Important Swine Show Information for Garrett County

A swine disease, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) has been identified in the United States. This virus can devastate breeding swine operations and therefore all swine owners are asked to assist in preventing the spread of this virus.

The process of exhibiting any animal at shows or fairs 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.

In an effort to provide swine exhibitors information about PEDv and allow them to make an informed choice about their participation, Garrett County 4-H is implementing the following protocol for 2014:

1. We will be holding the District Show at the Garrett County Fairgrounds on May 17.
2. Swine that will be shown at the District Show will be weighed and tagged on May 16, Friday prior to the show.
3. Any swine exhibitor that chooses not to participate in the District Show will have two options for tagging:
   a. Swine can be weighed and tagged as in past years and will participate in the rate of gain program
   b. Swine can be tagged on trailers to minimize any contact with other swine; these swine will not be weighed and would not participate in the rate of gain program.
4. Swine exhibitors who have breeding swine at their farms and would be most at risk for complications from PEDv may call the 4-H Office to work out biosecurity details, and are urged to work directly with their veterinarian to plan to minimize their risks.
5. Please read the background information about PEDv that is printed on the reverse side of this sheet. Also review the letter from Maryland Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Division that includes additional information about PEDv and biosecurity measures that is posted on our website: www.garrett.umd.edu
6. Please call the 4-H office if you have any questions.
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.