

Speaker: Good morning everyone. Welcome to the 3rd in a series of Alberta Pork Telephone Town Hall Meetings on PEDv. My name Audrey Cameron Biosecurity Coordinator of Alberta Pork and I'll be hosting this call with Geoff Geddes Communication Coordinator for Alberta Pork. Thanks 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 the PIN number 112339. Again, the phone number is 1-877-229-8493 and the PIN number 112339. PED is a serious matter that poses a growing threat to the Alberta Pork Industry. So Alberta Pork is working on a number of fronts to keep you informed about PED. First of all, we are sending regular PED updates to producers and industry by e-mail and fax to keep you informed on the latest development. We are holding Telephone Town Hall by weekly and having In-Person monthly meetings coming up in February and March throughout the province. As well, our new PED page is now providing daily updates on the disease that is in Canada and the U.S. The latest news stories and a wide range of tools basically protocols, videos and prevention tips to help you keep PED off your farm. Then we really encourage you to join... to go and see our website. You can also find full transcripts of recordings of each Telephone Town Hall so you won't miss any of the valuable information provided on these calls. To access the PED webpage just go to www.albertapork.com and you will find the information on the producer page. You will see a big PED updates stop sign where you can click on and will bring you to your PED page. For those of you who do not have internet access check your fax for regular updates or contact Geoff or myself at Alberta Pork at 1-877-247-7675. Our next In-Person Meetings are coming up next week in Fort Saskatchewan on February 18th, Lethbridge on February 19th and Red Deer on the 20th. Egan Brockhoff will be providing the latest PED information on Montana, Ontario and Manitoba. And we'll have material available on protocols and prevention tips. You're also, you will also have a chance to ask questions and get answers to your most present concerns around PED. Make sure to check your fax machine and e-mails regularly. Our regular expert panel joins us again today. We'll have Dr. Julia Keenlside, a Veterinarian Epidemiologists at Alberta Agriculture in Rural Development; Dr. Lucie Verdon, Veterinarian at the national... and National Biosecurity Coordinator for the Canadian Swine Health Board. Our other panelist Dr. Egan Brockhoff was not able to attend today but we are pleased to be joined by Dr. Frank Marshall a Swine Vet here in Alberta and owner of the Marshall Swine Vet Services. During our expert panel today, Gerald Hauer Executive Director and Chief Provincial Veterinarian from AARD, Cathy Furness is a veterinarian who has completed a residency in large animal medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College and she's working in planning and preparedness with the Ontario Ministry of Alberta of Agriculture and Food in Guelph and we also have Tim Pasma he's a veterinarian who works with Swine Health Professionals in Steinbach, Manitoba and he's currently an Epidemiologists with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Guelph. Before we start just a few housekeeping matters, our speakers will be talking for about 45 minutes followed by 15 minutes 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 questions. If you have to leave the call early but have a question for our speakers, please follow the same procedures 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. Now before we begin we have invited Alberta Pork Chairman Frank Novak to say a few a words. Frank?

Speaker: Thank you Audrey and thanks everybody for taking the time to get onto this call. Clearly we have a developing situation we're now, for all tense and purposes surrounded by the bug. Now with cases in Montana and Manitoba and I'm sure you'll hear more about that later. I think that this last development here with Manitoba and Montana really is the final observation we need for anybody who would deny that we're at risk and would think it can't happen and can't get here. I think that we've now seen how fast this bug moves and so we need to redouble our efforts and make sure we've put in place and enforce our protocols and our Biosecurity and think about the unlikely ways that this bug might move around and get to your farm, friends, family, visitors, things that you might not think of this normal risk sources are things that we need to bring into the equation now. We all need, as I said at one in the earlier calls we only need to get this things wrong once and then we're in deep trouble. So everybody please put the time and effort into this and let's get this fight going and be successful. Thanks.

Speaker: Thank you Frank. Thank you. Just a reminder to our participants that if you have any questions about PED, this is a great chance to have them answered by the expert. All you need to do is press star 3 on your telephone keypad. And now I will pass it over to Jessie he's our Communication Coordinator for the first poll questions.

Speaker: Thanks Audrey. Before we hear from our first speaker today we'd like to get our callers involved by asking you a question on the PED issue. I'll be repeating the questions in case you missed it and you could answer the question on your telephone keypad. So our first question today, just to get an idea of who's participating today, we're asking what is your connection to the pork industry. If you're an Alberta Pork producer, please press 1. If you're a producer from another province or country, press 2 and if you're an industry partner, please press 3. Again, what is your connection to the pork industry, 1 if you're an Alberta producer, 2 if you're a producer from another province or country and 3 if you're an industry partner and we'll share the results with you in a minute.

Speaker: Okay, the results are coming in slowly. Okay, one more. Just wait a few more seconds and okay.

Speaker: Excellent, so we have, looks like we have 52% are producers and 45% industry partners, 3% from another province or country and a total of 131 votes on that. So it's good to see a good cross section and a lot of participation here today. We'd now like to hand things over to Dr. Gerald Hauer who'll be giving a national update and talking a little bit about Alberta's approach to PED. Gerald?

