

Department of Agriculture and Markets

Fact Sheet

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED)

PED is a swine disease that was first confirmed in the U.S. in May 2013. Cases have been identified in NY and 30 other states. The disease has taken a heavy toll on the nation's hog farmers, having caused the death of an estimated 7 to 8 million piglets in just over one year. PED is also one of the forces that is driving the rise in pork prices.

PED is caused by a Corona virus and while it is highly infectious to swine, it only infects swine, and is not infectious to people or other animals. When a herd is first exposed to PED the primary clinical sign is severe diarrhea in pigs of all ages. PED is spread in a number of ways, most significantly by the manure of infected swine. Situations with risk of spread include:

- o Manure contaminated objects, such as vehicles (tires), boots & clothing, equipment (tractors, shovels, scrapers, etc.).
- o Markets, buying stations & means of swine transport are considered major spots of exposure to the PED virus.
- o Contaminated feed and water.

The incubation period is 12 to 24 hours and the virus is shed for 7-10 days. PED can kill 100% of piglets less than 10 days old. Pigs older than 10 days are expected to recover. Biosecurity is the best control measure to keep it out of a farm.

PED & Fairs

Swine going to fairs must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection. This inspection may occur well before the fair and your pigs may become ill after this exam. Examine your pigs closely before taking them to the fair. A rectal temperature is recommended prior to movement. The normal temperature is 101.5 to 102.5 degrees. If temperature is elevated do the right thing and leave the animal home. (In hot weather the temperature may be elevated. Cool the pig down and retake in 15 minutes.) If any pigs have diarrhea, no pigs from your farm should go to the fair. All facilities holding animals are required to be cleaned and disinfected prior to the fair. An isolation area for sick animal should be established. This area should be utilized if sick animals cannot be immediately removed from the fairgrounds. This area should be away from the general exhibit traffic and other animals. Disposable coveralls and boots should be utilized as well as a hand wash station or hand sanitizer.



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It is recommended that fairs only hold market class or auction class swine shows where pigs are slaughtered after the show and do not return home. Breeding swine classes are discouraged. In May 2014, the Great New York State Fair suspended piglets and sows exhibit and competition, in an effort to prevent PED. Adult male and female pigs without piglets will still be on display in the goat, llama and swine barn at this year's Fair. On June 17, 2014 the State Department of Agriculture and Markets reached out to Harris Vaccines in order to expedite the approval to use their PED vaccine, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) Vaccine, RNA, in New York State. This vaccine is now approved for use in New York under a conditional license from USDA's Center for Veterinary Biologics, which assures us of the product's safety and purity.

- USDA's conditional license also indicates that there is reasonable expectation that the vaccine does provide some degree of protection against PED. Conditional licensure is reserved for situations in which an animal health emergency exists and serves to shorten the time to get new vaccines to market.
- At least one other vaccine manufacturer plans to introduce a PED vaccine this year.

For more information, call (518) 457-3502 or email the Division of Animal Industry at: dai@agriculture.ny.gov

