April 8, 2014

To: Kansas 4-H Extension agents

 County 4-H swine superintendents

 County weigh-in and tagging organizers

 Spring swine show and exhibition organizers

 Swine sale organizers

 Swine exhibitors

The introduction of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) into the United States in 2013 has caused harm to the pork industry in many ways. To date, there have been 28 states with a positive diagnosis of PEDv since the first reported case in April 2013, with the peak number of positives occurring in the fall of 2013. Nationally, we are still seeing the number of positive samples gradually climbing with 33% of the test samples submitted being positive. Kansas has had more than 340 positive samples by the end of March 2014. We have seen an increase in the number of positive cases in Kansas herds in the last 30 days.

Because this virus has a huge impact on the swine industry, both in production and economics, and its capacity to spread so easily, the Kansas Division of Animal Health (KDAH) would like to provide some resources to help stem the possible spread of this virus. KDAH has not implemented increased regulations or restrictions regarding exhibition swine at this time, but we will continue to closely monitor the situation and will develop emergency measures needed.

PEDv is an enteric disease affecting the pig’s intestine. It spreads via the fecal-oral route, so anything that can be contaminated with manure such as clothing, footwear, vehicles, trailers, and equipment can be sources of virus spread. The virus can lead to 100% death in piglets 3 weeks and younger, and it will cause diarrhea and vomiting in feeder and grower pigs. Producers, exhibitors, livestock haulers and anyone handling or coming into contact with pigs must practice strict biosecurity to help protect against the spread of this disease.

If you have pigs or come into contact with pigs exhibiting signs of sickness that could be associated with PEDv, it is paramount you contact your local veterinarian and take steps to prevent the spread of the causative agent. It cannot be stressed enough - taking the extra effort and time to correctly follow biosecurity measures can mean the difference between successful show season or a large disease incident.

Please find enclosed four fact sheets developed by the Pork Check-off, which provide facts about PEDv and biosecurity measures to be considered by organizers, superintendents, project leaders, exhibitors and others associated with swine exhibitions. You can find more information at www.pork.org/resources.

Kansas Division of Animal Health

Kansas Department of Agriculture