

PRRS: What's Next?

Never Settled

Carthage Swine Conference

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What's Happened?

We've Gotten Our Butts Kicked



36th Annual Swine Conference
Sept 1st, 2026



PRRS – What happened?

Gustavo Silva
Associate Professor

- PRRS is Different, PRRS is Tricky
 - Farm Connectivity Amplified Spread
- >35% of BTW Herds WT PRRS Pos
 - Commonly to Emerging Variants
 - Shed Faster, Shed More, Persist Longer
- Still Large Gaps in Application
 - Delayed or No Herd Closure
 - Partial Dosing MLV Vaccines
 - Lack of Effective Outbreak Investigations

What Are We Doing?

We're Strengthening our Defenses



Sow Farm Filtering: Our Journey

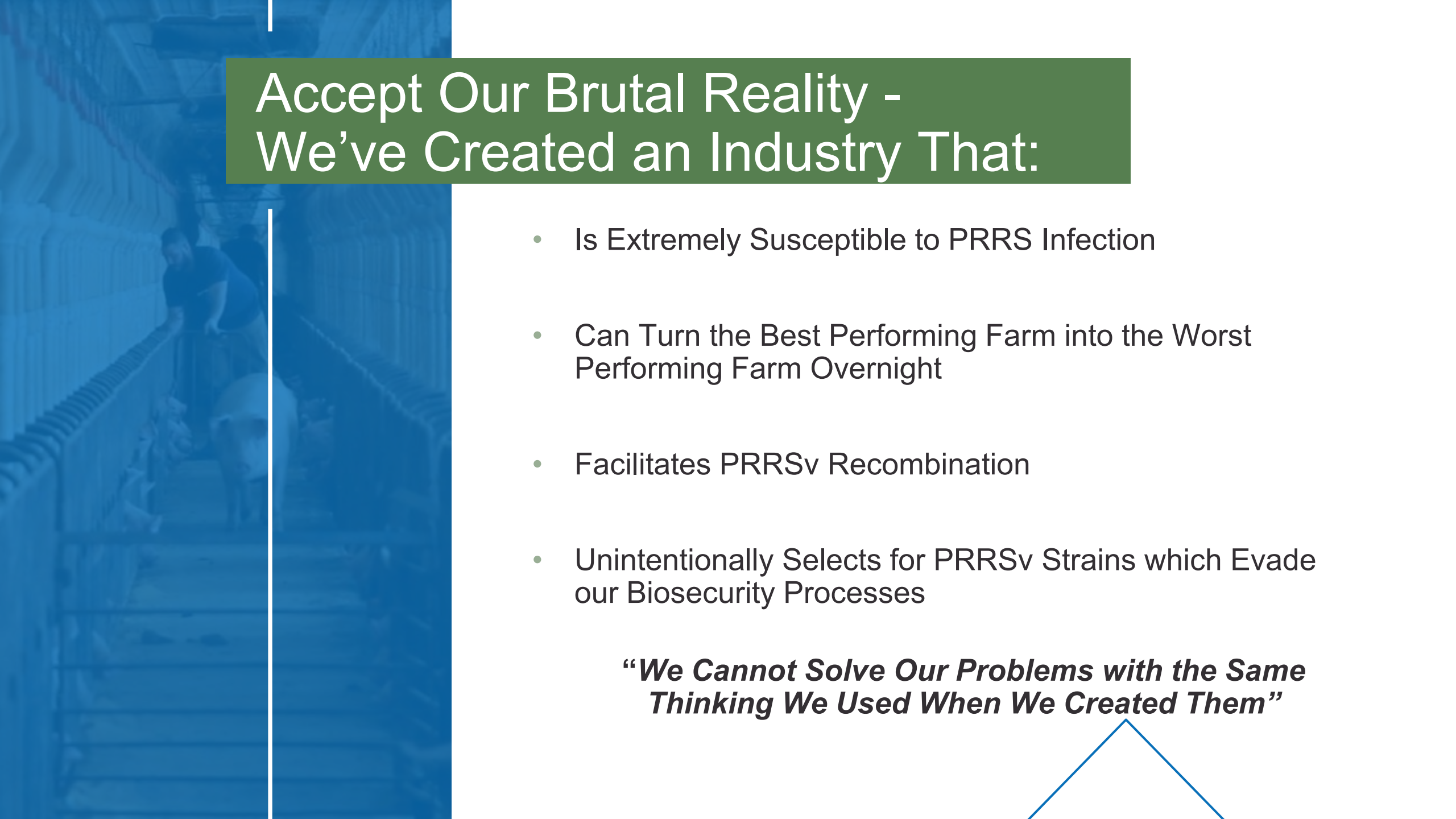
Repeated PRRS breaks forced us into filtering sow farms.

