

Speaker: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the 4th in a series of Alberta Pork Telephone Town Hall meetings on PDV. My name is Audrey Cameron and I'll be hosting this call with Geoff Geddes, Communication Coordinator for Alberta Pork. Thank you for joining us today. If you should get disconnected for any reason, you can rejoin the call by dialing 1-877-229-8493 and entering pin number 112339. With this series threat caused to the Alberta Port industry by PED. Alberta Pork is working on number of fronts to keep you informed. First of all, we are sending regular PED updates onto producers in the industry on the latest developments by e-mail and fax. Our next Telephone Town Hall will be held on March 14th and additional in-person meetings will be held on March 18th, 19th and 20th throughout the province. We strongly encourage you to attend the meetings in your area since new information will be shared our by two speakers Lucie Verdon, Veterinarian and National Biosecurity Coordinator for Canadian Swine Health Board and Dr. Frank Marshall, Alberta Swine Veterinarian from Marshall Swine Health Services. As well we invite you to visit our PED website for daily update on the disease status in Canada and the U.S. You can also find on our PED website under the Resource center page a wide range of tools Biosecurity protocols, videos and prevention tips. You can also find under the Telephone Town Hall page full transcript and recording of each calls so you won't miss any of the valuable information provided on this call. To access the PED website just go to albertapork.com and you will find the PED link on the producer page. For those of you who do not have access, have an internet access check you fax for regular updates contact Geoff or myself at Alberta Pork at 1-877-247-7675. Our regular expert panel joins us again today Dr. Julia Keenlside, a Veterinarian Epidemiologist at Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Lucie Verdon, a Veterinarian and National Biosecurity Coordinator for Canadian Swine Health Board and our other panelist Dr. Egan Brockhoff, and Dr. Frank Marshall were not able to attend today but we are pleased to be joined by three veterinarians from across the country. Joining us today, we have Dr. Chris Byra Manager of the Management Team Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network, Dr. Sue Burlatschenko from Goshen Ridge Veterinary Services in Ontario and Dr. Dan Hurnik, Atlantic Veterinary College Professor of Swine Health Management. Before we start, just a few housekeeping matters before we begin. Our speakers will be talking for about 45 minutes followed by a 15 minute question and answer session. Please note our speakers are not able to hear you during the call. The question period will take place at the end of the call, however do not hesitate to press star 3 on your phone at any time and someone will be there to take your question. If you have to leave the call early but have a question for our speakers, please follow the same procedure of hitting star 3 to ask your question. Someone from Alberta Pork will get back to you with an answer at a later time. Throughout the call, we will have a few survey questions that you can answer on your telephone keypad. And now I will pass it over to Geoff Geddes, our Communication Coordinator for the first poll question.

Speaker: Thanks Audrey. Before we hear our first speaker today, we'd like to get you, the callers involved by asking you a question on the PED issue. And I would be repeating the question in case you missed it. You can answer it on your telephone keypad. So here is our first question, just to get an idea of the participants today. What is your connection to the Pork Industry? So press 1, if you're an Alberta Pork producer. Press 2, if you're a producer another province or country. Press 3, if you are an industry

partner. So again, what is your connection to the Pork Industry? Press 1, if you're an Alberta Pork producer; 2, if you're a producer another province or country and 3, if you're an industry partner. And we'll show the result with you here shortly. Okay. We so had a 114 people that responded which is great. And of that, it looks like 45% are industry partners, 39% are Alberta Pork producers and 16% are producers from another province or country. So that's great. We have a real cross-section here on the call today and that's great to see. Just a reminder to everybody that if you have any questions about PEDV at any time here, all you need to do is press star 3 on your telephone keypad and we will take your question and get it answered by one of our experts here today. We now like to hand it over to our three guest speakers: Dr. Sue Burlatschenko from the Goshen Ridge Veterinary Services in Ontario; Dr. Dan Hurnik, Professor of Swine Health Management, Atlantic Veterinary College and Dr. Chris Byra Manager of the Team Swine Health Intelligence Network. They're going to be talking primarily about feed issues surrounding porcine plasma. And they're going to do a little different format today. We're going to have Sue start and then just have Dan and Chris join in and just encouraging them to have a really good discussion around this because they all bring some great expertise on the subject. So Sue if you'd like to start please.

Speaker: Okay. Thank you. And thank you for inviting me on this Teleconference today. So what I'm going to do is I'm going to talk about basically how it all started in my herds and then to follow through with the follow-up from the Epidemiology team and then maybe a little bit of discussion on what I'm seeing in the herds so how these all started was, now about five weeks ago when I had a phone call from the index casing that he had diarrhea and baby piglets that was unrelenting for 24 hours and actually spreading and he was quite concerned and certainly was aware of PED from information that's been transmitted by Ontario Pork for some time. So we sent a samples to the lab and by later that day we had a confirmation of a positive in this herd. Now this herd is 500 sow farrow-to-finish on one site with excellent Biosecurity, shower and procedures. I can't even leave my vehicle anywhere near the barn. There's a gated laneway that I must remained at and then walk about 200 meters to get to the barn so it's a long cold walk in the winter. You know, he's very careful with feed delivery first thing Monday morning. He's a liquid feeder. So he's a very very good producer and so we were a little puzzled as to how things transpired but the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Ontario swung into action immediately getting their teams interviewing the producer and his wife and doing trace backs to find out just what was happening or what possibly could have been happened and how this virus got into this herd. In the meantime, we instituted our control procedures and sort of went forward. Then, about two days later they were two more herds that are weaned-to-finish that had shown positive for the virus. And then, six days after my first case I had a second case also fairly decent Biosecurity there about seven to 10 kilometers to many other swine herd. Also, unusually a liquid feeder. 550 sows farrow-to-finish under one roof as well. So we were trying to understand you know, what possibilities they were. I mean we think of dead stock and certainly they were positive vehicles for PED and the dead stock when they trace back. Although the one herd didn't use dead stock at all, they buried their pigs so that was rolled out. And we also look at certainly cull sows but they're hadn't been any culled animal vehicles in

