

BPA Bloodline survey 2011 - Berkshire

Members keeping this line		Line Name	Registered Sows with BN progeny		Registered Sows without BN progeny		Total Sows	
2011	2010		2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
39	31	Excelsa	44	37	24	25	68	62
44	36	Farewell	55	44	34	33	89	77
53	39	Lady	47	41	39	38	86	79
37	27	Louise	37	36	25	24	62	60
29	23	Mermaid	31	27	18	13	49	40
43	38	Royal Lustre	68	63	47	48	115	111
34	30	Royal Sapphire	54	38	43	42	97	80
47	48	Stonebow	49	46	38	43	87	89
24	24	Suzanne	31	32	22	20	53	52
		Total	416	364	290	286	706	650
Members keeping this line		Line Name	Registered Boars					
2011	2010		2011	2010				
25	28	Ambassador	29	35				
12	11	Freight Train	13	13				
10	7	Lassetter	13	7				
23	22	Nama Abel	30	26				
14	16	Namatjira	15	19				
15	19	Orlando	15	19				
48	45	Peter Lad	52	51				
		Total	167	170				
The total number of members keeping registered Berkshire pigs								225

This year's survey sees a small rise in the total number of people keeping registered Berkshire pigs. While this is encouraging, a number of breeders have reduced the size of their herds, and some have given up entirely. This is not surprising in light of current high feed and fuel costs, but has led to the loss of some relatively young sows and boars.

Despite this there is an increase in the overall number of sows. The most pleasing aspect of this is that the rise in sow numbers is almost entirely in the section of sows with birth notified progeny. However that still leaves a very large percentage of Berkshire sows whose litters have not been birth notified with the result that any pure bred progeny they may have produced is lost to the Herd book. The increase in sows is shown across all the female lines except Suzanne, which with Mermaid (one of the oldest Berkshire bloodlines) have the lowest numbers. The most numerous lines are Royal Lustre and Royal Sapphire, with 10% of these in one herd. Boar numbers are very slightly down, but no line is worryingly low, and Peter Lad as always tops the table.

The increase in Berkshire numbers in these times of high costs is encouraging, and owes much to the commitment of breeders, who I would like to thank for their time and help in completing this year's survey.

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