

Controlling Spread of PRRS Virus within Sow Farms

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Key Points

- “MCREBEL” procedures will have limited value right after a novel PRRSv introduction when in utero transmission is frequent, and are most important once in utero transmission is waning.
- Internal biosecurity should start approximately 10 weeks after the outbreak to decrease virus spread in farrowing.
- Biosecurity efforts should be ramped up starting at approximately 21 weeks after the break.

Barns

- Wash Hallways After Movement: Critical to clean and sanitize common traffic areas post-weaning when contamination is highly likely.
- Wash Dead Disposal Area: Highly likely to be contaminated with PRRSv from low viability piglets, wash following dead pig removal.

Gestation

- Sow/Gilt Feedback: Discontinue immediately following identification of a novel PRRSv. Use of feedback material may be possible by using PRRSv PCR to “clear” feedback batches.

Farrowing

- Crate Integrity: Prevent litter comingling in the farrowing house.
- CO2 Piglet Euthanasia: Decreased environmental contamination relative to Blunt Force Trauma.
- Hot Box Liners: Clean, disposable liners ensure piglets are warmed in a clean environment and boxes are easier to clean/sanitize between use.
- Change Gloves/Sleeves: Change gloves between every litter and use a new sleeve every time you assist a sow farrowing.
- Contain Contaminated Supplies: Immediately place used sleeves and gloves into a trash container (plastic buckets lined with trash bags work excellently).
- Cross Fostering: Once in utero transmission has waned, eliminate all pig movements after 24 hours and do not move piglets from one room to another.
- Fallback Management: Once in utero transmission has waned, do not pull fallbacks.
- Rolling Back Litters: Once in utero transmission has waned, do not roll back litters.

Processing

- Hygiene: Processing trays should be washed and disinfected daily with 3rd party inspection (allowing power washers to audit sanitation of other employees works well).
- No Processing Cart: Do not use the processing cart to gather piglets.
- Change Needles/Blades: Change between every sow (needles) and every litter (needles/blades).
- Contain Testicles & Tails: Immediately place into a bucket with trash bag liner.
- Avoid Stepping in Crates: Do not step into crates until piglets are weaned.

Weaning

- Avoid Holding Room Use: Do not hold piglets on site post-weaning.
- Post-Weaning Hygiene: All staff participating in weaning should immediately change coveralls and wash boots, shower or wash hands prior to returning to normal tasks; Do not allow Day 1 staff to help with weaning or walk from room to room until hallway has been washed.