We didn't have filtration figured out—but we couldn't keep living with repeated breaks. Hope that the breaks wouldn't continue wasn't a strategy.

- PRRS Evolves, So Do We
 - Filter When Aerosol Risk Increases
 - Neighborhood Change OR Virus Change
- Biosecurity = Links in a Chain
 - Every Gap Matters
 - Filtration is the Final Link, Not the First
 - Positive Pressure Filtration Preferred
- Apply Financial Analysis to Decisions
 - Investments Easy to Quantify
 - Cost of Outbreak Possible to Estimate
 - Allows “Breakeven” Breakrate Calculation



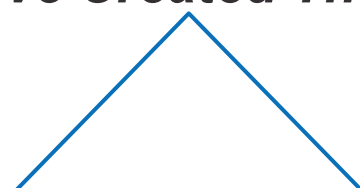
How Can we Shift from Defense to Offense?



Accept Our Brutal Reality - We've Created an Industry That:

- Is Extremely Susceptible to PRRS Infection
- Can Turn the Best Performing Farm into the Worst Performing Farm Overnight
- Facilitates PRRSv Recombination
- Unintentionally Selects for PRRSv Strains which Evade our Biosecurity Processes

“We Cannot Solve Our Problems with the Same Thinking We Used When We Created Them”

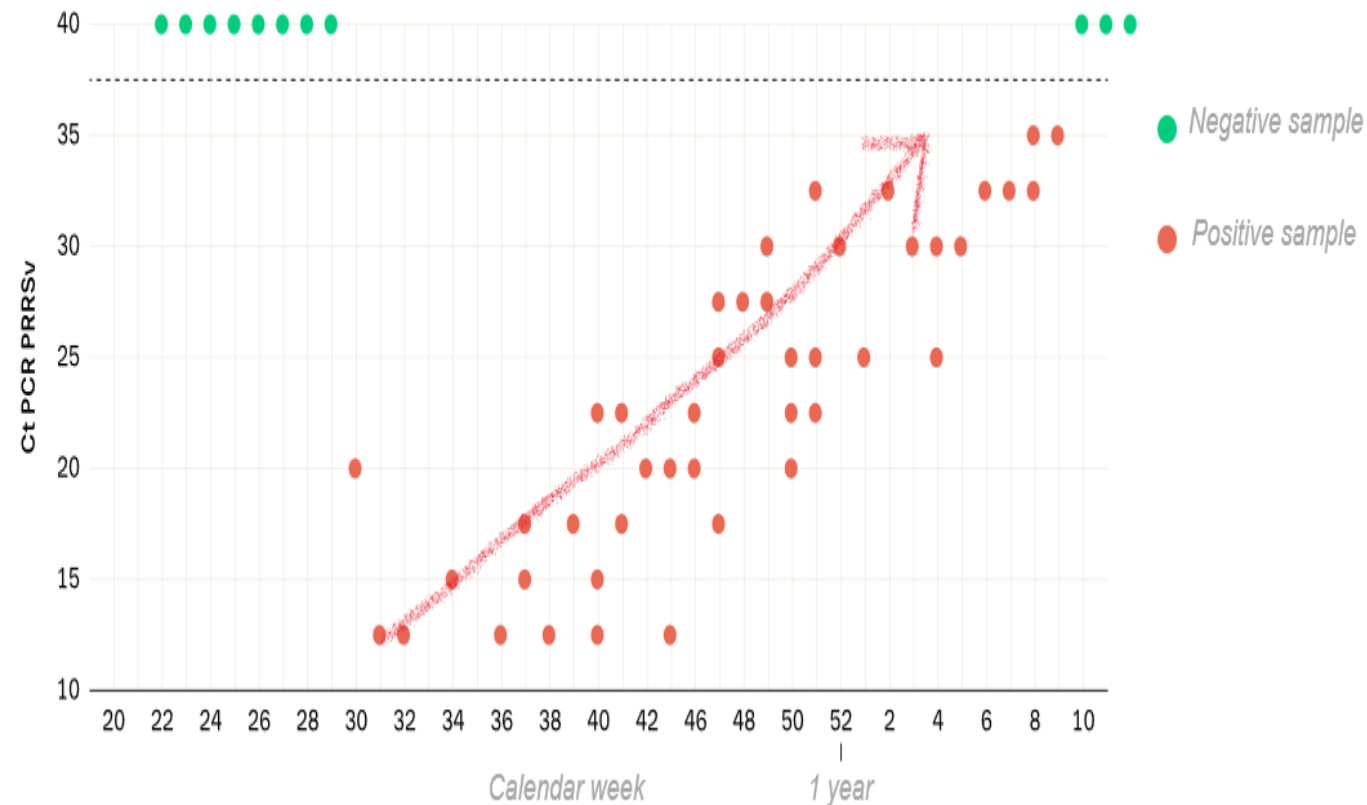


Biosecurity: Bioexclusion vs. Biocontainment

- Biosecurity = The Steps Taken to Reduce the Probability of a New Pathogen Introduction
- Bioexclusion = The Steps Taken to Prevent Contaminated Items Entering the Farm
 - Exclusion: Items Not Allowed in the Farm
 - Sanitation: Applied to Items Prior to Farm Entry
- Biocontainment = The Steps Taken to Minimize Contamination of Items Leaving Infected Farms
 - Pigs: Minimizing Movement of Pigs into Unaffected Areas
 - Fomites: Applying Sanitation Prior to Farm Exit

Biocontainment: Reducing Time to Stability

- Listen to What the Data Tells Us:
 - Fast Herd Closure
 - Early MCREBEL
 - Batch Farrowing
- Use Novel Sample Types:
 - Tongue Tips
 - TOSC Swabs
 - Parity Specific PCR Pooling
- Intervene with Evidence:
 - Targeted MCREBEL Practices
