

Wisconsin PRRS/SECD Rule Youth Project and Show Pig Frequently Asked Questions

A 2011 Pork Checkoff study indicated that Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) continues to have a major economic impact on the U.S. pork industry – costing the pork industry \$664 million per year. Similar to PRRS, the Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease (SECD) – which includes PEDv and Delta Coronavirus - has a substantial economic burden given that it is highly infectious, resulting in significant morbidity and mortality in piglets.

In an effort to help pork producers further prevent exposure to PRRS and SECD, the Wisconsin Pork Association’s task force recommended administrative rule changes to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Production (DATCP). Members of the task force include pork producers representing a variety of Wisconsin farms, veterinarians and other industry representatives.

The rule changes ask that further controls be put in place on pig movements into and within the state. The proposed changes aim at controlling and reducing the prevalence of PRRS and SECD, and to prevent spread of these diseases from positive sites.

This fact sheet has been created to help answer questions that are specific to youth project and show pig producers in Wisconsin. A handout with general details on the rule is also available.

How do I test? A relatively easy way to test is to hang a cotton rope in a pen of pigs for them to chew on. If the pigs are actively chewing on the rope, it will only take 20-30 minutes to have the rope collect enough saliva for a sample. You do not submit the rope as a sample, but will squeeze the saliva into a sample tube:

1. Hang the rope in the pen above the ground at the pig's shoulder height and make sure that the cord is securely tied. Allow pigs to chew on the rope for 15-30 minutes. Oral fluid will be absorbed as pigs chew on ropes.
2. Wearing a pair of disposable gloves, remove the rope from the pen and place in a large clean single pouch bag (a Ziplock works fine.) Seal the bag. After sealing the bag, squeeze (or milk) the rope through the bag to extract fluids from the wet rope.
3. Next, cut off the corner of the bag and pour the fluid contents into a sample tube. Place the sample tube in a small plastic (Ziplock) bag and close. Freeze or refrigerate the sample until you are able to deliver to a veterinary clinic.

Take the sample to a local veterinary clinic to have them submit for testing. Blood samples and oral swabs are also acceptable test methods.

What are the costs involved? If you move pigs on a regular basis, at most, such testing would be done on a quarterly basis (testing must be done within 90 days before movement). The frequency of movement and number of pigs on your farm will be the greatest factors in determining cost.

A rope test kit is probably the most economical way of collecting test samples. Using a rope test kit, each time a herd is tested, or quarterly minimum costs, to test for PRRS and SECD would be \$72.25 for a small herd and \$182.75 for a larger herd, determined as follows:

	Less than 150 swine (1 pooled sample)	150 or more swine (3 pooled samples)
Rope test for PRRSv and/or SECD	\$5.25	\$15.75
Submission fee	10.00	10.00
PCR test for PRRSv	25.00	75.00
PCR test for SECD	25.00	75.00
Shipping & handling (minimum)	7.00	7.00
Total	\$72.25	\$182.75

The proposed rule allows you to collect samples under the direction of a veterinarian. Additional costs may be incurred if you choose to have a veterinarian collect the samples.

What does a herd plan look like? A herd plan will be required if pigs test positive for PRRS or SECD, or if the pigs were imported without a negative test within 90 days prior to movement. The goal of the herd plan is to bring the herd to negative PRRS and SECD status and limit the spread of the disease. Farmers will work with a veterinarian to write the herd plan. Once the herd plan is approved by DATCP, the pigs or herd will be released from quarantine. DATCP will provide sample herd plans to assist veterinarians and farmers in herd plan development.

Herd plans will look different for varying farm circumstances. If you are bringing in an animal from out-of-state that hasn't been tested, your herd plan may say that you plan to isolate that pig from others on the farm, you will test for PRRS and SECD in 3 weeks, and you will follow good biosecurity practices until a negative test is received on that pig.

A herd plan for positive sites will be much different. Producers and their veterinarians will want to discuss a number of items in the herd plan, including, but not limited to the following: animal/semen introductions, medication/treatment protocols, and identifying transmission risks (pig/semen sources, feed/feed delivery, biosecurity protocols, and pig flow on the premise.) Sample herd plans will be provided as guidance.