the site because both gentlemen, both farms removed their sows with their finishing hogs on a clean and disinfected truck so it was quite puzzling. And about I think a week or so, a 10 days later then there's more herds were becoming positive in the trace backs continuing, there seemed to be a common link to all these herds and it was a feed company that had delivered feeds specifically pelleted feed to these herds. And so then they trace back continued and it seemed to be a batch of pellets that were made in early January and distributed and then when the further trace backs went on, it appears that the batch of plasma, porcine plasma that was obtained by the feed company for pellet manufacture in December was actually showing positive for the PED virus. And then CFIA took samples from the pellets and the plasma itself and they started a bioassay by which their feeding pigs either the pure plasma or the pellets to determine what's going on. And so interestingly enough at this point the piglets that have been fed the plasma are showing that they're shedding the virus and it's my understanding at this point that the pigs being fed the pelleted feed have yet to demonstrate viral shed. So the picture isn't entirely clear. In many people's mind, I mean we think there's certainly a link to the pellets and the company that manufactured them did recall the pellets or have producers just place them outside of the barn somewhere. And feeding the pellets to the piglets, saying all that of the 23 herds I think, that are currently affected by PED. We have 18 that we're receiving feed from this company, the others not. And so there's a considerable number but I think what's interesting to me in all of these it certainly the feed pellets went out to a large number of herds in Ontario. I think 130 some herds received the pellet. So not everybody that received pellets and were feeding them was breaking with PED and I think we need to be bit clear on that. Also, what I'd like to comment on is there's other feed companies in Ontario who also feed porcine plasma in their pellets. And at this point we are not aware of any herds who are feeding these pellets that are demonstrating any signs of PED. So, at this point I think what we can say is there's a specific batch of plasma that with known to cause viral shedding in piglets but it's... we're not really seeing it in the pellets itself or only in the herds that are affected, I guess to be clear, it's only a small percentage that fed the pellets that are showing PED so it's clearer picture but not entirely clear as to what's going on. So I think what everybody wants to know is how bad was it? And what's going on now in this index herd? And so yes, we did lose a 100% of the piglets under seven days of age in the first two weeks. By the third week, we were really hoping after we had initiated exposure procedures that we would be having a greater survival rate. What it looks like now is we did have survival up to five days and then we still had some leaders breaking which took everybody else down with them. So in our fourth week, it's looking much better for the index herd and the other herd that's six days behind this is just getting to that point. So there is light at the end of the tunnel and I think we all need to remember that this virus is the same family of viruses as TGE and years back when I was a very young practitioner, we did have TGE and it causing tremendous issues in the industry and we worked with it. And this virus being a cousin of TGE, and sort of bad cousin but we are using... we're lucky, we're using similar procedures to work with it so it's not an unknown entity in some senses, it's just stressing as TGE was when it comes in your herd and you have to deal with it. But it seemed to be a relatively brief period of problems and then we're starting to work through it now. But it's only been five weeks so I still have much more information to accumulate to tell what's happening in my herd although the U.S certainly has a much more experience with it than we do in Ontario.

Speaker: Excellent. Thank you, Sue. Some really great information there. I know it's this is a subject that a lot of people have been, has been on their mind, really been wondering about. Dan, did you want to join in on this?

Speaker: Sure. The... what's happened in Prince Edward Island you know, is similar and related to what Sue just talked about the same weekend that the feed was recalled by the feed company, the starter pellets. We had a farm that was involved that got the phone call about the recall, they stop feeding when the recall notice came in but on the Wednesday of that week show clinical sign and that we're able to identify the virus quite quickly and made the diagnosis. And the from the epidemiological standpoint when we examine the herd is very much like Sue, very good Biosecurity, very tight Biosecurity and it's still showed up in the herd. The looking at the animal movement, there is no animal movement into that barn at all and so we wouldn't animals that came in. The trucking process did have any connection with Ontario. And so there is no obvious clear link of vehicles or people with Ontario or other than the feed that was recalled. The testing that we have today in terms of strains there are questions of strains. There are multiple different strains of PED being seen in North America. The strain that was involved in the PEI, PED case. It was the same strain that was seen in Ontario in the Midwest. So we have that part of the puzzle. The... we are investigating the feed that takes time and we still had the feed on the farm and we were in the process of testing and I don't have any conclusive results yet. The... in terms of how we manage this is very similar to what Sue had said the as quickly as possible spread the virus around to get immunity. We're in this, this is the... we're two weeks right now so we're hoping that next week, the things will start turn around. The process of spreading it, we spread it to all the sows. The feeder barn, it's a farrow-to-finish unit. The feeder barn and virus spread through the rooms at two weeks since the initial exposure the... all the sows have... they got sick but they recovered, they had a combination of being off feet, some vomiting and diarrhea. The feeder barn had lots of diarrhea. I spoke to the producer this morning and he said the pigs are very healthy and in fact, the unusually sow, they're hungry, they're eating. Everybody is back to normal. The... we have not shipped any animals out of that, out of the unit. We're waiting for clinical signs to subside. We would... now we're going to ship some pigs. They are going in a... on a dedicated transport to a plant that accept PED pigs. And avoiding any contact with sort of common transport with other producers. The piglets this week is still struggled. We're hoping that it will... that we will see a rebound in terms of the goal for Prince Edward Island and the goal is in this herd to get the clinical signs over with and hopefully have the virus still eliminated from the herd. And then, prevent it spread to the rest of the island. So the goal will be to try and to eliminate the virus and whether we'll be successful or not we'll need some time but that's the goal.

