

In Barn Strategies to Battle PRRSv

Dr. Chris Sievers
Swine Vet Center



Take homes

- Have a scorecard
- Know your flow/have the pig ready
 - ID challenge early
- Have what is needed to respond



Disease- wide range of impact, even in finishing

Finish	April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026		
	Bottom 10%	50%	Top 10%
Avg Start Wt	38.7	52.5	69.5
Mortality %	9.67%	4.60%	2.22%
Avg Wt Out	268.06	287.35	305.74
Lb Feed Per Hd	572.0	657.5	742.6
ADG	1.81	2.05	2.27
FCR	3.13	2.85	2.62
ADFI	5.14	5.83	6.61
Avg DOF	128.3	112.9	96.9
Days to first market sale	115	96	83



Groundwork

- Understanding the flow
 - ❑ Know the “small bugs”
 - ❑ Are challenges observed at certain weeks on feed?
- Set the pig up for success
 - ❑ Vaccinations complete
 - PRRSv vaccine?
 - ❑ Pig age/variation, weight, and quality
 - ❑ Autogenous vaccine for small bugs
 - ❑ Quality nutrition program (right feed)
 - ❑ Proper environment



Growing Pig Placement Protocol

Sow Farm: Windy

Updated 9/30/2025

HEALTH ASSESSMENT		
Sow Farm Status		Vaccine and Antibiotics in Sow farm
PRRS	Positive	Day 3: Excede, Iron Wean: F18 and K88 E coli vaccine on underline, Draxxin, Full dose CML, full dose prevacant
Flu	Positive-stable	
Mycoplasma	Negative	
PEDv/ Delta	Negative	
Flow Challenges		

Strep 1-2 weeks post placement, Parasuis/A suis 28-30 days post placement

Vaccine Program	
Injectable	N/A
Oral	For summer marketing pigs (January 1st-May 31st placement) vaccinate 1/4 dose Arko illeitis >30 days in the nusery with the Ery vaccine. Ery Vaccine >30 days in the nursery or 1st non med window in the finisher. No feed or water medication 3 days before or 3 days after vaccination. Assure medicator hose is clean and a clean container used for vaccine. Add 1 blue stabilizer pack per gallon stock before mixing vaccine. Goal of vaccine disapearance within 4-8 hrs of mixing. Thaw vaccine with room temp or cold water, once thawed vaccine must be used in <8 hrs.
Post-Weaning Feeding Directions	

- Sort 10% of small/unthrifty pigs on arrival into pull pens
- Gruel Feed 4X per day for first 5 days starting with majority water on 1st day then progressing to dry feed by then end of 5 days. Assure gruel consumed in <1 hr
- Mat feed all pigs 4x daily for first 7 days
- Leave an additional 10% space for pulling throughout the turn

Feed Medication Program
N1: Mecadox
N2: CTC/ Denagard
F1: CTC/ Denagard

Water Medication Program (with approval)
•PWT and Vitamins • day 7-10 gengard +/- Amoxicillin •CTC/Den

