It is our hope that you will find this newsletter informative and educational. As always, we appreciate your business!

**VETERINARIANS:**
Dr. Matt Anderson  
Dr. Todd Distad  
Dr. Jason Kelly  
Dr. Kurt VanHulzen  
Dr. Amber Stricker  
Dr. Trevor Schwartz  
Dr. Ron Brodersen

**OUR PHILOSOPHY:**  
To provide our clients with the highest professional service. To achieve this we invest in our employees and instill in each of them a strong sense of customer service and commitment. We believe this personal relationship allows us to work with our clients to the best of our abilities, and is the foundation of Suidae Health and Production.

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**SWINE ENTERIC CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (SECD) UPDATE:**

*By Dr. Amber Stricker*

Internally at Suidae we had a very successful 2014 from a PEDv standpoint. Of the sow farms we manage we were able to keep the break rate to 12% vs. the estimated 60% of sows affected industry wide. Of those farms that did break we were able to control and eliminate the virus and return to pre-break productivity in a reasonable amount of time. To date we have zero PEDv positive farms on our managed side and have focused efforts to keep it that way in 2015.

There are several reasons why we believe the majority our clients were able to have success and much of it boils down to their willingness to adopt biosecurity enhancements that were recommended to them early on by our vet team. This forward thinking and quick action and implementation is what we believe was the key. Some examples of this included heating critical access points on filtered sow farms, pelleting feed where able, removing animal products from sow farm diets and participating in extensive biosecurity auditing of everything from truck washes to feed mills.

**Current state of the industry:**

The USDA report for the week ending 12/27 indicates there were 50 positive accessions from the 457 submissions. Of the positive accessions there were 22 confirmed and 8 presumptive positive premises entered into USDA’s Emergency Management Response Service (EMRS) database. This report also includes those cases submitted for porcine deltacoronavirus (PDCoV).

One year ago PEDv outbreaks began to ramp up around Oct. 15th. When comparing number of positive cases one year ago to the same time this year the numbers are not far off. Specifically in Oct 2013 there were 267 positive accessions vs. 299 in 2014. In Nov 2013 there were 414 positive accessions vs. 304 in 2014. On the surface it would appear that there have been less positive cases this year than the same time last year which would hold true with what we are seeing in the field. However, this data is difficult to interpret due to the lack of premise data associated with accessions prior to June of 2014 and varying sampling.

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**SECD UPDATE CONTINUED ON INSIDE SPREAD »**
strategies of farms. For example, there are likely more routine monitoring programs in place for SECD than there were one year ago which would lead to a higher level of accessions even though they may represent a low number of premises. What is clear is that the industry, thus far, has not seen a huge increase in SECD cases.

When looking at the number of confirmed positive premises by week since June of 2014 the numbers have been pretty constant (average of 17 premises/week) over the past 13 weeks on record (last entry 11/23/14).

Vaccines
Zoetis recently launched a conditionally licensed killed PEDv vaccine in addition to the Harris Vaccines iPED vaccine already on the market in 2013. These two vaccines are the only PEDv vaccines currently available on the market and had to prove safety along with a “reasonable expectation of efficacy” to gain the conditional license. Both products claim to induce an antibody response when given to pre-farrow sows and gilts that will be transferred to suckling piglets in the milk. These products are continuing to undergo research in an effort to gain full licensure and many questions about efficacy remain.

Over the past year we have clients that have chosen to vaccinate on positive or previously positive farms. This seems to have some consistency at reducing the number of litters scouring in farrowing. Recently, we have been recommending vaccination of naïve herds in an effort to provide some level of immunity in the event a break would occur. The products are expensive and data is limited as to the effect this will have but the little data out there does offer some promise to reducing pre-wean mortality in the weeks immediately following a SECD break.

Feed
Feed continues to be one of several risk factors involved in the transmission of SECD. In August we saw the first published peer-reviewed article demonstrating contaminated complete feed could serve as a vehicle for PEDv infection in naïve pigs using natural feeding behavior. This article was a proof-of-concept but proved, in a scientific manner, what many of us had experienced in the field. For this reason we continue to pursue methods to reduce the role that feedstuffs may play in spreading PEDv. Some of those actions include development and implementation of a feed mill biosecurity audit, pelleting feed where possible, downtime requirements for feed trucks and research on a liquid based antimicrobial product for the feed.

Sal CURB (Kemin Industries, Des Moines, IA, USA) is a FDA-approved liquid antimicrobial used to control Salmonella contamination in poultry and swine diets. Earlier this summer Suidae collaborated with Kemin on one of their initial trials to demonstrate that when Sal CURB is applied to complete feed contaminated with PEDv it is able to inactive the virus enough to prevent the spread of disease when the feed is subsequently fed to naïve pigs. Along with this study a second proof-of-concept study demonstrating the same findings was published. What’s even more encouraging is that our trial was done with feed held at winter-like conditions when we know PEDv to be the hardiest.

