SHO Position Statement
PRRSv Negative Breeding Stock

Position Statement: All commercial breeding stock should be PRRSv negative.

Rationale: The introduction of PRRSv into herds occurs through a number of routes including infected pigs, semen, and non-porcine vectors such as people, aerosols, transport, feed, equipment and insects. If incoming replacement animals are PRRSv positive, virus transmission will occur.

A significant advantage of PRRSv seronegative populations over PRRSv seropositive populations is the ability to monitor the on-going status of the population. A PRRSv seropositive pig that is not carrying PRRS virus, whether in blood or in tissues, is no greater risk to a downstream herd than a PRRSv seronegative animal. However, identifying that a PRRSv seropositive population is not carrying any infective PRRS virus on a continued basis is almost impossible. With the use of an appropriate isolation facility, the probability of the virus entering the breeding herd is higher with PRRSv seropositive animals due to the inherent difficulties associated with monitoring these animals.

A second concern is that measuring the effectiveness of PRRSv exposure as part of PRRSv acclimatization programs is compromised if using PRRSv seropositive replacements. The long-term goals of reduced introduction of PRRS virus into Ontario swine herds and better control of PRRS virus within herds requires the use of PRRSv-negative replacement animals.

References

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