

## So what can you do?

### Join us in our Tri-County Hancock, Adams, and McDonough PRRS Elimination Project!

This project is geared to help educate yourself and others from the *Hancock, Adams, and McDonough counties* region, of the risk that PRRS holds for not only the production industry, but for show industry as well. A single pig at a show can easily spread PRRS to every other pig at the show- including yours. Even a potential client interested in buying stock can easily bring PRRS to your farm on their hands, skin, and clothing unknowingly! *The goal of this project is to educate you on how to control PRRS. This program includes education through mailings and meetings.* Each site enrolled will have their PRRS status determined and undergo either individual farm elimination projects or PRRS risk reduction programs. Similar projects are underway in other counties and have been successful at controlling PRRS. With your help, this disease can be controlled and save swine producers millions of dollars per year!



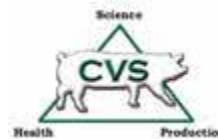
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## Tri-County H.A.M. PRRS Elimination Project



*Striving for that purple ribbon?*

*Help us control PRRS virus!*

*Find out how.*

## What is PRRS?

Formerly known as Mystery Swine Disease, or Blue Ear Disease, *Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)* is caused by a virus. This highly contagious disease can be detrimental to your herd. While you may have heard of it, are you aware of the risks? PRRS isn't just a problem for confinements, it is an easily spread, hard to eliminate virus. Here are some of the more prominent symptoms:

- **ABORTIONS**
- **PREMATURE FARROWING**
- **INCREASED STILLBORNS**
- **WEAK-BORN PIGLETS**
- **DELAYED RETURN TO ESTRUS**
- **PNEUMONIA**
- **LOSS OF APPETITE**
- **FEVER**
- **SCOURS IN PIGLETS WITH LITTLE RESPONSE TO ANTIBIOTICS**
- **LETHARGY**
- **AND IN SOME CASES DEATH**

As you can see, none of these would be beneficial to your farm, and certainly not in obtaining a champion ribbon.

### Transmission

The highly transmissible virus can be spread a variety of ways: pig to pig contact, semen, blood, manure, aerosols (up to two miles), dust, insects, contaminated equipment, boots, skin, clothing, and vehicles all can carry the virus for days, and for long distances.

### How Does This Affect You?

You may be wondering what benefit this program could have for you. While you may not see symptoms in your herd, this disease can be devastating, causing an estimated loss



of \$560 million yearly in North America alone. As long as this disease is prevalent

in the surrounding area, your pigs are at risk for getting infected by a serious strain of the virus. By controlling PRRS within the tri-county area, we could decrease the risk of PRRS infections. This could greatly increase production and decrease profit losses. Raise healthy pigs—control PRRS virus.

### How Does Testing Work?

Each enrolled site's PRRS status will be determined by a PRRS ELISA test run on serum collected from blood samples. Then, either an elimination plan, or a risk reduction plan will be put into place.

### Is It Really Free?

Yes, the program is free for those in Hancock, Adams, and McDonough counties! All initial testing will be provided at no cost. All participation in this program is voluntary and because initial testing is free, every pig producer should take advantage of eliminating the virus from their pigs as well as the tri-county area.

### So Where Can You Start?

**ENROLL!** And begin to educate yourself and others. Even if you currently know your PRRS status, we would appreciate if you would still participate. If you have a current veterinarian, contact them about our program and begin taking your first step. Also, taking simple yet effective biosecurity measures will greatly reduce your risk.

### Biosecurity: Your Best Bet

Without biosecurity, your herd can easily become infected with PRRS and be very costly. Simple, effective steps to take are:

- When bringing in new breeding stock, buy PRRS-free gilts, quarantine them for eight weeks, and test to be sure they remain PRRS-free before adding them to you're herd
- Wash, disinfect, and dry your barns and equipment thoroughly between groups of pigs
- Plant trees around your farm to serve as a barrier
- Provide boots and coveralls for all visitors
- Do not borrow other farms' equipment
- Require all trucks to be cleaned, dried, and disinfected before entering the farm
- Wash your hands or wear gloves that you change between age groups

