Eradication of PRRS

At this time, elimination of PRRS virus from infected farms is possible by 4 primary methods:
1. Whole herd-depopulation/repopulation
2. Test and removal
3. Herd closure and rollover
4. Production of negative pigs from positive sows

Advantages and disadvantages of each method are as follows:

1. Whole herd depopulation repopulation
   Advantages:  
   - High degree of efficacy
   - Solves multiple disease problems at the same time
   - Results in genetic improvement
   - Vast experience of veterinary industry
   Disadvantages:  
   - Costly
   - Requires multiple sites for off-site breeding of new clean stock and finishing out of diseased pigs
   - Re-infection can occur during repopulation process

2. Test and Removal
   Advantages:  
   - High degree of efficacy
   - Low risk, due to speed of the testing process
   Disadvantages:  
   - Testing cost can be high if ELISA and PCR are used to test sera
   - Requires removal of exposed breeding animals
   - Feasible only in herds with low (<10%) seroprevalence in breeding herd

3. Herd closure and rollover
   Advantages:  
   - Initial efficacy appears promising
   - Does not require excessive testing or removal of breeding animals
   Disadvantages:  
   - Requires off site breeding facilities
   - Requires a long time to complete
   - Relies on consistent natural exposure of all replacement gilts and a lack of PRRSV transmission in the breeding herd over time.
   - Questionable if this can be accomplished in all cases.

4. Production of negative pigs from positive sows
   Advantages:  
   - Preserves genetics
   - Can improve overall health status of offspring through the use of medication or specific vaccinations
   - Improvements in health and performance of offspring can be significant
   Disadvantages:  
   - Transmission of PRRSV from dam to offspring can result in production of infected batches of weaners