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Dear Hawaii Swine Producers:

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED), a viral disease of pigs, was detected and confirmed on June 5, 2017 on a single pig farm on Hakimo Road in Waianae. Samples submitted by the Hawaii State Veterinarian to Kansas State University tested positive by PCR testing for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv). There is no movement of animals from the farm, traffic from the farm is minimized and cleaning and disinfection protocols have been put in place. Our Veterinary Medical Officer in charge of Oahu is working closely with the farm owner. We are currently not aware of any other farms showing signs of infection and we are in the process of contacting pig farm owners in the area to determine if other farms are exhibiting signs of infection.

PED is a viral disease of pigs that can cause severe diarrhea and high mortality in nursing pigs. The affected farm is experiencing high losses of nursing pigs due to diarrhea. PED was first detected in Hawaii in 2014, also in the Waianae area. Since then, testing done throughout the State indicates that PEDv may be present in other locations. This disease does not affect the pork from pigs and this disease is not infectious to humans. (See the enclosed PED document for more details on PED)

PEDv multiplies quickly in an infected pig and is very contagious, resulting in the rapid spread of infection from pig to pig and herd to herd. The virus can be carried by infected pigs, vehicles, equipment, foot wear, clothing, and animals that can move between farms, such as birds and flies. Practicing strong biosecurity is critical to preventing your herd from getting infected. Moving pigs of unknown status between farms, particularly right now in the Waianae area, is very risky, stop or control vehicle and human traffic on your farms, clean and disinfect equipment and vehicle tires that come on to your farm, footwear of employees and others entering your farm. Reduce the access of birds to your herd and control flies. (See enclosed biosecurity document)

Biosecurity is the best tool you have for keeping your herd free of this disease. The injectable vaccines developed against PEDv to prevent infection have not worked well in herds that have not been previously infected. Those vaccines may help reduce losses in herds that have previously been infected. When a herd is experiencing an outbreak an auto vaccination protocol is typically recommended to expose the entire herd quickly and allow the animals to develop immunity which shortens the duration of the herd infection and reduce losses. This may be followed by cleaning and disinfecting the farm, attempting to have the disease extinguish itself. The State Veterinarian's office will be working with the infected farm to achieve this result.

In 2014, the Mainland PED virus spread throughout swine producing states and killed over 10 million piglets. In Hawaii, we did not see a high level of piglet deaths in the infected herd and we did not see losses in other herds. The PED virus detected in Hawaii was a mild version compared to the virus that was circulating on the Mainland in 2014. We are in the process of sequencing the current virus to see if it is the same as in 2014 or one that might be more virulent (potent). The State Veterinarians office will update the swine industry with more information regarding this new outbreak as soon as it is available.

Additional Resources:

The following website is an excellent resource for more details on the virus, biosecurity and current research on this disease.
<http://www.pork.org/pork-checkoff-research/pedv/pedv-resources/>

If your hogs are experiencing diarrhea and there is high piglet mortality, please contact the Animal Industry Division, Animal Disease Control Branch at (808) 483-7100.

