Dear Swine Exhibitor or Exhibition Sponsor:

We need your help to protect your swine and the swine industry in Maryland from a highly contagious disease, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PEDv). The fair and show season is now in full swing and youth are preparing their livestock projects for exhibition. In the United States, more than one million pigs are raised for exhibition. This segment of the swine industry has an important role in health management, keeping pigs healthy, and protecting them from disease outbreaks, which will also help to prevent the spread into and through the commercial swine industry.

PEDv was first detected in the United States in May 2013 and has since been diagnosed in 34 states, including Maryland. PEDv causes severe diarrhea in pigs of all ages with vomiting, and it has a high mortality (almost 100%) in suckling piglets. PEDv is easily spread in infected feces from one animal to another and from one area to another. The carriers causing the spread of PEDv infected feces are pigs, trucks, people, pets, clothing or things (fomites). The time of exposure to clinical signs is only 12 to 24 hours. The PEDv virus can be shed for up to three to four weeks. There is no vaccine available at this time for PEDv, and natural immunity to PEDv is not long lasting. Treatment for PEDv is supportive care mainly to provide a dry, clean, draft free environment, and high quality drinking water with electrolytes. PEDv is not a zoonotic disease, does not affect people, nor is it a food safety concern.

What can our swine exhibitions and exhibition organizers do to prevent the entry and spread of PEDv?

For Swine Exhibitors:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture recommends that swine exhibitors work closely with their veterinarians and the University of Maryland Extension to practice strict biosecurity methods to prevent disease spread and proper documentation to assist disease trace backs in case of an outbreak. Also:

- Isolate new pigs and returning pigs from weigh-ins and exhibitions for a minimum of seven days up to 30 days.
- Purchase pigs with valid health certificates and entry permits, if applicable. Send only healthy pigs to exhibitions.
- Pigs for exhibition must have "official identification" with a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) properly issued by an accredited veterinarian. Note: tattoos and ear notches are not official identification.
- The exhibitor must fill out the swine health self-certification form stating the exhibitors’ swine have not been exposed nor shown clinical signs of contagious or infectious disease over the last 21 days.
- Clean and disinfect all your show equipment when you return home.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.
- Trucks and trailers used to haul pigs to and from exhibitions should be cleaned/ disinfected and dried between each use. All organic matter and manure must first be removed with soap and
preferably hot water (temperatures above 150 F° inactivate the virus) then rinsed, followed by disinfection of the wet surfaces. A simple disinfectant to use is 6 percent bleach which is 1 part bleach to 32 parts water. Make sure the conveyance is completely dry before reusing other virucidal disinfectants that can be effective against PEDv. Follow the label instructions and environmental regulations. Make sure the floor mats in your vehicle are free of manure and bedding.

- Change your clothes and footwear before entering your vehicle or before entering your barns at home.

For Exhibition Organizers:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture recommends that exhibition organizers identify a veterinarian or an experienced animal health individual to be involved with animal check in. Exhibition organizers should:

- Perform daily health evaluations of the swine during the exhibit.
- Have a plan to report any illness to the swine superintendents and to immediately remove any sick pigs from the exhibition.
- If at all possible, shorten the time the pigs are congregated and co-mingled at an exhibition to no more than 72 hours.
- If it is decided to offer both terminal and breeding swine shows, schedule the terminal show after the breeding show or schedule breaks between shows. Use this break to thoroughly clean and disinfect the facility.
- Maintain records of individual swine and source farms to enhance speed and accuracy of an animal disease investigation associated with the exhibition.

For Swine Exhibitors, Exhibition Organizers, and Swine Producers:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture strongly urges Maryland swine exhibitors, exhibition organizers, and swine producers to report any swine with unusually high incidence of disease to MDA’s Animal Health office at 410-841-5810 during regular business hours. If after hours, contact MDA’s After Hour’s Duty Veterinarian at 410-841-5971. Your reporting will allow MDA officials to quickly investigate and test for suspicious, contagious or infectious swine diseases that could potentially affect Maryland’s swine industry and exhibitions.

For more information about PEDv, see our website: www.mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/swine.aspx

Sincerely,

Michael W. Radebaugh, VDM
State Veterinarian