Regional Programs for Control & Elimination of PRRS Virus

Bob Morrison
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Minnesota
A voluntary, producer-led, coordinated, regional disease control program

Bob Morrison
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Minnesota
Voluntary, Producer-led

• All within the region will benefit,

but

• Not all will participate.

“Producer-led”:

- Acceptance
- Patience
- Persistence
“Regional”

- 2002 – eastern half of Rice Cy.
  - Will producers and veterinarians cooperate?
“Regional”

- 2002 – eastern half of Rice Cy
- 2004 – Stevens Cy
“Regional”

- 2002 – eastern half of Rice Cy
- 2004 – Stevens Cy
- 2008 – west central Michigan
- 2009
  - 3 counties in west, central IL
  - Dekalb Cy, IL
“Regional”

• 2010
  – Cuming Cy, NE
  – Carson Cy, CO
  – Iowa Cy, IA
  – Central Missouri
  – 3 regions Indiana
  – Pipestone Cy, MN

• 2011
  – southern WI
  – & others

Also discussions in:
- Pennsylvania
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- and others
Voluntary, Producer-led, Regional:

- Disease control =

- Elimination =

- Eradication = usually involves a regulatory role
“Coordinated”

• Organization:
  – Project coordinator / facilitator
  – Producer-led steering committee

• Share location, PRRS status & intentions
  – Participation agreement (consent letter)
  – Hold Harmless

• Meet, educate, share experiences, herd plans
A voluntary, producer-led, coordinated, regional disease control program

• Can we do it with PRRS?

• If so:
  – Flu? M. hyo? Swine dysentery?
Producers have a choice:

• Strict biosecurity including wind barriers and live with PRRS,

• Filter the sow herd with high biosecurity

• Regional program to decrease risk
Challenges

• Some choose to not participate
• Risk of disclosing status
• Managing confidentiality
• Weighing an individual farm’s best interests with the region’s
• Project failure due to ...
What are risks of disclosure?

• Business
  – Threat of being sued
  – Discontinued service
    • Commercial trucker
    • Local feed mill
    • Manure pumping
    • Source farm
    • Contract finishers
    • Commercial rodent control
    • Gas / propane delivery

• Personal
  – Feel pressured to act
  – Kids on the bus
  – Same pew at church
NPB advisement 2011

... that the National Pork Board (will) continue to be engaged in the PRRSV elimination discussions that prioritize research and education towards continued development and application of tools and strategies with the goal of elimination of the PRRSV (virus).
AASV Position Statement, 2005

• ... Control of the disease via traditional methods has not been effective in all cases; therefore, it is the position of the AASV that eradication of the disease from the North American swine industry is the long term goal. ...
USDA PRRS CAP

• Separate program from NPB PRRS research
• Funding through USDA NIFA
• Chair: Dr. Bob Rowland, KSU
  – browland@vet.k-state.edu
Progress

• Approximately $500,000 committed to regional control / elimination projects
• Developed process for projects
  – planning & initiation
  – review & evaluation
• Leverage funds
• Posting progress on the PRRS.org website
• Transparency is key
Welcome to PRRS.org!

Welcome to PRRS.org, the official site for the PRRS Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP).

Supported Actions

* Meritorious, Multi-Investigator Research
  * Extension Activities
  * International PRRS Symposium
  * Educational Workshops
  * Partnerships with External Stakeholder Groups

Goals

The goal of the PRRS CAP is to develop tools and deliverable knowledge that will reduce both animal suffering and economic loss and animal suffering. The impact of PRRS is approximately $600 million to producers.

For this reason, USDA funded the PRRS CAP that enabled the collective talents of the entire pork industry to work together to stop the spread of PRRS.
PRRS CAP Regional Projects

- To date, there are 7 funded projects through PRRS CAP:
  - N212MN
  - Michigan
  - H.A.M. counties, IL
  - Dekalb Co., IL
  - Iowa Co., IA
  - Cumming Co., NE
  - Pennsylvania
PRRS CAP Regional Elimination Projects
## Current Elimination Projects

Select a Region/Project name link to view project files including the original proposals, progress reports/updates, and presentations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/Project</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois - DeKalb Area</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Noel Garbes</td>
<td>Phone: (815) 756-3279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany Swine Health Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ngarbes@bethanyyswine.com">ngarbes@bethanyyswine.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois - Western - Tri-County</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Dyneah M. Classen</td>
<td>Phone: 217-357-2811</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carthage Veterinary Service, Ltd.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:dclassen@hogvet.com">dclassen@hogvet.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Iowa - Iowa County</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Derald Holtkamp</td>
<td>Phone: 515-294-9611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:holtkamp@iastate.edu">holtkamp@iastate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Michigan-Allegan &amp; Ottawa Area</strong></td>
<td>Dr. James A. Kober</td>
<td>Phone: 616-355-7447</td>
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<td>Michigan Pork Producers</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:svsmi@sbcglobal.net">svsmi@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Minnesota - Northern Minnesota</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Montse Torremorell</td>
<td>Phone: 612-625-1233</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:torr0033@umn.edu">torr0033@umn.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nebraska - Cuming County</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Alan Snodgrass</td>
<td>Phone: 402-380-2499</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:nebvet@hotmail.com">nebvet@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pennsylvania</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Thomas D. Parsons</td>
<td>Phone: 510-444-5800 ext 2554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:thd@vet.upenn.edu">thd@vet.upenn.edu</a></td>
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Expansion of the Stevens Co.
Project: The Elimination of
PRRSV from North 212 MN