Injectable Medication

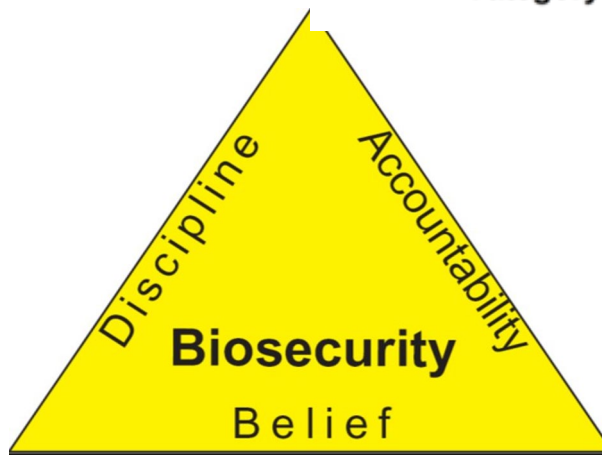
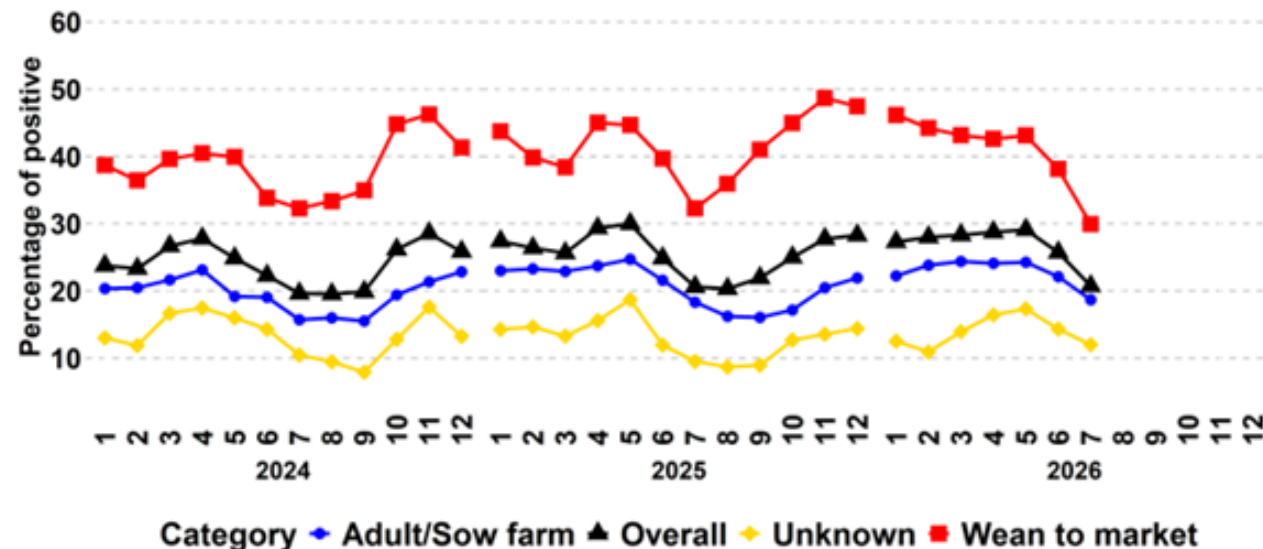
Follow injectable medication indication sheet

POST-WEANING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strep 7-14 days post placement. Inject with enroflox and dex. Amoxicillin for 5 days if needed.
- In mid to late finishing, watch for continued Respiratory disease, sudden deads and A suis. Treat with CTC/Den

