



## 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