

AHDB Pork Significant Diseases Charter

Summary

The AHDB Pork Significant Diseases Charter is an extension of the original Swine Dysentery Producer Charter which was launched in 2009, when producers, vets and the wider industry recognised the serious financial implications that would result from an uncontrolled outbreak of Swine Dysentery.

Producers and their vets committed to a Charter agreeing to share information with other Charter members should their farm become infected with *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*, and to take precautions to minimise the spread of infection. It has been an immensely successful initiative, especially in East Anglia where the number of cases of SD have dropped dramatically.

With the threat of emerging and exotic pig diseases like Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) on the horizon, AHDB Pork are extending the original Swine Dysentery Charter to include other significant diseases.

Initially only PED will be added, but with the reporting framework in place it could be used to include other emerging and exotic diseases such as US genotype 2 PRRS, Flanders 13 PRRS, deltacoronavirus etc etc.

As with Swine Dysentery, the success of the Charter relies totally on the voluntary commitment from producers and their vets to raise the alarm should they experience a disease breakdown. The early detection and reporting of these non-notifiable, but extremely infectious and costly diseases would enable rapid response measures to be put in place to restrict their spread for the benefit of all the British Pig Industry.

Notifiable Diseases such as ASF, CSF and FMD are not included in this Charter as all producers and vets are legally required to report any suspicion to APHA in the first instance.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PEDv)

- This highly infectious virus has been causing serious disease in the US, Canada and recently Ukraine and Europe with widespread mortality and production loss.
- The virus can affect all ages of pigs, but most significantly suckling piglets where it causes scours and up to 100% piglet mortality.
- Infection in older growing and finishing pigs may be a milder transient scour which can be difficult to spot, or could present more acutely like a Salmonellosis.
- Scour and aggressively high mortality in suckling piglets, or unexplained scour in finishing pigs, should be reported immediately with faeces samples submitted to the lab for testing.
- **Because of the highly infectious nature of the virus, and the obvious clinical signs of very high mortality in suckling piglets, PED must be reported to the Charter on suspicion rather than confirmation.**

Swine Dysentery (SD)

- Swine Dysentery is caused by *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* which results in severe inflammation of the large intestine leading to a bloody diarrhoea (dysentery).
- Although mortality can be low, it is a significantly damaging disease once on a unit as growth rates fall away, feed intakes rise and extensive medication is required.
- It is thought the disease can cost more than £10/pig finished when costs of permanent medication, mortality and non-marketable pigs are added to feed costs.
- Whether the disease is mild or severe there is still a risk of spread to uninfected pigs and other producers' pig units.
- Any bloody scours should be investigated for Swine Dysentery by sending faeces samples to the lab for testing.
- **Swine Dysentery is only reported to the Charter once samples are confirmed positive by the lab.**

How would it work?

Producers are encouraged to sign up to the Charter online. Previous members of the SD Charter would need to sign up again, as the Significant Diseases Charter will now replace the original version.

The Charter will be co-ordinated by the Control Centre set up within AHDB Pork using existing staff resources. It will act as the reporting centre, gathering information on the disease breakdown and then report specified details (as agreed by producer members) to other Charter members. The Control Centre will also support the efforts to control the disease with information on prevention, treatment and elimination.