 - Test & Removal Strategies



PRIME Project

- Integrates Diagnostic Data, Animal Movement Records and Farm Information to Monitor Disease Activity in Real Time
- Site Status Sharing isn't New
- Using Predictive Analytics to Drive Focus on the “Front Line” of the Battle is New
- Advancements in Data Analytics will Facilitate Disease Transmission Projections – We can Predict the Impacts of Pig Movement Decisions



PRIME

NPB: National Swine Health Strategy – PRRS Eradication

- Producer Requested, Producer Led
- Built on Existing Research, with Continually Open Request for Proposals (RFP) for New Ideas
- You Can't Expect NPB to Deliver PRRS Eradication to Your Farm
- To Eradicate PRRS, We Have to Earn It



National Swine Health Strategy

Protecting the U.S. Swine Herd

The health of the U.S. swine herd is critical to every pork producer's livelihood and the industry's future. Producers face both everyday endemic diseases and the looming threat of foreign animal diseases (FADs) that could devastate their operations.

The National Pork Board is working with key industry partners, including the **National Pork Producers Council** (NPPC) and state pork associations, to develop a comprehensive National Swine Health Strategy.

📧 To stay informed, **subscribe to NPB news** for the latest updates and developments.

Looking for National Swine Health Strategy resources, **[click here!](#)**

<https://porkcheckoff.org/pork-production-management/national-swine-health-strategy/>

Shifting Toward Strategic PRRS Management vs Reactionary PRRS Management

- We Cannot Make PRRS Decisions Soley Based on Short Term Financial Impacts
- None of us can beat PRRS individually, we have to collaborate and cooperate to make strategic industry level improvements
- This will Require Sacrifice, this is an Investment in which Returns Won't be Immediate



