

**JORNADA  
TECNICA  
2023**

**Nuevos retos para el  
Sector Porcino  
en Aragón**

**avpa**  
ASOCIACIÓN DE VETERINARIOS  
DE PORCINO DE ARAGÓN

**18** JUEVES 2023  
MAYO  
PALACIO DE  
CONGRESOS  
HUESCA

**PRRS  
EXPERIENCIAS DE CONTROL EN OTROS  
PAÍSES**  
**Karlijn Eenink**



**NATIONAAL PRRS-PLAN**

**AVPA conference 2023**

Karlijn Eenink





## Introduction

### Karlijn Eenink

- At Royal GD since 2021
- Previous experience as a swine veterinarian
- At Royal GD:
  - Pig health surveillance
  - Projects and applied research



## Program

- Introduction to Dutch Pig Industry
- Coalition Stakeholders in Dutch Pig Industry
- Dutch PRRS-(reduction)project





## Dutch pig industry

Number of farms, number of animals and animals per farm  
Pigs



Source: CBS - Landbouwtelling, bewerking Wageningen Economic Research



## PRRSv in the Netherlands (historical perspective)

- No obligation
  - Monitoring
  - Eradication program
  
- High vaccination rate
- No central database for PRRSv





## PRRS prevalence December 2021

### PRRS antibodies at slaughter

- 377 farms
- 5 blood samples per farm
- 1 batch of slaughter pigs (1 day)
- December 2021

90% prevalence at farm level



## Coalition Stakeholders

- Cooperation of various partners in the pig production chain:
  - Pig farmers
  - Government
  - Meat industry
  - Feed industry
  - Genetics





## Why PRRS reduction

- Production of healthy pigs
- Antibiotic usage
- Reduction costs associated with PRRS



## Method

- Frontrunner farms as a positive reinforcement for the entire Dutch pig industry to join
- Previous experience reduction antibiotic usage





## Goals

Long term goal set by the coalition

- 2050: Dutch industry free from PRRSv

Dutch PRRS-(reduction)project

- 2021-2025
- Project to start the eradication process



## Dutch PRRS-project: Timeline

**2020**  
Project planning

**2022/2023**  
Start frontrunner groups

**2023/2024**  
Industry-wide rollout

**2025**  
Whole Dutch pig industry is engaged.

**2050**  
Netherlands PRRS-free

All Dutch pig farmers know the PRRS situation of their farms

**2023**  
Communication to the Dutch pig industry → creating engagement

**2025**  
75% of the gilts and 50% of the piglets free from PRRSv at transport





## Activities

- Development uniform monitoring system
- Gain experience on frontrunner farms
  - Monitoring
  - Eradication strategies
- Research motivating and hindering factors in PRRS eradication
  - Use for communication strategy



## Monitoring system

- Uniform, applicable for all farming systems
- Every 4 months
- 'No PRRSv on the road'
- One-time sampling → longitudinal





## Sampling

Animal categories present	Farm category	Sample size	Diagnostic tests
Sows and piglets	A or B farms	30 piglets of 4 weeks of age or 20 piglets of 10 weeks of age	Pool-PCR and in case of negative PCR results → individual ELISA on 10 samples
Weaned piglets	E or F farms	20 piglets of 10 weeks of age	Pool-PCR and in case of negative PCR results → individual ELISA on 10 samples
Fatteners and/or rearing gilts	C or D farms	5 fatteners (slaughter age)	Individual ELISA



## Frontrunner groups

- 2 year period
- Boosters/ambassadors
- Active commitment to reduce PRRS at their farms
- Great variation of farms  
→ PRRS approach needs customization per farm





## Frontrunner farms

- Action plan
  - Prevent new PRRS introductions
  - Control/eliminate current infections
- Gain experience using the monitoring system
- Sharing experiences
- Identify knowledge gaps



## Data collection (+analysis)

- Data:
  - Results diagnostics
  - Action plan
  - Farm management and interventions
  - Antibiotic usage and technical performance
- Focus groups
- Optimizing PRRS approach in the Dutch pig industry.





## Results

- Samplings for monitoring
- PRRS detection on most farms
- Variation
- Action plans focus mainly on internal biosecurity



## Creating support

- Knowledge and management tools
  - Sense of possibility
- Industry-wide approach
- Mindset
  - What obstacles are there?





## Research sociological factors

- Hindering factors to start PRRS eradication
  - Interviews frontrunner farmers and advisors
  - Ride along with veterinarians
  - Survey

Results → communication strategy



## Challenges

- Financial incentive?
- No obligation (governmental or otherwise)
- Turbulent times for the (Dutch) pig industry





**Thank you for your attention**

