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 market
✓ 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

WHAT CAN I TEST FOR?
✓ APP, Mhyo, PRRSv and SIV

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