Speaker: Oh, thank you very much Geoff and Audrey, I certainly appreciate the opportunity to come on to this call and address the you know the industry and the producers of the province. I do also want to thank Alberta Pork for their, their effort and their collaboration and the huge amount of work that they've put in to dealing with this disease and you know getting prepared for it. This is been something that's been going on for a long time. So I just going to basically to give you a very quick rundown of what we've been doing nationally and a little bit touch on what's happening here in Alberta. Now what Julia finished off on to the Alberta approach but just to let people know on the line that like in a week, we as the chief veterinary officers for Canada and the other provinces have been working on this for a long time. We have, there's been a lot of discussions up in going back and forth. We've been meeting regularly since about June and we have been, had a lot of discussions amongst ourselves and also with others, the Canadian Swine Health Board in particular has have done a lot of leadership nationally so we thank them for that. You will noticed that across the country there's, we have plans in place for what would happen if PED does come to our province and those plans are being implemented now in a well in Ontario and you just heard recently that PEI and Manitoba are now dealing with brand new cases within the last few days. The plans that we have are very similar and that's not by accident, that is on purpose. And you know, again to the great leadership of Lucie Verdon and you know Bob Harding at the Canadian Swine Health Board. They created some templates for us to follow so most provinces follow those template and then we adopted them to the situations at our own province. And we share those plans with each other and so there's, the approach that we are planning to take are extremely similar so there is sort of standard approach across the country. There's been a lot of discussions back and forth between the provinces even as the events on fold another... in other areas of the country. For example in Ontario, I think people are very interested in what's happening there. I personally, have been attending the calls with, you know with Tim and Cathy on the line today. Every morning they give updates so I've been part of that. And you know we've been helping each other out back and forth. So there's a lot of collaboration, cooperation across here as well. And this Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Federal Government is also been involved as well. Now they have said that they're not going to be actively dealing with the disease but they are providing support where they can. They've been our link with the Canadian Borders Service Agency and they've also been providing advice on cleaning and disinfecting. And they've also, are involved a little... well they are involved in vaccine approval. And so we can talk a little bit about you know the vaccines as well. So I guess my bottom line is that there's a, there's very much a coordinated approach at my level and across the country as what we're going to do. And also we've been dealing or working very closely with Alberta Pork and you know they've showed some tremendous leadership and I commend them for that and I would say in the last few weeks, I've been on the call or on the line to somebody from Alberta Pork, probably if not every day, every second day and we've been, you know making sure that we're keeping each other informed and we're also coordinating activities. I think people, most people on the phone are aware of the current situation has been mentioned a few times at Prince Edward Island and Manitoba, that recent cases on Ontario from a few weeks ago and Montana, we can't forget our neighbors to the south because that does certainly impost a risk to Alberta as well. I have been on the phone with the state veterinarian from Montana, getting information from him on what exactly the situation is down there and assessing the potential

risk here in Alberta and looking at ways that we can address that risk through communications, through information and things like that. So those things are happening and I just making sure that you're aware of that. I think this new cases that we are seeing popping up from place to place. We still don't know how their spread but we just have to keep in mind that there's probably more than one way that the disease can spread. So we get it when we're thinking Biosecurity and I will let the other experts go in to more detail on that but we just got to be, always thinking you know what are the possible ways that they can get here and trying to block every hole that we can because this virus is, it's notoriously sneaky and it will get in, if we're not very vigilant and very careful with our procedures. I did mentioned that the vaccine a little bit earlier and I know that everybody, you know, a vaccine, vaccines are good news. The issue that we have though is, we're just not a 100% sure or we're not really sure about the effectiveness and as general of any vaccine we can't rely on it to be the silver bullet. It may be a tool that, is a tool on the tool box that we can use but we can't rely on it to be the only defense that we have. And so we still have to concentrate, prevention is still by far the best method to keeping it off our farm, as the way we going to keep it from infecting our animals. So the other thing about vaccinations, we at the province, we don't make vaccination recommendations. We do, well, really the animal health experts that are knowledgeable with your herd is your veterinarian. And so, you know decision to vaccinate are not need to be held or need to be made, to its conversations happen between the manager of the herd and the herd veterinarian and that's the proper way to do that. So we know we don't really take a position one way another but our, basically our position is talk to your veterinarian and get the advice that you need whether or not that is effective for you or not. The vaccine has been approved by the CFIA on an emergency release purpose. So it is only available through your veterinarian but if that is something that you are considering or want to explore more, talk to him or her about that. So if the situation in Alberta, so from legal or regular point of view, we did make PED reportable on January 20th. Our act, our Animal Health Act Legislation allow us to do that and because of the impending risk to be coming here, we felt that it was very important that we make it reportable and what that means is that anybody that knows or suspects that they have PED, needs to report that to, to our office and then we will act accordingly. Now that being said, we are not planning or we're not going to be putting on quarantine or putting movement controls in. Julia is going to talk more about that in detail but the key about, fighting at PED and you know this isn't, just me talking. I mean I can quote Bob Harding from the Canadian Swine Health Board as we need to have everybody, you know working off the same page and working together and not working in solos and the way you do that is by sharing information. So by making the disease reportable, our role is going to be to share information and coordinate. So we would plan, it's very much a coordination role and how do we help the farmer or the producer deal with this issue, the best that we can and try to protect the rest of the industry and so that, that is our role. So it's not to, it's still to allow the, that the farmer that affected to carry on marketing as hogs and carry on business the best they can, but doing it in a way that's coordinated such that the disease doesn't spread and we protect everybody else in the industry. So that, that's very much how our plan is developed and it was developed in conjunction with Alberta Pork, with private veterinarians, with number of industries, stakeholders, processors in the province so that we could all agree on, if it comes here, this is what we're going to do. And that plan actually is available on people want to see it, there's no secrets in it, we can share that freely. One last thing and I'll wrapped up is Growing Forward to funding is available and I know if it's been discussed on recent calls before and it might come up again but I would just encourage people to

