



Season 7, Episode 4: Using Data to Better Management PRRS

Dr. Ana Paula Serafini Poeta Silva, a research scientist at Iowa State University, shares how data from PRRS outbreaks can help producers respond better to outbreaks and estimate how long it may take a herd to return to baseline production.

Background

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) is one of the biggest challenges facing producers. Dr. Daniel Linhares created the PRRS Outbreak Management Program (POMP) in 2011. POMP is an epidemiological database that identifies and characterizes PRRS outbreaks at the breeding herd level. As POMP continues to grow, data play a key role in decreasing recovery time in herds.

Response and Recovery Metrics

Once producers and veterinarians identify PRRS variation within a herd, they create a response plan and identify areas for intervention. Response plans include the time when producers quarantine the herd and any live vaccines or viruses used. Recovery is measured using three main metrics:

1. Total time to baseline production: the total time in weeks for a herd to return to the baseline production of pigs weaned. This number is identified through previous herd outputs.
2. Total piglet losses: the cumulative sum of the piglets not weaned because of the outbreak.
3. Time to stability: the number of weeks from the outbreak date that the farm took to wean Polymerase Chain Reaction-negative piglets. PCR is a laboratory test used to identify both bacterial and viral diseases.

PRRS Outbreak Response Plan

When a PRRS outbreak is confirmed in a herd, producers can contact the POMP team at pomp@iastate.edu to enroll in the program. Once enrolled, the producer will receive \$700 to be used on diagnostics or interventions. POMP will send the producer a variation report that provides data from that PRRS strain or similar strains in other herds. The data will showcase how the herds responded to PRRS and the recovery statistics. The producer will be asked to answer the POMP survey about interventions and vaccines given to the herd. After collecting the data, POMP will create production recovery reports for the producer.

Takeaways

POMP is continuously improving the program. Producers can use the program to learn how a variation of PRRS affected other herds, which response plans will work best in a herd, when the best time to close the herd is, and what interventions are recommended for a herd.

To learn more about POMP, read the National Hog Farmer article "[Keeping up with the PRRS outbreak management program](#)", or visit the program website <https://fieldepi.org/pomp/>.

To listen to this full podcast please visit: <https://globalagnetwork.com/pigx/podcast/using-data-to-better-manage-prrs/>

