



Emergency Response and Management in Manitoba: A PED Success Story



Porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) is a provincially-regulated viral disease, causing vomiting, diarrhea, and death in pigs across Canada. Prevention and management of PED requires strict biosecurity measures, enhanced traceability systems, emergency response plans, and strategies for vaccination. In 2017 Manitoba experienced an outbreak of PED, with 80 premises testing positive for the virus. Though devastating for the swine industry, this outbreak of PED resulted in the province of Manitoba coming together to swiftly and collaboratively respond to the crisis.

Key Successes & Lessons Learned

An interview with Dr. Scott Zaari, the current Chief Veterinarian of Manitoba, revealed how the province developed a PED Management Plan to effectively respond to the disease. Manitoba's PED Management Plan involved collaboration, sharing, and transparency among all stakeholders along the pork supply chain. This management plan was developed into a functional and effective operational strategy that can be easily implemented in the field.

Given limitations in human resources, the province needed to be creative in establishing public-private partnerships between government and industry partners, rather than creating a regulatory response. This strategy allowed for use of resources available in the most effective and efficient ways possible. Cooperation with all major stakeholders in the province was crucial. The [Manitoba Coordinated Disease Response \(MCDR\)](#) was developed as a way to share

information and increase communication across the entire supply chain. Dr. Zaari described how today, all members of the pork supply chain are actively involved through monthly meetings, daily discussions during an outbreak, and established lines of communication with all Manitoba swine veterinarians. All major swine stakeholders are acting by the same playbook, with full buy-in across the supply chain.

Looking Forward

While PED still exists within the Manitoba pork sector today, collaborative effort in preparation, communication, and response to the virus has allowed the province to be more effectively prepared to combat an outbreak. The key has been to establish a multi-stakeholder group that comes together with a common goal. Though different organizational mandates, goals, and politics have traditionally presented challenges to open discussions, the use of a public-private partnership has enabled the province to establish trust and engage federal, provincial, and industry partners effectively. Lessons learned from the 2017 PED outbreak will be carried into the future and have laid the foundation for a more resilient industry that is prepared to take on new challenges in emerging disease.