Speaker: Excellent. Thanks Dan. It really helps for us to build or to learn from your experience there and get the perspective from PEI so we really appreciate that. I'll bring in Chris Byra now and he had something else. He was going to discuss but before that Chris did you have anything you want to add here on the feed issue?

Speaker: Yeah. I guess, I will expand a little bit on the feed issue. I guess we've been part of a number of calls with the CFIA and with the National Center for Foreign Animals Disease are doing the test. So just to expand on what Sue was saying. The samples were taken at Grand Valley Fortifiers as she had mentioned and from the plants not from many farms and then they experiment that they ran was with 40 pigs. 10 pigs received normal feed but these are completely isolated from each other. Normal feed and there's the negative controls, the second 10 pigs were given the feed... are given normal feed as well but we're actually exposed to the virus that was in the first herd in Ontario. So they're the positive control so they get sick then we know the virus is alive that they're getting. And then remaining pigs are broken into five small groups that, of the feed samples they took, there were three of this porcine plasma samples were positive, like confidently positive. The two feed of the five feeds samples taken, two were positive but in Zoren Alexanders and his words, where do be as positive so in another word, they were you know, sort of suspicious. Got it to the pigs, the group that got the live virus all got sick within a couple of days and to the ones that we're given plasma had a little bit of clinical signs around that same time but not obvious. The day they announced it that the... these pigs were replicating virus. They are making virus and putting it to the manure. On that day, again they're still not that many sick pigs but it was coming through the pig. Since that time, that virus is just continue to shed and as of yesterday, both those groups are still shedding a lots of virus and the feed group is not shedding any virus. They are now going to start the second experiment with the same feed. Larger group of pigs, they're going to just... built the controls as well but they will be feeding just feed this time not the plasma and those pigs that are receiving the plasma will also be... just the pelleted feed. And those pigs receiving that pelleted feed will also be exposed to some new naive young pigs at about three or four days in when they would shedding the most because even if they're shedding a tiny amount, the second group of pigs might pick it up. So they're trying a bunch of other experiments to see if they can find it to feed. Now, speaking to veterinarians, I mean Dan you're one, you've got feed samples that have been kept or they have to be frozen outside and in Ontario there are some feed from the plant that still has been stored separately not on any farm, not on any infected premises. So there are more feed samples available to test. Now you know, why it's not showing positive in the feed you know we've got herds up here, we're suspicious of this. The big problem is that the kind of like looking for salmonella in feed or mycotoxins in feed. Is it when they're putting in porcine plasma first of all probably not all of the plasma is infected. Only three of the five samples were positive. When that plasma gets distributed through the grain and made into pellets, the distribution of the ones with the virus probably isn't even. Say, you'll get pockets of more virus and pockets of less virus. The other thing is virus has a fairly short shelf life. Like it got a room temperature in dry feed, it'll live up to 7 days but at 14 days we know it doesn't live. So depending on how feed stored and how it's been handled that you know, the virus could be at tail end

of its shelf life. So there's a lot of reason why it has so far it looks like it negative on that part. The other thing I think that maybe people should know is that the CFIA, they started their Newark Group but I'm sorry... it's an emergency response group anyways, to investigate the feed part because that's really their responsibility. It was imported products that the porcine plasma was imported products from the U.S and so they are following back into the U.S. tracing back with the USDA looking at other material of the same company. And they're also assisted with the recall in Canada so that is pretty much done so everybody's been contacted and they... the recommendation that they have (??) destroyed but just by putting in a landfill that was the, that was an acceptable to deal with it. Now a number of provinces have, since announced that they're, and other provinces but there are PED committee or team announce that they should probably not use porcine blood products or any porcine products for the time being until we're confident that...

Speaker: That's great. Thanks very much Chris. A really interesting information that you've got to share there so we appreciate it. And I know Chris had another topic he was going to discuss but just before that I wondered if Sue and Dan have anything else to add before we moved on.

