

## 2025 PRODUCTION RESEARCH FOCUS:

- Sow mortality
- Pre- and Post-weaning mortality
- Finishing feed efficiency
- Defining nutrient requirements for growing pigs
- PRRS prevention and mitigation
- Establishing nutritional standards of the 241 sow

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

In 2024, DNA Genetics conducted more than 20 research trials. Topics included:

- Evaluation of split suckling strategies on pre-wean piglet growth and mortality for high-producing sows
- Effects of pig movements in the nursery on viral load, growth and mortality
- Evaluation of a gilt PCAI catheter
- Assessing the influence of sow loading strategy, functional teat number and parity on litter performance
- Vaccine efficacy studies

# 9

collaborative trials, of which six are university collaborations

# 10+

trials in the planning stage

## TRIAL SPOTLIGHT: *RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PRRS PERSISTENT INFECTION IN SOW FARMS*

The results of this recent trial highlighted the significance of an animal's breed and age at the time of PRRS infection on whether an animal remained persistently infected, shedding the virus over a longer period of time.

Younger animals at the time of infection had higher odds of becoming persistently infected, emphasizing the importance of strategic gilt loading practices to mitigate this risk. Meishan pigs exhibited a greater likelihood of persistently carrying the virus compared to Landrace or Duroc breeds. Given their frequent movement around farms for heat detection purposes, Meishans could serve as a continuous source of virus shedding, risking re-exposure to other animals on the site.

The study also explored innovative test and removal methods, which significantly shortened herd closure times compared to traditional practices. These findings advocate for timely identification and culling of infected animals.

Stay tuned for the full publication in Journal of Swine Health & Production coming in 2025! Or visit [dnaswinegenetics.com/podcasts](https://dnaswinegenetics.com/podcasts) to listen to this episode featured on "Inside the Helix."

Be on the lookout for more information regarding our six research presentations at the 2025 ASAS Midwest Conference and our summer internship program.