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Replacement Gilt Isolation and Acclimatization Protocols for the Control of PRRSV

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Introduction Most isolation and acclimatization protocols are designed with PRRSV in mind. In many cases, this is where the similarity between programs ends. Since so many variables can be different between farms, and even within the same farm over time, it has been nearly impossible to apply one protocol across all systems. Instead, swine veterinarians are called upon to tailor these programs to fit the unique circumstances and goals of each farm, always ready to modify the protocols as the need arises. Although various methods are employed to monitor these programs, success is ultimately judged by lack of economically damaging disease entering the breeding herd.

General Information This paper will focus on three unique gilt isolation and acclimatization protocols as applied to three different farms. A commercial PRRSV ELISA test was used by all participating veterinarians in order to establish the PRRS

status of gilts on arrival to isolation, and to monitor their seroconversion prior entering the main sow herd. The results of these ELISA tests were analyzed statistically in order to determine the relative risk of individual gilts leaving the acclimatization phase with S/P ratios that would indicate little or no protection to PRRS virus (S/P ratio <0.40) and potentially viremic animals (S/P ratio >2.5).

Results Complete descriptions of the unique aspects of each farm, the exact protocol followed, and the statistical results will be presented at the meeting. Each protocol was successful in preventing the occurrence or recurrence of clinical PRRS in the sow farms that received these gilts. As such, each program can be considered a success as applied to its unique situation, in spite of the variability seen in the S/P ratios within individual groups of gilts just prior to entering the breeding herd.