

## **What is PRRS?**

PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome) is a devastating viral disease that causes abortions, stillbirths and premature farrowings in sow herds, and respiratory disease and reduced growth in growing pigs.

### **WHY is it important?**

It is estimated that PRRS costs the US swine industry \$640 million annually. Although most pigs infected with PRRS virus recover, some pigs can carry the virus for six months or more without showing any signs of disease. These pigs can only be identified by laboratory tests. If you show pigs that carry the PRRS virus, you risk infecting other pigs in the show ring and increase the chance of sending the virus home on the boots, clothing or vehicle of a visitor.

### **HOW do I find negative pigs?**

Always purchase show pigs from farms that test negative for PRRS. Many swine producers have eliminated the disease or are free of the disease and conduct regular laboratory tests to insure that their farm stays negative. If you don't know the PRRS status of your farm or the pigs you plan to show, call your veterinarian and request a simple blood test for PRRS.

### **WHAT about vaccinating for PRRS?**

Vaccination can be a useful tool in controlling the disease, but unfortunately commercial vaccines do not protect against infection. Furthermore, once a pig is vaccinated, it is difficult to differentiate between vaccine strain and field strain infection. It is preferable to purchase and show pigs that have not been vaccinated with a PRRS vaccine.

### **HOW do I know other pigs at the shows are not PRRS carriers?**

There is no way that you will be able to tell if the pigs showing next to you are infected or not. There is also no law requiring pigs to be tested prior to showing, so you must take precautions to prevent bringing the virus home with you.

- Clean, disinfect and dry all clothing, equipment and transport vehicles associated with the swine exhibit *before and after* the show.
- Isolate your show pigs from the "home herd" for one month after the show and test for PRRS prior to re-introducing them to the herd.

**TELL your friends about the importance of PRRS and encourage them to  
SHOW PIGS that are PRRS NEGATIVE.**

Go to <http://www.aasv.org/aasv/BiosecurityforYouthSwineProjects> or [www.prrs.org](http://www.prrs.org) for more information.

*We welcome your contributions. Please contact Dave Wright at 763-242-7535 or [wright2us@aol.com](mailto:wright2us@aol.com) with comments, suggestions, or questions.*