

December 21, 2011

Dear Stevens County area swine producers,

The Stevens County pork producers have set the example for the rest of the country in all the efforts made to eliminate PRRS from the county. We have had no reports of new infections or positive test results in more than a year. This has translated into higher profits and reduced risk of re-infection for all area producers.

Since the project to control and eliminate PRRS from the area is voluntary, there is no formal protocol for surveillance testing. We rely on reports from veterinarians and producers who have chosen to participate. As a means of reassuring producers that the area is negative, we would like to conduct a spot check of sites that may not have had a recent test for PRRS. We are inviting you to collect a single sample of oral fluids with a rope test from one of your barns—preferably grow/finish pigs or mature breeding stock.

If you are not a participant in the program, we invite you to sign the enclosed participation agreement and return it in the envelope provided. If you are already a participant and have conducted a test for PRRS within the last six months, please reply with a note, a call or email.

Rope test kits and instructions for sample collection will be distributed at the quarterly meeting on January 9 at the WCRO in Morris at 6:00 pm. If you are unable to attend we can send you the test kit. Please collect the sample, freeze it, and return it to the Morris Veterinary Center, 605 W 5<sup>th</sup> St, Morris, MN (320-589-4033) by January 25. They have agreed to compile and submit the samples to the diagnostic laboratory. Laboratory and submission fees will be free of charge to participants.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation in eliminating the PRRS virus from the Stevens County area. If you have any questions or comments about the project, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Dave Wright, D.V.M.  
Coordinator, Voluntary Regional  
PRRS Elimination Project N212