



Maryland 4-H Swine 2014 Weighing and Tagging Protocol for 4-H Swine Exhibitions

Background:

The USDA has confirmed that Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) has been identified in the United States for the first time through testing at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory. This is not a new virus, nor is it a regulatory/reportable disease. Since PEDv is widespread in many countries, it is not a trade-restricting disease, but rather a production-related disease. PEDv may appear clinically to be the same as Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) virus with acute diarrhea. Producers will need to work with their herd veterinarian if any TGE-like symptoms appear and as always, maintain strict biosecurity protocols.

- Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) is a virus similar to Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE), another disease only affecting pigs. It is not zoonotic, so therefore it poses no risk to other animals or humans. Also, **it poses no risk to food safety.**
- PEDv has been identified in the United States in a small number of herds. The virus is not a new virus, as it was first recognized in England in 1971. Since then, the disease has been identified in a number of European countries, and more recently in China, Korea and Japan.
- USDA, State Animal Health Officials, the American Association of Swine Veterinarians and veterinarians at the National Pork Board are actively monitoring this disease and will make recommendations to producers as necessary.
- PEDv is transmitted via the fecal-oral route and may appear to be the same as Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) virus with acute diarrhea within 12 to 36 hours of onset. Herd veterinarians remain well versed in managing TGE-like diseases.
- The virus is a member of the Corona family and causes clinical signs very similar to TGE (Transmissible Gastroenteritis) including:
 - acute outbreaks of severe diarrhea and vomiting
 - significant mortality (50 - 60%) in piglets 7 days of age and younger
 - incubation in 1 - 4 days
- Laboratory testing is the only way to conclusively diagnose PEDv.
- As always, producers who see any signs of illness in their pigs should notify their herd veterinarian immediately to address the issue.
- PEDv does not affect pork safety. Pork remains completely safe to eat.

PEDv is of most concern to breeders of pigs as the mortality level in young, nursing or recently weaned pigs can be high. Older animals experience a setback in growth rate of about 3-7 days and generally recover with supportive therapy (clean, dry comfortable, draft free environment, low stress levels, access to plenty of clean fresh water and electrolyte therapy).

Livestock exhibitors are reminded to be attentive and practice good biosecurity protocols when visiting animal auctions, farms, fellow exhibitor's farms and livestock shows.

Impact on Maryland 4-H Weighing and Tagging Procedures for 2014:

The process of exhibiting any animal is one that has inherent risks of exposing the animals to disease due to commingling with sick animals. The safest way to protect animals is for the member to not participate in or attend exhibitions. However, most exhibitors choose to participate in exhibitions as part of their 4-H experience and, as such, take steps to minimize risks.

The current concerns associated with PEDv cause us to draw extra attention and emphasis to biosecurity measures that all exhibitors should normally follow to minimize risks and to take extra precautions as well.

In an effort to reduce commingling of swine animals during traditional spring weighing and tagging processes, Maryland 4-H is implementing the following protocol for 2014:

1. There will be no spring weighing of swine for purposes of establishing eligibility for Maryland 4-H Shows and Classes.
2. Rate-of-gain requirements for Maryland 4-H Swine Shows are waived. As such, rate-of-gain classes at Maryland 4-H Swine Shows will need to be modified or cancelled.
3. Tagging animals is an important step in validating ownership of 4-H project market animals. As in the past, tagging of 4-H animals shall be supervised by UME 4-H faculty/staff or an appointed designee (referred to as the committee).
4. Tagging shall be done on the exhibitor's trailer by the exhibitor (family) and observed by the committee, at the time and place designated by County 4-H faculty/staff. On-farm tagging/validation is not recommended. Animals should not be removed from trailers. Committees should take advantage of available space at fairgrounds or tagging locations and park trailers away from one another.
5. We recommend the following scheduling order for tagging sessions:
 - 1) First tagged - Members that have farrowing on their farm. It is preferred that this occur on a separate day, prior to the group tagging date. Holding at a separate location is further suggested when possible (i.e. Extension office, large business parking lot, etc.)
 - 2) Second tagged - Members that have other swine on the farm.
 - 3) Third tagged - Members with just 4-H swine on the farm.
6. It is highly recommended that swine tagging be held separately from weighing and tagging of other species. Exhibitors should follow the recommended biosecurity protocol for cleaning all handling equipment, vehicle/trailers, and animals between movement of different species of animals when present on the same farm.

