



## Protein Sources Swine Update

November/December 2013

### **PED virus Update**

**Lori Feldmann, DVM**

One frequently asked question here in our office is “Have you seen any PED virus?” At the time this is being written the answer to that question is, “Not in any of our managed herds.” Hopefully by the time you are reading this we can still say that is the case. After the initial outbreak of cases in May and June, the number of new cases reported to the USDA each week remained steady between 24 and 36. This trend continued until late September when we started to see the number of new cases each week increasing again. Many of these new cases have been in Iowa and North Carolina. We are also starting to hear of more cases here in southern Minnesota.

It doesn't take a lot of virus to create an infection, so that means being diligent with our biosecurity practices. One recent story that made all of us here at Protein Sources take note is that a vet clinic in Northwest Iowa took samples from 14 gas stations to check for PEDv. All 14 came back positive. Clearly this virus has been tracked into a lot of the places we go every day and the reality is we are likely going to come into contact with it. However, that shouldn't mean that we have to take it back to our pigs.

A few things Protein Sources has already or will put in place to reduce the spread of PEDv:

- Feed truck drivers wear disposable boots and gloves at each site when they get out of the truck. We will continue that practice through the winter. • Feed trucks were disinfected after each load. With the cold weather upon us we had to stop, but we are looking at possible options for the winter.
- Any grain that doesn't fall into the pit of the grain dump at our feed mill is thrown away rather than being swept in.
- Those of us from the management office put on disposable shoe covers at each site as we step out of our vehicles and remove them prior to getting back in to reduce the chances of us bringing something to your site or taking anything with us.
- We are looking at making some changes in our med room to limit traffic through the office, so don't be surprised if you see new signs hanging at the entrances of the building!

What can you do to keep from bringing PED into your herd? Here are a few things to consider: •

Don't wear your barn boots anywhere except your pig barn! It doesn't take much of the virus to create an infection, so just going to the gas station to get a pop and going back to the barn could be all it takes!!

- Install entry benches in barns to limit entry and to help everyone to remember to keep outside footwear outside the barn.

- Disinfect all supplies going into a site with disinfectants such as Tektrol spray or disinfecting wipes. This should include cell phones, lunch containers, etc. If an item doesn't need to enter the facility, keep it out.
- Market trucks are one of the biggest risks. When you hire a trucking company to haul your pigs, you need to make sure they know what your expectations are. We recommend clean trucks for every load, truckers do not enter the barn and truckers should minimize or eliminate entry into the packing plant.
- Have a definitive clean/dirty line when loading out pigs. For example, if the line is the top of the loading chute, the trucker (dirty side) doesn't come out of the back of the truck and employees (clean side) do not enter the truck.
- Wash, disinfect, and dry (if possible) load out areas and chutes after each load. Synergize sitting for one hour on a washed surface will be effective against PEDv.
- When loading out pigs, keep groups small enough to minimize the chance pigs could turn back once they are up the chute.

Obviously, anything you can do to keep from tracking something from outside your barn back in will reduce your risk of PEDv. If you are concerned about the status of your herd, saliva samples can be collected for surveillance. If you notice scouring pigs and have concerns about the cause, fecal samples can be submitted for testing.

If you have more questions regarding PEDv please contact Dr. Lori Feldmann or Dr. Mark FitzSimmons in the Protein Sources Management office at 507-524-4511.