Montse Torremorell, Dave Wright,
Scott Dee, Peter Davies, Bob Morrison,
&
Swine Health Center, Morris Vet Clinic, Nate
Winkelman, Swine Vet Center, Neil DeBuse, Fairmont
Vet Clinic

University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN USA
N212MN Project

- IACUC:
  - 0711A21864

- Disclosure:
  - RBM - 2 sow farms in Stevens Cy

- N212MN funding
  - ’04 – ’06 - none
  - AASV & MPB
  - BI PRRS Initiative
  - ’07 – ’09 - USDA
  - ’10 – ’11 – PRRS CAP & UMN SDEC
Stevens Cy
First Expansion
3 unexpected breaks

• Need for outbreak investigation

• Remind producers of risks of disclosure & discuss individual response
Managing Disclosure

• Knowing the neighbor’s PRRS status is a privilege.
• Pressure the neighbor and drive it underground.

• “Thank you for telling me. I’m sorry this is happening to you. Do you mind telling me your plans? Is there anything I can do to help?”
Cold Weather Biosecurity Practices: Preventing PRRSV

PRRSV happens year around but it is during the cold weather when we see most of the infections. As we approach this cold season, remember the following:

1. PRRSV likes it cold and humid.

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.

RISK OF DISCLOSURE OF PRRS POSITIVE SITE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this document is to help producers prepare for the possibility of a PRRS outbreak—to anticipate the variable and uncontrolled responses by individuals, businesses and the community. No one can control or predict behavior in a voluntary effort to eliminate a disease, but it is important for each producer to...

PRRS OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION PROTOCOL

Objective: The purpose of this protocol is to assist the veterinarian and producer in building a comprehensive case history with the ultimate goal of discovering the source of a new PRRS infection.
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<td>24</td>
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Project Summary

• Number of identified sites continues to expand:
  – 384 sites as of May 2010
• More negative sites have been identified
• Need to further enlist the unknown sites
Illinois - DeKalb PRRS Elimination Project

Select the Region/Area Project name link to view the original proposal (PDF).

Select the Year link to view the current Progress/Update/Quarterly Reports in one compiled PDF file.

Illinois - DeKalb Area
Bethany Swine Health Services

Contact: Dr. Noel Garbes
Phone: (815) 756-3279
Email: ngarbes@bethanyswine.com

2010 Quarterly Reports
Northern Illinois PRRS ARC
PRRS CAP Project Update & Review
May 18, 2011

Noel Garbes, DVM
Bethany Swine Health and Management Services
Where Are We?

- DeKalb County – #1 hog county in Illinois
- Sows
- Finishing pigs
- Borders Chicago suburbs on one side

North-Central Illinois

[Map of North-Central Illinois with various locations marked]
Project Characteristics

- 80 sites with pigs
- 45 producers
- 5-6 veterinarians/clinics
- Farrow to finish herds, independent producers
- Use of PRRS-MLV as a control and elimination tool

- Density of Pigs:
  - Sows = 27.8 / square mile
  - Pigs = 194.6 / square mile
New Strain, 1-4-4, introduced into area

Only 3 sow herds broke with new strain, but 8 herds continued MLV or reinstated MLV use
<table>
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<th>Region</th>
<th>North-Central IL</th>
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<td>Year / Quarter</td>
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<td>Density pigs: 194.6/sq. mile</td>
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### Sow herd size

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### Sow herd Status by Size

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### Finishing or Wean to finish

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24 sows, 6 nurseries, 52 finishers

Found several empty finishing sites that were initially unknowns in 2010 Q1

- Positive are MLV strain
- **3 of 4 are MLV strain**
- ***1 of 3 is MLV strain***
- **3 of 4 positive farms are MLV strain**
- ^7 of 8 farms are MLV strain
- ^6 of 8 farms are MLV strain
- ^**7 of 10 farms are MLV strain**

Based on review of the JSHAP article defining PRRSv status, and the fact that several farrow to finish farms, while clinically stable, have continued to use MLV vaccine in sows, we felt they needed to be moved from "Positive, Stable" to "Positive, Active". While these farms didn't experience "breaks", they were reclassified due to MLV usage.

