



## **POSITIVE RESPONSES TO DISAPPOINTING NEWS**

“Knowing things is better than not knowing things.” This simple quote by Dr. Mike Murtaugh at the last AASV meeting in San Diego is particularly pertinent to recent developments in the Stevens County area. Ever since the project began in 2004 there has been a steady decline in the incidence of new PRRS virus infections in the Stevens County area—that is up until last fall when several serious outbreaks prompted producers and veterinarians to reassess how the shared information from the N212 project was to be of value.

Despite the disappointing outbreak news, area producers, veterinarians and agribusiness people gathered to discuss a response plan that could benefit the entire swine community. Here are some of the decisions that were made from “knowing things”—the location of the positive sites, who is vaccinating, and the strain of viruses associated with each site:

- Dedicated feed trucks, gas trucks and other delivery vehicles are being sent to sites depending upon PRRS status.
- Breeding stock companies use current maps for safest delivery routes.
- An area boar stud implemented filtration based on the risk of increased prevalence in the area and have remained negative.
- Vaccination decisions are based upon neighborhood prevalence and future plans of neighboring producers.
- Expansion plans and location of new building sites are based on current maps.
- Negotiated pig swaps have been arranged to improve flows within areas.

Stevens County producers have found value in open dialogue regarding the PRRS status of sites in their area and agree that, “Knowing things is better than not knowing things.”