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Identification of protective antigenic determinants of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV) and uses thereof

The inventors claim uses including vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics assays. The applicants claim to be the first to identify a protective antigenic determinant for PRRSV that provides treatment for and protection against PRRSV infection.

According to the application, conservative estimates currently state PRRS is costing the United States industry \$600 million per year, and no commercially available products are available to combat the disease. The disease is characterized by reproductive failure and often manifests itself as premature births, late term abortions, stillbirths, mummified fetuses, decreased farrowing rates, and delayed return of estrus as well as respiratory diseases.

This invention provides for methods for generating antibodies against one or more of the protective antigenic determinants (PAD) identified, preparing vaccines against at least one PAD, and detecting antibodies against at least one PAD of PRRSV in an animal.

In general, this could provide a lot of help with controlling PRRSV, or could be another case of patents impeding treatment of a disease whether in animals or patents.