A new PRRS strain entered our area in Nov/Dec of 2010 (Q4 2010). We have managed to keep the spread to a minimum with only 3 sow farms (& associated downstream flow), as well as 4 separate finishing farms being infected. Three farms have experienced tests positive on PCR for field strain that we thought had eliminated field strain virus. However, all of these farms continue to be committed to eliminating virus. The rebreak farms increased farm closure time and/or vaccinated. Two finishing farms depopulated, the three sow farms initiated a closure, and their downstream flow is vaccinating to protect themselves & neighbors.

While we have faced some setbacks in Q4 2010 & Q1 2011, the producers in this area remain committed to the project, and are showing renewed resolve towards the goal of eventually eliminating PRRS virus from this area.

We held another producer meeting in late March that was well-attended. The focus will be on continuing to contain & limit the spread of the new virus strain, education of producers & allied industry on the project and ways to prevent PRRS, and continue to eliminate both field & vaccine virus strains off farms in the area.
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Project Summary

• High participation among producers
  – > 85% of producers, ~90% of pigs

• Forward movement of project
  – Start control procedures
  – Elimination plans

• Willingness to share to other projects

• Unique learning opportunities
  – MLV usage as a tool
  – Farrow to Finish
  – Continued participation after a break
WEST MICHIGAN
PRRS AREA REGIONAL CONTROL
PROJECT

Project Leader:  Project Coordinator
Dr. Jim Kober           Beth Ferry
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

- Target area: Allegan and Ottawa Counties in Michigan
  - Intense production in a relatively small area.
  - Approximately 20% of the sows in Michigan are housed in an area described as S of Hwy I-196, E of Hwy I-31, N of the Allegan State Forest and W of Hwy I-131.
**PROJECT MILESTONE/SUCCESS**

- Completed mapping/identification system for the region.
- Known PRRS status for 90% of the identified herds.
- Increased producer dedication to the project.
  - Formation of steering committee
- Educational activities designed to increase the skill set and knowledge of the producer and farm employee.
West Central MI Sow Herd Status

- Unknown
- Positive
- Positive stable
- Negative provisional
- Negative

2010 Q2
2010 Q3
2010 Q4
2011 Q1
PROJECT SUMMARY

- There is commitment from producer groups as funding for the project becomes a farm/producer responsibility.

- Producers are dedicated and working on herd stabilization plans.

- There is much debate over the risk of infection from trucking (hired vs. owned trucks, wash vs. wash and disinfect, etc).
Central Missouri project

- Started in Nov 2010
- Id’ed 75 sites & thus far have consent from 15.
- Good response from producers thus far
- Very dedicated working group
- Relatively low swine density and, as far as we know, the PRRS prevalence is quite low.
- Goal - try to get and keep our region PRRS-free.

- Beth Young DVM, DVSc
- Swine Veterinary Extension Specialist
- University of Missouri
- 900 East Campus Drive, A331 Clydesdale Hall
- Columbia, Missouri 65211
- Office: 573-882-8812
- Cell: 573-489-1702
1. Define your region

• Interest & motivation of local leaders.

• Identify location of all herds, types of production, presumed PRRS status & ideally, connectedness.

• Assess biosecurity risk:
  – PADRAP on sow herds
  – Risk-based scores on all sites?
2. Set your goals.

• Regional control – test, surveillance, share information & act accordingly.

• Regional elimination as LT goal?
  – Voluntary,
  – Producer-led,
3. Moving ahead

• Local leaders – role?
• Facilitator / coordinator?
• Who pays for what?
• Mapping – who and how?
• Participation agreement &/or hold harmless?
• Frequency meeting & communication methods?
• Outbreak investigation & notification?
• Educate to balance risk with regional benefit.
Elimination Education Materials, Downloads and Presentations

Select the educational material title to download the document, flyer or presentation to your computer:

Transport Biosecurity: Proper execution of the best management/hauling practices will reduce/eliminate the spread of PRRS virus and other diseases when transporting pigs

"Proper Steps to Reduce Disease" (PDF)

Show Pigs That Are PRRS Negative: When showing pigs, decrease the chance of infecting your herd or others by following the simple steps outlined in this document

"Show Pigs That Are PRRS Negative!" (PDF)

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus Biosecurity Manual: Swine Disease Eradication Center - University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

"Biosecurity protocols for the prevention of spread of PRRSV" (PDF)

Tools for Participation in PRRS Elimination Projects

Select the file name to download example materials, documents and presentations for veterinary/producer participation in PRRS Elimination Projects:

Example Newsletter Content (PDF)
Example Participation Agreement (Consent Letter) (PDF)

*Contact the web administrator with questions or to report any difficulties related to downloading files.*
A voluntary, producer-led, coordinated, regional disease control program

Bob Morrison
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Minnesota