

# First surveillance tool evaluation: Sow/boar blood collection

Veterinary Services is anticipating future surveillance needs by analyzing those current techniques that have served well in the past.

Through an ongoing initiative for designing a comprehensive and integrated monitoring and surveillance system, VS is evaluating existing systems to determine if they are sufficient to meet additional surveillance goals for enabling trade and detecting emerging diseases.

Collection of blood from sows and boars at slaughter has been part of brucellosis surveillance for decades. In the late 1980's the pseudorabies eradication effort intensified this program. Slaughter collection continues today as the pseudorabies and brucellosis eradication programs near completion. Evaluation of slaughter collection will use criteria from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These include studying the simplicity, flexibility, data quality, acceptability, predictive value positive, timeliness, representativeness, stability, and cost of the surveillance tool.

The Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) is leading this part of the evaluation and is collecting information from several government agencies, state-federal laboratories, swine markets, sow/boar slaughter plants, and other industry sources.

Preliminary findings indicate that over 95 percent of sows/boars are slaughtered at federal establishments. 92.2 percent of federally inspected sows and boars were slaughtered (year 2000) at the largest 27 plants (506 plants are listed as slaughtering this class of hog). Blood from sows has been collected from at least 67 percent of these 27 plants.

Details of how blood is collected, the costs, etc. will be outlined in a series of questions for input by VS Area Offices this spring. Analysis and reporting of this information will complete the evaluation. Tissue collection in butcher swine plants will be evaluated next.