

# Sow Site Incidence Report

January - March 2019

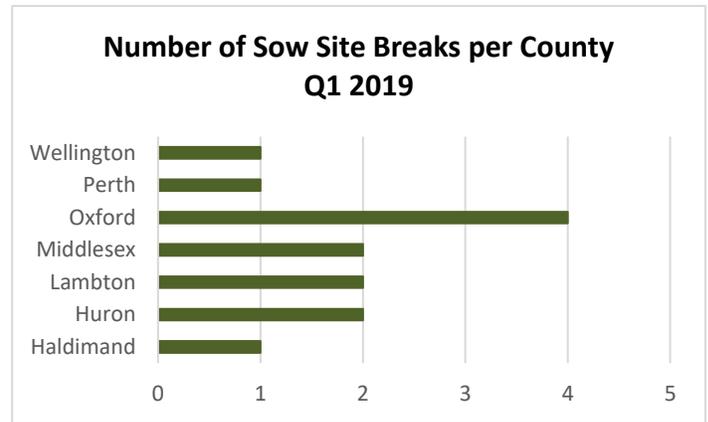
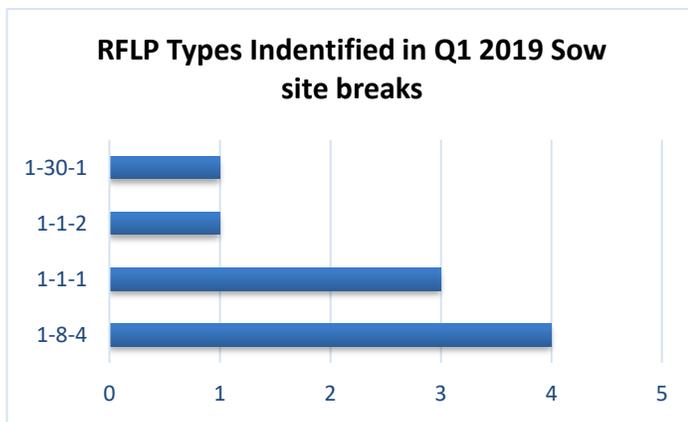
Issue Number 7

## Sow Site PRRS Incidence Overview

- We ended 2018 with 33 reported sow site PRRS breaks, impacting almost 31,000 sows.
- As we finish the first quarter of 2019, there have been 13 sow site breaks reported, impacting over 15,000 sows.
- 2019 has seen a number of breaks in large sow sites.

## RFLP Types and Impact on the Herd

RFLP types identified throughout Q1 2019 can be seen below; with RFLP type 1-8-4 and 1-1-1 remaining the most commonly identified strains.



But what does RFLP type mean when we are trying to predict the expected impact a PRRS infection may have on the herd? Generally, assessment of abortions, sow death and pre-wean mortality has shown that infections with PRRS strains with the RFLP type 1-1-1 results in mild to moderate clinical impacts.

However, the clinical impact seen with RFLP type 1-8-4 has been more varied. Veterinarians and producers have reported very severe impact in sow herds, particularly affecting pre-weaning mortality with this RFLP type. However, they have also seen more moderate clinical impacts in some cases. This may be because PRRS strains that are characterized as RFLP type 1-8-4 are not all highly genetically related when a phylogenetic comparison is done based on the genetic sequence of the viruses and this can result in differences in virulence. Other factors such as co-infections with other diseases can also impact clinical outcomes.

**Key Message: Although comparison by RFLP type can be useful when assessing the likely impact of a new PRRS infection for your farm, discuss the phylogenetic comparison to other strains with your veterinarian as well as this may help narrow down expected clinical signs.**