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<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/livestock/article/2021/02/08/prrs-strain-1-4-4-results-dramatic>

## New PRRS Strain Kills Sows, Piglets PRRS Strain 1-4-4 Results in 'More Dramatic' Hog Mortality

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By [Russ Quinn](#), DTN Staff Reporter

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OMAHA (DTN) -- The last thing the world needs right now is another virus. But U.S. hog producers are facing another health challenge to their herds in the form of a familiar yet slightly different foe. The most recent strain (1-4-4) of the Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus is nothing producers have not seen before with PRRS, but it is more dramatic, resulting in higher rates of hog mortality, according to swine veterinarians.

The new strain has only been around since last October and swine researchers don't have much information about how it operates. One thing they do know is biosecurity practices will be especially important as producers face this new PRRS strain.

Those were the high points of a Feb. 4 webinar addressing the PRRS strain 1-4-4 outbreak. The webinar was hosted by the Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) and American Association of Swine

Veterinarians (AASV). ([https://iastate.app.box.com/...](https://iastate.app.box.com/) NEW STRAIN, OLD SIGNS

There are several clinical signs of the 1-4-4 strain of PRRS, according to Dr. Paul Yeske, a veterinarian with Swine Vet Center located in St. Peter, Minnesota, and a presenter in the webinar. They include hogs going off feed, abortions, increased sow and piglet mortality, increased mummies of piglets, increased post-weaning mortality and slow growth of finishing hogs.

The virus tends to move through the herd quickly once clinical signs are seen. One day, only a few head might show some classic PRRS signs and then the next day, hundreds of hogs could have it depending on the size of the operation, he said.

The effects of the virus also seem to be more severe if complicated with another disease, particularly flu.

"Diagnostically, it has been easy so far to find it, with sow farms showing classic clinical signs," Yeske said.

This virus has been found over a fairly large geographic area, mainly southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, he said. The strain produces a lot of virus to spread and recent weather conditions (overcast and foggy) have been favorable for that spread.

In addition, the new strain has also been found in different production systems, he said. It has been seen in sow farms and grower and finishing facilities.