



## **SUGGESTED RESPONSE GUIDE TO A PRRS OUTBREAK**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this document is to encourage all parties affected by a new outbreak of PRRS to consider how he/she will respond to the outbreak in a way that will satisfy and protect the best interest of all parties.

### **RESPONSE BY PRODUCER WHO CONTRACTS NEW PRRS OUTBREAK:**

1. Gather team to discuss diagnosis, possible source of infection, strategy for investigation, and expected implications. Consider including local veterinarian, consulting veterinarian, farm managers, key employees, banker/finance manager, and regional PRRS coordinator. Discuss disclosure arrangement and how to share results with regional elimination participants.
2. Identify all sources of pigs, semen, and people who entered premises in the past 30 days.
3. Identify the flow of pigs that have left or will leave the premises.
4. Conduct diagnostic testing to determine extent of infection within unit. Identify the sequence of the PRRS isolate.
5. If possible, change the flow of pigs to minimize the risk to area producers. The producer must balance the cost of containment with the personal financial impact.
6. Notify PRRS coordinator if not involved in initial meeting and discuss expectations of all participants.
7. Conduct an intensive outbreak investigation. Determine who has the responsibility for the different components of the investigation.
8. Decide upon the best way to manage the outbreak and implement the plan. Share this plan with the regional participants.

### **RESPONSE BY COMMUNITY:**

1. Involve business suppliers, transport personnel, feed delivery personnel, those associated with pig flow, and veterinarian(s).
2. Determine how best to maintain services to positive producer while minimizing risk to area producers.

### **RESPONSE BY NEIGHBORING PRODUCERS:**

1. Intensify biosecurity and review biosecurity protocol with managers and personnel. Weigh the increased risks without yielding to paranoia.
2. Open conversations with regional elimination group to discuss ways to minimize risk while enabling positive site to manage the outbreak and remain a part of the community. Encourage a cooperative effort that is sensitive to the needs of all parties.
3. Depending upon the circumstances of the outbreak, consider the possibility of a “flow swap” that would enable a site to become negative faster.

### **RESPONSE BY PRRS COORDINATOR:**

1. Discuss PRRS results with positive producer, his/her willingness to disclose the results, and how best to notify surrounding producers, veterinarians and community. The coordinator may feel an obligation to share positive results from

- producers who have signed participation agreements, but understands that any producer may withdraw from the program at any time.
2. Invite parties to consider “Hold Harmless Agreements” that would encourage transparency of information by reducing the risk of legal action.
  3. Contact regional control project participants to discuss outbreak.
  4. Map the new positive site(s).
  5. Distribute updated maps and notify appropriate individuals of the outbreak.
  6. Coordinate or conduct risk assessment to determine producers that should be encouraged to test (those within a two to five-mile radius of outbreak herds and/or others deemed necessary by risk assessment).
  7. Lead discussion about outbreak at next quarterly meeting, or call emergency meeting earlier if it seems necessary.