think about ways that they can improve their Biosecurity. Again, talk to your veterinarians, the way it works is the, the Growing Forward program for this fiscal year to the end of March is closed but this, but that doesn't mean that people should, you should be thinking about improvements that you can make on your farms now and so that you're ready to have that application and just as soon as the program opens, you know, as soon as possible after April 1st. I don't know, I can't give you the exact date when the program is going to open up again but it'll be hopefully early in the new fiscal year, so early after April 1st that we will start accepting applications again. So don't wait, think about it now and you know even start, you know getting your ideas down on paper so you can put your application in right away. So with that being said, I won't take up any more time but I do appreciate the opportunity to have this discussion and I will have to be going soon but I'm going to leave at Dr. Keenlside to answer any questions that come up about Alberta and if she has any other questions for you after the call, I will do my best to answer them. So thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you very much Gerald. I really appreciate it. I know you're very busy this days. I really appreciate you're making time to be here today. You made some great points and Gerald's office have been just fantastic about working with us, providing this timely information and helping us prepare for what may be coming. So much appreciate it. 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. Our second question, have you had your Vet come to your farm and assess whether your Biosecurity is good enough to keep PED out. Press 1 for yes and 2 for no. So again, have you had your Vet come to your farm and assess whether your Biosecurity is good enough to keep PED out. Press 1 for yes or 2 for no. Thanks and we'll have some results for you here shortly.

Speaker: We'll wait a little more. We'll wait, I think... I think we're going to have a few more participants that go answer, we'll just wait for few more seconds.

Speaker: All right, so our results, we had 92 people respond. Our results are showing 38% said yes, 62% said no. So thank you for your participation. Now we're, yeah, because there's a little bit of concern there especially with PED coming closer and closer to Alberta. So for those who did answer no, we would strongly encourage you to get in touch with your Vet, have them come to your farm and really do a good assessment on whether your Biosecurity is good enough to keep PED out that's so important. We'll now going to hear from our next speaker who is Julia Keenlside, Veterinary Epidemiologist with AARD. She'd be talking about environmental surveillance for PED in Alberta and what will happen if and when we get our first case or suspected case of PED here in Alberta. Julia?

Speaker: Thanks very much Geoff. Thank you for inviting me to be on this call once again. I think this is just a fantastic way to share information and keep everybody current on what's going on. I'll just give a quick update on our environmental sampling for PED in Alberta. We started collecting samples last, the beginning of last week. We've collected, we've tested 67 samples so far from 6 different premises from federal processors, assembly yards as well as the truck wash. All of them have tested negative so far. We've also had 3 suspect cases in Alberta and they've all tested negative so far. And this 3 were low suspect cases. In each case the producer and the veterinarian saw some diarrhea and said we better check this out and they did and they turned out negative. I just wanted to reiterate that we are open for testing for cases. This surveillance samples from the environment are happening through our Growing Forward 2 grants and so we're just taking samples from locations that are participating in the research project. 'Cause otherwise if we try to sample every piece of the environment in Alberta, our lab will be quickly overwhelmed, so we have to be careful how much test, how many test we can actually take in. I did want to talk a bit about the PCR test that we are using. It's the same test that everyone is using across Canada. Manitoba, Scotland and in British Columbia are also starting environmental testing and has been doing so for the last few days. What the PCR does, as it detects fragments of the virus only. It doesn't detect the whole virus, so the positive test especially in the environment, doesn't tell you whether the virus is alive and capable of causing disease, it's only detecting part of the virus. And so because of that, you can't use the test, for example to test a truck or a load of feed and say, oh I got a negative test therefore the load is good to go and it's clean. Because you only swab part of a truck or you only take one handful of feed out of one ton, you don't know that the rest of the, the feed may also contain the virus or the truck. And so one individual sample can't certify that that is actually clean but we take a series of environmental sample overtime, then the weight of evidence starts to tell us whether or not the virus is there. And likewise the positive doesn't tell us that it's actually infected, it just tells us that fragments of the virus are there so the potential is there for there are to be an infectious dose of virus. So that is one of the limitations on testing. It's the best we can do and it is proving a useful tool to tell us in outbreaks where the virus has been and where it's going and certainly, I think Tim and Cathy will update us a bit more on how Ontario has use this environmental sampling. The other thing that we have going is that we are sending pamphlets to the boarder at the US boarder to inform, to be handed it out to inform people about the risk of bringing PED across the border from Montana, now that it is down there. And those pamphlets will be handed out to agricultural vehicles crossing the border. In Alberta, we, as Gerald mentioned, we do have a response plan. It's very similar to what is happening across Canada and other provinces. Basically what would happen if you suspect PED, you would call your veterinarian right away and the veterinarian will be contacting us very quickly to get the lab set up and we will work to get those samples in to our lab as fast as we can to confirm whether or not the disease is there. Once we have a test positive here, we would send samples to Winnipeg, our National Center for Foreign Animal Disease to confirm that it actually is PED. We would then set up our PED response team which is a partnership between Alberta Pork producers, our processors and assemblers and truckers and the government and together we would sit down and look at the situation on that individual farm and look at the best ways for Bio containment and managing the movement of pigs on and off that farm. And the goal will be to prevent the spread of the disease beyond on that one farm and that's really what we'll be focusing on is hoping that we won't allow PED to go much farther. Just because PED is here and it is, is a very eminent threat for us. It doesn't mean that every farm is