Speaker: The only thing I want to comment on I think you know, I had refresh my mind on how porcine spray-dried plasma is manufactured. And you know, I think we need to understand that it's heated to relatively high temperatures for an extended period of time. I've seen a couple of numbers of 80 degree Celsius and a 116 degree Celsius and for you know 40 minutes or so and then it's cooled down slowly. So this is well above the temperatures required to inactivate the virus. So and then when you considered you've done that to it and then you go and you stick that plasma at both 5% of it into a pellet and the pellet has a brief heating period as well so it's you know, I struggle with some of this. This is to how did the virus manage to evade all of this if that's the situation? You know, there's no answers yet but I just... I think I just wanted to put out what's spray drying is all about because I was not really comprehending how it was made actually earlier on.

Speaker: That's great, I think it's a good point. I think a lot of us will probably thinking the same. And I think I may have cut off Dan, you wanted to add something?

Speaker: No.

Speaker: No, it's Chris.

Speaker: Chris.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: Yeah. I come back on. I'm sorry. My phone got cut out somehow. I just going to finish up that some provinces have suggested that you know, that the product is not be used at this point and but that's just recommendation. So since that time, the CFIA has been testing products, testing porcine plasma right across the country in a number of different companies and everything that they've tested so far has been negative. So, taking the feed perspective as Sue said, 18 to 23 had a direct link to that feed and so we don't know for sure if that's how well of them got that problem but that means there's only five that tried other ones that have you know, have ended up with PED potentially due to other cross-contamination coming to barns. I think that's pretty good. I mean given that there's virus in a number of different facilities, I think that we've had very good success in controlling it by Biosecurity methods. In just, I'd like to... I wouldn't mind if a couple make a little comment about Biosecurity on truck washes. We had a positive sample in Saskatchewan at a truck wash on boots. And just this morning they announced that the... it's been confirmed by the National Foreign Animal Disease Lab that it was PED on this boots and it was in a truck that was hold slaughter hogs to Iowa, truck had gone through a proper wash and disinfection. They discovered the when they're doing environmental test on this, swabs on this, they found the truck ended up coming back negative but the container, the tote that had the boots in it was still dirty and was positive for virus. And this is the first time that we now have different subtype that showed up here. So this is the... it was one of the other strains. It's the strain that is in Iowa but it shows you that it's coming in new and it's... the biggest risk I think for Western Canada isn't fit at this point that that was a bit of one-off and I just point to think we've urge try to manage our waste through that. The biggest risk still is going to be transport vehicles coming back home. So I'll leave it with that for now.

Speaker: That's great. Thank you Chris. Yeah, a really good point to reinforce about the importance of transportation. Now just to remind everybody if you do have a question for one of our experts, this is the great opportunity to ask it and just press star 3 on your keypad and we'll be able to take your question. If you're not comfortable going on and asking your questions yourself here, once you get to the question and answer session you can just let us know when you call in and we can ask the question for you. Before we hear from our next speaker, we'd like to ask our participants another question. And again, you can answer on your telephone keypad. So question number 2, for those of you who were feeding porcine plasma, did you stop feeding it after the announcement from the CFIA that PED was found in porcine plasma. You can press 1 for yes and 2 for no. Again, for those of you who were feeding porcine plasma, did you stop feeding it after the announcement from the CFIA that PED was found in porcine plasma and again press 1 for yes and 2 for no. Okay. Thank you everybody who responded. We had 53% that said yes that after the announcement they did stop feeding porcine plasma and 47% that said no. Just want to emphasize for those who answered no to please keep in mind that there are a number of ways that PED can be run to your farm and this recent incident shows you that feed can certainly one of those factors. Definitely maintaining high standard of Biosecurity is still your main tool in the fight against PED. Just wanted to go back now to Chris and wondered if you had any, you wanted to add regarding the important of soap and detergent in your transportation protocols.

Speaker: Sorry, I missed that, I missed your question.

Speaker: Sorry Chris, I just wondered if you had anything to add in terms of truck washing protocols and the important of using soap or detergent there.

Speaker: Yeah, so at the... speaking to the other veterinarians from Alberta, in BC we don't have a good truck washing, we're sort of working on that right now. But the, at truck washers in Alberta where several of the vets have been observing the trucks going to the wash, we see quite arranged in what is getting done. But one thing that has been a problem is that detergents haven't been used, using alkaline detergents like (biosol?) and it ends up causing up, they giving you a soap and the soap ends up breaking down the biofilm that's on the vehicle. It's this... it is one more step but it speeds up the washing by, up

there a bit and it removes the virus that could be trapped in the biofilm on the trucks. So that step I understand is a problem at some of the, some of the facilities, truck wash facilities because they don't really have the setup so that the, the soap can be used in as one of the stations in between like you'd be able to in the car wash for example. But that still, should be a step that is, that is used and it is certainly used in some of the commercial truck washers that are been used in Eastern Canada and Manitoba. So I think that, that's been a one thing that seems to be missing out of the general protocol that is being used at the moment.

Speaker: Excellent, thanks Chris. I think it really important information for our callers here. I want to now go on and ask our third question for our callers. Do you or your transport company use detergent and disinfectant to wash your trailer and you can press 1 if you use only detergent, 2 if use only disinfectant, 3 if you use both and 4 if you use neither. So again, the question is do you or your transport company use detergent and disinfectant to wash your trailer. Press 1 if you use only detergent, 2 for only disinfectant, 3 for both and 4 for none. We'll have the results here in just a second. Okay, thank you to everybody who answered there. The results that we have, we have 77 people respond and we had 53% for the use of disinfectant, 5% use detergent, 30% used both and 12% use none. Just want to emphasize again really the important of using both detergent and disinfectant to make sure that, that you know what you really doing a thorough job that you're getting a value for your money and that you're, you know really has extending your best chances of preventing PED from coming in. And just again a quick reminder to our participants, if you have a question for any of our experts, just press star 3 on your phone keypad and we'll take this questions.

