

June 11, 2009

## **Your participation is needed! Researching Disease Surveillance**

Increasing litter size among other factors has caused a world-wide increase in pre-weaning mortality.

Porcine circovirus and other new diseases have increased nursery death loss on many farms.

Respiratory and intestinal diseases that do not respond well to treatments or vaccines have increased cost of production in many finishing units.

There are week-to-week fluctuations in death loss on every farm. What is the average range of mortality? How will we spot the next new disease?

The University of Guelph in conjunction with OMAFRA and Ontario Pork wish to establish baseline values for Ontario producers for pre-weaning, mortality, nursery mortality, and finisher mortality. Enrolment in this study requires simple weekly reporting of mortalities in the farrowing, nursery, and finisher areas of production. Enrolment is open to all producers regardless of farm size or type provided that weekly mortality in at least one of the 3 areas of production (farrowing, nursery, and/or finishing) can be recorded and reported weekly. Producers who enroll in this study may have an opportunity for subsidized diagnostic work-ups by their private veterinarians and may receive monetary compensation for their time. Individual producer information will be kept strictly confidential but summary information showing weekly averages for the group will be published.

Interested producers should contact Bob Friendship by one of the following means:

Email...[rfriends@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rfriends@uoguelph.ca)

Tel.....519 824-4120, ext 54022

Fax.....519 763-3117

Mail..... Bob Friendship,  
Department of Population Medicine,  
University of Guelph,  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1

This study will commence when enough producers have enrolled in the study.