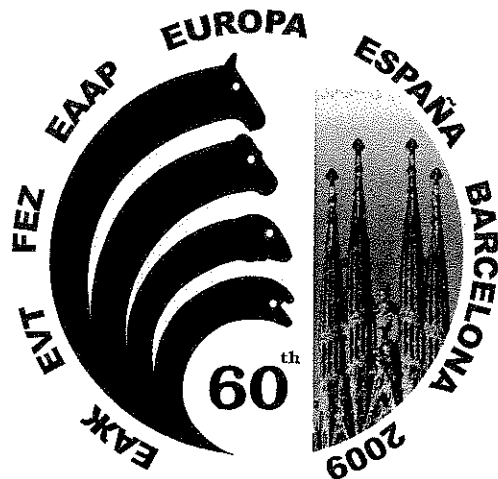


Seasonal organic pig production with a local breed

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It is important that organic pork differs markedly from conventional pork regarding taste, appearance and production methods in order to overcome the heavy price competition. That is the hypothesis behind the current project. A seasonal outdoor rearing system based on a traditional and local breed is believed to be a feasible strategy for producing organic pork with high credibility and superior eating quality. The study included a comparison between a modern genotype and the Danish Black-Spotted pig which does almost not exist in the modern pig production of today. 17 gilts farrowed outdoors in April 2007 and 12 gilts in May 2008. The offspring were slaughtered at 40 kg (male pigs) and 100 kg to 140 kg (female pigs and castrates). The two breeds were compared regarding daily gain, feed conversion rate, animal behaviour, the thickness of the back fat and the meat, meat colour and sensory profile. Preliminary results from the first year of study showed e.g. 37% lower daily gain from birth to slaughter, 30% higher back fat thickness and 11% lower meat percentage in the Black-Spotted female pigs compared to the modern genotype. In contrary, the Black-Spotted pig produced redder and darker meat compared to the modern genotype and the fat of the Black-Spotted pig was characterised as having a special nutty taste. In conclusion, preliminary results indicate that the local breed differs markedly with respect to several meat quality aspects compared to the modern breed but also shows clear disadvantages regarding growth performance and lean content.

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