going to be infected and so we have to make sure that we try and keep it off to individual farms through Biosecurity and that requires everyone working together throughout of the chain and we're hoping our response team will do that. I also wanted to add a note that PED does not discriminate between conventionally raised pigs and organic or backyard or pasteurized pigs or any sort of outdoor pigs. The outdoor pigs are just susceptible to PED as our indoor pigs and I know I received a couple of comments on that, that it does not matter all pigs and wild boar especially are also susceptible to this disease and will be affected the same and I think all just close off there that PED is now endemic which means it's here to stay in the United States it may be that way in Canada. So what we do for Biosecurity is going to have to be long term we need to learn how to live with this disease and how to improve our Biosecurity to keep it off individual farms and we're certainly successful in keeping TGE out of western Canada most of the time. So I think we can do our best here with PED. So I will stop there and handed it over to our next speakers. Thank you very much Geoff.

Speaker: Thanks very much Julia. An excellent information there and Julia in AARD have been huge in terms of working to prevent PED and prepare for worst case scenario and we've been calling on them daily or more for help on that. So I really appreciate that. We have another question for listeners now, 3rd question. Have you ask your pig holder what Biosecurity measures they have in place to prevent the spread of PED or if you do your own trucking, have you implemented new Biosecurity procedures. Press 1 for yes, 2. Again, have you ask your pig holder what Biosecurity measures they have in place to prevent the spread of PED or if you do your own trucking, have you implemented new Biosecurity procedures, press 1 for yes, 2 for no and we'll just give you a minutes here. Okay so we had 87 people respond there and we're encouraging to see that 97% said yes, they have asked their... make sure that their holder is updating their Biosecurity procedures, 3% said no. So certainly encourage those who haven't to do that and just a little thing to keep in mind for those of you who did say yes, is how your sort of making sure that when they said that they've updated the Biosecurity procedures and measures that they've done that and that there just taking to that very important so just something to follow up on. And just also a reminder to participants if you have any questions about PED for any of our experts here today, you can just press star 3 on you telephone keypad at any time and we'll be able to take your question. For our last speakers we... unfortunately we had a producer lined up that was going to come in today to talk about his experience PED, wasn't able to make it today and we'll try to have have him for the next Telephone Town Hall. However we're fortunate to have 2 co-presenters here. Tim Pasma and Cathy Furnes with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Guelph. They're going to be talking about the PED outbreak in Ontario it's clinical presentation and how producers dealing with it on their farms. So I'll hand it over to you Tim and Cathy.

Speaker: Great, thanks very much Geoff. So today we have 13 confirmed PED positive cases in Ontario. These cases have occurred in 9 farrow-to-finish herds and four wean-to-finish herds. We've also been doing for extensive environmental surveillance and sampling and the virus has been detected assembly yards, processing plants as well as in our transport system. We have also found virus particles in feed

samples and this is currently under further investigation. So our 13 cases have occurred in the variety of operation. The smallest herd that we have is about 150 sows, where the largest herd has been about 2,500 sows this has occurred in both single site operations, where everything is under one roof as well as on large multisite operation and we've had it occur just in nursery operations as well as finishers site. The herd has been both open herds where replacement animals are coming in as well as herds that have been close for, considerable period of time more than 10 years. The feeding systems within the herds are different, some used a complete feed others used liquid feeding system and some producers have mill their own feed. One of the other significant differences between the farms is there is a variety of Biosecurity practices. Now I'd like to discuss some details about the first reported case that we had in the province. On January 21st the producer noted the clinical signs of vomiting and diarrhea in two to five, they all piglets in a 500 sows finish operation. They're referring veterinarian and then requested that the producer send samples to the Animal Health Laboratory in the University of Guelph. We did have a diagnosis of PED at that point in time and the diagnosis was subsequently confirmed at the MCFAD Lab in Winnipeg. The virus has also been sequenced and it was virtually 100% similar to the USA strain. Once we have the diagnosis of PED, the producer works very closely with the referring veterinarian as well as industry stakeholders and the Ontario Ministry of Food and Agriculture and we came up with the plan to help the producer. The producer voluntarily stopped shipment of market hogs for his farm for a week while we did our best to help him manage the situation. Since then, our... on our infected farms we have seen quite a diversity of clinical signs. So in our first herd, the first day that the producer observes clinical signs we have scattering 2 litters but then within 24 hours after that, it had spread to all the litters within the (ferrying barn?). This is in contrast to another (ferrying barn?) where the disease was first noted in older nursing piglets, they have scouring and some vomiting on that wasn't and still fixated after that the younger piglets began to show clinical signs of scouring and vomiting and then subsequently died. In general, the mortality in the young piglets has been a 100%. There's also been a variety of clinical presentations seen in nursery pigs. One of our producers observe a very small amount of diarrhea and in nursery herd which was subsequently tested positive for PED. Whereas another producer had significant and severe vomiting and diarrhea in the nursery pigs that lasts between 7 to or 4 to 7 days. We're also seeing a clinical signs in a grow around finisher pigs which include mild diarrhea as well as the reduction on appetite and one finisher herd has noted that they had an increase mortality and at this point in time we're not sure if that's associated directly with PED or due to secondary diseases. In general, the disease progresses to a barns and wave like fashion before the , a feedback program is initiated.

