

# Oral Fluids – Tool for Herd Health Management

*Fast, Easy, Welfare Friendly and Inexpensive to Collect*

## WHAT IS ORAL FLUIDS?

- ✓ Liquid present in the oral cavity
- ✓ Mixture of saliva & particles being transported in the blood (hormones, drugs, antibodies, viruses)

## HOW CAN IT HELP ME?

- ✓ Useful for surveillance of circulating disease
- ✓ Quick, easy and in-expensive to collect
- ✓ Reduces stress for the pigs and people
- ✓ Requires less labour and technical skill
- ✓ Collect valuable information more frequently
- ✓ Increase productivity and profitability

## WHAT DO I NEED?



- ✓ 3-stranded cotton rope
- ✓ Clean plastic bag
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Sterile screw-top tube
- ✓ Permanent marker
- ✓ Gloves

## WHAT CAN I TEST FOR?

- ✓ APP, Mhyo, PRRSv and SIV

## How do I collect Oral Fluids?

### Step 1 ➡



- ✓ Securely place rope in a clean area of the pen
- ✓ 75% of pigs will chew on the rope

### Step 2 ➡



- ✓ Hang rope shoulder high to the pigs
- ✓ Untangle the rope ends
- ✓ Leave rope for 20-30 minutes

### Step 3 ➡



- ✓ Place each rope in to individual clean bags
- ✓ Squeeze the rope to extract the oral fluid

### Step 4



- ✓ Clearly label the sterile container
- ✓ Cut the bottom of the plastic bag
- ✓ Fluid drained into the container
- ✓ Submit to laboratory

## TIPS

- ✓ Rope should be 1/2" for nursery & 5/8" for grower/finisher and adult pigs
- ✓ Monitor gilts to **reduce risk** of introducing infected animals into sow herd
- ✓ Collecting samples from multiple pens per age group provides **additional information**
- ✗ Do **not pool samples** from different pens
- ✓ Place each rope in an **individual clean bag**
- ✓ Sample in the morning; pigs are more active
- ✓ **Change gloves** between handling chewed ropes to prevent cross-contamination



↑ **Welfare**

↓ **Stress**

↑ **Monitoring**

↓ **Labour**

↑ **Frequency**

↑ **Information**

↑ **Productivity**

↑ **Profitability**