

Swine Vesicular Disease

Description

Swine vesicular disease (SVD) is an acute, contagious viral disease of swine caused by an enterovirus. It is characterized by fever and vesicles with subsequent ulcers in the mouth and on the snout, feet, and teats. The pathogen is relatively resistant to heat, and can persist for a long time in salted, dried, and smoked meat products.

Occurrence

The disease first occurred in Italy, and has been recognized in Hong Kong, Japan, and a number of European countries. In the 1990s outbreaks were reported in Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Transmission

The disease can be introduced into a herd by feeding garbage containing infected meat scraps, by bringing in infected animals, or by direct contact with infected feces (such as in an improperly cleaned truck). After the initial infection, the disease spreads through contact of susceptible pigs with infected pigs and infected feces.

Clinical Signs

Clinical signs are very similar to those of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and other vesicular diseases. They are:

- Fever
- Vesicles in the mouth and on the snout and feet
- Lameness and an unsteady gait, shivering and jerking-type leg movements
- Ruptured vesicles can cause ulcers on limbs and feet, and foot pads may be loosened

Young animals are more severely affected.

Recovery often occurs within a week. There is no mortality with SVD.

Prevention and Control

There is no vaccine for SVD. Prevention measures are similar to those for FMD: controlling animals imported from infected areas, and sanitary disposal of garbage from international aircraft and ships, and thorough cooking of garbage. Infected animals should be placed in strict quarantine. Eradication measures for the disease include quarantining

infected areas, depopulation and disposal of infected and contact pigs, and cleaning and disinfecting contaminated premises.

What the U.S. Livestock Owner Can Do

Livestock owners can help to protect the U.S. livestock industry by knowing the signs of SVD and immediately reporting anything suspicious to their veterinarian or an animal disease control official.

Public Health

Laboratory workers should use caution as human infection has been reported in laboratory staff working with the virus.

Additional Information

For more information contact
USDA-APHIS
Veterinary Services Emergency Programs
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737
Phone: (301) 734-8073
Fax: (301) 734-7817
or visit the APHIS Web site at
www.aphis.usda.gov

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