Speaker: I've got a question for the other panelist. If... speaking to some deaths in Ontario that have been dealing with this herds, there's one group that is about to have a nursery barn that was positive, it's been cleaned out, ready to go for some more pigs. Now I think they've had, they retest the barn and found that the were a spots that they still could get some virus so they going to re-do it. But we're at the stage now where you know the map that I put out every day with, with new farms and the existing farms that are positive for PED, list of map at the area, we're at the point now where we want to see this maps start the, the color start to disappear from the map. And I think it's there are, there's been some very encouraging things sort of helping. One is, you know this nursery that they're about to populate now with naive pigs in the next little while, pigs that have never, never seen PED is situated right besides, in matter of yards away from a second nursery was at the different stage was, and (was stand?) differently. So this two nursery side by side on the same property and same person looking after both of them, they have very good Biosecurity and they did not infect the second nursery, now that's going on a several weeks. So I think we really have to... remember that it actually works. The Biosecurity actually works and we can keep this thing for moving around. And the, so I think what's important here is now

we're at the stage where we're going to say okay, how do we make this farms go negative and actually be confident that they are negative and I think the vets in Ontario and Sue and Dan, I'm sure you're thinking along the same lines. I guess I'd be interested to hear what your plans are that way.

Speaker: Well, I guess that's the zillion dollar question when, it's one thing when you're dealing with the a wean-to-finish site that you can easily clean out and then clean and disinfect the barn. Working with the sow barns, this is what I'm working through right now is to knowing that there is limited shedding of the virus by adult animals, you know doing environmental monitoring and fecal monitoring and try to determine at what point, you know are they actually all going negative. And I don't have a lot of answers for that but I think looking at TGE protocols from way back certainly barns, we were able to go negative in barns and good cleaning and disinfecting and all and all out by room etc. And so we're fortunate to have that kind of a set up at least in the farrowing nursery and go finish parts of both this first barns I'm working with. But as far as you know, is it going to work or how long it's going to take, well I guess we're going to find that out as we go along because I haven't got there yet.

Speaker: Okay, the herd is... on Prince Edward Island, the herd is... sort of finish as well so there are no plans to depopulate the site. As far as going forward, there's 2 phases to this process. Number 1 was when we first discover the virus, the first step was to get as many animals that's immune as quickly as possible so that stage involves their natural exposure of the herd and that part of the process was completed. The next phase which is now which is a vigorous sanitation and delivered all and all of flow which will then knock the levels of virus down with the, with the hope of presumption that everyone in the barn is immune at the virus actually dies out. So that we're starting the sanitation phase now and we'll progress, not right now and there's still some affected piglets but in the coming weeks we will test animals. And ultimately probably and I, and this is something we have to work out with the producer. We may bring in some sentinel pigs that are pigs that have not have the virus from another farm if we can do that safely and see if they pick up the virus and determine that way whether the herd is clean but this will take, this will be months down the road. It's not something we can do right away but the goal is hopefully as Sue explain a strategy in the past, if ever all the pigs in the barn are exposed and have full immunity so there's no new animals to pick up the virus. The virus may die out if, with sanitation and no new animals going to affect. So that's what we're hoping for.

Speaker: Excellent, thank you. It's a great question and some excellent answers there so really appreciate that discussion. We're now going to hear from Dr. Julia Keenlside, a Veterinarian

Epidemiologist at Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development who's going to give us some more information on Going Forward 2 and traceability, Julia?

Speaker: Thanks Geoff, thank you very much for having me once again on the call. I'm finding this very useful and informative and I hope everyone else is too. Is this just great to hear speakers from across Canada and how they're dealing with PED and I'd like to echo what I'm hearing here is that even though we do have some connections with feed now that Biosecurity is still our best tool in preventing the spread of PED and specially the transport Biosecurity and so we can't forget to keep our focus there. I just wanted to update everyone that, the Canadian provinces have been cooperating very closely in fighting PED across Canada. We're having phone calls, conference calls a couple of times a week and we're sharing all the information we can as rapidly as we can. And the provinces have agreed to work together to share all their trace back information on positive PED cases whether it's environmental samples or pigs that have gone to slaughter or been transported. So that other provinces can react quickly and try and contain the virus. And certainly we should see that half in Eastern Canada. And so I give you an example of what just happened here in Western Canada. As you all know on February 13th, the first case of PED was reported in Manitoba. They immediately went in to action and get a lot of trace backs on many different premises in Manitoba to look for the source of the virus as... and also to find out whether the virus had gone any further. This farm was a grow finish farm and they did not have sows on the farm. But what happened is that they found that a trailer with Alberta hogs on it had unloaded at the same premise as the trailer from this infected farm. Now this occurred several days before the farm actually broke with the disease and was confirmed. So the risk of exposure was probably pretty small but we do know that pigs, specially finisher pigs can shed the virus and be infected before they show clinical signs and in some cases they may not even show clinical sign or are they may be missed cause it's mild. So Manitoba agriculture did contact Alberta agriculture quite quickly on this and told us about that there was a chance that Alberta trailer have been at the same premise as the trailer from the infected farm. So at Alberta agriculture, we quickly followed up with the transporter and we located the trailer and we follow that path, founded that it had been washed before it went to several other hog farms in Alberta. Nevertheless, even though the risk is low, we did contact those farms as well as the truck wash and the driver to alert them to the situation. Everybody was advised at the situation and advised to watch their pigs. And because it was a low risk situation, we did not take at any further than that in sample. And we have no clinical signs or cases recorded from that. And the, the key in all this process was the fact that producers have been asked to register in the premise identification system, the PID system. And we were able to use that system to track producers quickly and advise them that their trailer might have been infected when it came to their farm. And so the premise identification program is one of our most important tools in fighting PED and doing some of this trace outs. And, but the ability, the first responders to access the premise ID information, it can be hampered if the data base is not up to date. So once we did learn is that, is that we need to ask producers to make sure their information is up to date because farms change, ownership changes, where pigs are held, it changes rapidly. So we are urging people to contact Alberta agriculture toll free at 310-0000 and you can

