

To: Pork Industry Producer Leaders
From: Members of the Pork Industry PEDV Task Force

It has come to our attention that USDA funding in support of the Federal Swine Enteric Coronavirus Reporting and Disease Management program is dwindling and is not going to be renewed. The funds allocated to this program have been used in the past to cover research, herd management planning, herd biosecurity work, and diagnostic testing and sequencing.

The PEDV Task Force, made up of veterinarians, producer leaders and diagnosticians has been in constant contact with USDA on the progress of the program for the last 2 years. On a conference call with USDA officials on Friday, January 22, 2016, after hearing from other veterinarians and producers, the Task Force provided input to USDA on the needed revisions for the program to ensure the remaining program funds go to activities that return the most benefit to the pork industry. The Task Force shared that preserving funds for diagnostic testing remains the top priority for the industry and that herd management planning and biosecurity payments were not the best use of the program's funds. This prioritization of use of remaining funds is especially appropriate as we start to see an increase in PEDV breaks this winter. Testing needs are likely going to increase in the next several months.

The revised Federal Order, issued January 4, 2016, eliminated the herd management plan requirement and payment along with payment for future herd biosecurity labor and materials. Considering the limited funds remaining the PEDV Task Force supports the decision made and supports USDA channeling the remaining program funds to diagnostics.

Our request to you: As leaders in the pork industry, please consider not requesting any additional USDA SECD program funds for PEDV biosecurity materials and labor. By not asking for funds, you will help extend the time period under which the program can continue to pay for vital diagnostic testing. This prioritization of the remaining funds for diagnostic testing is important as we are starting to see an increase in PEDV breaks this winter. As a result we expect needs for testing are going to increase in the next several months.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Neil Dierks
Howard Hill
Joe Connor
Paul Yeske
Dale Norton
Tom Burkgren
Liz Wagstrom
Albert Rovira