

# U Need 2 Know

March 24, 2014

## Food Safety and Your Business

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### What is PEDV (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus)?

The PED virus is similar to Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE), another illness that affects only pigs, which causes severe diarrhea in young piglets, killing a high number of them. The virus can sicken adult pigs, but does not kill them.

### Why is PEDV Important to my Business?

According to the USDA, PEDV has already killed more than 4 million piglets in the United States since May 2013. More important, there is no known vaccine or cure for the disease. The number of animals affected has begun to make an impact on the supply of pork and other COP commodities, as businesses begin to switch from pork to other commodities.

### What are the KEY FACTS I need to know?

- PEDV is not a new virus as, it was first recognized in England in 1971. Since then, the disease has been identified in a number of European countries, and more recently in China, Korea and Japan
- PEDV is NOT related to swine flu or any other version of influenza that could possibly affect humans
- According to the Centers for Disease Control, PEDV is a pork disease, NOT a human health problem. Pork remains completely safe to eat
- Currently there is no vaccine available to cure or prevent PEDV in pigs
- PEDV poses no risk to other animals or humans
- Pork sold commercially is completely safe

### How will this IMPACT me?

As stated above, there is no risk to humans or other animals, and the PED virus can only be transmitted from one pig to another pig, so there will be no impact on human health. However, industry experts fear rising prices as the number of pig deaths caused by PEDV will lead to a short supply of pork. US Foods and others in the industry are already experiencing tight supplies and price increases.

### What can I do?

There are a few things you can do:

- **Avoid** unnecessary fear; read and understand the nature of the PED virus and its risks
- **Educate** your staff about the situation so they can handle customer questions
- **Talk** directly to concerned customers about the safety of pork or refer them to government web sites for information on the subject
- **Plan ahead.** If you are concerned about the price and availability of pork, talk to a US Foods territory manager about options and menu adjustments. US Foods has resources available to help you minimize the impact

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### Where can I learn more about PEDV?

<http://www.pork.org/News/3904/NationalPorkBoardStatementOnPEDV.aspx>

<https://www.aasv.org/pedv/AASVPEDQF.pdf>

[http://www.farmandranchguide.com/news/livestock/rabobank-report-pedv-will-cause-significant--year-shortfall-in/article\\_8fe985bc-b437-11e3-bd42-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.farmandranchguide.com/news/livestock/rabobank-report-pedv-will-cause-significant--year-shortfall-in/article_8fe985bc-b437-11e3-bd42-0019bb2963f4.html)