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ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY

Swine Health Communication Guidelines

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The Indiana Swine Health Advisory Committee's scientific subcommittee on PRRS has worked collaboratively with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) to assess the value and practicality of sharing information among neighboring swine producers regarding their herds' PRRS exposure status. Based on increasing risk from new, more virulent PRRS strains and availability of improved and more affordable diagnostics and prevention methods, BOAH and the scientific subcommittee recommend the following guidelines for good neighbor action in the event of a change to PRRS **exposed** status.

The Indiana Swine Health Advisory Committee suggests pork producers notify neighbors of their current PRRS exposure status according to the following recommendations:

- Inform swine owners within 2 miles of the exposed animals
 - Emphasis should be placed on sites where swine are maintained 12 months a year
 - Notification should be made to the pig owner and/or site owner on an annual basis
 - BOAH can assist with identifying neighboring sites

Exposure Categories:

- Naïve (negative) (see AASV definition and document on Gilt Acclimation)
- Known Exposed (positive) (see AASV definition and document on Gilt Acclimation)
 - "Exposed" includes: Natural exposure, and use of live virus inoculation (LVI) and/or modified live virus inoculation (MLV)

By opening lines of communication among producers in an area, the sharing of health status information will benefit all Hoosier pork producers and the industry, as well as give neighbors the opportunity to make protective management decisions (such as use of modified live virus to build herd immunity).

These guidelines apply only to disease issues that have no human health consequences, such as PRRS, and serve as a means to improve disease management at a community level.

Future notification should be done in the following circumstances:

Change to PRRS Exposed Status

- Owner of a herd with a change to **PRRS exposed** status should share status information with pork producers within 2 miles

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- Notification should include status change due to both intentional and unintentional exposure
- Neighbors should be informed of circumstances of exposure (natural or introduced)

Use of PRRS Management Practice

- Owners of pigs should share status information with pork producers within 2 miles of their facility when a live PRRS exposure method is used
 - Field strain (live virus inoculation or natural exposure) or modified live PRRS vaccination product

Movement of Known Exposed Swine

- Owners of exposed pigs that are being moved should share status information with pork producers within 2 miles of the destination site for the exposed animals
 - Notification should occur as soon as practical upon learning of change in status
- When movements are made on a regular basis to a specific site and the overall status of the incoming animals has not changed (ie, the site continuously receives only exposed animals) annual notification is sufficient