

## **Embryo survival during early pregnancy in pigs**

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### **Summary**

Mature sows ovulate around 25 oocytes during estrus, but even though generally all oocytes are fertilised, roughly only half of the embryos make it to term, resulting in a litter of 12 to 15 piglets. Some of the embryo mortality is caused by the intra-uterine competition between foetuses for the available space, but another cause of embryo mortality may be oocyte quality. If the quality of some oocytes is compromised, this may reduce the developmental capacity of the embryos that result from them.

This project looks at embryo development during early pregnancy and at nutritional factors that may affect oocyte quality and embryo development.

### **Research techniques involved**

Post mortem embryo analysis

For this project a PorkCRC scholarship may be available.