Speaker: All right. So I'm going to talk about what are producers have done in terms of PED. So our producers have used a variety of measures to... PED, and all of this has been done under the direction and guidance of their herd veterinarians. All of our producers have instituted, aggressive feedback practices so they're making sure all pigs get exposed to the virus and they record animals that are getting sick. So that they're ensuring that practice is well done. Those who have owned (selling?) herds have instituted early weaning so what they've done is wean the pigs at 10 days of age. Also there's been a manage when a pig flow and you think orderly marketing to make sure that the virus has not exposed to other

herds and to minimize so the spread of disease is minimized. I'm not aware of anyone using the vaccine at to data as well and these are general recommendations, we always highly recommend that you consult with your veterinarian before instituting any of this practices. In the first herd like Cathy talked about we're currently waiting for that herd to start (ferrying?) out again, the weather since the outbreak. So we're hoping to see positive results from an aggressive feedback program. We continue a lot of work on Biosecurity so we've been promoting that to producers and like Gerald as said Biosecurity is really key in keeping the disease out of this farms. The CFIA has provided us with a cleaning and disinfection specialist and she has been helping us with the plants and truck washers in making sure that their sanitation protocols are up to spec and working. Generally, as we look at our Ontario outbreak there's a lot of connections within our swine industry and I'm sure that in Alberta that's the same as well. We've got lots of common link which is in our cases with feeds suppliers, assembly yards and slaughter plants and all these are part of our investigation which is ongoing. So to conclude we've found that PED has have variety of clinical presentations and different signs. So we highly recommend that producers to be vigilant for any cases of diarrhea and work closely with their veterinarian to get the diagnosis as soon as possible. So with that we thank you for the opportunity to talk about our experiences with PED and I'll turn it back over to Geoff.

Speaker: Thank you very Tim and Cathy. Some really valuable information there and we really appreciate and I mean as Gerald and Julia both address the importance of everybody working together on this and I know you guys really have your hands full of what's happening in Ontario so we really appreciate you taking the time to join us today and bring us some important information. I'd like to now call on our last speaker today Frank Marshall, Swine Veterinarian for Marshall... Frank will address the feed issues and concerns and where we at with that and alternatives for concern producers, Frank.

Speaker: Thanks Geoff. Thanks for the opportunity to speak to this. So let's start with the plasma question. Right now, there's has been positive found and Julia has expressed, it doesn't necessarily reflect infectivity. The North American spray dried blood and plasma producers have actually committed to the practices of providing safeguards for the safety of quality and quality of, spray dried blood and plasma products. What they are able to show consistently here is that DEFRA, the Department of Environmental Food and Rural Affairs on International Disease stated that spray drying and heat treatment use in manufacture of blood products were affected to inactivate PEDv. And in terms of survival in a dry environment, they were able to demonstrate that when PED is inoculated in dry feed it did not survive past 7 days when held at room temperature. Some sprayed dried products have moisture content about 8% and water activity have less than 0.6. So typically spray dried products will be held for minimum of 7 to 10 days depending your QA analysis with an additional of 2 weeks to move through commercial channels. So from that perspective an envelope of virus like PED will not survive in this dry environments and would not be expected to survive in spray dried blood products. So with that in mind they know it's a presence of viral genome it has to be emphasize that in spray dried blood products does not mean that feeding ingredient will transmit the disease. This also applies for rendered

feed materials now the temperature used in that process is 240 degrees C and would effectively undo the transmissibility of this virus. For feed stuffs they are some general recommendations that had been put forth by (Dritz?) and Company from K State and they're able to show us that I mean this still a large question for the industry to address and it's currently being done so. So the first order of business is not to panic with our creep feed that will contain blood plasma products. There are alternative strategies that we can use to mitigate the risk and so they've suggest then that replacing porcine based products and diets with bovine products, examples bovine plasma to replace porcine plasma and again it's only used in those high end expensive creep diets. So those that are weaning 28 days and greater that those starter diets wouldn't contain this generally. So from that point to, we're moving all animal proteins except from milk products from the diet in those high ends starters would be one of the ways to mitigate risk. You know the risk is always higher on sow farms so those creep diet might be used in the (ferrying?) house or for time prior to weaning. So these are things that we can do to mitigate that. The pelleting process in a big question that we've been working with, with our mills out there and just pull that up. They've actually if we have physical contamination of the feed we've observed pictures of corn piles in the middle of Iowa covered in snow and approximately a million starlings. You know that starlings historically will giving us a grief in terms of transmission of TGE virus and it could be surmise that this could be vectors. So if I have gross physical contamination of the feed stuff, the pelleting process can help however there is a time and temperature factor involved in one of Dritche's grad students who's providing us with a nice tidy table and these are all available ASB's website and they show that temperature of a 160 degrees Fahrenheit for 8 minutes would be the theoretical retention time to inactivate PED in a pellet and so I take that to the extreme temperature of 210 and the pelleter, we're talking 10 seconds. So there's a range there that can be addressed and certainly pelleting will help us in a lot of ways in terms of feed deficiency and transmission of other agents. So this is something to consider and again it's the retention time in the pelleter with undo that. So with that I'll end there.

Speaker: Excellent, thank you very much Frank. We appreciate the information and thanks in working really closely with this as well and a lot of friends here regarding PED. Greatly appreciate it. Now I'd like to call on Alberta Pork Vice Chairman Will Kingma for some closing comments and after which we'll be hearing questions from a number of our listeners, Will.