Audience Poll

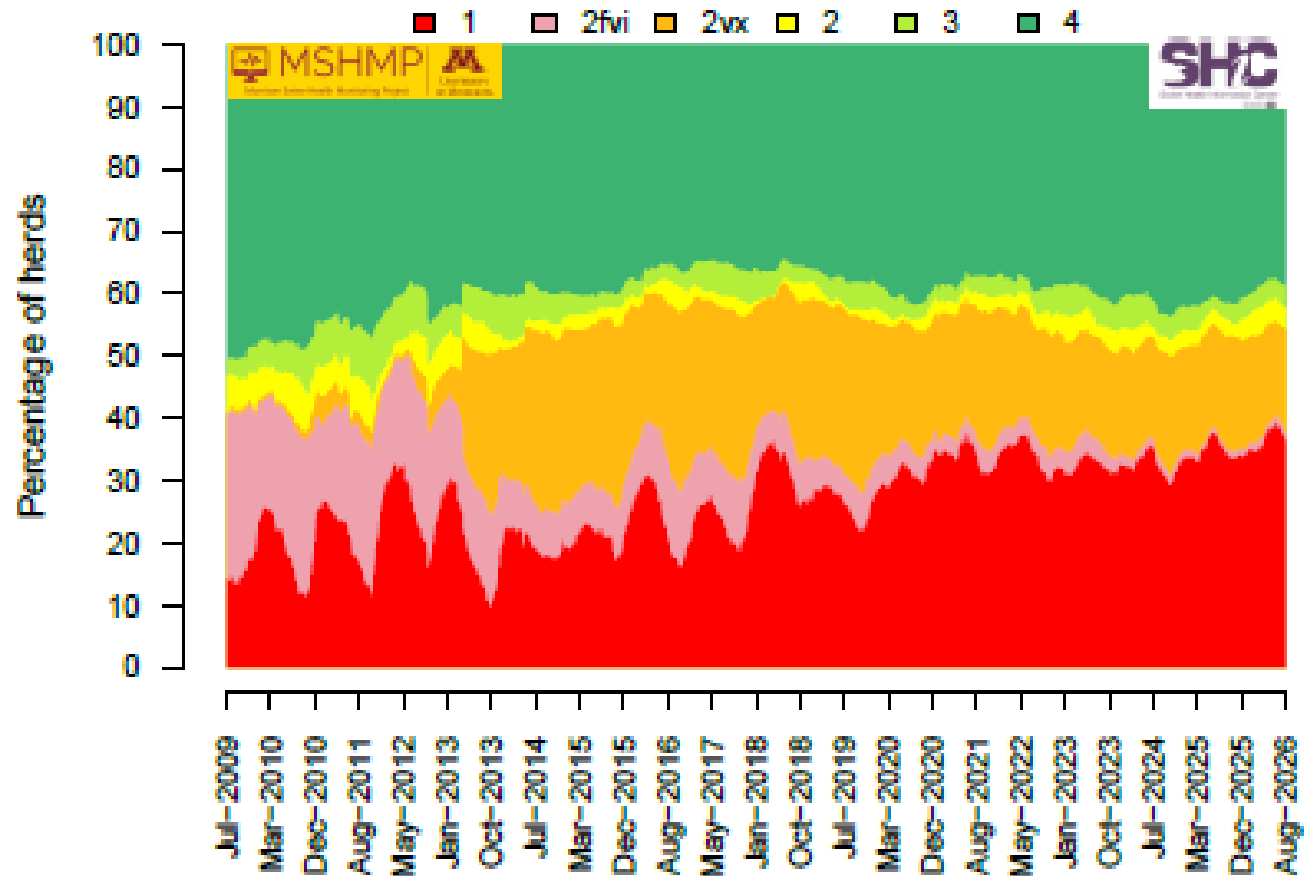
- Scenario: Your Sow Farm has a PRRS Outbreak, You're Considering Management Options:
 - Option 1: Estimated Losses of \$250/Sow
 - Lowest Total Losses
 - Poor Biocontainment
 - Option 2: Estimated Losses of \$325/Sow
 - Higher Total Losses
 - Good Biocontainment
- Which Option do You Pick?

Where Do Your Decisions Shift?

- What if it was \$275/Sow vs \$300/Sow Losses?
- What if it was \$200/Sow vs \$400/Sow Losses?
- At What Point Would Doing the Right Thing for the Future of our Industry Result in You Putting Short Term Economics Aside?
- What are You Willing to Invest in a Better Future for Our Industry?

