

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) virus - advice for processors

SOP 13

What is it?

- PED is a gastro-intestinal disease of pigs caused by a coronavirus
- **PED only affects pigs and isn't zoonotic i.e. it poses no risk to human health or food safety**
- **There is also no risk to human health from being in contact with pigs or consuming pork products**
- Despite endemic status, PED hasn't been diagnosed in the UK since 2002
- PED is widespread in Europe and endemic in the UK but it typically manifests itself in a very mild form resulting in very low mortality of affected pigs
- PEDv is a notifiable disease in England and Scotland and you are legally required to report it to the Animal Health and Plant Agency if identified in England and to the Scottish Pig Disease Control Centre if identified in Scotland. However, there will be no formal trade implications or movement restrictions linked to PED outbreaks.

Why is PED important now?

In recent years there have been major outbreaks of what appears to be a more virulent strain of PED in China and the US. In the US outbreaks have been reported in 39 states since first identified on May 17, 2013 with a peak of cases in spring 2014. PED continues to be identified on US premises although the number of new cases has remained relatively stable since the height of the epidemic.

The US strain of PED is more aggressive than strains seen previously in the UK with mortality of 50 to 100% of affected piglets being experienced on infected US pig farms. It is proving difficult for the US to contain the spread of this virus. In China, more than a million piglets have died in an outbreak which started in October 2010. The virus from the outbreak in the US is said to be 99.4% similar to that from China.

What are the concerns for the UK pig industry?

- Keeping the strains of PED which are linked to losses of 50 to 100% of piglets in the US and China, out of the UK is the number one priority
- AHDB Pork and the NPA are alerting producers, abattoirs and processors of the risk of PED and urging all businesses to be highly vigilant and report any unusual symptoms in pigs.

For more information regarding PED please refer to:

<http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/research-innovation/research>