

Breeding, products development, and industrial promotion of KHAPS black pigs (K)

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In Taiwan, consumers generally have a special preference for black pork products. However, black pig breeds are disorganized, with inconsistent body conformation and poor reproductive performance. Therefore, the breed selection of black pigs with stable genetics, high fertility, and good meat quality can form the product segmentation, and keep competitive in the market. We used the prolific Meishan pig to crossbreed with high-growth Duroc pig in KHAP Station, LRI since 1997, and screened for stress-resistant gene (CRC gene) and prolific gene (ESR gene) in the entire population of subsequent 6 generations. After 11 years of selection, we had bred a new breed of black pigs, named in 2009, called **KHAPS black pigs** (codenamed **K**). That was the first black pig breed bred by genetic screen in Taiwan. The K black pigs still retain some of the appearance and characteristics of local breed, such as large and drooping ears, wrinkled forehead, short body, and slightly drooping abdomen. The body weights of K boars and gilts on 70-day and 210-day of age were 20.0, 104.9 kg and 18.8, 89.9 kg, respectively. Functionally, K black pigs can be raised as hogs, with excellent meat quality, tender and juicy; as sows, they have nice motherhood and high fertility.

In terms of promotion and application, we have signed 10 cases of technical transfer contract concerned with release of K breed. At present, some agricultural companies have developed their brands of hog products successfully, and one company has exported hybrid black pigs to Hong Kong. Due to the successful promotion of K black pigs, we have developed a more systematic cross breeding system in the production of hybrid black hogs

Key words: Black pig, genetic screen, meat quality, Meishan pig.