



PHOTO: RITA BRHEL

Suggested measures to combat Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) have been rigorous, including isolating operations from one another and keeping confinement facilities as far away from the public as possible.

Combatting PED

Manure Applicators Shifting Practices To Align With Stricter Swine Biosecurity Measures To Control New Pig Disease

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a two-part series looking at the impact of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) virus.

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

Producers, veterinarians and industry officials across the United States have been scrambling for the past year to keep a rapidly spreading, and very costly, pig disease — Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) virus — from decimating the pork industry. One of the mainstays in controlling PED infection in swine herds has been the industry's typically high level of biosecurity, focusing primarily on preventing cross-contamination from infected manure.

Biosecurity is a complicated matter for hog producers, said John Carney, executive director of the Manitoba Livestock Manure Management Initiative (MLMMI) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

"The thing is, all those judgments cost money," he said.

The list of biosecurity measures possible is long and includes such practices as spacing individual swine herds a minimum of 1 1/2 miles from each other, with attention given to wind direction, land topography and presence of natural trees or shelterbelts. Producers are told to keep in mind the proximity to wildlife and other farm animals, even hogs part of the same herd but kept in different buildings. Facilities should be located away from public roads, even farther if there is swine traffic on a particular road. The operation could be fenced off at the perimeter with a locked gate at the entrance and signs warning people of the farm's biosecurity policy. The farm office is advised to be located near the gate, to have its own kitchen so farm workers aren't leaving the grounds during the work day for meals. Employees should not live at another hog farm or have contact with pigs outside of their workplace. Visitors should be kept at a minimum and not allowed to have pig contact at least 24 hours before arriving that the hog farm. A sign-in visitor book helps with traceability. All doors should be locked and a buzzer available for visitors. No pets allowed.

Also, all farm workers and visitors are required to have a shower before entering the facilities, with farm clothes provided to prevent contamination from the clothes and jewelry. A clothes washer and dryer on the premises prevent farm clothes from being contaminated by being removed from the farm to be cleaned. There should be sepa-

rate farm workers for the main herd and for the pigs kept in isolation, and farm chores should be done in a certain order from highest health status to lowest. All rooms are recommended to be cleaned with a power washer and then disinfected with certain products. Facilities need to be rodent-proof; any pest problems should be eliminated by a professional exterminator. Vehicles should not be allowed on the hog farm without cleaning and disinfecting. Pigs should be moved as a group in an "all in-all out" manner during each production stage.

As is evident, biosecurity at hog farms can be as thorough as possible. But, Carney said, producers need to be able to discern what protocols work best and when in order to keep produc-

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"I like the phrase, 'Start right, end right,'" Carney added.

To help pinpoint cost-effective protocols specific to PED, the MLMMI in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin in Madison conducted a survey in July 2104 of commercial manure applicators — one of the few non-farm trucks allowed onto the grounds of most high-level biosecurity hog farms — of what measures they're taking to prevent the spread of PED and what swine producers can do to help them to better ensure success.

The survey collected anonymous information from an online survey as well as a paper survey distributed at the 2014 North American Manure Expo in Springfield, Missouri. There were 47 respondents from 15 states and provinces in the United States and Canada. Of the respondents, 96 percent have or are making changes to their procedures as a result of PED, as the majority of producers they work with express concern about the spread of PED.

"There is no question in my mind that this has changed the way manure application is done, and its significance," Carney said.

According to the survey respondents, the most difficult part of pre-pumping procedures is planning an entrance and exit with no to minimal crossover lines of separation, noting

that the lines of separation are often not readily marked and that many hog farms do not have lanes for outside vehicles separate from on-farm vehicles.

"We want to separate manure application activities from anybody who comes in contact with the pigs," Carney said. The best way to design additional vehicle lanes is to map out proposed lanes on a Google Earth image of the farm, to be able to assess relevant site features like the barns and public roads. Clearly identifying lines of separation, such as with yellow hazard tape, can better help direct off-farm vehicles as well.

The most challenging part post-challenging procedures is having enough time to clean the equipment properly before going to the next site. In addition, there is expense incurred by the applicators to dispose of outerwear and then to clean truck and tractor cabs between sites.

"There are all kinds of changes that manure applicators have or are making in response to PED," Carney said. "Cleaning, disinfecting and drying was by far and away the hardest for them to implement. Closely related, sanitation and down time has proven difficult."

Overall, downtime for cleaning to keep up with PED-specific biosecurity protocols have added more than 10 percent time to many applicators' schedules, according to survey respondents. And downtime costs money, by reducing the number of sites they can service in a day, and therefore their bottom line.

Some hog producers are going a step further and purchasing their own pumps, hoses and couplings to avoid using manure applicator's pumps. Additionally, some applicators are purchasing their own power-washing units to avoid using the producers' equipment. So there has been innovative give-and-take from both sides, Carney said.

