

BPA Bloodline survey 2008 - Berkshire

Members keeping this line		Line Name	Registered Sows with BN Progeny		Registered Sows without BN Progeny		Total Sows	
2008	2007		2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
29	35	Excelsa	29	37	30	28	59	65
35	36	Farewell	47	47	21	28	68	75
31	36	Lady	34	43	23	28	57	71
23	28	Louise	37	37	26	29	63	66
19	19	Mermaid	23	30	11	17	34	47
26	35	Royal Lustre	67	66	28	56	95	122
32	33	Royal Sapphire	39	50	43	35	82	85
41	39	Stonebow	43	51	27	37	70	88
18	18	Suzanne	32	29	7	8	39	37
			351	390	216	266	567	656
Members keeping this line		Line Name	Registered Boars					
2008	2007		2008	2007				
23	28	Ambassador	28	35				
14	15	Freight Train	17	16				
8	11	Lassetter	8	14				
18	17	Nama Abel	21	19				
15	9	Namatjira	14	9				
16	16	Orlando	17	17				
43	37	Peter Lad	50	44				
			155	154		2008	2007	
Members keeping registered Berkshire pigs						176	182	

The latest survey, completed in the early months of 2009, shows a sizeable reduction the number of registered sows, down from 656 to 567. A matter for further concern is that nearly 40% of these sows had not in the past year produced any pedigree or eligible offspring. They had either been used for crossbreeding, or produced litters from Berkshire boars that were then not birth notified, and any progeny was lost to the breed. In terms of individual bloodlines the lowest number is in the **Mermaid** line, one of the oldest female lines in the Berkshire breed.

Boar numbers, on the other hand, have held up well and are, at 155, just one up on the previous year. The biggest decline in any boar line is in the newest Berkshire line, **Lassetter** which has only 8 registered boars. However with the current financial climate and in light of problems faced by breeders generally, it is encouraging to see only a very small decline on the previous year in the number of pedigree breeders keeping Berkshires. Their help over completing this survey is very much appreciated.

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