Unfortunately the product must be applied in the mixer at the mill where the feed originates and thus availability has been an issue. The Sal CURB product is formaldehyde based and although proven safe for use in food animals it is still a risk for humans handling the raw product. In addition, there is an associated expense at the mill level for purchasing and installing the equipment

“Suidae is committed to doing our part to further PEDv research. Dr. Schwartz has recently been awarded a $100K Zoetis grant to study PEDv vaccination in sows.”

Suidae’s commitment to research:
Suidae has been active in pursuing efforts to contribute to the research surrounding SECD on behalf of our clients. In June we brought on Dr. Trevor Schwartz to head up our research department. Recently Dr. Schwartz was awarded a $100K grant from Zoetis to study the effects of PEDv vaccination on naïve and previously exposed sows. This trial will begin early in 2015. Additional research efforts include a second trial underway involving SalCURB and using an alternative application method to help control PEDv in feed.

References:
- Dee et al. An evaluation of contaminated complete feed as a vehicle for porcine epidemic diarrhea virus infection of naïve pigs following consumption via natural feeding behavior: proof of concept. BMC Veterinary Research 2014, 10:176
Happy New Year!

On behalf of our team at Suidae Health and Production we want to wish you a happy, healthy, and profitable New Year! We would also like to sincerely thank you for your business and continued loyalty to our business. We value each of our clients and look forward to earning your business once again in 2015.

Jeff Kayser, Director of Management Services
Brad Schimmer, Production Supervisor
Rich Fegley, Production Supervisor
Matt Henrich, Production Supervisor
Shane Larsen, Production Supervisor
Bill Wurr, Production Supervisor
Mick Ekren, Human Resource Manager
Jeff Reyes, Controller
Jennifer Wolf, Sales
Monica Vaske, Accounting Specialist
Angela Johnson, Accounting Specialist
Jessie Merrill, Production Team Leader
Erica Evers, Production Data Entry

Emily Grandegenett, Production Data Entry
Taylor Setzer, Production Data Entry
Meredith Reding, Administrative Assistant
Melissa Mathies, Administrative Assistant
Michelle Corey-Sperr, Morris office manager
Nicki Distad, DVM, Morris office manager
Karen Newton, NE office manager
Brittany Burbach, NE office manager
Dr. Jason Kelly
Dr. Matt Anderson
Dr. Kurt VanHulzen
Dr. Amber Stricker
Dr. Trevor Schwartz
Dr. Todd Distad
Dr. Ron Brodersen

OFFICE NEWS

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Mick Ekren

Mick was recently promoted to Suidae’s human resources manager and has been with Suidae since June. She is located up in the Morris, MN office and will be overseeing the human resources for Suidae as well as for Suidae’s managed farms.

Mick graduated from Graceville High School (30 miles west of Morris, MN) and considers herself a local gal. She went to college in Willmar MN for Management (actually Food Management but people think she should be a good cook when she tells them that.) Mick is married to Mark Ekren who is the Athletic Director of the Morris Area High School & Dean of Students. Together they have 5 children and 12 grandchildren (number 13 scheduled to arrive in February)! When she is not hanging out with the grandkids Mick enjoys bowling with her team of 8 years, going to movies, bike rides with her hubby, going for walks and hanging out with their friends.

She has seven years of human resources experience in the manufacturing field and we look forward to working with her in this new role at Suidae.

OPEN HOUSE HELD AT SUIDAE’S NEW HARTINGTON, NE LOCATION

We held our Open House for the new Hartington, NE location on November 19th. We enjoyed the company of local pork producers and industry partners who were able to attend. Lots of door prizes were given away with Ryan Arens being the big winner of the Four Burner Stainless Steel Grill. Congratulations Ryan!

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to stop by and say hello. We look forward to seeing a lot more of all of you in the near future!

We’d also like to thank the following people for making our Open House extra special. We really appreciate your support!

Animal Health International
Merck Animal Health
Bayer Animal Health
MWI Veterinary Supply
Novartis
Elanco
Zoetis
Phibro Animal Health Corp.

Ryan Arens stands next to his new grill with Brittany Burbach, Suidae’s newest addition to the Hartington location.
New Meat Mythcrusher Video Addresses Sow Housing

The American Meat Institute and the American Meat Science Association have released their newest Meat Mythcrusher video addressing sow housing. [Source: AMI, November 5, 2014]

The video takes viewers on a tour of a sow housing operation to explain the complex humane handling considerations that go into choosing appropriate housing systems for pregnant sows and points out that there is no single correct answer for all operations. The video features Stacy Scramlin, Ph.D., assistant professor of animal science at South Dakota State University and Janet Riley, AMI senior vice president of public affairs and liaison to the Animal Welfare Committee, touring a modern, biosecure hog facility where visitors must shower when entering and exiting to ensure the health of the pigs.

All of the videos and more are available at http://www.meatmythcrushers.com/.

PORK QUICK FACTS

What's the No. 1 pig-producing county in the nation? Want to know about the leading pork item on restaurant menus? Ever wondered about the carbon footprint of the U.S. pork industry? You can find answers to these and many other pork questions in new Quick Facts: The Pork Industry at a Glance book by visiting http://www.pork.org/pork-quick-facts/.