Lisa Becton, veterinarian and Director of Swine Health Information and Research at the National Pork Board in Des Moines, Iowa, suggested other tips for manure applicators, including changing footwear and putting on clean overalls between sites; avoiding high-traffic roads; and not parking next to other vehicles on the farm or next to any vehicles off the farm that are known to be in contact with hogs, such as livestock trailers.

"Clearly, by any way you look at it, this virus has been a game changer for manure applicators," Carney said.



SDSU Volga Farm Summer Tour Aug. 5

BROOKINGS — The annual South Dakota State University Volga Farm Tour will be held on Aug. 5 at 9:30 a.m. and will run until noon. The tour is located 1.5 miles south of Volga on Brookings county road 5 on the east side of road. There will be continuous tours running throughout the morning. Each tour will last about an hour. The day will conclude with lunch provided by our sponsors.

Attendees will have three tours to go on this year:

- Weed Management — This tour will be led by Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Management Coordinator and Darrel Deneke SDSU Extension IPM Coordinator. They will discuss Weed Management Strategies in the glyphosate resistant period.

- Fertilizer Water Management, Seeding Rates and Row Spacing — This tour will include several SDSU Extension Specialists and SDSU faculty. Anthony Bly SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist will discuss Nitrogen Timing and Yellow Corn; Nick Schiltz, Precision Ag Graduate Student will discuss Soybean Seeding Rate and Row Spacing; and Daniel Ostrem SDSU Extension Water Resource Field Specialist will discuss Irrigation Water Management.

- Pest Management tour — Led by Kelly Tilton, SDSU Extension Soybean Entomology Specialist, there will also be a discussion on Soybean insects and others insect concerns. Emmanuel Byamukama, SDSU Extension Plant Pathologist will discuss Corn and Soybean diseases; and Jose Gonzalez, Associate Professor will discuss Mycorrhiza Colonization in Spring Wheat.

Between tours, attendees will have an opportunity to visit with Connie Tande, Diagnostician for the SDSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic about plant sample issues or questions. There will also be research posters on display for review.

Tour sponsors include: South Dakota Crop Improvement Association, South Dakota Wheat Commission and South Dakota Soybeans Research and Promotion council.

For more information, contact Paul O. Johnson at paulo.johnson@sdstate.edu or 605-688-4591 or Darrell Deneke at Darrell.deneke@sdstate.edu or 605-688-4595.

SDSPA Summer Field Tour Is Aug. 8

PIERRE — The South Dakota Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA) welcomes everyone to attend a free Summer Field Tour on Friday, Aug. 8.

The tour begins at 1 p.m. CDT at Jeff and Jolene Stewart's Stewart's Aronia Acres in Wagner. Attendees will tour fields of black currants and aronia, visit a field being prepared for a new haskap planting and learn about the Stewart's berry harvester.

At 3 p.m. CDT, attendees will travel about 19 miles north to Armour to Greg and JoAnne Farke's Farm to tour fields of hops and grapes.

Contact Jeff Stewart at (605) 384-4443 or jstewart@hcinet.net with questions about the event. Registration is not required to attend this event.

- Directions to Stewart's Aronia Acres — 1 mile west of Wagner on Highway 46 to 393rd Avenue then 1.5 miles south. Watch for SDSPA tour sign and red berry harvester and turn into field approach.

- Directions to Farke's Farm — 3 miles South of Armour on Highway 281, then 1.5 miles west on 284th street. Driveway and farm on south side of the road.

Program For Horse Owners Slated

BROOKINGS — Horse experts from across the nation are heading to South Dakota State University for an educational program designed to provide horse owners and enthusiasts with information on taking care of their horses as well as the land.

"This program is an excellent opportunity for horse owners to learn how to take care of their horses while also taking care of their land," said Rebecca Bott, Assistant Professor and SDSU Extension Equine Specialist.

The Aug. 16 educational program covers pastures, production and best management practices related to horses. We will be featuring eight experts from five equine programs around the U.S. It will be held in Northern Plains, Room 103 on the campus of SDSU.

The workshop takes place from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Pre-registration is requested by Aug. 10. To register, visit iGrow.org. Registration is \$20 if done on or before Aug. 10 and \$25 after that, including the day of the event. Coffee and donuts will be provided along with a folder of important take-home points from the day.

Farm Service Agency News

FSA Preparing For Farm Bill Rollout

BY DAVID CHARLES
Farm Service Agency

Your local FSA office is preparing for the upcoming Farm Bill rollout this fall and winter. We are currently taking applications for our livestock disaster programs. If you had livestock and pasture in 2012 or 2013, you are eligible to apply for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). We encourage you to call your FSA office as soon as possible to set up an appointment.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation to eligible

livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by Jan. 30, 2015.

The 2014 Farm Bill has authorized a one-time update to base acres and yields for 2014. These acres and yields

are determined by actual planted acres and yields from 2009-2012. The number of base acres cannot be increased but acres can change commodities based on planting history. Letters will be sent out this fall to inform you of your options under the new farm program.

If you have any questions regarding the 2014 Farm Bill programs, please call our office at 605-665-2662.

Charles is the Yankton County executive director of the Farm Service Agency.



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