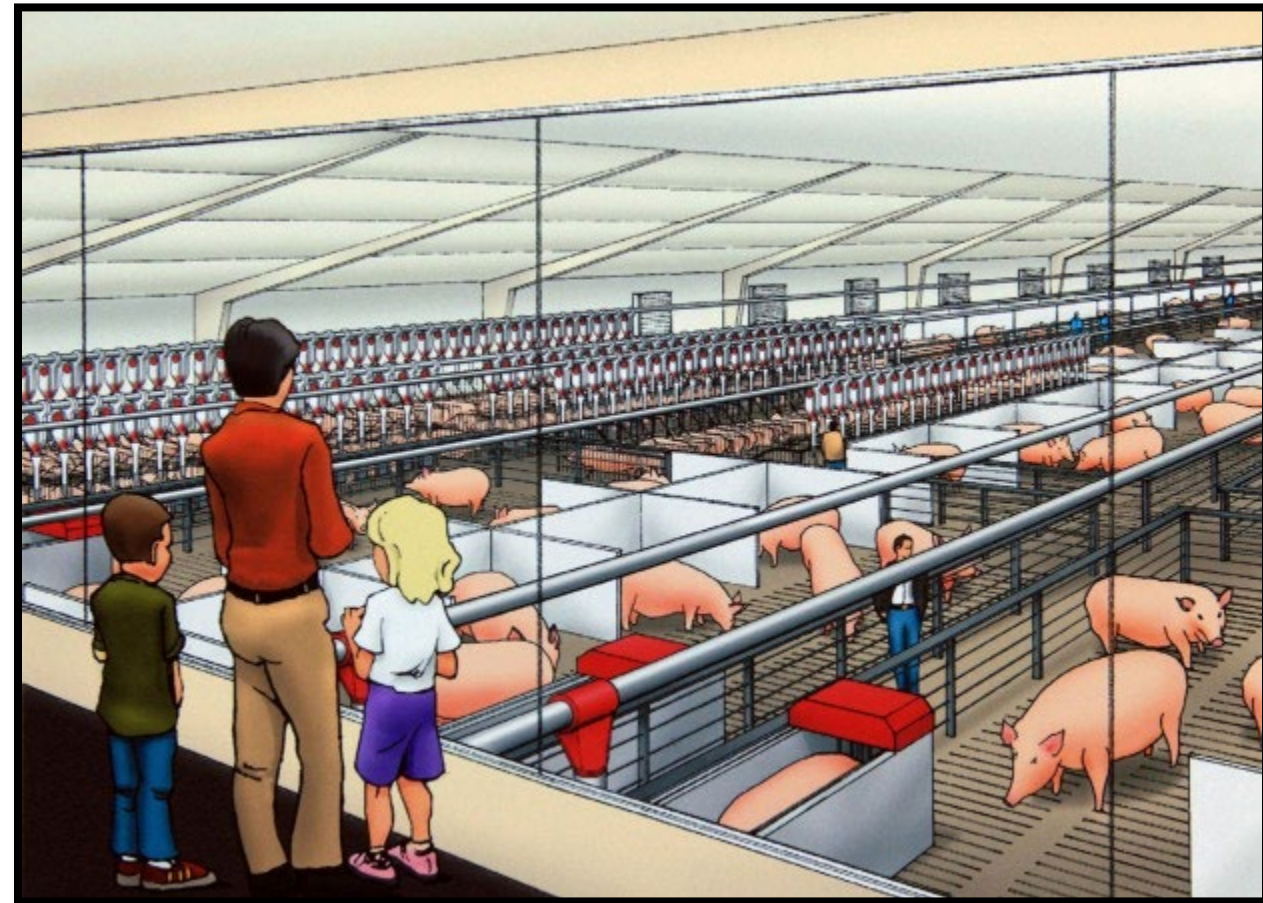
Working with PRRS Challenged Pigs is Miserable

- PRRS Outbreaks on BTW Farms are Miserable for Farm Staff & Associated Stakeholders
- Industry Break Rates of BTW Farms are ~25%
- What Other Industry Accepts it's Workers Having Miserable Years 25% of the Time?



What is Our Legacy?

- US Farmers Have Historically Prided Themselves on “Building it for the Next Generation”
- We Will Get Better or Worse in the Coming Years, Trend is Concerning
- Are We Creating an Industry our Children Want to Invest In?



Eradicating PRRS Will be
Hard & Take Years – We
Need to Get to Work Now!



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Welcoming Our Keynote

Matt Eversmann



- Retired Army Ranger, Decorated Career
- Rose to Fame with Black Hawk Down
- Leadership Experience & Perspective
 - Commitment to Challenging Assumptions
 - Embracing Change
- Continuous Learning & Growth
 - Decorated Author
 - Dedicated Learner



Matt Eversmann



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