

RWHA Election Candidate Newsletter

Your candidates. RWHA news and updates. The Livestock Conservancy micro-grants and emergency funds. Feeding young piglets. PRRS.

It's our election time and in this newsletter you'll meet our members running for office. You also have a ballot card to mark, sign and mail in to The Livestock Conservancy. They are a non-bias organization that helps us with our ballots and keeps our elections safe. Please review all our candidates for the positions that are open. Study them, contact them to make sure you're comfortable with them helping to lead the RWHA into the future and to protect and preserve our heritage breed. Your vote is more important than you realize. The ballots are pre-addressed and pre-stamped to make it as easy as possible for you. The candidates are not listed in any particular order. Please mark your ballots for one Secretary/Treasurer and 2 Board Members at Large. All ballots must be received by The Livestock Conservancy no later than October 15th. You have plenty of time but please don't wait until the last minute. Late arrivals will not be counted. Our new board members will take their places on November, 1, 2020.

Secretary/Treasurer candidates

Hi, my name is Alva Wiley,

I was born in a small farming town in Colorado and come from a lifelong farming background. My grandparents raised hogs and chickens for eggs which they sold for additional income. I've always been around farming and animals and was involved in FFA in high school and other agricultural programs. I moved to Kansas in 1998 and came to Golden Valley Farms in 2009 and I'm still here! I love what I do so it never really feels like a job, just a way of life. I really enjoy working with the pigs. I play an important role in our day-to-day operations not only with our Red Wattles but the farm as a whole with crops, fencing, rotations, marketing, record keeping and anything else needing to be done. My Red Wattle named Lydia still comes to my feet and lays down for belly rubs. They're all my friends and I know how special they are.

I understand how important it is to breed and keep good genetics for the future of these hogs. I also understand the importance of preserving the breed. Nature made them strong and the best and they should always be kept that way. They taste like no other pork too and I know that's another way to keep them on people's minds and plates!

I help to keep the farm records so I know that those records play an important role in our success, from keeping breeding records for excellent genetics on all our livestock, to feed records, to maintenance, to income and expenses and the stuff that happens in between. They all have to work together to be successful.

I have two beautiful daughters, Harley Kathleen and Victoria Marie and a new granddaughter, Charlotte. I'm very excited for this new chapter in my life. I'm hoping my granddaughter will take an interest in farming and animals as well so I can pass down my knowledge to her.

I love Red Wattles and working the farm. They all go together. I hope to share my experiences with you and the Red Wattle Hog Association and to help them to grow even more. I ask for your vote as the RWHA secretary/treasurer.

Alva Wiley
Hays, KS
785-259-9432
Jojo2012.aw@gmail.com

.....

My name is Theresa Schieffelbein from Hindsight Heritage Farm. I am a former board member- At Large-of this association, and would like to ask for your consideration as I run for the position of secretary/treasurer. I bought my first Red Wattle hogs in 2008 and although I had hogs of other breeds in the past, it quickly became apparent that these were of a special breed. As a person new to the breed at that time, I lived through a pretty steep learning curve and therefore learned the value of a strong, informative association. The tutorials that the association is second to none and they were a great help to me but our board in the past few cycles has been lacking participation. In my term on the board, I researched and wrote the regional program that we currently have to encourage members in each region to communicate and help each other with problems that are unique to each region. I researched and wrote the artificial insemination criteria that the association uses to keep the genetics strong in AI hogs. This work was given high marks by Dr Sponnenberg of the Livestock Conservancy. I have interviewed old time breeders so that the information that they carried would not be lost when they were gone and have worked with geneticists, meat scientists, veterinarians and processors to better understand the process of turning happy, healthy hogs into great tasting pork. I would love to be involved in the current program Westward Bound! By moving the breed from the more densely populated areas to the least populated west, the Red Wattle breed will be strengthened by the infusion of shared genetics as well as grow our association by adding new and enthusiastic members. This is a trying time for farmers and breeders in general but I believe that the possibilities for growth are there if we work toward them. I believe that the best way to keep this breed going strong and protect the integrity of the breed, the association and the members, is more input from both the board and the members of this association. I would do everything that I can to make myself available to both other board members and members of this association both before (if you have questions or comments) and after the election. Thank you for your consideration!

Theresa Schieffelbein
Wykoff, MN
507-421-7806
hindsightheritagefarm@hotmail.com

Board Member at Large candidates

Your RWHA Board of Directors has 2 Board Member at Large positions. We have 2 candidates for those positions so a vote is not necessary. Andrea Van der Wel and Grace Frank will take their official positions as At Large on Nov. 1, 2020. Their summaries are left here to allow you to become familiar with who they are. Please give them your support and encouragement as they assume their duties.

