

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea

A concern for everyone with pigs and anyone working with the hog industry!

Introduction

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) first showed up in North America in May of 2013. Since that time it has spread across the USA to 23 states, and in late January of 2014, the first cases were identified in Ontario.

PED is a highly contagious, deadly, pig virus that spreads rapidly from one herd to another. It can cause up to 100% mortality in suckling piglets, and very significant production losses in older pigs. The virus appears to have originated in China and unfortunately the pig herds in Nova Scotia and the rest of North America have no natural immunity to this virus. There is no effective treatment. Once a herd is infected there is little that can be done except wait it out and suffer huge losses.

Symptoms

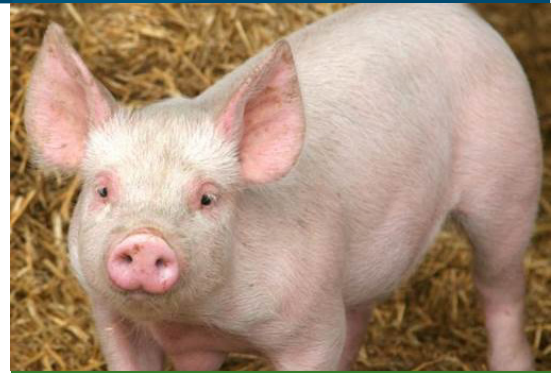
This disease is similar to TGE (Transmissible Gastroenteritis). The virus is an aggressive strain causing widespread watery diarrhea in all ages, and up to 100% mortality in nursing pigs. Other ages of pigs are affected as well, although not as severely as nursing piglets.

A useful website for more information on PED can be found at <http://www.swinehealth.ca/>

It is important to note that PED poses no human health concerns.

Spread

PED is spread via manure, through contact with sick pigs, from dirty transport trucks and people with contaminated clothing or footwear. The virus is able to survive very well in a cold, wet environment. Although sunlight and heat will partially destroy it, freezing will not. Wintertime spread of the virus is compounded by the ice and snow, making truck clean-out even more critical.



“Be responsible. Help ensure that the Nova Scotia pork industry is protected from an outbreak of PED.”



Practice good biosecurity on your farm to protect your livestock and your investment

In order to limit your herd's exposure to the PED virus, and protect your farm from this pathogen, you need to consider improving your farm's biosecurity. Good biosecurity is the key to stopping the spread of this disease. If you do not have a biosecurity program in place, it is vital that you act today. The safety of your pigs and your livelihood is at risk every second that you delay acting.

Biosecurity information is available at the web sites:

<http://biosecurity.swinehealth.ca/biosecurity-standard/>

<http://www.biosecuritynovascotia.com>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles/eng/1344707905203/1344707981478>

Additional information and support is available from Perennia by calling (902) 896- 0277.

Protect your farm and the pork industry in Nova Scotia

1) Monitor your pigs closely and report any unusual diarrhea or pig mortality immediately to your veterinarian. If you do not have a regular vet, contact one immediately and establish a working relationship with them! If you believe you may have a potential case of PED, either contact your vet (who has been given the information and necessary Viral Transport Swabs to take the appropriate samples), or contact the Animal Health Laboratory (902)893-6540 and ask to speak to either the Pathologist or Program Veterinarian. Testing of piglets with diarrhea and vomiting requires only refrigerated fecal swabs in viral transport media, not whole pigs sent to the lab.

Sending whole animals to the laboratory for testing is discouraged as there is risk of spreading the disease.

2) Farm access:

a) Implement strict biosecurity and ensure family, staff and visitors follow all procedures that you

implement.

- b) Establish a controlled access zone (CAZ) around your buildings with visual indicators and fences if necessary.
- c) Establish a restricted access zone (RAZ) and allow only necessary personnel into the area.
- d) Provide separate areas of access for farm equipment and service providers
- e) Dedicate separate clothing and footwear for use within the RAZ.
- e) Respect one-way flow of traffic from most susceptible to least susceptible stock.

3) Ensure that you are purchasing replacement pigs from a known supplier who will ensure the health status of the pigs.

4) Do not allow an unwashed trailer or truck to back up to the loading and unloading area at your barn. Ensure that the transport vehicle is washed and disinfected.

Or

Use a shuttle vehicle to allow truck to truck transfer of pigs off farm. Ensure that the shuttle vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before it is re-used.

5) Know the quality and source of all incoming feed ingredients.

6) Dead Stock Handling:

- a) Make sure that you have an accurate diagnosis before disposal. Contact your vet.
- b) Handle dead stock carefully, and dispose of it in an appropriate manner (if possible, on farm). The use of a dead stock hauler is discouraged due to the risk of spreading the virus beyond the farm. Since the majority of mortalities from the PED virus are baby pigs and weaners, composting is strongly encouraged. Burial is also acceptable if done properly: within 24 hours, under a minimum of 2 feet of soil, and at least 100 feet from a water course. Incineration may be possible, but only by permit from the Department of Environment.

http://nsfa-fane.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/mort_manage_narrow.pdf

c) Move dead stock at the end of the day to disposal area.

d) Wash and disinfect farm equipment/vehicles used to transfer carcasses to the disposal site.

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/facts/peddisposal.htm>

7) Cull Animals:

Do not send compromised animals and/or pigs showing clinical signs of PED through the cull market.

8) Processing:

a) For producers transporting their own pigs to local abattoir facilities, use designated boots for transport (that are not used in the barn) and ensure that the truck and trailer is washed and disinfected before it returns to the farm.

b) Do not send pigs showing clinical signs of PED to the abattoir or slaughter plant until such time as the industry can divert PED-positive pigs through separate channels than PED-free herds.

Don't assume that your farm will remain PED-free! Act now to protect your herd.

For more information, contact:

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Feb. 2014