

PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome) Universal PCR Testing

ABOUT: PRRS is a viral disease affecting pigs of all ages, causing reproductive failure in breeding stock and respiratory disease in young pigs. The Universal PRRS PCR (PRRS-U) test detects all major circulating strains by directly identifying viral RNA, allowing rapid diagnosis of active infection across diverse PRRS variants.

SYMPTOMS: Breeding sows may show abortions, stillbirths, or weak-born piglets. Growing pigs may have fever, labored breathing, reduced growth, or high mortality.

PREVENTION: Strict biosecurity is essential. Limit herd exposure to outside pigs, disinfect equipment, and maintain herd stability. Vaccination may reduce severity but is not fully protective.

GETTING TESTED: For PRRS-U PCR testing, submit 2 mL of whole blood in a red/yellow-top tube. Samples should be refrigerated after collection and shipped overnight with ice packs.

A positive PCR indicates active infection, but repeat or follow-up testing may be needed to monitor herd infection dynamics.

PRRS-U PCR samples are processed and results reported on Wednesday.

