

Pork Checkoff Report  
Newsletter Article 10/12  
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## MANAGE THE SEASONAL RISK OF PRRS VIRUS INFECTION

The risk of new infections with PRRS virus increases in October through March. Paul Yeske presented a paper at the Leman Conference outlining suggestions that can help producers manage this increased risk. Since aerosol spread is such a concern, communicating with neighbors is a key feature of his recommendations. For example, when the PRRS status of farms is shared, cooperating producers can discuss manure pumping options. Daniel Linhares found that PRRS virus can survive in manure, with its infectivity decreasing exponentially as temperature increases.

Half-Life of PRRSv in Manure at Increasing Temperatures

Temperature	4 C	20 C	40 C	60 C	80 C
Half-Life	112 Hours	14.6 Hours	1.6 Hours	2.9 Minutes	0.36 Minute

*Daniel Linhares and colleagues, University of Minnesota*

Yeske offered these additional recommendations to protect farms from PRRS:

1. Conduct a PADRAP assessment of biosecurity on the farm.
2. Consider vaccinating negative pigs in wean to finish farms when neighboring farms are PRRSv positive. Vaccination can reduce duration and volume of viral shedding.
3. Audit biosecurity practices and take the opportunity to retrain staff.
4. Intensify ventilation management to prevent stress and chilling, which can predispose pigs to infection.
5. Plant evergreen windbreaks which may act as “bio-filters” after the corn crop is harvested.

Producers who participate in a voluntary regional PRRS control and elimination project are better equipped to reduce the risk of a PRRS outbreak. Talk to your neighbors and encourage the open communication necessary to control this disease.