

SWINE DYSENTERY

The Producer Charter

The outbreak of swine dysentery in Yorkshire is a reminder to all UK pig producers about the importance of maintaining strict biosecurity measures.

B. Hyodysenteriae is the bacteria that causes swine dysentery and can live in manure and slurry for up to 60 days in cold weather, so make sure your herd is well defended by reviewing the following:

- Pig unit hygiene and cleaning and disinfection of vehicles, equipment and people.
- Internal and external biosecurity programmes specific to your farm and situation.
- Herd security – know the status of pigs and vehicles coming onto your unit.
- Vermin control – rats, birds, mice and insects.
- Medication options – discuss with your vet where necessary.

The best way to keep up-to-date with the status of any swine dysentery outbreak is to sign up to BPEX's swine dysentery Producer Charter. The Charter will provide you with full details of outbreaks on other signed-up units in your area as soon as the confirmed reports are received. You will be updated via email, letter and text message.



To sign up to the swine dysentery Producer Charter for your region, go to www.pighealth.org.uk

In this issue....

It's been a hectic month at PHIP HQ. We ran our first interactive trans-Atlantic web conference, handled a flurry of new sign-ups to the project and managed information on the swine dysentery cases in Yorkshire. There's never been a better time to join the pig health revolution and sign up to PHIP.

Members should keep an eye out for their membership packs which will be arriving over the course of the next couple of months. They're an accessible source of all the PHIP information which you can use to organise all your pig health paperwork and get the best out of the project.

Strength in numbers

Norman White, a producer based in Somerset, became interested in signing up to the project after he attended the BPEX 2TS Focus on Health conference in Cirencester. Norman said: *"I'm spending a lot of money on drugs and vaccines so having heard that other producers were getting good results through working together to control diseases, I was interested in finding out more."*

He was particularly attracted by the regional focus of the project. *"The fact that diseases are tackled on a local basis makes a lot of sense,"* says Norman. He's now rallying support and has spoken to several neighbouring farmers who have expressed interest in coming along to the area's first meeting which is scheduled for early December.

Signing up to the PHIP is very straightforward and it's free. The question that often comes from producers is "what should I do next?" While there are things you can start with on site with your vet, such as reviewing and tightening biosecurity measures, don't try to act alone. Get in touch with BPEX to find a local cluster group or, alternatively, one of our team can help you set up a new one.

A cluster group is a small number of producers and their vets, and may include allied industry, who are based in close proximity and have similar goals when it comes to protecting herds from disease. Producers make the decisions on what is beneficial to their businesses and BPEX is there to support and facilitate activities.



Like Norman's, cluster groups often begin with an initial meeting where members have the chance to discuss concerns in their area, as well as specific issues for their individual herds, and share ideas on how to tackle the spread of disease.

Somerset producer,
Norman White

REMEMBER

Members of the Yorkshire, East Anglia and East Midlands schemes **must register again** for the national programme to receive the full package of benefits.

Disease testing

Last month we looked at the free BPHS reports offered to any producer who signs up to the scheme. This month, we're focusing on the disease testing service.

BPEX's veterinary projects manager, Helen Clarke, explains: *"This service comes into action once producers have signed up to the scheme and are willing to work with other producers locally. We can then offer them free access to diagnostic testing for the four key diseases (PRRS, enzootic pneumonia, mange and swine dysentery) within each of their herds. Producers can then share and discuss these results as a group."* The idea is that, once the group collectively has these results, they will all have a clear picture of their cluster's disease status and that will help with future health planning.



If your cluster is interested in the disease testing service, contact your vet who can submit an application.



PHIP on Twitter

You can now follow the PHIP on Twitter! To keep up to date on all the latest news and developments. Search for @BPEXPigHealth and click 'follow'.

BPEX Contact

For any queries please contact:

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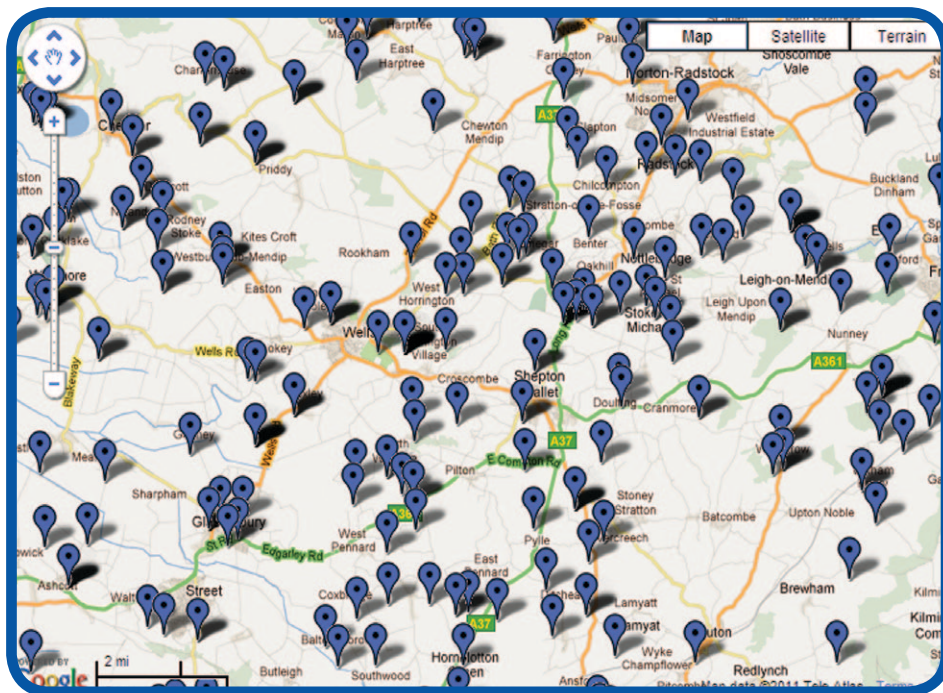
Email: pighealth@bpex.ahdb.org.uk

Website: www.pighealth.org.uk

The Newsletter
of the Pig Health
Improvement Project

BPEX
Pig Health
Improvement
Project

Online mapping service



This month, we're looking at Somerset. Like much of the south west, this region is fairly new to the project but 58 producers (113 units) have signed up so far. If your farm is in the area, but you're not a PHIP member, get involved and sign up today! www.pighealth.org.uk

How do I set up or join a local group?

- Attend a local meeting. For details visit the website or call BPEX
- Contact your vet. They can help find other interested producers or direct you to a group that has already formed.
- Contact the Health Team at BPEX and we will locate and contact other producers on your behalf.

Q&A

What sort of activities can my new group begin with?

Anything! You can start as big or as small as you like, but to give you some ideas here's what other producers have looked at:

- Slurry swap – if slurry spreading is taking place closer to one neighbour's pigs than another, arrangements can be made to change practices for mutual benefit.
- Share weaner trailers – producers choose to buy and use a trailer in rotation with a full cleaning and rest programme in between uses rather than using a contract haulier.
- Work with local smallholders – discuss pig health conditions and simple biosecurity steps to reduce disease risk for all parties.