Speaker: Thanks Geoff and just like to say thank you to all the, all the speakers you've done an excellent job. The information was very good and helps us all. And I'd like to thank everybody for taking, who took part on this call just... it is very important and having so many people taking part and it shows that everybody is taking this very very seriously. I think, I think the biggest message that we can say is if everybody does the best that they can do, we can greatly reduce the spread of this virus and really impact the health of our industry. So with everybody taking this seriously, everybody doing what they can on farm, learning is much as they can about it participating these types of calls, we can really do a lot to win this war against this virus and then also in the future. If we are managing it in this province, reducing the spread and then eliminate it from farm so it ever ever does get a foothold that becomes

you know like it is in the states almost unmanageable. I think it's critical and so everybody doing their part just to, you know can't stressed it enough that is the biggest thing that we can do as a group to help each other. So again just like to thank you all from Alberta Pork for participating in this and helping our industry in so doing. So thank you very much.

Speaker: Thanks very much Will. Some very good points there that you're bringing up and that you're reinforcing for producers in industry. So thank you. We'd like to now to take our first call, one our listeners. First call is from Aileen. Go ahead Aileen.

Speaker: Yes, my question was if you want to keep survivors of (litters?) infested PED for future breeding stock, would they be immune to this disease or would they become carriers and like pass it on to their piglets if they survives from the (litter?).

Speaker: Very good question Aileen. Do have someone would like to take that question?

Speaker: I can take it, Frank here. From this perspective what we do expect is that the animal that survives through this will clear the virus and become immune. Based on what we understand from TGE that would be assumed. Now we're observing some unusual things in the US in terms of relapsing of herds that have already broke you know that's being delineated now in terms of how that comes to be in it will be founded, it will have something to do with not front loading enough guilts in the outbreak situation. So that we can run the timeline out 6 perhaps 10 months until we have virus clearance off of the farm. I think environmental contamination will be a bigger portion of this. The other side of that was if we did not attain a proper feedback regimen to ensure that every single female animal on that farm was exposed appropriately show clinical signs and moved forward. So over the length of that process it's how we dealt with TGE historically and we could cleanly clearly show no harm done to these animals that they become breeding animals and now retained in the herd.

Speaker: Very good, thanks Frank and very good question Aileen appreciate that. Our next question is coming from... I apologize in advance if I mispronounce your name from (Jamunu?) go ahead from your question please.

Speaker: Yeah, actually my question was... actually to Doctor Frank Marshall (??). But my question was.. is there is a risk of same section by using or (sign?) the route feed ingredients like blood plasma and (with meat?) in the diet.

Speaker: And again we can clearly show that to the process those things are mitigated the virus is inactivated. We could still detect the genome but it does not reflect infectivity and that's I guess that's where the industries sits and stands behind.

Speaker: (??) thank you Frank. Our next question is from Martin. Martin go ahead. Sorry I think we have a little technical problem there. Martin, do you want to go ahead with your question? Okay, sorry I have a little problem in that but I'll put the question out there from Martin. In the first case of PED in Ontario, do you know how it got in?

Speaker: Hi, it's Tim Pasma from Ontario. Our investigation is on ongoing on that. We certainly have seen a commonly which is with feed suppliers, assembly yards, slaughter plants and so this all part of our investigation which is ongoing so you know it's long and short of it that we're still working on that.

Speaker: Excellent, thank you Tim. Our next question is coming from Jay. Jay if you want to go ahead with your question and if you please to have Charlotte (Ship?) here from our office who'll be answering this question.

Speaker: Great. Thank you. You had mentioned when you're talking about Biosecurity something about an application process and reopening in April. Could you clarify that a little bit for us?

Speaker: I certainly did. That's really good question. The Growing Forward program is currently not accepting applications but it will be as of about April of 1st of this year coming up. Any projects that you want to go ahead with right that are Biosecurity related are eligible expenses which means the program is retroactive going back to April the 1st of 2013. The best way to start it is really sit down with your veterinarians and identify those Biosecurity gaps, keeping in mind you can only do one application per year. So you really want to look forward as well in to the summer and see if there's any projects that you want to cover off this summer as well. Then we'll integrate that all in to one application, where the roles that I play here at Alberta Pork is to, as if producers with drafting those application so I was say go out and get your quotes, get your quotes as high as possible 'cause they can always come in under budget but we can't come in over budget and then you can send a quotes in to my attention and then I'll work with you on actually drafting the details of the application as it fits for your project. From there we'll send it in to Growing Forward, wait for the approval and then there's a little bit a final report we have to do which I can help you with in. And then check if it's in the mail.

Speaker: Thank you.

Speaker: You're welcome.

Speaker: Excellent, thank you very much Charlotte, appreciate that. Our next question here is coming from Johnny. Go ahead Johnny.

Speaker: My question, my question was we've been able to keep PED out of Western Canada? How much more contagious is PED versus TGE?

Speaker: I can perhaps address that. We're viewing PED as TGE on steroids. So on another scale level here in terms of contagiousness and infectivity.

Speaker: Thank you Frank and well put I think that thumbs it up nicely. Our next question comes from... Go ahead Steve. Steve are you there? Okay, I just read his question. He's question is, is it a good idea to use the (??) or do I need to rotate disinfectants? Do have someone would like to take that question? Frank or Julia would you may be like to take that question?

