



## SHOULD I FILTER?

How do you evaluate whether or not filtration will pay for your operation? This is a huge question with many facets. Just how do you take what you have heard and make the decision to invest capital? Below are some questions to consider if trying to make that investment decision:

## WHAT COULD/DOES A PRRSV OUTBREAK COST YOU FROM AN ECONOMIC STANDPOINT?

According to a recent report (9-27-12) by a team comprised of individuals representing Iowa State University, National Pork Board and the US National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), the cost of PRRSV is estimated to add between \$5.60 and \$7.62 to the cost of every pig sold in the US. The economic effect on breeding-farrowing phase alone was calculated to be \$74.16 per litter on affected farms. Other economic factors need to be considered. How would an outbreak effect contractual agreements you have? What effect does continual PRRSV outbreaks have on employee morale?

## HOW CLOSE IS THE NEXT HOG FACILITY TO MY LOCATION?

It is proven that PRRSV will travel up to 5 miles. Ideal conditions for aerosol transmission are temperatures below 65°F, moist air and gentle breeze. The virus will stay viable during that 5 mile distance and still retain the ability to infect your herd. If your facility is filtered your chances are greatly reduced for getting PRRSV by way of aerosol transmission. If it is not filtered those chances go up dramatically. **NON-FILTERED SITES ARE 8 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BREAK THAN FILTERED SITES.**



## WHAT IS YOUR PRRSV OUTBREAK HISTORY?

If your facility has broken with PRRSV even one time in the past 3 years or an average of one time every 3 years it is economically viable to filter.

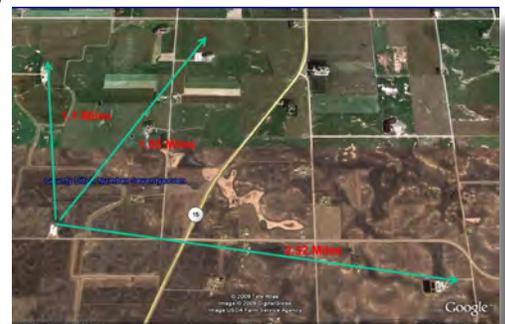


## WHAT IS THE AGE OF MY FACILITY?

The remaining useful life of a facility greatly affects your decision to filter. If the facility is close to being near the end of its useful life span it may not be worth the investment. If the structure is in good shape but only needs modest structural work, interior and equipment refurbishing then consider making the investment in filtration. Newer constructed units are less expensive to equip with filters. Certainly new construction is the most economical of all to equip with a filtration system.

## WHAT ARE MY NEIGHBORS DOING?

Are there plans for new hog facilities to be built in your area?  
Are your neighbors filtering?



### WHAT DOES IT COST TO FILTER A SITE?



The age of a building and historic maintenance of the building and equipment are major factors influencing filter installation costs. Cost can range from \$150-\$250 per sow space. This cost covers a wide range of expenditures in preparing the building for filtration in addition to purchasing the filter components themselves. The actual cost of the filters is usually a smaller percentage of the total cost of the project in most cases. Here is why:

The building needs to be sealed very well—plugging any ingress holes or cracks where air can enter.

Ventilation systems may need refurbishing or upgrading.

Airlock rooms need to be provided for employees to enter and exit as well as animal receiving and loading. It is necessary to install



back-draft prevention equipment to prevent air from entering through idle exhaust fans.

In the case of buildings with cool cells, roof extensions need to be added to house the filters.



### WHAT DOES IT COST TO MAINTAIN A FILTER SYSTEM?

On a 2500 head GDU/Farrowing site the annual cost of filtration maintenance is approximately \$70,000 per year. This includes pre-filter replacement and amortization of the main filter over a 4 year period.

### BOTTOM LINE ECONOMICS

Assumptions: 2500 head sow site with 2.2 liters/sow/year = 5500 liters/year.

Total economic impact of one break = \$407,880.00

Initial cost of filtration installation of \$250.00 / sow = \$625,000.00

Installation amortized over 4 years @ 5500 liters / year = \$28.40/litter\*

Annual maintenance cost \$12.72/litter

**Economic impact of PRRSv \$74.16/litter**

**Total installation and maintenance cost -\$41.12/litter**

Return on investment in filtration \$33.04/litter

\*Does not include interest



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