Swine Dysentery

Colitis and severe bloody diarrhea in pigs is caused by *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* and related *Brachyspira* species

Swine Dysentery has seen a resurgence around the world, notably in some European countries and lately in the US mid-west. Recently, localized outbreaks have occurred in Western Canada. With increased vigilance, we can stop further spread.

**Symptoms**
- Sudden bloody or gray mucus filled diarrhea
- Rapid weight loss in pigs more than 10-12 weeks old, occasionally in nursery weight pigs
- It can be confused with ileitis, Salmonella or whipworm infections

**Prevention**
Swine Dysentery can be spread within barns and to other farms by manure, contaminated boots and equipment. It can also be carried by rodents and birds.

Seemingly healthy sows and weaner pigs can be carriers without showing symptoms. These carriers can also introduce the bacteria to new barns.

All equipment, boots and trucks should be thoroughly cleaned before use on farm, especially if used in areas where disease is present.

*Brachyspira* bacteria can survive 61 days at 5 ºC and up to 7 days at 25 ºC. This is enough time for it to travel on contaminated trucks, equipment, pets, rodents or birds.

**Treatment**
There are a number of products approved for treatment and control of Swine Dysentery in Canada. These medications must be used according to instructions because resistance is known to develop.

Recent outbreaks appear to have been successfully treated. Contact your veterinarian for details.

**If you suspect you have a problem...**
Call a veterinarian. A definitive diagnosis is made through a post-mortem examination and laboratory confirmation.

Tighten internal biosecurity to prevent spreading Swine Dysentery from room to room—don’t walk from infected pens to clean pens without cleaning boots, hands or contaminated equipment.

Enhance rodent control and don’t allow pets in the barn.

Don’t knowingly spread the disease to other farms through infected pigs, contaminated trucks, boots or equipment. Ensure all trucks and equipment leaving your farms are cleaned and disinfected.

**If you don’t suspect you have the problem...**
Be aware and extra vigilant. Swine Dysentery is being seen again. Talk with your veterinarian about tightening your biosecurity procedures.

Please read more about biosecurity [http://biosecurity.swinehealth.ca](http://biosecurity.swinehealth.ca)