Before exhibitors load animals on their trailer:

1. Clean all handling equipment, vehicle, trailers and animals before loading. PEDv transfers via feces and survives in manure for extended periods of time. Anything contaminated with manure can be a source of infection.
2. No pigs that have active PEDv or have been knowingly exposed to PEDv in the last 30 days will be allowed.

3. Prior to coming to tagging, exhibitors should complete the Livestock Self-Certification of Animal Health form available on the Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health website at: <http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Forms.aspx>.
4. Exhibitors should only bring the minimum number of people from their farm necessary to restrain and tag animals on their trailer.
5. Exhibitors should change their clothes and footwear before entering their vehicle.
6. Other animals, such as dogs and cats, can physically transfer pathogens. To prevent spread of diseases, pets, and any other animals not being tagged should be kept home and not brought to tagging and exhibitions.
7. If there are non-exhibit animals on the farm, exhibitors should work with their veterinarian to plan and prepare a location to isolate animals when they return from tagging.

At the tagging site:

1. Committee members should not wear any clothing/shoes that have previously been around swine animals. Committee members should wear plastic boots and gloves and change between trailers. Clean hands and exposed skin with antibacterial soap before and after each trailer.
2. Again, tagging shall be done on the exhibitor's trailer by the exhibitor (family) and observed by the committee. Animals should not be removed. Committees should take advantage of available space at fairgrounds or tagging locations and park trailers away from one another.
3. Exhibitors should arrive on site and remain in vehicles until instructions are provided by the committee. Plastic boots should be given to occupants upon arrival to put on as they are exiting the vehicle. The boots should be removed and disposed in a provided plastic waste bag upon re-entering the vehicle.
4. In the event that a committee member must tag an animal because the exhibitor (or family) is not skilled, he/she should also wear disposable coveralls and refrain from entering the trailer when possible; i.e., tag at the gate/door as the exhibitor restrains the animal from within the trailer.
5. Tagging Applicators. If a family has a suitable tagging applicator they should be encouraged to sanitize and bring their own. Committee provided taggers must be dipped in approved sanitizer between trailers. We recommend that more than one applicator be available to allow time to dry after being dipped between uses.

After exhibitors return from tagging/exhibition:

1. When returning to the farm after the tagging/exhibition, the animal(s) should be separated (quarantined) from the rest of the herd or flock for at least two weeks; 30 days is preferred.
2. Animals should be watched closely during the quarantine time period for signs of disease. If an animal changes behavior or seems ill, exhibitors should contact their veterinarian.
3. Exhibitors should thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment, clothing, shoes, and vehicles/trailers that were used at the tagging/exhibition.

4. Chores for the animals in the quarantine area should be completed as the last task of the day after exhibitors have already worked with their other animals.
5. Have dedicated boots and coveralls for use with quarantined animals only. Supplies such as buckets and feed pans should not be shared between pigs in quarantine and other animals on the farm.

Disinfectants:

Use 1-Stroke Environ, Virkon ST, Nolvasan, Tek-Trol or other veterinarian approved disinfectants. Mix disinfectants according to label directions. You can also mix bleach and water (3/4 cup to one gallon of water). Diluted disinfectants should be changed each day or, better yet, mix up just before using. Clean boots beforehand, removing all organic material, and disinfectant should be effective within 5 minutes of contact time and most effective at room temperature or warmer. Important: Handle bleach with care & all disinfectants are more effective when all organic material is removed prior to disinfecting.

Final Reminders:

Following good biosecurity practices is very important. We should continue to emphasize following good health monitoring and biosecurity practices with 4-H members and families. Transmission can be minimized by swine farmers using proper biosecurity methods, including washing trucks and trailers between loads, washing boots and clothing, and establishing a line of separation between clean and dirty areas. The National Pork Board has developed a wide variety of biosecurity information that is free and available at <http://www.pork.org/>.

Sources:

National Pork Board Statement on Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV), National Pork Board, <http://www.pork.org/News/3904/NationalPorkBoardStatementOnPEDV.aspx>

Biosecurity Fundamentals for Extension Personnel, VME-0005-01, Gary L. Bowman, D.V.M. Extension Veterinarian, Swine; William P. Shulaw, D.V.M. Extension Veterinarian, Cattle and Sheep; The Ohio State University, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/vme-fact/0005.html>

Swine Show Biosecurity Recommendations, National Pork Board, <http://www.pork.org/News/4545/SwineShowBiosecurityRecommendations.aspx>

Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Section website, <http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/default.aspx>

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