

A brief summary of SHMP (Swine Health Monitoring Project)

Bob Morrison & Paul Sundberg

We started this project in 2011 with the objective of measuring incidence of PRRS virus in sow herds. That is, what is the rate of new infection? Two producers paved the way and shared their health status and location of all their sow herds. Moreover, they were willing to look back in their health records and shared change in status from 2009. These early data spurred the interest of other producers such that today, we have 27 participating systems accounting for just shy of 1,000 herds and approximately 2.5 million sows. These 27 systems are made up of 4 regional PRRS projects, 4 veterinary practices and 19 companies. Equally important is that most of these participants have indicated that they ***“are willing to share their premises IDs and pathogen status in the interests of national disease control.”*** That means that when PEDv came along, they were the first to participate. And when the next one comes, we don’t need to ask; they will participate. This represents incredible competitive advantage for our industry.

Our long term goal is to have a national, voluntary swine health monitoring system. As such, we design and conduct projects that are building the capacity for such a system. We have signed confidentiality agreements with all our participants. They share location, health status and permission to access diagnostic lab data with the understanding that only aggregate data is reported to the industry. In the interests of the industry, the aggregate report is provided to 190 named individuals one week after being reported to participants.

Our short term goal is to deliver value to you, every week. We slice and dice your data looking for insights that might help you better manage these pathogens. We deliver these analyses via the “Science Page” in the weekly report. Your comments, suggestions and questions stimulate new ideas and analyses so keep them coming. We design projects accordingly and invite you to participate. Current projects include: (1) 1-7-4 time to stability, (2) PRRS status at farrowing, (3) network analysis with real-time risk assessment, (4) tempero-spatial modeling of PRRS and PED spread, and (5) socio-economic impact of regional PRRS project.

You are aware of the newly formed Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) directed by Dr. Paul Sundberg. SHIC was established as an independent corporation by the National Pork Board to detect new and emerging pathogens in our industry and support projects like SHMP that can increase the health of your herds. Our project is integral to the goals of SHIC because the capacity that we are building to monitor existing pathogens is the same capacity that SHIC will need to detect emerging pathogens or provide data analysis to help make on-farm decisions about swine health, risk and biosecurity regarding PRRS, PED and others that you may decide to include. With this in mind, we have recently been awarded funding from SHIC for the next 5 years to help us address our mutual goals.

We appreciate your ongoing support and participation.

SHMP Advisory Group – Joe Connor, Gordon Spronk, Matthew Turner, Paul Yeske, Ex officio: Paul Sundberg.