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PIG HEALTH AND WELFARE

Progress update on Exotic and Emerging Diseases recommendations and workstreams

No.	Recommendation	Lead	Progress update	Time scale
1 Horizon Scanning, risk assessment and international surveillance		AHVLA		
1.	Improve process of quarterly horizon scanning and risk assessment of non-statutory exotic and emerging disease threats for England with the AHVLA (International Disease Monitoring and Pig Expert Groups).	AHVLA	AHVLA Pig Expert Group discussed at meeting on June 18. Will take lead with AHVLA International Disease Monitoring. Monthly teleconference to start in July 2014 – (1) Threat identification: Identify and review threats (UK or international) that may pose a risk to pig health; (2) Risk assessment: for identified threats to identify if and what actions required to assess, characterise and manage risk; (3) Risk communication: As appropriate to Government, veterinarians, industry (and others as required) for identified threats, or changes in the risks of threats. This will include horizon scanning section of the Quarterly GB Pig Emerging Threats report and will inform other industry groups after assessing any change in risk.	Dec. 2014
2.	Develop international process for horizon scanning and risk assessment of exotic and emerging disease threats. Liaise with EUPiG (European Pig Innovation Group), IMPA (Informal Meat Producers Association) and IMS (International Meat Secretariat).	BPEX	BPEX proposal for an informal sharing of intelligence by industry lead virtual multi-agency and cross-disciplinary horizon scanning group discussed by International Meat Secretariat. The group would meet quarterly by conference call or web conference and act as a forum to identify and discuss emerging and potentially significant infections which may pose a serious threat to pig health and welfare.	Sept. 2014
3.	Publish an annual summary of disease threats in the Pig Yearbook. Update NPA Producer Group and BPEX Board on AHVLA PEG risk assessments quarterly	BPEX	Progress update matrix to be published on the BPEX and NPA websites. Press releases when updates available.	Sept. 2014
2 Prevention of Introduction		BPEX		



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4.	Liaise on international process for risk assessment on routes for disease introduction and develop strategy for reducing risk eg moratorium on import of animal products for use in animal feed.	BPEX	BPEX wrote to Defra with concerns that additional EU restrictions on blood plasma imports were not adequate – Defra to check with by-products team. EFSA asked for an opinion on the risk of PED entering the EU (Oct. 2014). Workstreams, recommendations and draft contingency plan for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea discussed with EU Pig Innovation Group partners by teleconference on July 10, 2014.	Dec. 2014
5.	Develop and implement protocols for imports of live pigs, semen and embryos	NPA	NPA have updated protocols for imports of live pigs, semen and embryos with risk management measures for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea and Swine Deltacoronavirus. As new risks or risk management measures identified the protocols will be updated.	Dec. 2014 and ongoing
6.	Develop communication strategy on biosecurity for meat imports and contact with pigs overseas.	BPEX	Defra International Disease Monitoring team looking at options to make national biosecurity as robust as it can be in protecting UK from the greatest risks – i.e. better targeted, more strategic, based on intelligence, more flexible to address emerging threats, all those who can play a role in managing the threats being aware and doing so.	Sept. 2014
3 Prevention of contact		NPA		
7.	Incorporate skills development for biosecurity into farm and transport assurance schemes, veterinary CPD and support with biosecurity communications strategy.	NPA	BPEX planning to use RDPE funding for 3 regional seminars on biosecurity in September 2014.	Dec. 2014
8.	Incorporate regular audit and review of biosecurity into farm, feed, abattoir and transport assurance schemes. Develop biosecurity standards for fallen stock.	NPA	NPA task group conference call has reviewed current supply chain biosecurity resources for farms, feed, transport, abattoirs and live imports and identified action points. Biosecurity also discussed at July AIG meeting. Initial document to discuss with the renderers on a bio-security protocol for the fallen stock industry (Ian Campbell).	March 2015
4 Early detection		AHVLA		

