

NOTICE TO PIG FARMERS

If you believe your pig herd to be at risk from the virus Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) or if you want to establish the disease status of your herd contact your Private Veterinary Practitioner (PVP) who will advise and guide you with regard to the general actions to be taken which are as follows and which he or she may vary depending on size and type of your herd.

- 1. Identify the pig groups at risk, take 30 clotted blood samples and have them analysed for antibodies to the virus. You may need to take additional samples three weeks later to rule out infection as your pigs may only recently have acquired infection which may not show up on the first test. If you are sending to the DAFM laboratories you need to send them to the DAFM Blood Testing Laboratory Model farm Road, Cork.**
- 2. Depending on the result your veterinary consultant may advise you to vaccinate your herd.**
- 3. The vaccine is currently available under licence and can be applied for through your PVP at the Medicines Section DAFM, Backweston Cellbridge Co Kildare.**
- 4. The current DAFM policy is that your herd will be restricted by your District Veterinary Office and you will have to apply for a licence to move pigs off farm to factory, carcasses to rendering and slurry for spreading.**
- 5. These are the controls that are currently in place on a number of farms and are designed to minimise the risk of spread of the disease.**
- 6. Points 4 & 5 may be subject to review as further information becomes available.**

End.