Speaker: Yeah sure. Rotation of disinfectants may not be necessary, we know the good ones, the products that are good are aldehyde, quaternary ammonium, combinations those are really good and using them consistently should prove as well. The products like that the pre-oxygen groups virkon and such these are known tried and true products. There's, I believe there's going to be a posting of affective disinfectives on the Alberta Pork site and discussion with Audrey. The rotation itself is probably not necessary it's personal choice. Remember for everyone when you're applying these disinfectants on your trailers you're going to use double strength because you're putting it on a wet surface in that trailer and it's instantly diluted. So we'll always double our products like synergize, double our virkon knowing that we're going to apply it on a wet surface.

Speaker: Excellent, thanks very much Frank. Next question is coming from Glen. Go ahead Glen.

Speaker: Hi, my question would be can a herd be infected with PED at second time?

Speaker: So I'm sure people are aware of the history in the US where some herds 3 months later are re-breaking. So the quick answer to that would be again this business of front loading the operation in the feedback process with all the gilts that you might need for 6 or more months and ensuring that they are affected and get the disease in the feedback process. And again, ensuring that every single female shows clinical signs and that's... I think it's Marty Meisner was on the call here this morning he would, he has a nice tidy little recipe that they're using currently and have used in the past. It's what we've done with TGE and but what we're realizing in the US from US history is that you want to have a longer period of loaded females in to your herd and they're suggesting perhaps up to 10 months may be necessary until we know better about the virus.

Speaker: Excellent, thanks. Thanks very much Frank and some great questions here today so far. So appreciate that from everybody. Our next question is from Ruben, go ahead.

Speaker: Best, can PED be transferred from barn to barn by birds or wind?

Speaker: I can take that one Ruben. We, there's no evidence right now that PED is being spread through the wind and on the air. This virus needs moisture to survive and the primary root has been through the transmission of infective feces. So anything that can be contaminated by feces and carried from barn to barn is the main root. We know from research with TGE, now this is older research that some birds such as starlings have been shown to have the virus on them but not actually become infected themselves. Right now we don't have enough research to say whether or not PED can be carried by birds. But pretty sure that birds don't become infected by the virus themselves to they don't stick with it and it only affects pigs. Whether they can be a mechanical means of transmission that means they get manure on their feet and go from one barn to another and then put the virus in the feed remains open speculation. We just have enough research to answer that question. Frank anyone else here to weigh in on that one?

Speaker: All right, that's fair Julia 'cause we... I mean it's physical contamination and tracking. You know in our Biosecurity seminar last year we talked about trackable disease. We talked about TGE. PED again is TGE on steroids. So everybody needs to understand that mechanical vectors are highly probable that's what our trucking contamination is all about. It's trackable.

Speaker: And when we mean by trackable is that you can carry it in your boots and if I have the rank things in order of the importance of them in being able to transmit PED, I would say things that the pigs contacts such as trucks and equipment would be high up on my list as well as pigs themselves. But also people's boots is this one, when say it's trackable, it means that you can carry that on your boots back into the barn and that's why we stressed that the (Dana Centre?) or changing your boots and cover all of them washing your hands always always always before you're going in the barn is so important. And that their truckers also follow the same rules or any of your service people that come to your barn, make sure they do not go in to the barn without changing their boots especially.

Speaker: We have lots of questions as last week from producers about the (Dana Centre?) and what it really means. But this was covered extensively in our Biosecurity meetings last last year and making use of this as (Dana Centre?) is critical and whether it's family, visitors, current workers in the barn. In times like this we want to restrict visits by non-essential people to the farm. It's very very critical.

Speaker: I really agree with that Frank and another rule that we have is that barn boots always stay in the barn. Is that boots that are worn in the barn should never be worn out of the barn into trucks or to assembly yards or processing plants. Especially that those barn boots always stay in the barn.

Speaker: Same goes for issues for hauling dead stock and material like that from the farm to your dead disposal area and we want to ensure that the cross contamination with the processor truck that comes to your farm and your farm vehicles needs to be (pasture?) thoroughly. You need to avoid cross contamination at that level. Again the people entry in to the facility or trucks and skid tires all of those source of things you need to be taken through the process with your veterinarian on how we moved those materials and machine in such in and out of our facilities.

Speaker: And I agree Frank and I think the other thing we need to do is to check up on it to make sure that all the processes are actually being followed. It's one thing to say, oh yes I'll do that. But I'm sure we all know how easy this to slip up sometimes especially when it's very cold out or wet. But we have to make sure that all of our protocol are being followed and so you have to ask your truckers and your service people. Are they actually doing what they say they do?

Speaker: Excellent thank you. Very good questions as part of some good discussion and thank you to Julie and Frank for answering that. Our next question is from Samuel. Go ahead Samuel.

Speaker: Is it possible the crows eat them in the U.S that they could bring them to your farm in Alberta?

Speaker: Sorry, Samuel we have some technical problem there, so we cut you the beginning of your question, can you ask it again please?

Speaker: How long can the virus be alive on a dead animal and is it possible if crows eat them in the U.S that they bring it to Alberta?

Speaker: Well I can start that for one thing Samuel is that crows don't migrate from the U.S to Alberta, crows are a non-migratory species. So they don't tend to move that far. I would be more concern about the migratory birds but I think in the end our basic concerns is things like trucks which we know carry feces. Birds could carry much smaller amounts. How long the virus survives? Frank I'll ask you to reply to some of that. The big thing is how long the virus survives depends on the moisture and the temperature. It can survive a long time when it's frozen, not so long when it's warm and it's dry. Frank do you have comments on that?