Hello Everyone,

I'm **Andrea Van der Wel**, and my husband, daughter and I have a small farm in Casey Co. KY. where we raise Red Wattles, sheep, and chickens, along with a cow that likes to visit our neighbor. He doesn't mind. She keeps the grass down.

We discovered Red Wattles in Feb. 2018 and know we made the right choice in this breed. We currently have 2 registered sows, 2 registered boars, and a couple of their non-registered daughters, along with some great litters in between.

We love this breed for what it naturally is: gentle, friendly, playful, hardy, great foragers, and hard workers, and not to forget great mothering abilities too. (plus, they are tasty). Greatness all in one package.

We're amazed at the quality of Red Wattle pork and have recently begun sharing (selling) it at our local farmers market. It's going great. It sells itself and we already have repeat customers.

We learn something new about this majestic breed every day and want to help them survive and thrive and be what they were meant to be: Beautiful and Delicious. I also want to help promote their popularity, to increase the population so that everyone who wants to can experience the joys of raising them, and the mouthwatering goodness of eating their pork. With so much commercialism in today's world with farm livestock there is also a need to protect them and their heritage by keeping them as nature made them. In my mind you can't get any better than they already are.

I have previous Board experience and I've been an Executive Director for a Chamber of Commerce. I also have membership, marketing, budgeting and customer service experience. Plus, the dirt under my nails and my scruffy old work boots proves I am a hands-on person and I love what I do. I feel the experience and knowledge I can bring to the RWHA will be a benefit for our association and our hogs. I would appreciate your vote for Board Member at Large and I look forward to helping you, the RWHA and our great breed climb the ladder of success.

Andrea Van der Wel
Hustonville, KY 40437
409-790-2698

andreavanderwel69@gmail.com

Grace Frank the Principle of Flying Pig Ranch at Land to Table Farm is very interested in supporting the growth of the Red Wattle Breed. One way I believe I can support that goal is to participate in the Red Wattle Board.

As a Fourth Generation Farmer growing up in the Dakotas gave me tremendous respect for the farming culture. My fondest memories were on my grandfather's farm. When I was missing he knew where to go. The pig pens. I have always loved these creatures.

Five years ago when we decided to develop our own sustainable farm I was introduced to this wonderful breed, the Red Wattles. I absolutely love them and believe they are "The Bison of Pork"

My background includes;

1. Being raised in a multi generation of breeding cattle and pig Ranchers. My family is one of the top Angus Breeders in the US.
2. Acquiring a BS in Animal Science Research from Colorado State University.
3. Acquiring an MBA in Marketing from Mississippi State.
4. Having over 25 years of Corporate Marketing Positions
5. Board Member of local farmers market in Chattanooga TN
6. Board Member of local Sustainability Not For Profit.
7. Principle of Land to Table Farm that is a 40 acre sustainable farm with a Red Wattle Breeding Program.

I have such a passion for educating the public and the restaurant industry to the need to support the choice of Red Wattle Pork as the Premier Choice for healthy pork.

I have passion to support the genetic excellence of the Red Wattle Breed.

I believe the branding Red Wattle- "The Bison of Pork" works. We use it at our Farmers Market and every one has really gotten it. After 1 year of being at the local farmers market we now have over 200 regular patrons.

I am willing to do what I can to support the growth of this wonderful breed.
Thank you for consideration

Grace Frank
Trenton, GA.
423-208-3834
grace@gracefrankgroup.com



RWHA news and updates

This edition of our newsletter is packed full of news and helpful information too. We hope you read it thru and also remember it will be placed on our website under the newsletter tab.

The Livestock Conservancy will draw three ballots from those returned and those people will receive free RWHA membership from April 1, 2021 thru March 31, 2022. Be sure to return your ballots!

It's very important that you participate in your association. Without you there is no RWHA so we need your help and input. Without you the RWHA doesn't know where or what help is needed for our members or our hogs. We are determined to be the best association with the best breed and to keep on climbing, but we can't do it alone.

Please don't forget about our **Westward Bound** project that was in our last newsletter. Our target goal to transport pigs is next Spring. If you're out west and interested in obtaining a pig or more, or if you're interested in sending pigs west, please contact a board member so they can help match people together and then map out routes to take for pick-ups and deliveries. The RWHA will be in charge of all statistics and transportation but we can't do that unless we know who you are. This project is very important to increasing the population of Red Wattles and will also bring more genetic diversity to the few that are already there. We hope if possible you will participate. We'll do all we can to help. For more information please contact a board member or review our last newsletter on our website.

