

January 31, 2019

### **Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Update**

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF), in partnership with Alberta Pork, continues to investigate the first case of porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) in Alberta. The latest information continues to suggest that the incident is limited to one farm with no evidence of spread off the farm. Samples from the environmental sampling surveillance program at high-swine traffic sites continue to be negative for PED.

The pork industry in Alberta is to be commended for their biosecurity efforts, which have kept this disease contained to one farm. However, as has been stated long prior to this detection, it's important to keep up those biosecurity practices and consider that at any time, any high-swine traffic site could be positive.

With regards to the investigation into possible sources, several theories were explored and some ruled out, including introduction by animals or animal transport conveyances. Unfortunately, no obvious source of introduction was found. Despite extensive testing, there was no evidence to support other theories such as introduction by feed or equipment brought onto the farm. This inability to definitively identify a source is not unusual and this has been seen in previous outbreaks in Canada.

At this point, animals have still not left the farm since detection of the disease. Several visits have taken place by the herd veterinarian and AF veterinarians and all animals are in good condition with sufficient space. Animals were also observed for ongoing signs of illness and sampling is being conducted to determine whether the animals are still infectious. Based on results obtained thus far, supervised animal shipments may resume in the coming week with negligible risk of disease spread or concern for welfare during transportation.

The ongoing support of all stakeholders is appreciated as we continue to work together towards resolving this incident for the best interest of all producers and industry partners.