Gary W. Black
Commissioner

Georgia Department of Agriculture

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To all Georgia Swine Producers, Swine Markets and Swine Exhibitors:

On February 27th, two fecal swabs taken last week from pigs at the Georgia Junior National Livestock Show were found to be positive for **Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv**). PEDv is a highly contagious virus that has spread across the US swine industry. It is unknown how the virus first entered the US in 2013, but it has caused widespread swine loss of production and mortality. These are the first known positive animals to be found in Georgia. The Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) is working closely with other animal industry partners to provide information about bio-security, disease prevention and control and current events. You can find information about PEDv at:

www.agr.georgia.gov

http://www.pork.org/

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_animal_disease_information%2Fsa_swine_health%2Fct_ped_info

Biosecurity is the key to preventing spread of the disease. It is important to limit travel and commingling with other swine associated events or personnel. The disease can be spread by pig to pig contact and by contaminated equipment, chutes, trailers, vehicles, clothing and personnel. All equipment should be cleaned and disinfected and all sick animals isolated. It is important to regularly observe your herd for evidence of disease. The virus affects all ages of pigs. Symptoms of PEDv vary with the age of the pig affected and include off-feed, vomiting, diarrhea and increased mortality. Vaccination has been shown to be useful in exposed herds but is not recommended in naive herds.

PEDv is reportable. If you have pigs exhibiting any of the symptoms of PEDv, please contact your veterinarian immediately and report to the Georgia Department of Agriculture online at www.agr.georgia.gov. You may also call Animal Health, at 404-656-3667 or the State Veterinarian's office at 404-656-3671. Anyone should immediately report confirmed PEDv or even suspected disease.

You are encouraged to monitor the GDA website www.agr.georgia.gov for updates and useful information. GDA will be working with our partners to develop a comprehensive strategy to contain and control this disease. The cooperation of all Georgia swine producers will be needed to accomplish this goal.

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