I recently returned from the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV). 1000 veterinarians attend this meeting. Much of the discussion was about PEDv. In the monthly newsletter and the next few updates I will review some of the things discussed. Here are some highlights:

- The USDA was asked questions why PED was not a reportable disease. This was a foreign disease that causes high mortality and is highly contagious.
- Lots of discussion about the possible role feed additives could play in the spread of PEDv. (CFIA recently announced that bioassay trials of feeding PEDv PCR positive feed to weaned pigs couldn’t produce infection). Kansas State is going to look at feed again. Some of the comments were: was only one batch of feed contaminated? What was the timeline between the manufacturing of the plasma, the feed, the feed being fed to the pigs and when CFIA collected the samples? Could just part of the batch be contaminated? What are the controls in place after manufacturing of the plasma for eg. transport?
- There was more general discussion about the risk of additives being manufactured off shore and what is the next disease that could enter North America. The example given was the manufacture of rice hulls. Rice hulls are used as a carrier for certain medications. The hulls are processed in China. The hulls are spread on the road to dry. Vehicles hauling pigs can travel on the same roads where the rice hulls are drying
- Is it time that by-products from pigs are not fed back to pigs and safeguards have to be put in place to separate porcine, avian and bovine by-products in rendering?
- There was lots of discussion about how to expose the sow herd. Feces versus intestinal tracts from neonatal pigs. How much content to expose sows to? There is concern that in some of these herds the sows are being made too sick. Have sows lying down and not eating for 6 days could be an issue. In herds that made the sows severely ill, often after the initial outbreak production improves then production declines probably because the herd had a high challenge and other diseases flare-up. Some veterinarians feel a single exposure done properly is enough.
- In many herds there are breeding issues after exposure. Some of the breeding problems are because sows were off feed in farrowing on the breeding row, some because sows lost their litters and were weaned early. In some cases besides feeding back PEDv, PRRS was in the feces and was fed back
- Often salmonella will break out in the nursery, grow/finish and sow herd when feedback occurs. Some herds will use Neo Tet in the sow herd and the nursery.
- Lots of attention has to be given to washing and disinfection. Herds that have done an exposure shouldn’t have to do another exposure 3 or 4 months later. Instead these herds should focus on washing, disinfecting, drying and people traffic. One herd had dedicated staff for the farrowing rooms, breeding etc and no one went to another area. Boot baths were outside of each farrowing room. Each farrowing room had a large 4L container of hand sanitizer and staff wore disposable gloves. The gloves would be replaced when they wore out. Staff would apply the disinfectant to their gloves.
• There was discussion about the video released by HSUS of the pig farm, Iron Maiden Farms, in Kentucky that was videotaped feeding back intestines to sows. Many veterinarians and producers responded to the video that this was done to reduce severe death loss. The video has not had many views

• Mexican veterinarians are reporting that they believe they have PED but the country has not made a report to the OIE

Websites for further information


http://www.opic.on.ca/oshab -overview - good videos on truck washing

www.ontariopork.on.ca.ped