connect with an operator and give your information. That way you can also go online and update your premise ID account. You can phone directly at 780-422-9167 and update your information that way and Alberta Pork will have this numbers available for you as well. So we are asking all producers in Alberta whether you're big or small, whether you have wild boar or organic pigs or outdoor pigs to please update your information in the premise ID program because that's allows us to contact you if there's any risk and an alert anyone to the spread of it. The same thing also goes for our traceability data base right now, hog movements from farm to slaughter are required to be entered in the data base and producers are participating in that. And we are now urging to participation in this, for farm to farm movement as well. So this, having this information will really help us do the trace out and trace backs and I think Manitoba, Ontario and PEI can, as well as Quebec and Iqaluit. The traceability was an important, important tool in finding out where the infection may have gone or come from and it's important in being able to control the spread of PED. Because we recognize that Biosecurity is so important, the other half of that is our Going Forward 2 program and because PED is here to stay in North America, maybe not in Canada but in North America, we have to make long term changes to our Biosecurity because we're going to be fighting against PED for years to come. I don't see that now we're getting rid of it in the United States or at least not in the next couple of years. So our Going Forward 2 program is helping to, helping producers to access funds to improve their Biosecurity and reduce the Biosecurity risk for disease. And Alberta agriculture in responding to the current PED situation is now going to reopen Going Forward 2, the animal health Biosecurity producer program for new application this coming Monday, March the 3rd. Therefore, now you do not have to wait until April 1st to submit your application. And this is to allow producers to get more quickly on to the application process and start improving the Biosecurity on farm. And you can download the applications from the Going Forward website and you can work with Alberta Pork who has just been fantastic in helping producers fill out their applications and doing risk assessments. If you had a risk assessment already done, you don't need to do it. If you've had it done in the last year, you don't need to do a new one, you just attach it to the current one. If you do require a risk assessment, you can do it yourself or hire a professional such as a veterinarian to come and do it for you. And the program will re-invoice you up to \$250 for the cost of that risk assessment. The Going Forward 2 program has had a couple of changes and we're going to allow more than one application per producer in a particular year now. And we're also allowing producers to have project proposals that go over the half of \$30,000. Now you can be funded for up to \$150,000 ineligible expenses for the life of the program. And this is, this includes all project proposals that have happened rate up until between April 1st 2013 up until 2018. So this is a response to PED that the program is being opened early and expanded. The... it's very important that Biosecurity is addressed and stressed. And we're doing our part to make sure the producers have better access to funding to improve Biosecurity. We are also opening up the farm service providers portion of the delivery agent program to new applications as well. And so this will allow proposals to come in from other, other industry or businesses such as feed trucks, truck wash companies and anyone else who's providing service to producers 'cause we recognize that truck washers, transporters and feed trucks are also vital in this link, in this chain of spreading disease. And so we want to see Biosecurity improve there as well. So I will stop there, if anyone has any specific questions, they can work through Alberta Pork as they have done in past or they can contact to Alberta agriculture for more information on that. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you Julia, I just wanted to add a little bit of information on behalf of Charlotte Shipp. Charlotte Shipp here in the office and the Alberta Pork office and Marvin Salomons has been working really hard with producers. And Charlotte wanted me to let you know all producers that if you, since now we know that the cattle funding as the program is going to be opening on, well Monday next week. Please do not hesitate, do not wait if you want to apply, go get your quote and contact Charlotte, just leave her a message or a voicemail. She is busy but she will get back to you as soon as she can and she told me producers needs to get their quote, that's the first first step for your, in your project. After that give her a call and she's going to help you out and Marvin as well. Thank you.

Speaker: That's great. Thanks Audrey and thanks very much Julia. A really important information about traceability and Julia and... already have been still helpful and number of fronts here regarding PED and so it's a great news about the real thing in Going Forward 2 and that's another way that they've been, been helping out so I really appreciate that. Well, excellent information for all of our speakers here. We'd like to now share with you some questions from some of our listeners. We're not going to have the listeners go live and ask them just because from a time standpoint, we don't want to go too far over cause we know people have other things to get to. So we'll just be sharing the questions here and then any of our experts can jump in with an answer. So our first question from Maricel is how is it possible that the U.S did not find any relation between plasma and PED. Is Alberta getting plasma coming in from the U.S? Who would like to answer that?