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9.	Consideration should be given to certain emerging diseases being made reportable in defined circumstances, addressing disease entities, which are not notifiable. For those which the pig industry considers should be reportable where this is not agreed by AHWBE, Defra and devolved administrations the option of addition as a farm assurance standard can be considered	NPA	Following discussions at Defra Core Group a sub-group of Zoe Davies (NPA), Marcus Bates (BPA), Andrew Gresham and John Allsopp (Defra) to review reportable (notification on clinical signs and positive lab results) and notifiable (notification on suspicion of disease, ie before clinical signs and confirmation) options and any additional measures (eg movement restrictions, compulsory slaughter). Susanna Williamson (AHVLA) and Grace Webster (PVS) to draft case definitions.	Sept. 2014
10.	Provide training and skills development on recognition of clinical signs for key high risk diseases – vets, farmers, stockworkers, abattoirs. Consider specific requirements for training in farm assurance. Laminated information sheets for PED an immediate priority.	BPEX	BPEX have broadened the offer of free testing for PED to unusual scouring in all ages of pigs to encourage more samples to be sent in (Appendix 2).	March 2015
11.	Ensure capability is available in relation to demand to ensure rapid detection of emerging and new non-notifiable diseases of pigs, exploring alternatives where appropriate.	AHVLA	AHVLA Pig Expert Group to keep capability under review. EFSA are currently reviewing testing capability in Member States. Covetlab (5 European collaborating laboratories) meeting on PEDv on June 7 th , Falko Steinbach is the AHVLA representative. AHVLA have submitted project proposal to support development and improvement in diagnostic testing for PEDv (Appendix 3)	March 2015
12.	In the event of disease incursion occurring, determine need for targeted surveillance. For PED this would involve testing high risk areas, such as, markets, abattoirs, collection centres, fallen stock and fell mongers.	AHVLA	AHVLA invited to set up some regular testing to identify practical considerations in acquiring samples for testing.	March 2015
5 Rapid response - Contingency plans		BPEX		
13.	Develop an industry led contingency plan for response to key non-statutory emerging disease threats. Liaise with UK and EU to co-ordinate contingency planning.	BPEX	First draft of contingency plan for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea developed.	Sept. 2014
14.	Test the contingency plan in a realistic virtual exercise and identify resources required for effective control of the disease threat.	NPA	New swine dysentery breakdowns could be used to test contingency plan as East of England Swine Dysentery Producer Charter used as basis.	March 2015
15.	Consider a BPEX reserve fund for initial rapid responses in the event of a disease outbreak. Consultation on Pig Industry Development Scheme	BPEX	NPA and BPEX to develop an options paper reflecting what industry might do (and how much prepared to spend) in the early stages of an outbreak.	Sept. 2014

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16.	Thoroughly explore options for movement restrictions on farms on which a new disease has been identified and options for disease elimination from the site	NPA	Subgroup on reportable v. notifiable to consider options on movement restrictions.	Dec. 2014
6 Strategic Goals		NPA		
17.	BPEX and NPA Producer group to agree strategy goals on improving pig health and the means whereby the strategy could be delivered eg a voluntary code of practice; a Pig Industry Development Scheme or through assurance schemes.	BPEX and NPA	Discussed in brief at NPA Producer Group	Dec. 2014
18.	Identify and empower those who have responsibility and accountability for leadership, oversight of and securing funding for the delivery of the strategy.	BPEX and NPA	BPEX and NPA working closely to cover key issues.	March 2015
19.	Develop an effective communication strategy to highlight the risk to farmers and the wider supply chain and to highlight what steps can be taken to reduce the risk to the industry.	BPEX	BPEX has provided technical support for the NPA PEDv Q&As webpage. BPEX and NPA maintaining webpages on PED. Biosecurity seminars being planned for September 2014.	Sept. 2014
20.	Ensure support is available to affected units and individuals in any outbreak.	NPA	Highlighted in NPA PEDv Q&As and also in NPA Producer Brief.	Sept. 2014

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Standard Operating Protocols

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SOP 1:	Investigation of a Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea breakdown	AHVLA	RS to explore the option of creating a PED annexe for VIRDO scoping out what would be involved and any financial implications.	
SOP 2:	Sampling strategy and collection, handling and storage of samples for use in investigation of a Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea breakdown	AHVLA		
SOP 3:	General industry biosecurity standard	NPA		
SOP 4:	Farmgate biosecurity – people	BPEX		
SOP 5:	Farmgate biosecurity – vehicles	BPEX		
SOP 6:	Farmgate biosecurity – line of separation, loading	BPEX		
SOP 7:	Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles used to transport infected pigs	BPEX		
SOP 8:	Containment, control and elimination of infection	PVS		
SOP 9:	Controlled exposure of herds to virus	PVS		
SOP 10:	Controlled movements from infected sites	NPA		
SOP 11:	Intensive cleaning and disinfection of unit following breakdown	BPEX		
SOP 12:	Manure management	BPEX		
SOP 13:	Fallen stock	NFSCo		
SOP 14:	Confirming return to disease ‘free’ status	PVS		