

Transgenic pig cloned

PPL Therapeutics, the United Kingdom, has unveiled five transgenic cloned piglets. Each of these new clones have a foreign marker gene, which demonstrates that genetic modification is feasible. The same technique might make it possible to create pigs bred for human transplants whose organs will not be rejected by the patient's immune system. PPL has already made progress in knocking out the organ-rejection gene in pig clones. According to a statement released by PPL Therapeutics, clinical trials of pig-to-human organ transplants could be as little as four to five years away. (AgBiotech Reporter, May 2001)