

## Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus Update

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### About PEDV

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) is a disease that is affecting many swine operations across the country. In the past year, large numbers of piglets have died, causing substantial economic losses. If you produce pigs and have not heard about PEDV, it is important to learn more about it quickly (see links below or contact your Cooperative Extension office).

PEDV is not a new virus to pig production worldwide, but it is new to the North American hog population, and animals in this country have not yet acquired immunity to the disease. Unweaned piglets are at the highest risk of dying from this disease (near 100 percent mortality). Older animals that get infected have more robust immune systems. They are better able to fight off the virus, so their mortality rate is lower. When immunity builds in the sows, the piglets can be protected by antibodies in the colostrum. With this protection, piglets' mortality rate should decrease significantly. Note that PEDV is NOT passed to humans or any other livestock.

### Symptoms

Symptoms of PEDV are:

- Severe diarrhea in pigs of all ages
- Vomiting
- High mortality—almost 100 percent in preweaned pigs

PEDV is highly infectious; a speck of manure or vomit from the infected animals is enough to infect many others. Unless producers take precautions, the disease will be spread to other animals and other farms quickly.

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While the disease was first detected in the Great Plains in May 2013, it has now spread to 30 states including a recent case reported in Vermont. If you see any signs of illness in your pigs, you should notify your veterinarian immediately to address the issue. Testing will need to be done to confirm the disease.

On April 18, 2014, the USDA announced that PEDV is a reportable disease. This means confirmed cases need to be reported to the state and the USDA in order to monitor the spread of the disease. For more information on reporting PEDV, follow these links:

- <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2014/04/0066.xml>
- [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/2014/faq\\_ped\\_reporting.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2014/faq_ped_reporting.pdf)

To learn more about the virus in detail, here are some valuable resources:

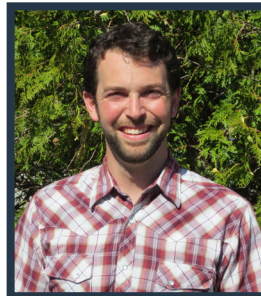
- [www.pork.org/pedv](http://www.pork.org/pedv)
- [www.aasv.org](http://www.aasv.org)

## Prevention

Implementing biosecurity measures is currently the only way to protect your farm and your animals. We strongly recommend taking these simple but highly effective actions:

- Boot washing with proper disinfectant such as Tek-Trol, 1Stroke Environ, Virkon S, Clorox.
- Wear dedicated farm clothes or new clothing after visiting other farms.
- Do not drive your off-farm vehicles through manure on other farms.
- Restrict access to your animals.
- Quarantine sick animals from the rest of the herd.
- If you are buying animals, you should
  - inspect the farm of origin for signs of PEDV or ask if PEDV symptoms have been noticed on the farm
  - ask for a Certificate of Veterinary inspection saying the farm has been PEDV-free for the last 60 days.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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