# **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

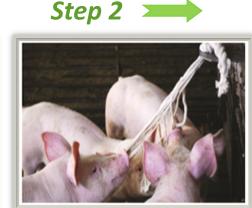
# <u>WHAT CAN I TEST FOR?</u> ✓ APP, Mhyo, PRRSv and SIV

# How do I collect Oral Fluids?





 ✓ Securely place rope in a clean area of the pen
 ✓ 75% of pigs will chew on the rope



✓ Hang rope shoulder high to the pigs
 ✓ Untangle the rope ends
 ✓ Leave rope for 20-30 minutes



 ✓ 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



• Rope should be 1/2" for nursery & 5/8" for grower/finisher and adult pigs

 Monitor gilts to <u>reduce risk</u> of introducing infected animals into sow herd

✓ Collecting samples from multiple pens per age



↑ Welfare
↓ Stress
↑ Monitoring

- group provides <u>additional information</u>
- **\*** Do not pool samples from different pens
- ✓ Place each rope in an individual clean bag
- ✓ Sample in the morning; pigs are more active
- ✓ <u>Change gloves</u> between handling chewed ropes to prevent cross-contamination

CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



### **↑** Frequency

## **^** Information

**↑** *Productivity* 

## **↑** *Profitability*

University College Dublin Ireland's Global University

Contact Details: Rose Fitzgerald, Cork Institute of Technology, Cork.

 rose.fitzgerald@mycit.ie
 In

 LinkedIn: www.linkedIn.com/in/rosemary-fitzgerald

This work was developed in the scope of the **PathSurvPig (PSP)** project, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Research Stimulus Fund (Grant no. 14/S/832)