Speaker: I guess I could give it a crack. I guess I don't know specifically whether Alberta is getting, getting product from the U.S. I know that one of the feed plants in BC was and but their product was, from before that, before the period of time here. So I presumed that some probably would be coming from the U.S. The only way to find out is talk to your supplier. The reason they didn't it in the U.S, I guess were, the Americans are asking that same question. There's one, one point made by the CFIA in this testing and that is that they're not going to test feed samples from farms to see whether they cause the disease and the reason is that they, if you have a farm that's broken with PED virus, then you've got a situation where, where the, where the PED virus... yeah, so that you've got a situation where you have, a farm that's infected could possibly will be infecting the feed, that's number one. Number two is that, that the, the virus in the U.S is all over the place. Like most slaughter plants would have positive sources so almost any farm that breaks has multiple ways that the virus could had gone on the farm. So feed was became kind of a secondary source and they actually have set up a response team and the American

have set up a response team and that purpose of the response team is, they actually will look at, only look at farms that break with the disease where there doesn't seem to be any other connection. And that's where, where the feed idea kind of came up. The member of (??) made earlier is that unless you get the feed fresh enough and whether it's the actual... (a lot?) and sample that was used in barn, it's pretty easy to miss. But most of the problem is they're calling it sort of background shatter. Too much virus everywhere so the source could be almost anywhere. I think that's it.

Speaker: Excellent, thank you, appreciate that good question. Second question comes from Peter and he asked is any contaminated should, contaminated feed be taken to the incinerator? Who would like to answer that?

Speaker: Yup, I... as CFIA's comments that they are preparing a paper on that. And there, they, the bottom line is, they said it's perfectly okay going in to a landfill. Remember the shelf life on this bug isn't that long and a landfill is fine.

Speaker: Okay, excellent, thank you. Next question, have any of the Ontario herds been vaccinated, could this be a way to build immunity? Who would like to take that?

Speaker: Well, I'll answer but probably not very definitively. I'm aware of interest in the vaccine but at this point the vaccine doesn't have any data back on its effectiveness at the second generation PED vaccine which means they had a first trial run which was not terribly effective in preventing the virus from getting into a herd. So now on the second generation and they're waiting to find out how that's working but the data as I know is going to be coming out in March. So none of my herds, I have 4, none of us, well obviously the first two didn't vaccinate but I had people calling me and I just tell them that we don't have information on this vaccine yet.

Speaker: That's great. Thanks Sue. Our next question coming from Gary, he's asking what is the PED shelf life? Who would like to take that?

Speaker: Anyone wants to take it?

Speaker: Sure, it's Julia here. I can, I can jump in. The... and assuming that caller is talking about shelf life in feed but he could also be referring to shelf life in manure or other contaminated objects. And the answer is it depends, the virus can survive freeze in quite well, in dry surfaces and when it's been exposed to dryness in sunlight, the virus will die much more rapidly. We generally consider about 7 days that virus will survive in dry feed or on many surfaces. In manure or slurry where it's lots of cool can be survived up to 21 days or more. In water is the same thing with the moisture and the coolness, it can survive longer. And that's why we see PED moving at the time of the year might be the same as we see TGE moving because it survives well when it's frozen. So if the manure on the truck is frozen, that, it can be transported and kept, the virus can be kept intact and kept alive and transport it for a long distance when frozen and also makes the cleaning of the truck is harder. So the answer to the shelf life question is it depends on the state of virus whether it's wet or dry, frozen, hot or cold. This virus also seems to be much more resistant to heat than the TGE viruses which is why warm thermally assisted drying of trailers have been more effective than eliminating the virus than just letting them air dry. And I'll, anyone else have any comment on the survivability of the virus.

Speaker: Thank you Julia. The next question is coming from Andrew and I think it's a question for Chris. It's there a certain disinfectant to use against the virus? And Chris I would like you to go to emphasize again the importance of using detergent and soap if you could just give us a few disinfectant but as well as a few detergent to use.

Speaker: Yeah, the detergents and soaps as we mentioned earlier is at stage before pressure washings so you can, they can lift off the oils and greases and the biofilm from it and you know products, there are few different products being used there. Most of the time we're already trying to go after the greases and not the, and oils not the, not any mineral biofilms. So would be an alkaline detergent, the one I've mentioned and I guess the one I'm used to is using is (biosol?) and (acidifoam?) I think it's been

used as well, it's an acid one. There are number of other ones available through vet clinics through feed stores but an alkaline one is what you should be going for. And in terms of disinfectants, you know we're working in cold weather right now so the cold, in cold weather there are some that work better than others and so synergize and virkon have been the two that have been used and I, and I believe your site Alberta Pork site has instructions on how to use that in conjunction with propylene glycol so you be, during, during cold weather and they use a different level of propylene glycol all the way up to 20% when it's really cold, -30 type weather. When it's warmer, besides those two, you know ones like one stroke in virkon or tek trol, there, those types of disinfectants will also work on this virus. Quaternary ammonium that, the clots that we, that are used quite a bit out there are, they can kill some virus but they certainly not as, not as effective and easily there, the other thing about them is that they're, they become ineffective when there's any manure left around. So I guess you have few I think to work for...

