



IFA

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PEDv)

National Pig Health Council

The National Pig Health Council met on Tuesday 23rd December to discuss the recent outbreaks of Porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PEDv) in Europe.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) and African Swine Fever (ASF) are diseases of pigs which can cause decimation in pig units. Exceptional mortality levels of up to 100% are being experienced on some farms. Should Ireland succumb to either disease the result would be disastrous.

An emergency meeting of the NPHC was convened at the behest of IFA and the following actions were recommended and agreed by the major stakeholders in the Irish Pig Industry.

Those in attendance included Chairman Pat Kirwan (PVP), Secretary Amii McKeever, Pat O'Flaherty, Colin Marry, Joe Healy, (IFA), John Moriarty, Eoin Ryan, Michael Sheahan (DAFM) Karl O'Sullivan (Kepak), Joe Ryan (IBEC), James Brady, Jimmy O'Connor (Rosderra), Eduard Aldeweiraldt (PIC) Paul Spillane, Mike Burke, (PVPs) Declan Doyle

(Dawn), Pat O'Flaherty, Ned Nolan (Hermitage), Sean McGlynn (IGFA).

Although members of the council. The Northern Irish AI stations were not in attendance at the meeting, however the actions agreed relate to the whole Island.

1. A voluntary ban **on imports** of live pigs from anywhere into Ireland for the next 3 months (until 1/4/15) and subject to review depending on how the disease and our knowledge of it develops in the immediate future
2. A voluntary ban **on exports** of live pigs from Ireland to Continental Europe for the next 3 months and subject to review
3. A voluntary ban on the use of **all Plasma Protein** in pig feeds for the next 3 months pending further knowledge re. the potential for spread through this feed ingredient.
4. Advice to **all workers** in the pig industry that may be returning to Eastern Europe for

the holiday season (translated into Russian and Ukrainian)

5. **Biosecurity measures** to be increased in all Irish Pig Units and a Pilot Biosecurity Project to be implemented through DAFM and Teagasc, specific for PED (& ASF).

Points of note from the meeting

There is no obligation on countries to declare information in relation to outbreaks as it is not OIE **notifiable** – therefore it is unlikely that countries will speak openly about it. According to DAFM it is notifiable in Ireland but as far as the world is concerned this is a production disease, although making it notifiable should not present any trade issues.

CVRL (DAFM labs Backweston) is set up to take a large volume of samples in the event of an outbreak here.

Teagasc and John Moriarty (CVRL) are compiling a PED specific **biosecurity plan** which will be circulated to farmers.

It is important the farmers speak with their **semen suppliers** North and South and ask them to fully support the voluntary bans that have been put in place for the protection of the Island.

Contingency planning in the event of an outbreak:

In the event of a confirmed case, DAFM will immediately notify the NPHC and the IFA.

However as there is currently no way to compile information similar to the ASF due to the fact it is not a notifiable disease, there are no formal exclusion zones etc. introduced which causes difficulties in terms of a control and eradication plan.

However it is agreed that we need to put some protocols in place. The Department officials are to meet at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss what actions can be taken by the authorities to protect the Island and will revert back to the NPHC at the meeting in January.

The issue of treatment via a **'feedback'** vaccine was also discussed—The PVS (pig veterinary society) have compiled a report on the 'controlled exposure' i.e. feedback. It is legal and there are recommendations of how this should be done. Feedback is not illegal using a 'soup' from faeces but you are not allowed to feed back ground gut due to our legislation on feeding animal products to animals.

Advice to Pig Workers Returning to Irish Pig Farms after

Christmas 2014 – New Year 2015

The National Pig Health Council has compiled an advice sheet for workers who may be returning home for the Christmas period. This has been translated into Russian and Ukrainian and should be circulated to all farm workers.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) and African Swine Fever (ASF)

are diseases of pigs causing decimation of the pig industry in Eastern Europe in the past year. The pig industry in Ireland wishes to put in place a plan that would help ensure that either of these very contagious viruses is not brought back into Ireland after the holidays.

- Try not to have any pig contact when you return to your home country for holidays.
- Wild boar hunting is a significant leisure pursuit in Eastern European countries. We would advise that pig workers at home would desist from partaking in wild boar hunting while on holidays.

Clothing and footwear are the major vectors of PED. Any footwear that may have been worn while at home should be properly cleaned and disinfected and preferably not worn when you return to Ireland after the holidays.

- A three-day gap should exist and be imposed on workers returning to work on Irish pig farms after the holidays. This could be verified using your return ticket as verification of travel arrangements.
- Pork products and Salami-type meats are major vectors of CSF and ASF. Never bring foreign meats back to Ireland and never bring them in sandwiches or lunches onto Irish Pig Farms.

The pig industry in Ireland is your livelihood. If either of these diseases is introduced to Ireland either could potentially close the Irish Pig Industry.

Be careful and be vigilant!

An advert has been taken in the Irish Farmers Journal outlining the actions taken by the industry but IFA is calling on the Minister & his Department to set up a rapid response unit and to put a contingency plan in place that can be

followed in the event of an outbreak.

There are 10,000 jobs and a billion Euro industry dependent on it.