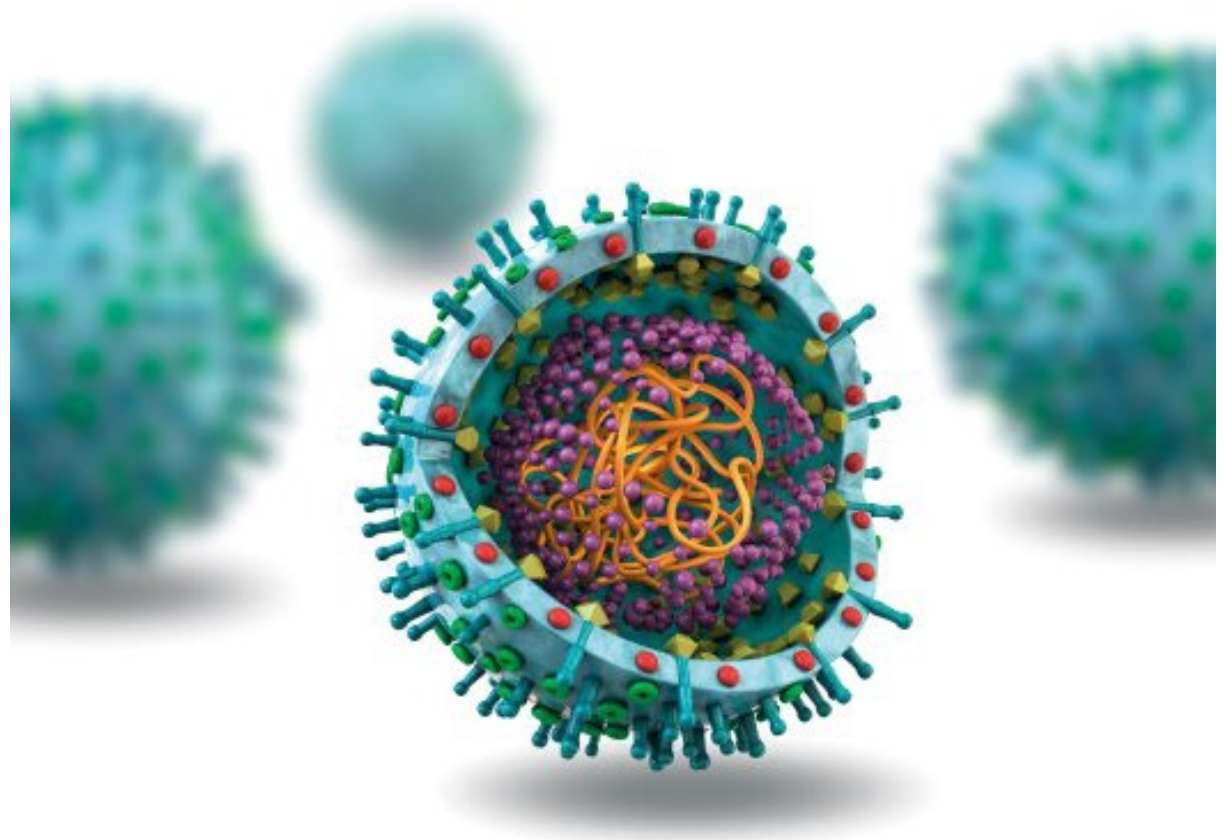
Keep it out- Biosecurity

- Do you believe you can keep disease out of your barn/site?
- Simple and executable
 - ☐ Clean dirty lines
 - ☐ Proper site entry
 - ☐ Equipment and supply's dedicated
 - ☐ Dead removal
 - ☐ Clean trailers
 - ☐ Connections to other sites



PRRSv- the great immune disrupter

- Takes out the control center of the immune system- macrophage
- More than just causing disease
 - Unregulated fever/inflammatory process
 - Does not mount proper immune response for secondary diseases
 - Additional diseases complicate further
Influenza, Mycoplasma, etc..



ID and Indicators of Challenges

Listen to the pig!

Leading (EARLY)

- Decreased feed intake
- Decreased water intake
- Clinical signs
- Increased spot treatments

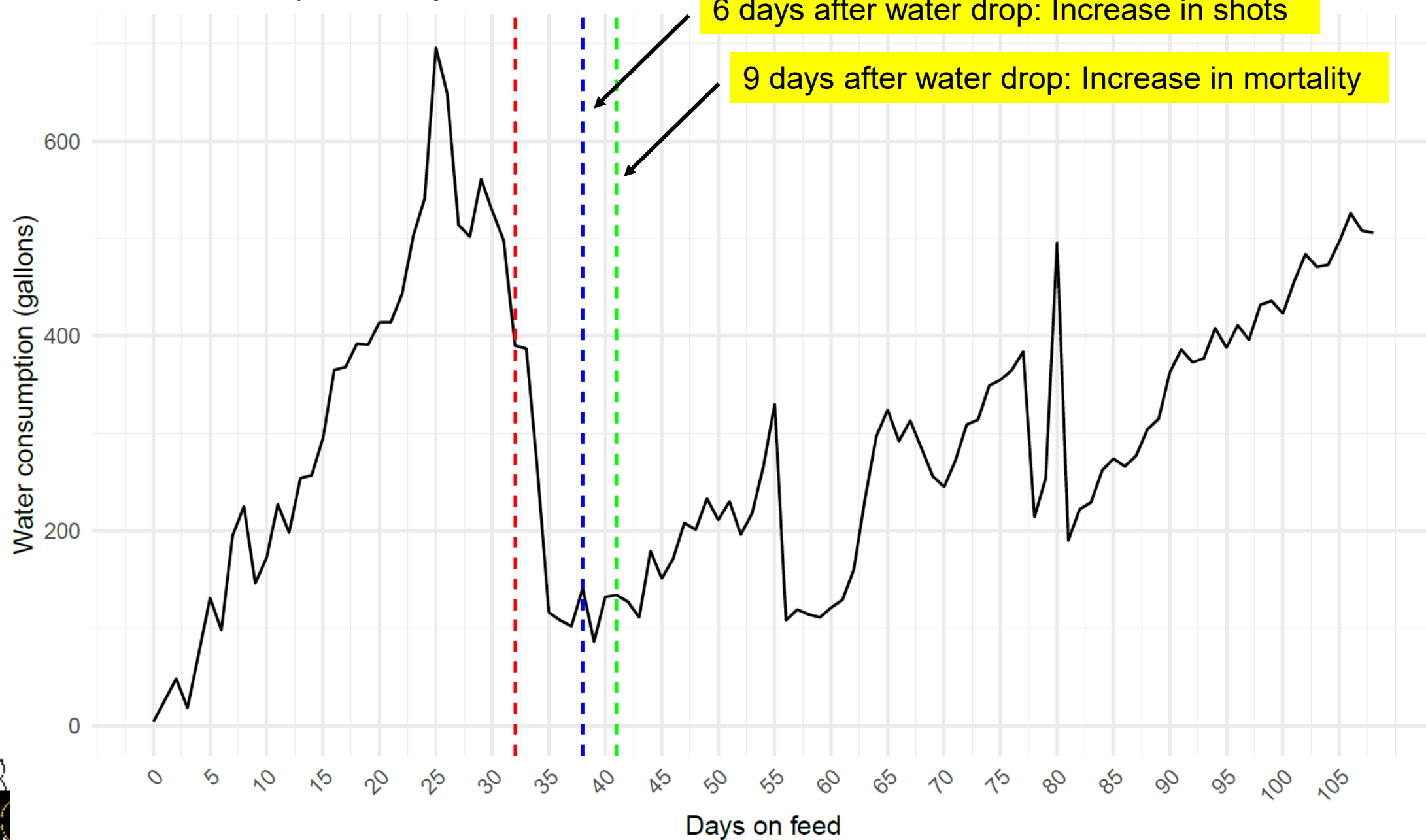
Lagging (LATE)