For several months we've noticed an increase in problems and health issues associated with biosecurity and infection control. A biosecurity routine and protocol is very important to the health and success of your herd and your farm. It's not something a lot of people think about with hogs out in pasture, with muddy wallows and hogs covered in mud, messy eating areas, foraging off the ground, and hogs that like to group together to nap or rest. But infection control is an important part of your job as stewards of any livestock. We can-not stress enough that you develop a routine of infection control to protect your herd, your future herd, your farm and your finances. Not all but a lot of problems can be avoided or minimized with proper infection control, saving you worry, time and finances if put into practice. We mention biosecurity in a lot of our newsletters and you can also find an informative article in our Tutorial on the website under **General Information**.

We hope you check out the RWHA full page ad in The Livestock Conservancy 2021 Directory of Rare Breeds and Products Resource Guide. "Heritage breed enthusiasts use this annual publication to find livestock, breed associations and clubs, rare breed products like fiber, meat, eggs, roving, soap and more!"

Don't forget the RWHA is offering reimbursement for DNA testing on 2 registered hogs thru U.C. Davis. It's free and it's easy to do. Just pull a few hairs and put in an envelope to them. For help please contact any board member or refer to the article in our Tutorial on our website.

The Livestock Conservancy is also requesting DNA for a USDA program. It's very important to save genetics in the event of a catastrophic disaster. A disease that wipes out some breeds like African Swine Fever can do now. It's spreading to other countries and no doubt it'll be here in the future. It's contagious, there is no cure, and death is the only solution. They're collecting the small notches from notching pigs ears. Something you toss away anyway so why not contribute? It's all totally free too and they could use our help. For more information please contact Charlene Couch at: 919-542-5704 x 101, or email her at: ccouch@livestockconservancy.org.

In all associations the population is determined by totals of registered animals. It's very important that the RWHA has an accurate accounting of hogs. When you have a registered hog that is no longer producing for whatever reason, please contact a board member to report it. We need name and registration number. You can give a reason why, but it's not necessary. It could be death, injury, retired, sold without papers, or whatever. The hog will be removed from our current production registry so we can keep our population records accurate, but the hog and its information will never be removed from the actual registry. That information is needed for future generations.

If you have any suggestions, questions, comments or concerns please contact a board member. They are here to help. Please do not contact our registry office directly. Doug Myers does not and will not answer questions or provide help. He directs you to your board. Doug also handles several registries and we can-not tie up his time unnecessarily. If he has questions about a registration application you've submitted, he will contact you and the board at the same time so that everyone is aware of the issue.

We hope you will join other Red Wattle enthusiasts on the RWHA face book. It's monitored by the RWHA Board of Directors and is kept strictly about Red Wattles. It's a discussion site. You won't see jokes, politics, or ads. We're all non-judgmental, no bashing or trashing. We all started with no experience and it's great to learn from others and to share. It's a comfortable, family friendly place to share, comment, learn and teach about all our experiences with Red Wattles. It's also a good way to get to know other Red Wattle breeders and for them to know you. Just go to google and type in Red Wattle Hog Association face book. Click and you're there! We keep it private to keep spammers off that create problems so you'll have to ask for membership but that's easy and just a click away. We hope to see you there!

Please remember it's your duty to provide your customers with copies of completed registration applications when you sell pigs or hogs as will be registered. When an already registered hog is sold a copy of the official registration should be provided to the buyer. As it takes a while for registrations or transfers to be completed it's recommended that the applications be mailed to our registry office as soon as the sale is completed. For customers; that completed copy of the registration application or transfer is a legal copy and your receipt. Do not leave with pigs/hogs you've purchased unless you have copies in your possession.

The official registrations are important. Please keep them in a safe place like a binder or a drawer designated to your Red Wattle documents.

We want to say Congratulations to our own Helena Kopczynski who is a winner in The Livestock Conservancy photo contest. Her picture of Red Wattles is beautiful.



Heritage Livestock Microgrant Program

Microgrant Categories:

National Microgrants: Residents and organizations of the U.S. working with livestock and poultry breeds listed on the [Conservation Priority List](#). Support will be provided through this competitive program for a variety of farm-related operations, including, but not limited to, livestock, poultry, processing, milk, meat and egg production and sales, agri-tourism, wool milling, promotions and marketing. Awards typically range from \$500 - \$2,000, at the discretion of The Livestock Conservancy.