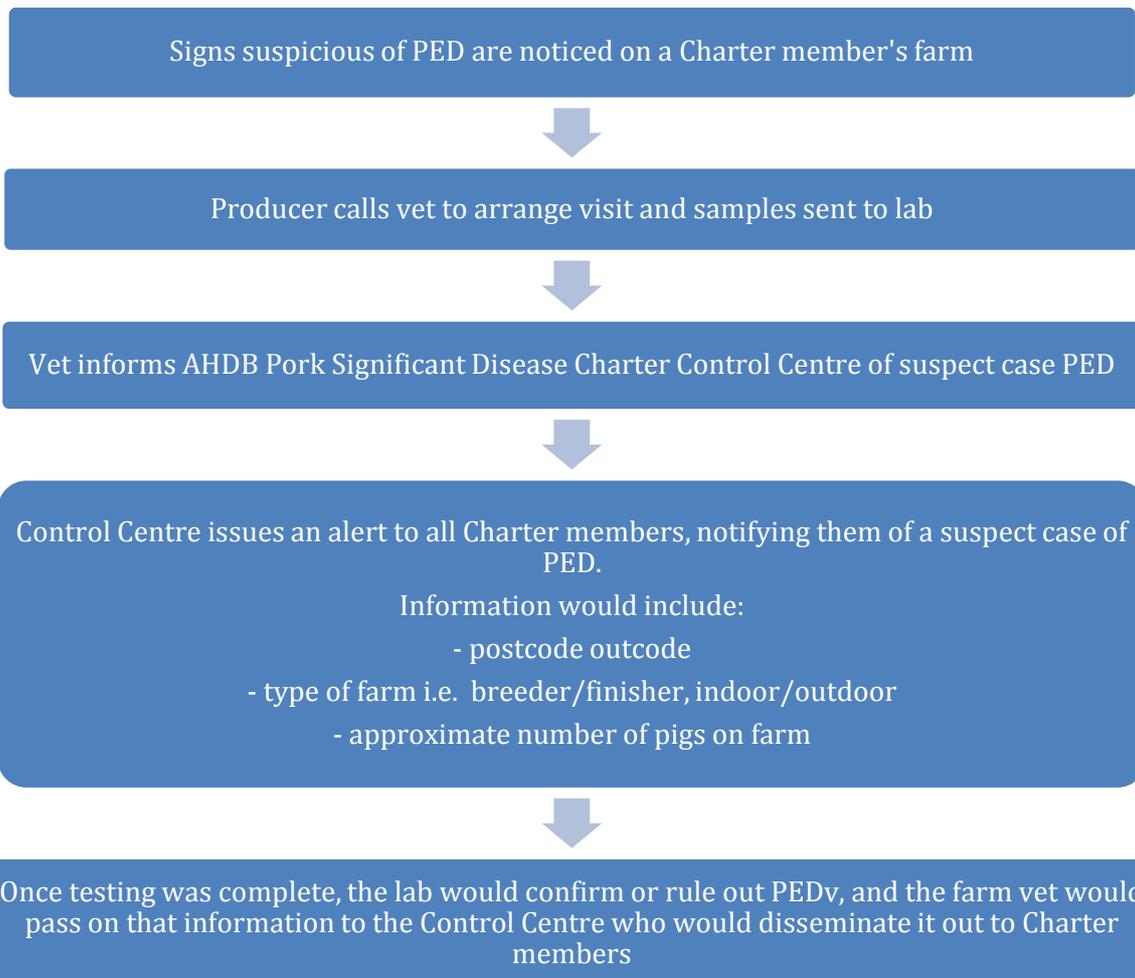
The farm vet has responsibility for reporting suspect PED, or confirmed SD, to the Control Centre, but can only do this if the producer is signed up as a Charter member.

The flow diagram below represents what would happen in a suspected case of PED.

Early access to this essential information enables;

- Voluntary movement restrictions to be put in place immediately
- Expert industry assistance in containing, controlling and eliminating the infection
- The risk of spread to be greatly reduced
- Movement tracings and further testing to be implemented immediately
- Local and national producers to increase their biosecurity measures
- Local and national producers to be extra vigilant looking for signs in their own stock

All of which helps to protect the British pig industry.



AHDB Pork Significant Disease Charter Summary

The Charter, along with its members, aims to;

- raise awareness of the threat of new and existing diseases
- quickly report any outbreaks (suspicious or confirmed depending on disease)
- disseminate vital information out to Charter members
- promote working together to control and reduce the spread of such diseases for the benefit of all British pig producers.

Sign up now at www.pighub.org.uk