agriculture & Food Council
09:00	<i>Future horizons: Digitally enhanced genetic improvement</i> - Craig Lewis, GENUS PIC
09:30	<i>Assessment of reliabilities of estimated breeding values in pigs</i> - Marco Bink, Hendrix Genetics
10:00	<i>Decades of progress: Breeding for resilience</i> - Ron Hovenier, Topigs Norsvin
10:30 - 11:00	Refreshments
11:00-12:45	Session 2: Studies of pig physiology and behaviour
11:00	<i>Metabolomics and genomics come together to reveal genetic factors that influence pig metabolism</i> - Luca Fontanesi, University of Bologna
11:30	<i>Genetic correlations between sow uterine prolapse and reproductive traits using first- and multiple-parity performance data</i> - Eli Grindflek, Topigs Norsvin
12:00	<i>Improved viral detection and new in vitro models to understand the role of host genetics in viral disease susceptibility in swine</i> - Daniel Ciobanu, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
12:30	<i>Effects of Heat Stress on Gastrointestinal Electromyographic Activity and Intestinal Parameters</i> - 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	<i>Sow longevity: phenotypic time trends, the effect of litter size, and economic values</i> – Pieter Knap, GENUS PIC
14:15	<i>Decline of secondary traits including health traits under genomic selection and mitigation steps</i> – Ignacy Misztal, University of Georgia (USA)
14:45	<i>Selecting for robustness and welfare in pigs using birth weight uniformity</i> – Isabel Cervantes, Complutense University of Madrid
15:15	<i>Breeding for Animal Welfare: Can Selection Be an Ally?</i> – Natalia Leite, Topigs Norsvin
15:45	<i>Role of behavioural flexibility in the navigation of the remixing process</i> – Simon Turner, Scotland's Rural College
16:00 – 16:15	Refreshments
16:15 – 18:15	Session 4 – Omics & informatics
16:15	<i>Telomere-to-telomere (T2T) reference genomes for the pig</i> – Alan Archibald, The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh
16:45	<i>Identifying genomic structural variants impacting fertility in pigs</i> – Marta Farre, University of Kent
17:15	<i>Comparative genomic resources for pig in Ensembl</i> – Emily Clark, European Bioinformatics Institute
17:45	<i>Population genetic analyses of the Ashanti Dwarf Pig of Ghana</i> – Ben Skinner, University of Essex
Time TBC	Conference Dinner included in registration

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Wednesday

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

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

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14:00 – 15:40	Research Session – Focus on fertility
14:00	<i>Sperm head morphology and fertility: insights from high-throughput nuclear analysis of boar semen</i> – Ben Skinner, University of Essex
14:20	<i>Genetic evaluation and genome-wide association study of sperm quality traits in Pietrain pigs</i> – Martin Bauer, PiG Austria
14:40	<i>NutriXcell Ultra Stream medium is efficient to decrease boar sperm agglutination during storage</i> – Charlene Rouillon, IMV Technologies
15:00	<i>The incidence of chromosomal abnormalities in porcine embryos</i> – Carla Canedo-Ribeiro, GeneEmbryo
15:20	<i>Advanced cryobiology and biomarker-based strategies for the preservation of genetic resources in endangered indigenous pig breeds</i> – 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!