Youth Microgrants: This U.S.-based program provides funding for youth projects for individuals 8-18 years of age and are actively working with breeds listed on the [Conservation Priority List](#). Support will be provided through this competitive program for a variety of farm-related operations, including, but not limited to, livestock, poultry, processing, milk, meat and egg production and sales, agri-tourism, wool milling, promotions and marketing. Awards typically range from \$500 - \$2,000, at the discretion of The Livestock Conservancy. veterinary care, and infrastructure. Awards will typically be in the range of \$500 - \$1,000 per application and at the discretion of The Livestock Conservancy.

For full consideration, applicants must:

Work with livestock, poultry, or products from animals on The Livestock Conservancy's Conservation Priority List of heritage breeds, which can be viewed [here](#).

Complete the online application, including a detailed plan for the use of the grant funds, a clear timeline for achieving proposed goals, a summary of how the project will impact both the breed and other producers, and a strategy for how you will evaluate success.

Include two letters of recommendation from a professional relationship or educator. If the applicant is under 18, a letter of support from a parent or guardian is also required. These can be attached within the online application as a PDF, MS Word, or JPEG file. Letters may not be requested of or provided by current staff or board members of The Livestock Conservancy. Microgrant recipients are required to submit a written report on the use and impact of the microgrant funds within one year of accepting the award.

Special consideration will be given to farmers who are active members of their breed association, as well as those farmers who will represent The Livestock Conservancy at local events by displaying heritage animals during the year following receipt of the microgrant.



How can the grant be spent?

Suitable uses of grant funds include the purchase, production, and marketing of heritage breed animals and their products, as well as agri-tourism and product marketing using heritage breeds. Examples of expenditures include, but are not limited to, the purchase of livestock or poultry, producer training programs, fencing, facilities, supplies, and specialized equipment. Funds must be used as stated in the applicant's proposal and may not be used for wages or compensation for individuals. The use of funds inconsistent with the proposal will result in forfeiture of the award and repayment of funds. Receipts for purchases will be required for reimbursement; microgrant recipients may also request purchases be made directly by the Livestock Conservancy. Farmers have one year to use their microgrant funds.

How much is awarded? Microgrants are awarded from \$500 to \$2,000.

When are the next applications due?

Applications are currently open for the next round of awards. The deadline for submission to the National Microgrant and Youth Microgrant is August 16, 2020. There is currently no deadline for Emergency Response Fund grants.

Where to submit applications:

Electronic applications may be submitted using the link at the top of this page. Applicants will need to register for an account within this microgrants system. Note this is NOT connected to a Livestock Conservancy membership account. This is a new account just for submitting microgrant applications.

Please contact info@livestockconservancy.org or (919) 542-5704 with questions.

A paper copy of the application for those without online access may be requested at:

The Livestock Conservancy

Attn: Microgrants

P.O. Box 477

Pittsboro, NC 27312

Paper applications should be submitted to the mailing address above.

Current employees and Directors of The Livestock Conservancy and their spouses are not eligible for the microgrants program, nor may they be used for letters of recommendation.

Qualified applicants will be considered without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

Start planning your project to save rare and endangered livestock breeds from extinction! And check back later this year for the next application.

If you would like to help fund microgrants or other initiatives, please contact The Livestock Conservancy at (919) 542-5704 or at info@LivestockConservancy.org.



Emergency Response Fund applications will be available as funding allows.

- **Emergency Response Fund:** Through the generous contributions of grantors and private individuals, we have secured funding for emergency response assistance, on a case by case basis, to rare breed stewards and organizations. Occasionally **The Livestock Conservancy** is alerted to situations where genetically important animals (individuals or groups) are in danger of being lost to the breed due to environmental catastrophe, global crisis, or owner death or disability. In some of these situations it is appropriate for **The Livestock Conservancy** to provide assistance to assure that they are not lost to the breed. These funds are for emergencies only and it will be up to the discretion of **The Livestock Conservancy** to determine if the project meets our conservation mission. Once an application is received, the genetic importance of the animal or group will be made through pedigree research or historical records, to be accomplished by **The Livestock Conservancy** staff or experts it designates. This will help determine whether rescue is necessary or whether the loss of the animals to the breed is not a threat to the genetic integrity of the breed. Project focus must be with breeds listed on the Conservation Priority List. Funds may be used for purchase of animals, transportation, short term housing, and in some cases short term feed, veterinary care, and infrastructure. Awards will typically be in the range of \$500 - \$1,000 per application and at the discretion of **The Livestock Conservancy**.



