



Prepare Now for Seasonal PRRS Epidemic

Data collected from the National PRRSv Incidence Project has documented the repeatability of a seasonal PRRSv epidemic. This ongoing study represents 370 herds, over a million sows, and 14 unique production systems scattered across North America. University of Minnesota PhD candidate, Steve Tousignant, who currently leads the study says, “Based on the past four years, the number of new PRRSv cases is expected to dramatically rise in mid-October. With this in mind, the time to prepare for the coming PRRSv epidemic season is now.”

He suggests the following steps to reduce the risk of a new infection in your herd:

1. Review biosecurity protocols and conduct training for all personnel. Focus on entry of pigs, people and equipment. Decide how to manage mistakes.
2. Conduct a PADRAP biosecurity assessment to find weak points in your system.
3. Clean and organize entries, load outs, showers and decontamination rooms.
4. Inspect barns and repair filtration systems.
5. Review transport biosecurity and insist that only clean dry trucks enter the farm.
6. Contact manure applicators prior to arrival to discuss expectations for scheduling, personnel, and equipment.
7. Participate in regional control and elimination projects in your area to learn about area PRRS status and to improve communication among producers.