

PEDv (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus) is now a Notifiable Disease

PED is caused by infection with a coronavirus, of which there are several strains. A new, highly virulent strain was originally circulating around the Far East, however in May 2013 it was diagnosed in the US where it spread very rapidly affecting 29 states, Canada and Mexico. Having analysed the disease dynamics in the US, Canada was able successfully to contain and eradicate the disease.

The disease spreads rapidly between farms and within them, with only a very small amount of the new virus strain needed to cause clinical disease. It is spread through infected faeces, along with contaminated vehicles, equipment, people and pig movement. Semen has currently been proved to be free from the virus, although there is a small potential risk of contamination from the environment during collection and processing.

Over 90% pre-weaning mortality is seen when the disease first enters a farm. Disease is most severe in younger animals, with affected piglets showing an acute scour, becoming dehydrated and lethargic, and occasionally they will vomit. Older pigs are affected to a lesser extent, with some scour seen in finishers and breeding stock. In a naïve herd, clinical signs are usually seen 2-4 days after infection. After the initial infection, up to 5-6 weeks of production can be lost.

Due to the significant affect on both pig health and welfare, and pig production, **PEDv was made a notifiable disease from the 18th December 2015**. There are however some significant differences between this legislation and traditional notifiable diseases.

Both pig keepers and Veterinary Surgeons must report suspected and confirmed cases of PEDv in pigs in England to the APHA (formally the AHVLA). The APHA is permitted to share identifying details of suspect and confirmed PEDv cases for disease control purposes with the industry levy board (AHDB Pork).

Unlike other notifiable diseases, there is no legislative requirement for official testing, culling, movement controls or other restrictions. Controls that will be put in place will be industry-led. Please [click here](#) to read details of the industry Contingency Plan for the Control and Elimination of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea.

Making PEDv a notifiable disease was an industry-led initiative and involved various organisations on both the producer and veterinary side. If PEDv enters the UK these plans will enable the industry to assist affected premises and those at risk as soon as possible after the disease is identified to control the disease and limit the spread of infection, and so increase the likelihood of eliminating PEDv at an early stage.

Euthanasia Theory Training Courses

Since 1st April 2014, Red Tractor require that each person who dispatches pigs of any age is certified as competent by their vet. A course and discussion on the theory of Euthanasia has to be attended, for example organised by the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA), AHDB Pork (formally known as BPEX) or RAFT, followed by an assessment on farm with your vet who will sign you off if you are competent. Both parts need to be completed.

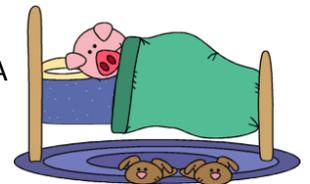
We are holding RAFT Euthanasia Theory Courses at two different times and venues during the next month.

Date	Time	Course	Venue
Wednesday 10 th February	4pm – 6pm	Euthanasia Theory	Bishopton Veterinary Group, York Office (Dunnington, YO19 5LL)
Wednesday 24 th February	3.30pm – 5.30pm	Euthanasia Theory	Bishopton Veterinary Group, Ripon

For anyone who missed their farm's training, or is newly joined, and would like to attend one of these courses, please contact Sylvia at the practice on **01765 602396** to book a place.

Current Clinical Trends – What are we seeing out there?...

At the moment we are seeing **active Swine Influenza**, also known as 'Pig Flu', within both sows and finishers. 'Flu is caused by infection with the Influenza A virus resulting in respiratory signs and weight loss. Individually affected pigs usually recover within two weeks but the 'flu virus lowers resistance of stock to other infections so that secondary infections can occur.



This means clinical signs can vary between farms depending on what other infectious agents are present, and that recovery can take longer following secondary bacterial involvement.

There are several influenza virus strains that affect pigs in the UK, but the virus mutates meaning previously affected herds can be re-infected with different strains. The virus is spread between pigs through the air and nose-to-nose contact. A pig can be infected for 1-2 days before showing clinical signs but, as it can still shed the virus during this time, disease can spread rapidly.

Dependent on the stage of the disease on farm, the process of diagnosis of the disease differs. In the very early acute stages of the disease, nasal swabs can be taken from individual pigs showing clinical signs and these swabs would be tested for virus itself. Recent developments in saliva testing from ropes can also detect virus from groups of animals. If the disease is more progressed, blood samples can also be analysed to see if there are antibodies present.

Please [click here](#) to read our full article on 'Flu.

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