We are delighted that the International Pig Veterinary Society Congress 2004, decided to select South Africa as the host country for the 20th IPVS Congress. The Pig Veterinarians of South Africa will ensure that this congress lives up to the best traditions of previous congresses; incorporating an interesting and topical scientific programme, fascinating accompanying persons tours and an excellent social programme, allowing delegates the opportunity to network with their overseas colleagues.

This, the first IPVS congress on the African continent, will undoubtedly be of enormous benefit in generating solutions to the emerging pig veterinary challenges, especially those related to exotic and changing viral diseases, decreased use of antimicrobials and nutritional advances. The congress is important to further pig veterinary science in South Africa, to encourage younger veterinarians to join the pig industry, as a vehicle to generate funds for research and to improve the pig industry in Southern Africa.

South Africa is a magnificent and beautiful country, and offers tourists value for money. Thus, pre and post congress tours will be a major attraction for delegates to come to South Africa. Durban, in KwaZulu Natal, is a vibrant multi-cultured city with magnificent beaches, easily accessible game parks, theme villages and a moderate winter climate making it an ideal tourist destination. We urge our colleagues throughout the world to use this opportunity to get a glimpse of the continent’s rich and fascinating wonders and to enjoy the hospitality of their African friends.

Dr Peter Evans
Chairman: Local Organising Committee: IPVS 2008
ELIMINATION OF RESPIRATORY DISEASES – A DANISH PRACTITIONERS APPROACH

Poul Bækbo
Danish Pig Production, Danish Meat Association

Introduction
Diseases can be controlled in several ways, of which elimination of the pathogens (eradication) from the herd is by far the most effective way. Though, depending on the severity of the disease problem, it might not necessarily be the most cost-efficient way.

My background for this presentation is 1) Two years in general practice, 2) Six years at The Royal Veterinary University, Copenhagen, teaching and doing my PhD on respiratory diseases in pigs 3) 16 years working for the Danish pig industry with applied R&D, of which development and test of eradication programmes has been an ongoing activity throughout the years.

Materials and Methods
Most work in Denmark has been done on three respiratory diseases/pathogens: enzootic pneumonia (Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae (M.hyo)), pleuropneumonia (Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae (App)) and PRRSV. Two different principles for eradication have been used: 1) total depopulation followed by restocking with non-infected animals (depop/repop) – The SPF system, 2) eradication by partial depopulation. Partial depopulation is only relevant for farrow-to-feeder/farrow-to-finish herds, whereas total depopulation is the only relevant method for finishing herds. Before starting an eradication procedure the level of biosecurity at herd level and during transport of young animals less that 10 month of age are removed from the infected herd (piglets, weaners, growers and finishers). For a period of at least 14 days, a farrowing stop is imposed and only breeding animals (gilts, sows and boars) are present on the farm. During the 14-day-period all breeding animals are medicated with a suitable drug. After this down period of at least 14 days, all antibiotic medication is ceased and normal production is resumed. It is generally believed that the rate of success will decrease by decreasing age limit and if the eradication procedures are carried out in newly infected herds.

Eradication of PRRSV by partial depopulation is based on investigations showing that the spread of infection within herds predominates in the growing and/or finishing units. Thus, in most sow herds, shedding of virus from the sows ends within 3-6 months, after which the sows produce non-infected piglets. The typical eradication strategy is therefore: Growing and finishing pigs are all moved away from the premises, when it has been confirmed by repeated serological profiles that sows wean non infected piglets. Units for grow-finishing pigs are cleaned and disinfected. Following that, piglets are placed into clean units, and production goes on as usual. A number of studies on eradication of App have been performed, but so far with success in only some cases. Until now, the following eradication plan (comparable to the M.hyo plan) with the use of fluoroquinolones has proved to be successful in some herds: Breeding animals are vaccinated against pleuropneumonia prior to medication, all pigs less than 10 months of age are moved away from the premises, and medication of the sow population with a fluoroquinolone, either oral for a 14-day period or twice with injections with 5 days interval.

Discussion
The SPF method is safe and reliable, but expensive. For partial depopulation, reliable methods have been developed and tested for enzootic pneumonia (M.hyo) and PRRSV (estimated success rate on herd level: > 80%), whereas reliable methods remain to be developed for pleuropneumonia (App) (success rate less that 50%).

Other diseases: If a farm is infected with swine dysentery and/or mange and lice, the period where only pigs of more than 10 months of age are present in the herd, is the time for eliminating these diseases as well. The success rate using partial depopulation for these diseases is > 80%