- Increased pig mortality
- Increased fallout/pulls

Which indicators are you recording today?
Which are being reported?



Water consumption x days on feed



% of water drop observed in lateral breaks

	% drop in water intake		
	Min	Median	Max
PRRS only	13%	22%	95%
Flu only	12%	14%	38%
Overall		20%	



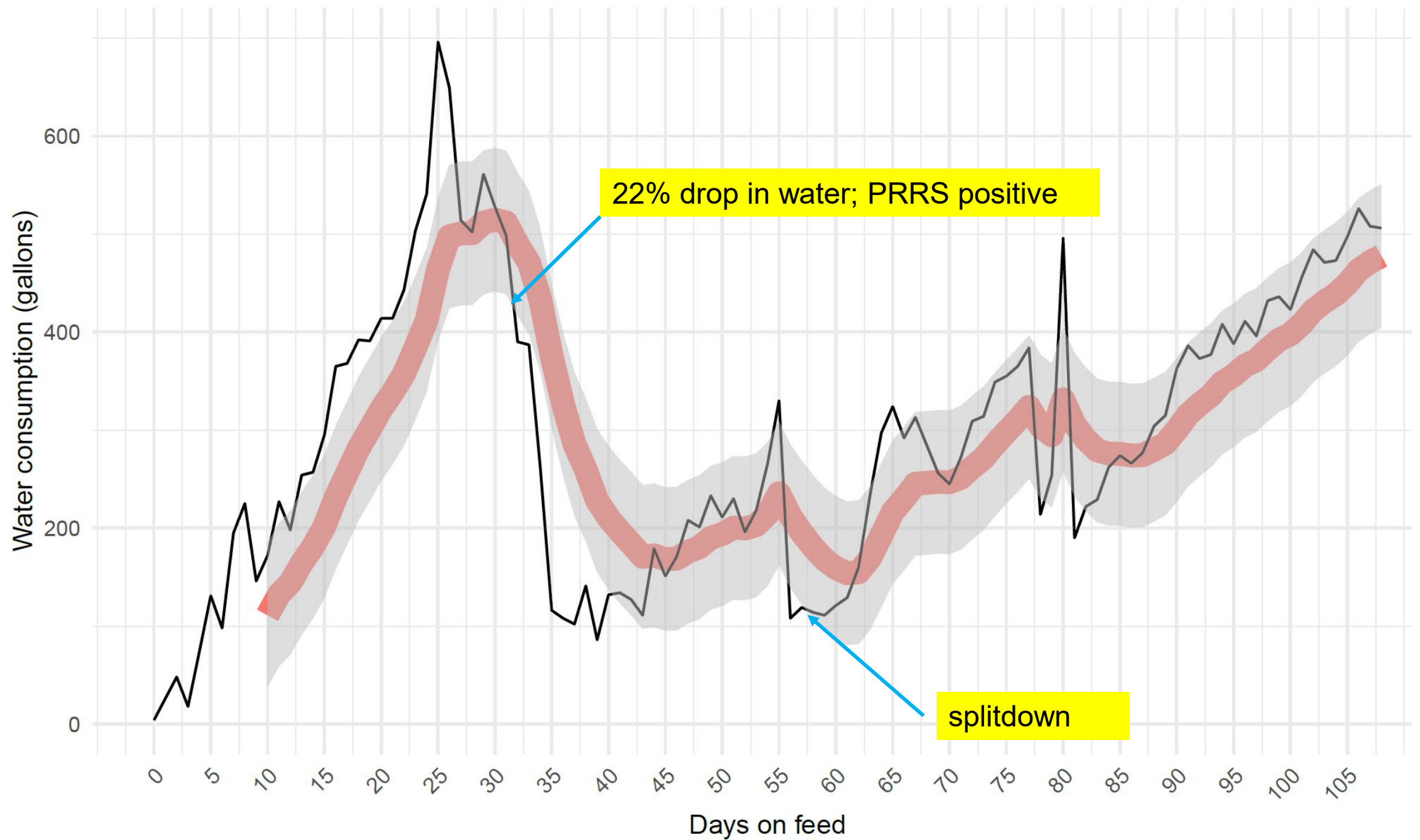
23 turns; ~55K pigs

PRRSv

- Becoming more severe and prevalent in finishing
- Last winter- lateral 1-2-4 L1C.2 lateral breaks
 - ❑ Most severe have ever observed
 - ❑ Water intake 10% of normal for 2 weeks
 - ❑ Death loss 20-50% on previously healthy groups
 - ❑ Mass injections and anti-inflammatory treatment felt too little/too late
- Becoming the yes/no question driving finishing performance
- Best to keep it out!

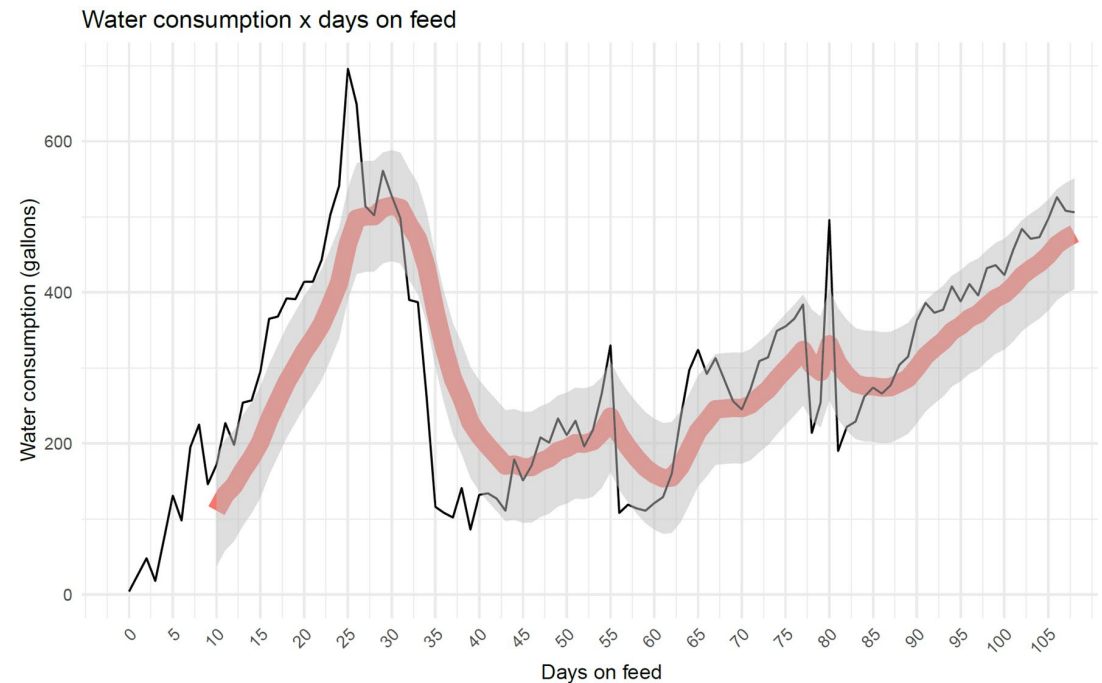


Water consumption x days on feed



Timely response impact

- If off the cliff, too late
- Timely response impact:
 - ☐ With L1C viruses 5 to 60% mortality
 - ☐ Previously 2-5% impact
- Options
 - ☐ Mass injection of antibiotic
 - What is water intake and who is drinking?
 - ☐ +/- anti inflammatory
 - ☐ Oral medication or anti inflammatory



Timely response to impact

- Keep pigs comfortable- warm the barn
 - Read the pig not the controller
- How do we keep pigs eating, even small amount?
 - Seam feeding?
 - Add matts?
 - Increased fiber?
 - Oats, specialty feed?
- Follow up treatment needed?
- Other diseases causing a tail?
 - PCV2
 - M hyo



Do you have what's needed to respond?

- People- mass inject, increased stir up, increased treat and pulls
- Product, syringes, paint, panels
- Schedule flexibility to reduce stress
- Determine response timing on severity
 - 20% water drop vs 60% water drop



Take homes

- Have a scorecard
- Know your flow/have the pig ready
 - ID challenge early
- Have what is needed to respond





Questions?

Dr. Chris Sievers
Swine Vet Center

csievers@swinevetcenter.com

712-299-5564

