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Eradication of PRRS from the swine herd

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Introduction

Owners of swine herds have various motives for eradication of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS). In herds selling breeding stock, PRRS-negative status is desirable for marketing purposes. In commercial herds, the negative impact of PRRS in the grow/finish period, which is usually exacerbated by the presence of other diseases, is the most common motive for eradication of PRRS.

Different protocols are now available for the eradication of PRRS. Depopulation and restocking with PRRS-negative animals is a safe but expensive approach. In PRRS-seropositive herds without virus circulation in M/G/F (stable/inactive), PRRS has been eliminated by depopulation of units holding weaners and/or grower/finishers in breeding and farrow-to-finish herds, respectively.

Information about the study herd

- EP positive, 350 sow farrow-to-finish herd in transition to 650 sows; site 1 in a 3-site system
- Weaning age = 26 days

Eradication protocol

The eradication protocol is outlined in **Table 1**.

Testing and results

Since week 40, i.e., eight weeks after clean replacement gilts were moved into site 1, ten clean animals have been tested for PRRS every fourth week. In sites 2 and 3, ten samples from the offspring of clean sows have been tested for PRRS every fourth week. All samples have tested negative for PRRS. After a nine month observation period, gilts from site 3 have been sold as PRRS-negative.



TABLE 1: Eradication protocol

Week	Protocol
1	PRRS outbreak; stop incoming replacements
11	ELISA test of all replacements and older animals
15	Seronegative animals slaughtered (4 of 656)
15	All weaners removed; start weaning of site at 21 days
22	Wean at seven days
24	Return to weaning at 21 days to a clean site 2
31	Bring clean replacements in