Speaker: Yeah you know the studies were showing us that room temperature approximately 20 degrees, 70 degrees Fahrenheit. We've got 7 days to the point of virus inactivation's and loss of infectivity. If we put that into slurry, so... they activate for... it took 5 grams of feces mix it with 10 mills of fluid and that such is slurry and they've tested it out to 28 days and I think there's still ongoing doing this and so 28 days is they could survive nicely in that and so our part of the world everything is frozen right now it could be sitting somewhere. As soon as they get mushy outside with reasonable temperatures will start move this around. So I think that answers that.

Speaker: Excellent. Thanks Frank. Next question is from Rick. Go ahead Rick. Rick are you there? No, okay Rick's question was, he's asking if we can have clarifications for producers for approve disinfectants to use. Who would like to take that?

Speaker: I can perhaps step in. The things that we're recommending typically are the Glutaraldehyde, quaternary ammonium products. So that's Synergize and I think Verucide, if I'm not mistaken and then the pure oxygen group which are Virkon S of course and again remembering to go to double the label on these products. There's a listing on the ASP website of all the different kinds of a product that's can be used against it even bleach at the right concentration can be used. But you need to get your math correct on your application rates and you spend a lot of time with producers on these. So make sure you

ask the questions and make sure the math it's done to get those concentrations proper. Just because it foams and it looks like it's doing something doesn't necessarily mean it's doing the job.

Speaker: Excellent thank you. Okay we have our last question. We're just running short on time and we will be responding to everyone else who has questions we'll respond to them after the call. So very much appreciated. But our last question coming from a David Thomas. Go ahead David.

Speaker: David?

Speaker: David are you there? Okay I'll ask his question, if a sample test is positive, is the farm notified before it gets sent to Winnipeg?

Speaker: Yeah, I'll take that one, and the answer is yes, as soon as we get a positive here in our lab. The farmer and the veterinarian will be the first people to know and as well, as soon as we get a positive here we will be informing Alberta Pork right away and communication is a big part of our plan likewise when we get any environmental positive we will be informing everyone that we have environmental positive and we do have an agreement with all the other provinces in Canada that as soon as they get positive cases or positive environmental samples they also let us know. So we can all start to act as quickly as we need to be.

Speaker: Excellent thank you Julia and thank you everybody for your great question. As I said, I know we have a number of other callers on the line who do have questions. We have their questions log here and so we will getting back to everybody with an answer. We just didn't want the call to go too much longer. So we've just got...

Speaker: Can we just interject one last comment?

Speaker: Yes please do.

Speaker: Make sure, which are producers out there, query and make the questions very clear to your truckers about what they are following in terms of protocols for washing and disinfecting your trucks

and making sure that they are doing what they're saying. There's been some interesting thing uncovered out there right now that are really disconcerting. So make sure that what you... what protocols are set in stone out there are being followed at the truck wash and by truckers themselves review those things extensively guys.

Speaker: Yeah, I really agree with that Frank.

Speaker: Okay. Sorry go ahead.

Speaker: Yeah go ahead I'm done.

Speaker: Okay.

Speaker: Alright I just wanted to add a comment that I think that's one of the most important things that we can think off. Sometimes we can get it by truck and the birds or wind. But I think we really need to look at the main cause of most of the disease spread here which is the trucks and the truck movement. The other thing we have to remember too is it's also our people traffic and changing our boots something very simple that can go just a long way.

Speaker: Can I say something Geoff?

Speaker: Yes go ahead Lucy please.

Speaker: I think it's a good point of Julia bringing the facts that don't let anybody that's not have... have miss inside your barn and thinking of specially on some of the some of the facts curiosity of Alberta and Colonies. So it's for a couple of times like we seemed that people just are voting for chat. So maybe other place would be for (to let truck?) in the barns. So don't let anybody that doesn't have any permit in your barn go inside.

Speaker: And that probably would be applicable to mills as well.

Speaker: Excellent, very good point thank you Lucy for bringing that up and Frank. It's very important. Well yes thank you again to everybody for your questions. If you want to ask a question in private you'll have a chance to leave a message after the call, you'll hear a voicemail message and you can leave your question and your contact information after the beep and we will get back to you. In case you missed in to the start of the call today. Alberta Pork is working on a number of friends to keep you inform about PED and keep you up to date on the list of development. So we'll be having a 3rd Telephone Town Hall 2 weeks from today on Friday February 28 at 10:00 AM. Just watch your inbox to your fax machine for an invitation to that. Also be sure to check the new PED portal on our websites for news and updates on PED. You can also get a transcript of today's call or an audio recording of the call that'll be available early next week. If you don't have an internet access and you still want information we are going to be sending information out by fax. Fax version of our e-newsletter, and fax updates. If you're not getting those updates please give me a call at 780-440-8460 and I'll get you on the list for that. So I'm closing again I'd just like to thank our great speakers today for bringing us some really valuable information into our callers so this is fantastic with some great interaction, some great points and questions and discussions and that's really important so thank you everybody. Again please stay on the line if you have a question or comment around PED and leave a message for us we also be interested to hear what areas you'd like to know more about regarding PED's we can include that information in our future Telephone Town Halls. Be sure to check our website and you inbox or your fax machine as well for reminder about our In-person PED meetings coming up throughout Alberta next week and again on March. Thank you again to everybody for joining us and have a good weekend.

Speaker: I have to end the microphones to have the callers leave a voicemail then I will send you an e-mail really quickly... with you all, okay, it won't be long. Thank you. I'll send you an e-mail. Thanks. Bye-bye.