

Meat the Future

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“Use Caution While Attending Spring Pig Sales”

PEDv (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus) has recently flared up again in the Midwest. The virus that first appeared in the United States in 2013, rocked the swine industry as it was found in most states and affected millions of pigs along the way. Fast forward to 2021, and it has been making its way through swine shows in Texas and Oklahoma as of early this year.

What is PEDv and what symptoms will I see?

Clinical signs of PEDv include severe diarrhea and vomiting, which leads to a near 100% mortality rate in pre-weaned piglets. The virus affects older pigs less and might start with shown symptoms such as loss of appetite, lethargy, and of course severe diarrhea that can lead to dehydration. For older pigs, you can easily think of it as a stomach virus for humans.

How is it spread and why should I be concerned?

PEDv is a highly contagious virus, that is spread in a multitude of ways and can survive in the environment for extended periods of time. The virus can be spread from animal-to-animal or from farm-to-farm through pig, boots and clothing, tires, vehicles, trailers, shovels/pitchforks, show equipment, and any other item that may have come in contact with an infected pig. Being fully knowledgeable about and committed to proper biosecurity measures will help ensure that your 4-H projects remain healthy and you are helping to limit the transmission from one farm to another.

How can I practice appropriate biosecurity to protect from transmission of PEDv?

It is important to know that you can be an important part of slowing the transmission of this virus. Follow the following steps to help limit the spread of PEDv:

- Limit your (and your pig's) exposure to other swine.
- Wear disposable boots that can be applied over the top of your shoes if you are attending another farm, sale, or show. These need to be disposed of upon leaving, prior to getting into your vehicle.
- If possible, try to keep 24-hours between swine farm, sale, or show visits with a shower, change of clothing/shoes, and disinfection of any equipment that may have come in contact with pigs at a prior location.

The Twin Creeks Extension District will be monitoring the situation of PEDv and its spread at the time of county 4-H small animal (swine) weigh-ins. Please watch for more updates as we get closer to time.

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