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Swine Newsletter

May 1, 2014

Dear Pork Producer,

It certainly has been a late spring this year. By the time you receive this letter I am sure that you will be too busy catching up on spring work to take time to read it. Nevertheless, there are a few ideas I would like to discuss.

Ontario Wide PRRS ARC & E/ PEDv Containment & Elimination

There have been a lot of regions in Ontario interested in PRRS control, so it has been decided to make it a province wide program. Also we are trying to sign up barns (especially those identified as positive) for PEDv too.

If farmers view this initiative as of value then we hope they will sign on. If not valued as useful, then the whole thing could just do a slow death and go away. I think that this would be a shame because then we lose all the leadership in the industry for any coordinated disease control.

The funding for on-farm visits has been used up but the lab costs are still being absorbed by OMAF for certain situations. Please contact us, sign up and we can make arrangements for sample collection. Maybe your status is already known and it is just a matter of reporting a barns status to Dr. Jane Carpenter (the coordinator of the project). A dot on the Ontario map representing your barn will then be added. If your location is positive, then we can talk over the situation and determine if there is a way to change the status to negative. It may or may not be a good idea to change things. That would have to be discussed.

PEDv Control and Elimination

New positive locations still are being diagnosed but the trend seems to be slowing down. There are now over 50 barns that have been confirmed positive and well over 100 barns that have had PEDv positive pigs moved into them. With warmer summer weather on the way we hope that the discovery of new herds will totally stop. Clinical PED will cease to be seen in infected barns, but we still have the challenge of eliminating the virus from the barns and the environment. To address this problem there was an OSHAB sponsored meeting of all the pig vets on Wednesday April 23rd. We wrestled with testing

strategies to determine barn status. All of our questions and concerns were not figured out. Remember, this is a new disease for us. More on these developments later.

In the meantime, we are concerned about area spread from manure application this spring. If you hire a contractor to do this job you might ask him where the equipment was before it comes to your place. Driving on country roads can pick up viruses on your vehicles. Consider where you and your employees park and how you enter the barn.

We can't accurately tell you how long infective virus might live in a manure pit. Two weeks is one figure that I've heard but I have not seen a good scientific article on this topic. I remember way back we used to say six weeks for TGE virus! And PED virus, delta corona virus and TGE are all corona viruses. We know that it does not live as long at warmer temperatures as at cooler temperatures. So no doubt the length of infectivity of the virus in the environment varies quite abit. Fortunately, it is a fairly easy virus to kill. Washing and disinfecting is effective. Now that things are finally warming up the sun will help to kill it in the barn yards quicker. And of course your super Danish entry ways and strict biosecurity should keep it out of the barn! We hope!

Yours truly,

R.G. Reed