Feeding Piglets

Follow up to Mastitis article

If you stay in hogs a while there probably will come a time when you'll have sow or baby pig nursing problems. Most times it will be a sick or injured sow, but we all will get those runts too that need a little extra help. We also know the harsh reality that some won't survive no matter what we do.

The most important factor to know is that if you farrow in the winter or cold temperatures and mom is unable to care for the litter, the piglets need warmth. Newborns are not able to regulate their body temperature for several days. They will do best with a temperature around 90 degrees. Bring the piglets inside, or provide a good sheltered heat source with either lamps or pads. Safety first. Be sure those lamps are high enough and secure, away from anything flammable.

Mothers' colostrum is always best. Colostrum gives antibodies/immunity for the first days. Piglets are not born with antibodies or immunities. If possible always keep piglets with their mother even if she's producing very little or no milk. Mother will keep them safe, warm and together. If possible, family unit is always best.

There are many commercial milk products on the market but whatever you choose, be sure it also contains Colostrum and it's formulated for baby pigs. It can be purchased at most farm supply stores. It's a good idea to have a small supply on hand so you're not caught needing it in the middle of the night. Goats milk is also an excellent substitute. Goats milk has smaller proteins that break down easier in the digestive system and it contains all the nutrients a baby pig would need. You can find goats milk with colostrum in your local farm supply store. If you're lucky enough to have goats or a friend or neighbor with them, you can freeze it to use later. For the first few days till around a week old, you'll need to feed about every 3 to 4 hours. You can use either a regular baby bottle or a large syringe (minus needle). The milk should be warm and well mixed if necessary. Test on your wrist like you would a baby bottle. The piglet will balk and resist but you have to keep trying. They **MUST** eat. Usually after the 3rd or 4th feeding they adjust and beg for milk. Feed until they seem satisfied or are no longer interested.

At weeks 2 and 3 you can reduce the milk feedings down to 4 to 6 hours apart. Also beginning week 2, you should mix some of the milk with a nutritious pig starter with around 14% protein. Make sure it's formulated for baby pigs. Put in a pan easily accessible to the pigs. They need to adjust to this so they will balk, smell, step in and probably walk off. Keep at it. They will come to love it very quickly. Feed this milk/feed mixture for 2 weeks. Do not fill the milk-feed mixture pan full but make sure there is food and milk in it at all times. They will snack on it all day. Begin keeping a pan of fresh water nearby at all times.

At 4 weeks add more feed, less milk and continue reducing the milk and adding more feed thru weeks 5 and 6. . .

At weeks 5 and 6 you might also begin adding some regular grain to get them used to it. From week 4 and on till weaning you should begin reducing the bottle or syringe milk and increasing the feed amount.

At 6 weeks you should begin thinking of weaning if the piglets seem to be managing and growing.

Of course as usual all these time frames are an average. Your litter or piglet may be ahead of the game, or lagging slightly behind. Remember their digestive system and little bodies are still immature. Some may manage a fast track just fine and some may need a little more time. These times will also apply if you are taking care of a runt or one who is having a more difficult time keeping up and has slower growth.

Your goal is to produce healthy pigs/hogs, meaning as much as possible, like nature would do.

Keep the piglet feed, milk and water from the sow. She will eat and drink it all. Make a creep area nearby that piglets can get to but the sow can-not. It's all instinct. She knows she needs to eat to feed those babies, even if she's not able to at the time.

As you can see, a lot of time, effort and extra expense goes into taking care of a litter if your sow is unable to nurse. All the more reason to do your due diligence or home-work and make sure your sow is healthy prior to and during farrowing. Many problems can be avoided by cleaning and disinfecting farrowing areas. Spray the area with a mixture of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water and provide fresh bedding. Disinfect all eating areas and resting/sleeping areas. Develop a routine for infection control. Please refer to the [Mastitis article in our Tutorial for additional information](#)

PRRS Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome

(researched & written by: Theresa Shieffelbein)

(Pronounced purz)

