



## Red Tractor Assurance

### Changes to Red Tractor Certification Bodies

Red Tractor have decided to reduce the number of certification bodies it works with and as such it is ending its contract with Kiwa PAI. This means that if you currently use Kiwa PAI then you will need to transfer to a different body.

#### Red Tractor have agreed the following with Kiwa PAI:

- ❏ The transfer of scheme members will be completed over a 12-month period, starting this month.
- ❏ Transfers will be completed at membership renewal point. Red Tractor will write to KiwaPAI scheme members around four to six weeks before their renewal date to explain to them what they need to do. We have this week issued the renewal notices to those farmers due to renew in January and February.
- ❏ Assessments that are due to scheme members as part of their current membership will be completed by KiwaPAI. They will all be completed by the end of May 2016.
- ❏ All certificates issued by KiwaPAI will remain valid and in force until their expiry date.

Once you have completed your transfer to your new body, please let us know so that we can send your Quarterly Vet Reports to the correct place.

Further information can be found at: <http://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/rtassurance/schemes/pack/KIWAPAI.eb>

### Topical Talk

#### Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) becomes a notifiable disease



pig333.com

The Chief Veterinary Officer for England has announced that from December 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 PED will be made a notifiable disease in England.

The two requirements of the legislation for PED as a notifiable disease are:

Pig-keepers and veterinary surgeons must report suspect and confirmed cases of PED in pigs in England to APHA

APHA is permitted to share identifying details of suspect and confirmed PED cases for disease control purposes with the industry levy board (ADHB Pork).

Unlike other notifiable diseases, there is no legislative requirement for official testing, culling, movement controls or other restrictions and control of disease will be industry-led. Details of the industry Contingency Plan for the Control and Elimination of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea are on this link:

<http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/73937/contingency-plan-ped-v4-1-aug-2015.pdf>

#### The clinical signs of PED are:

- Diarrhoea spreads rapidly in a group of pigs over a few days
- High proportion of pigs in a group develop diarrhoea (50% and more)
- High mortality (30-100%) in young sucking piglets if due to a virulent strain
- Disease can affect any age of pig
- The diarrhoea tends to be watery
- Diarrhoea in older pigs is transient and they recover
- Sometimes pigs also show reduced appetite and lethargy and may vomit

The case definition for suspect PED is "An outbreak of unusual or rapidly spreading diarrhoea in pigs of any age

If an outbreak of PED is suspected, the pig keeper or their vet is now legally obliged to report this to APHA on the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301, selecting APHA and then option 1 to report disease in working hours or selecting the option for your region to reach the regional out of hours duty vet if outside working hours.

## A high pleurisy score – What does it mean?

Many of you will be signed up to the BPHS vet scoring scheme and regularly receiving reports. Although we often focus on the EP score pleurisy is another frequent finding and can be very important.

Pleurisy is when the membrane covering the lungs becomes inflamed. This membrane is called the pleura. As a result of this inflammation the lung can become stuck to wall of the chest cavity. This can cause pain within the chest as well as a reduction in respiratory function. However the majority of pigs with minor to moderate pleurisy show no outward clinical effects.

As we know pleurisy can have negative effects on productivity. For example:

- ☒ Herds with pleurisy levels >10% can have a 3.3% increase in post weaning mortality
- ☒ Every 1% increase in pleurisy score represents 1.5-2.5g/day reduction in growth rate across the finishing herd.
- ☒ A 10% prevalence would equate to an 208p/pig reduction in value across the batch at current prices

Respiratory disease is a complex syndrome and it is rarely only one pathogen that is involved. High pleurisy scores can be related to EP, APP, Glassers, Flu, PRRS, Wasting and Strep, some of these causes being more severe and more common than others. This can make determining the cause of a high pleurisy score quite challenging.

There are however some risk factors and control measures that have shown to generally impact on the pleurisy score regardless of the root cause.

The following factors tend to increase pleurisy scores:

- ☒ Being a farrow to finish unit compared to using offsite grow outs
- ☒ Not practicing all in all out management at unit or building level
- ☒ Repeated mixing of pigs
- ☒ Repeated moving of pigs even without mixing

In order to reduce pleurisy correcting any of the above practices will help. Apart from this full cleaning, disinfection and resting of finisher accommodation between batches has been shown to have a very beneficial effect.



## An update on Colistin

Colistin is an antibiotic that has been used for many years in the pig industry, though notably there was long period where it was used extensively in Europe but not available in UK. It is a fully licenced drug indicated for the treatment of susceptible E coli infections for a maximum 5 day course. Until recently it was believed any resistance in bacteria to Colistin occurred due to mutation of the bacterial chromosome and resistance was very rare. However recently in China it has been found that E.coli have developed resistance on the plasmid (this is a bit of genetic information outside of the nucleus). The problem with plasmid associated resistance is bacteria in gut share these plasmids between themselves so potential for rapid resistance spread is higher. This change is coded on the mcr-1 gene. It is likely this has arisen due to widespread abuse of the drug including use at sub therapeutic levels.

As a consequence of this discovery bacterial isolates across Europe have been tested and the presence of the mcr-1 gene detected in several countries albeit at a very low level. The problem is that this is a drug of very significant human importance as it is part of the cocktail of drugs used to sterilise the bowel if you are ever unlucky enough to require bowel surgery.

We as vets and the pig industry as a whole are coming under great pressure to review and minimise our use of this critical drug.

## Withdrawal Periods



Denagard injection has now changed from 14 to 22 days.

Please find enclosed an updated withdrawal period list.