

PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR)



PSEUDORABIES VIRUS

Pseudorabies (PRV) is a disease caused by a herpesvirus that can weaken and cause death in juvenile pigs; adult swine are carriers for life and periodically shed the virus. Pseudorabies can cause fatality in dogs and other livestock such as cattle, sheep, and goats. Feral swine are known reservoirs for PRV, which is problematic because in 2004 the commercial swine industry in the United States was declared free of the disease. If PRV was reintroduced to commercial swine populations, the economic consequences would be devastating.

The NWDP conducts feral swine surveillance in 36 states and collects samples for various diseases including PRV, as part of APHIS's Comprehensive Swine Health Program. The NWDP feral swine component of this program has been ongoing since 2006, and is responsible for sampling approximately 10,000 feral swine for numerous pathogens.



In an effort to improve the efficiency of surveillance, the NWDP is collaborating with Veterinary Services - Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health-National Surveillance Unit to analyze existing feral swine data and develop a more cost-efficient surveillance program. One benefit of this analysis will be to more accurately identify areas where commercial swine are most at risk for potential re-introduction of PRV from feral swine. This will decrease diagnostic costs by preferentially targeting

those high-risk areas for surveillance.

As feral swine populations continue to expand, this collaborative effort also will increase APHIS' ability to identify new areas of feral and commercial swine overlap. Such knowledge will allow for adaptive surveillance of emerging high-risk areas.

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The original artwork on this page was created by the National Wildlife Disease Program's Erika Kampe and Sarah Goff