PRRS is a viral disease that can interact with bacteria's to magnify the severity of the infection. This infection will interfere with the reproductive and respiratory systems of hogs. It can affect hogs at any stage but is more pronounced in sows, gilts and young piglets. The symptoms of PRRS mimics many other diseases and needs to be diagnosed with your vet by sending a blood sample to a lab. There are several known genetic strains of this disease which means protective immunity to one strain doesn't necessarily give that same immunity to another strain. PRRS is spread through nasal secretions, urine, semen, milk, feces, and will cross the placenta in late gestation. These virus' may last more than 200 days and survives best in cold, moist environments and almost indefinitely when frozen. The virus' ability to infect drops dramatically when exposed to a pH of below 6 or above 7.5. According to Dr. Jeff Zimmerman of the University of Iowa, this virus is generally a weak virus when exposed to the environment but devastating when animal to animal contact is made. He states that small herd infection is rare. In fact, every single one of the experts that I talked to said that it is highly unlikely that a small herd would be infected with PRRS. The reasoning behind their thoughts are that a small herd will have the infection cycle through the herd as one genetic strain, and once the hogs recover they will become immune to that strain. There is a very good paper that Dr. Zimmerman co-wrote on the subject in the University of Iowa website in the veterinary link.

Symptoms can be respiratory or reproductive or a combination of the two. There are other diseases that can account for these symptoms as well. Only a vet, a blood sample and a lab can tell you for sure. Treating for one, will not cure another.

What to look for:

Suckling's/Grow-Finish pigs

Respiratory symptoms are mainly found in young pigs. It can be found in older animals but it is far less common. Pre-weaned piglets are generally infected in utero or during the birth process. Piglets show signs of labored breathing (called "thumping"), fever, swelling of the eyelids, a blue or reddish discoloration to the skin around the eyes, hindquarters, or ears and fever may be present (normal temperatures are 101.6 to 103.6) Piglets tend to be lethargic and have little to no appetite. Suckling pigs will suffer almost a 100% mortality. Weaned pigs and growers symptoms also include the same symptoms as the suckling but can include rough hair coats, failure to thrive (unthrifty) causing low rates of gain and feed efficiency. Some people mistake this for worm infestation. These pigs usually become infected when the antibodies become diminished in the mother's milk or when new pigs are added to the group in the grower/finisher stage. Peak age of respiratory symptoms is 4 to 10 weeks of age.

Breeding stock

PRRS can occur in both breeding aged gilts, sows and breeding boars. Although not as common with boars, the virus can be shed through their semen. Artificial insemination is NOT a reliable way to prevent the virus transmission.

Generally few symptoms are associated with boars. If present at all they can include lethargy, decreased appetite and infrequently there will be respiratory symptoms.

Gilts/sows: These animals may go through "phases" of the infection. The initial or acute stage they may show lack of appetite, fever of 104F to 105F and may involve only 30% of the infected animals. The remaining 70% showing no symptoms.

The second phase of infection occurs about one week after the acute stage and lasts 1 to 4 months. This may result in late term abortions, premature farrowing, mummified piglets, weak piglets. These animals are generally difficult to re-breed and will have low conception rates.

Transmission:

Transmission is most common in close contact between animals or exposure to contaminated body fluids in semen, blood, secretions, contaminated needles, clothing and boots. Once infected the virus will circulate within a herd indefinitely. This makes biosecurity and infection control of the utmost importance.

Control: Biosecurity is the best and least expensive precaution to take. When moving your groups, move follow the adage, "all in and all out". This means that each group of hogs, Sows and gilts should be "batch farrowed" (all farrow within a week of each other) so that litters moving to the growing pens, finishing hogs etc., can be moved as one group. When you add animals to your farm, add them only after verifying that they come from a disease free herd and keep them in a clean isolation pen that has been thoroughly sprayed down with a vinegar/disinfectant. If housing them on dirt or grass, this pen should have had no animals in it for a minimum of 30 days and the new addition should be kept in isolation for a minimum of 30 days. Vinegar, when purchased in the store is around 5% acidity, thereby making it a cheap and effective cleaner/disinfectant for surfaces. Don't forget to scrub, drinking cups/dishes, food dishes, floors, walls etc. A backpack sprayer with the disinfecting solution works well for small operations, a pressure washer for the larger ones.

Medication: There are medications that you can give to help control PRRS but each strain has its own control, therefore if you suspect PRRS, it is imperative that you contact a veterinarian for help. For those of you who have no livestock vets in your area, your local extension agent can help you. Some agents are better than others with knowledge but they all have contacts that they can refer you to. You can also contact your states university veterinary program. They are always happy to help and can analyze samples under certain criteria. Just ask them for help!

My sources for information: Dr Jeff Zimmerman, Iowa State University

Syndromes "Hogs, Pigs and Pork. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory (PRRS) August 12, 2019

Iowa State University website
University of Minnesota website