

AASV Interpretation of PEDv Survey Results

The American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) has conducted a survey of member veterinarians regarding the recent introduction of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv). The objective of this survey was to determine whether or not we could identify any risk factors potentially associated with the introduction of the PEDv into the U.S. swine herd. AASV worked with the National Pork Board, the National Pork Producers Council and the USDA Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) to develop this survey. The survey data were submitted to CEAH for analysis via a link created by the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense at Texas A&M.

Over 100 variables were assessed during the survey. Of these, only seven were considered significantly likely to have some association with the introduction of PEDv into the herds involved in the survey. These seven risk factors were associated with the process of feeding the animals. The questions were broad in scope and did not implicate any specific finished feed, feed ingredient, feed manufacturer or ingredient supplier. The results of this initial survey should not be over-interpreted. The sample size was small, with many common on-farm practices and potential biases.

To date, all feed and ingredient samples tested for PEDv have tested negative. There is no diagnostic indication that feed was in any way related to the introduction of PEDv into the U.S. swine herd. The feed industry has been, and continues to be, fully cooperative with all efforts to identify any possible sources of viral introduction. We want to stress that we do not have any evidence that any feed ingredient, finished feed or feed manufacturer was associated with the introduction of PEDv.

The goal of the survey was to identify any common risk factors that might direct further investigation or support the development of a hypothesis that might explain the route of introduction. AASV, the pork industry and CEAH are continuing to explore all significant routes of introduction as well as the risk factors associated with the ongoing lateral spread of PEDv. AASV appreciates the continued cooperation of all entities involved (including pork producers, veterinarians, state and federal animal health officials, researchers, diagnosticians and the allied industries) as we endeavor to determine how this virus entered the U.S. swine herd.