Speaker: Excellent, thank you. Appreciate that. Our next question is from Aileen, a question for Sue and asking how did the virus spread from one pen to another when it's not airborne.

Speaker: Well, it's relatively easily, most easily spread on manure obviously because it's being shed in manure. Oral secretions so even if you have solid penning, if you're walking in between pens checking on pigs, moving pigs, it's easily transported. And I think, you know we still have to remember there's flies and barns that can transport the virus just as easily this people or your handling equipment or whatever. So it goes to underscore that it's easily, it's easily transmitted within a barn.

Speaker: Excellent, thank you Sue. Our next question I think is for Sue as well from Clarence asking how many of the 18 herds in Ontario that are linked to feed or receiving feed in bag form.

Speaker: That I don't know because I'm not aware of the details of some of the herds that I'm, I'm not involved with but I know, the herds I worked was dead but it maybe that some of the weaned finish, I mean our load operations received in bulk. So I can't answer that completely.

Speaker: Okay, thank you Sue. Next question coming from Barb and she says she would like more information on the feedback process. Who would like to take that?

Speaker: Well I think it's the control program that we're using is similar to the TGE 1 from years ago and I think the best, the best I could say with this, which are already hates the responses, discuss it with your veterinarian. Everybody has their own program or maybe there's more similar when, people are using but rather than sort of flinging something out there, I think it depends on the situation and the producer and your best advice to work with your veterinarian on this.

Speaker: Okay, excellent. Thank you. Now David had a comment regarding the shelf life. He said the blood plasma that tested positive for the virus in Ontario is two months old. Is that right?

Speaker: Yes, I can respond to that one Geoff. And that is true, everyone has to remember that the test we're using to detect the virus in feed is called PCR, Polymerase Chain Reaction. And what that test does it detects actually some of the viral RNA. So it's not telling you whether the virus is still alive, it's just detecting pieces of protein from the virus. And so even if the virus has died, we can still get positive PCR test for quite some time afterwards as long as nothing is happened to... it actually degrade the protein of the virus. And so that's one of the challenges we have with this environmental and feed sample. It's just because we got a PCR positive, it doesn't mean that the virus is still alive.

Speaker: Thanks, very good point Julia. Thank you. Next question is from Vic and he's asking will PED come in from migratory birds from infected areas? Who would like to take that?

Speaker: Yeah, I can respond to that one Geoff. The question... I think the short answer to that one is we don't have any proof either way. We can only compare PED to TGE and there has been some research done many many years ago that a TGE might be carried by starlings. And starlings don't migrate but they do congregate in large flocks around, around farms specially in the American Midwest and in Eastern

Canada. And we do see some of them in Southern Alberta. There hasn't been a lot of definitive evidence to prove that they can carry the virus. If they do, it's a mechanical transportation. They don't actually get infected by the virus, the virus only infects pigs and wild boar, it will not infect bird. So they have to be a mechanical transfer. And then the bird would actually have been mechanically transfer the virus and the virus would have to stay alive on the feet or the beak of the bird and then the bird will have to gain access to either the feed or the barns for the pigs then to ingest the virus. So I guess the answer is that might be possible but I think it's really far down on our list of ways that the virus will come in. I think we have to look furthermore, the more obvious ways which is the trucks and the transportation where we know manure can stay frozen and be moved back to Canada.

Speaker: Excellent, thanks Julia. Thank you to everybody for the questions. We're going to have to cut it off now for this questions but you can certainly still ask question afterwards by just leaving your voicemail message, you will hear a beep and you can leave your question and your contact information after the beep and we will get back to you on that. But we appreciate all the great questions for everybody and excellent answers from our panel. In case you missed the start of our call today, Alberta Pork is working on a number of fronts to keep you informed about PED and keep you up to date on the latest developments. We'll be having a third Telephone Town Hall two weeks from today on Friday, March 14th at 10:00 AM. Watch your inbox or fax machine for an invitation coming soon. Be sure to check our PEDV website regularly as well for news and updates. If you don't have internet access, we will have the information included in the fax version of our e-newsletter that goes out monthly or you can contact us here at the office and ask us to fax you information. From closing, I just want to thank our speakers again for bringing us some really valid information here today on PED. I really appreciate you guys, I know your time is limited this days and it's great to have representation sort of from all across the country here so I really appreciate that. And to everyone who participated in the call as well, I know that you didn't get, starts to fill a little bit overloaded with information but it's so important to stay vigilant and to yell information you can and we had over 300 people that participated today. So that shows that everybody is really taking this seriously and trying to get all the information you can, so appreciate that. If you have a question or comment around PED that wasn't address to the call, please stay on the line now, you'll have a chance to leave some message. We'd also be interested to hear what areas you like us to focus on in future call on PED, so just let us know about that. And again be sure to check our website and your inbox or your fax machine for more on upcoming Telephone Town Halls and on our in-person meetings coming up in March. Thanks again for joining us, have a good weekend.

Speaker: Thank you so much to everyone, that was a great call. As just said we had around 300 participants and... we're just, I'm just going to have to end the microphone for people to ask their questions and let, leave some voicemail and we'll talk to you later. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Bye-bye.

Speaker: Thanks everybody. Thank you.