What does isolation mean? Isolation means keeping a new pig or a pig returning from a fair or show separate from animals already on the farm for a set amount of time. Isolation provides a period of time for you to watch your pig for signs of disease before going back into your herd. Some tips for isolation include:

- House new or returning pigs in a separate facility.
- Work with pigs in isolation last in the day.
- Wear separate boots/footwear for isolation chores OR wash boots after finishing chores and allow them to dry before use the next day.

How will this rule impact my ability to buy breeding stock to improve my herds' genetics? If you have found an out-of-state breeder with genetics that complement your herd, it is always best to know the health status of those animals before introducing them into your herd. Informing them about Wisconsin's rule will make them aware of the new requirements, and ideally they would run a PRRS/SECD herd test within 90 days prior to shipping those pigs to your farm.

If the farm you have purchased the pigs from does have a negative PRRS/SECD test within 90 days prior to movement, a report of the test results should accompany the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI.) In addition, the veterinarian who issues the CVI should include a statement that there are no clinical signs of PRRS and SECD at the time of inspection. Even though those pigs have been tested for PRRS and SECD, it is also a good management practice to isolate them prior to introduction to the rest of the herd.

If the original owner does not test pigs prior to you bringing them into Wisconsin, an import permit from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture will be required. Once the pigs arrive at your farm, it is best to isolate them. The pigs, or herd, will be quarantined by WDATCP until you develop a herd plan with your veterinarian.

** NOTE – the above information on purchasing breeding stock would also apply to the purchase of out of state feeder pigs for 4-H or FFA projects.

How does this affect jackpot shows in the state? Pigs coming to jackpot shows will need to have a negative herd test within 90 days prior to movement. For example, if you sample your herd on April 30, you can move those pigs through July 30 on the same negative test. You will still need to have a new Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) paper issued every 30 days. The CVI should include a statement that the pigs are free of disease and are not showing clinical signs of PRRS or SECD.

What happens if I take pigs from Wisconsin to attend an out of state show? If you exhibit pigs in another state and return to Wisconsin after the show, you must notify the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) of the movement before returning to Wisconsin. DATCP may issue you an import permit, and upon re-entry into Wisconsin the pigs, herd of origin, or both will be quarantined until a herd plan is developed and approved.

This provision is not applicable if all the swine at the exhibition or show are from negative herds or the pigs return to Wisconsin to go directly to slaughter.

What happens if I purchase an animal at an out of state sale or show? If you purchase pigs at an out of state sale or show, you must have all of the following:

- A report of a negative PRRS and SECD test from the swine's herd of origin within 90 days prior to movement to Wisconsin.
- A statement from the event's veterinarian that all the swine commingled at the event had a negative PRRS and SECD test within 90 days of the event.
- A statement from the event's veterinarian that there are no clinical signs of PRRS and SECD at the time of inspection at the event.

If you don't have the above information, you will need to contact DATCP to receive an import permit. If you know you are headed out of state with the potential of purchasing pigs, it is recommended that you contact DATCP prior to your departure as their office is not open on the weekend. They can issue a blanket import permit before you leave Wisconsin.

The purchased pigs, destination herd, or both, will be quarantined upon arrival in Wisconsin until a herd plan is developed and approved.

I buy feeder pigs in the spring and only take them to my terminal county fair, do I need to test? As long as the herd of origin of the feeder pigs tested negative for PRRS and SECD within 90 days of moving to your premises, no further testing is needed. Movements to one exhibition prior to being shipped to slaughter are exempt from the testing requirements.

How will this impact the junior barrow show at the Wisconsin State Fair? Since the junior barrow show is terminal, youth will not need to test prior to going to the Wisconsin State Fair.

I buy semen – is this regulated under this rule? DATCP doesn't regulate semen on any species at this time, and this is not a part of this rule. However, PRRS can be transferred in semen of a positive boar to a sow/gilt that is inseminated. Check with the supplier of your semen to see if they test for PRRS or if their herd is showing any signs/symptoms of the disease.

When will these rule changes become effective? The anticipated effective date of the rule establishing the new testing requirements will be sometime during the spring of 2018. However, this may change depending on the rule process.

Who can I contact for more details? For specific situations or further questions on the rule, contact: Dr. Paul McGraw, DATCP, (608) 224-4884, Paul.McGraw@Wisconsin.gov; or Tammy Vaassen, Wisconsin Pork Association, (608) 723-7551, tvaassen@wppa.org.