



Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv)

By: Dr. Amy Woods DVM

You have likely heard about the recent outbreaks of PED across the US. This virus is clinically identical to TGE, with profuse watery scours and vomiting. Mortality in baby pigs is nearly 100%, but older pigs tend to survive better. One of the first cases in southern Indiana lost a total of about 3.5 weeks worth of pigs. The cases continue to climb across the country. We still have no idea how this virus got introduced to the US, but it is nearly identical to a 2012 strain from China, where PED is endemic. There have been questions about feed ingredients and some feed samples have tested positive but others negative, so we really do not know the origin yet. There is no vaccine for this disease. Some economists have tried to predict the market fall out from this epidemic and the estimates vary widely but generally looks like we will be 400,000-500,000 pigs short this fall.

What can you do? *Biosecurity is paramount in preventing this disease!!!!* Market trucks are the most likely vector. Some preliminary diagnostics at packing plants indicated that 17% of trailers were positive for PEDv coming into the plant and an additional 11% got infected at the plant and were positive by the time they left! This percentage is much higher at cull pig buying stations, where some NC diagnostics yielded three out of four buying stations had PEDv positive unloading chutes. Review truck washing procedures and always ensure clean and disinfected trucks and trailers only enter your farm.

Here is a great resource where you can keep up with the latest information on this emerging disease:

<http://www.aasv.org/aasv%20website/Resources/Diseases/PorcineEpidemicDiarrhea.php>



PQA+ Program Revamped

By: Dr. Amy Woods DVM

There are some changes to the National Pork Board's PQA+ program being unveiled this summer. *"While the focus remains on animal care and producing safe food, the new PQA Plus program also highlights the importance of protecting public health, safeguarding natural resources and providing a safe work environment,"* said Bill Winkelman, vice president of producer and industry relations for the Pork Checkoff. Some of the main practical changes that you will want to be aware of include:

- Producers have an option to renew their certification on-line – just get a passcode from your PQA+ Advisor to log in, view the presentation and take the 25 question test.
- Initial certifications still must be done directly with an advisor and will include a 25 question test.
- After completing a site assessment, producers need to submit a corrective action plan for non-compliance items and follow up with their PQA+ advisor to receive site assessment status.

The old PQA+ v1.2 will expire the end of August and will be replaced with this new PQA+ v2.0. So be expecting some changes if you are renewing your PQA+ certification soon!



Introducing Our New Judges

Clint Bain: Culleoka, TN (left)
Neil Bringle: Munford, TN (right)

Special Thanks To This Months New Newsletter Subscribers

9 New Subscribers for the Month:



Featured Livestock Judging Team

Hutchinson Community College



Understanding Footrot

Footrot is a contagious bacterial disease of sheep and goats, caused by the organism *Dichelobacter nodosus* (*D. nodosus*) in association with a number of other bacteria. With full expression, virulent footrot is a severe, debilitating disease with significant economic loss from reduced wool growth and quality, poor ewe fertility, poor growth rates, losses from blowfly strike, and reduced value of sale sheep. In infected flocks, there are also significant costs associated with the control of the disease.

The first sign of a foot rot infection is when the skin between the claws of the hoof begins to swell (cellulitis). Swelling usually appears 24 hours after infection. The skin between the toes may be very red and tender and the toes may separate because of all the swelling. This is very painful to the animal and can cause lameness. The animal may also have a raised body temperature. A crack can develop along the infected part and is yellow in color. The foot will have a foul odor. Tendons and joints in the area can become infected, which is much harder to treat. A condition known as "super foot rot" is seen in some animals. Super foot rot infection occurs much faster and is usually much more severe. Most normal foot rot treatments will not cure this foot rot and a veterinarian should be contacted immediately.

The best way to treat foot rot is to catch it as early as possible. The infected animals should be separated away from the herd as soon as possible to prevent the infection from spreading and allow the animal a better environment for healing. The first treatment is to clean the foot thoroughly and examine the foot to determine it is definitely foot rot causing the infection. Keeping the wound clean and using an antibiotic ointment may help reduce the spread of infection. Foot rot is usually treated with an antimicrobial product. Penicillin, tetracycline, and other antibacterial medicines are often used to treat normal cases of foot rot. Usually, the antimicrobial product is nonprescription, but sometimes a veterinarian may choose to use a prescription medication. It is critical to closely monitor the animals to make sure they are responding to treatment. The infected animals should be kept dry until the healing has occurred. If the animal is showing no signs of recovery after three to four days, the bacteria could have infected the other tissues of the foot. Infusing antibiotic into the veins of the foot may be an effective way to treat those cases. Claw amputation and in very severe cases, euthanasia, may also have to be considered.

The infected animals can serve as the source of infection for the whole herd because they will spread the bacteria throughout the environment. The bacteria can live without a host for up to seven days. Once another animal gets a cut or crack in the soft tissue between its toes, the bacteria can infect the animal. This is why infected animals must be kept away from the rest. A good way to prevent foot rot is to keep any foreign objects that may cut or damage the foot out of the environment. This should be a practice regardless of whether a herd has foot rot or not. The cuts are what allow the bacteria to enter the foot tissue and cause the infection. Some cattle feeders add zinc to the feed mixes and may vaccinate the animals for foot rot. Zinc is important to maintaining the skin and hooves of cattle. Cattle deficient in zinc will become infected more easily than cattle with adequate zinc in their diets. Regular footbathing may help reduce the incidence of foot rot in a herd. The bath usually contains copper sulphate or formalin. Vaccines have been developed but their efficacy is questionable and the immunity they provide is of short duration.



Featured Aug. 2013 Shropshire Yearling Ewes

Official Placing: 1-2-4-3
Cuts: 3-5-3

For more information on the August 2013 Shropshire Yearling Ewe Class of the month, visit our home page. Each month The Judging Connection.com features a class of the month and a judge from our directory. The public is allowed to vote on the class of the month. The official results of the class is determined from the featured judge of the month.



Featured August Judge

Vince Pardus
North Richland Hills, TX.

Vince judges Sheep, Club Lambs and Meat Goats.

Vince was a member of the University of Wisconsin Meat Judging Team and is a certified wool judge. Vince has coached 4-H and FFA judging teams and raises Rambouillet sheep. Vince judged the National Targhee, Border Liester and Lincoln Show and finished in the top 10 in the Illinois state judging contest while he was in high school.



Featured Livestock Judging Individual

Will Rincker
(University of Illinois)

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