

July 9, 2020

To Whom it May Concern

Re: PED concerns related to the expansion of Weststar Pork – technical application review number TRC - 12 - 072

Weststar Pork, located at NE 34-02-03E is planning an expansion to its existing 8000 head two barn finishing hog site. This expansion is a west extension of one of the two existing “H” style finishing units to facilitate an additional 4000 finishing spaces as well as the construction of a new lagoon. Weststar Pork currently finishes hogs for Maple Leaf Agri-Farms.

Concerns have been brought up that this expansion would result in an increased risk to local farms to contract Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PED). PED is a highly contagious and economically important viral disease in pigs resulting in extensive scour in all ages of pigs. There are several means by which PED virus will spread from a positive farm to a negative farm. In Manitoba these most commonly include (but not limited to): physical moving of PED positive pigs to a PED negative site, physical tracking of virus on footwear, equipment, livestock trailers etc, manure application via excessive lagoon agitation and aerosolization during surface spreading or by simply airborne spread from one farm to another.

Weststar Pork currently resides outside any PED buffer zones within Manitoba essentially meaning PED is not a commonly occurring disease in the Weststar Pork area. However, Weststar Pork did contract PED virus in May of 2019 with the most likely origin being from area spread of other local farms (see CVO’s comments below). Weststar proceeded to eliminate PED from both barns and is considered a presumptive negative PED site currently.

To fully evaluate the increased PED risk to the Weststar Pork area by increasing Weststar Pork from 8000 to 12,000 feeder pigs a few assumptions need to be made:

- 1) Pig sources – as a result of this expansion, Weststar Pork will continue to receive single sourced feeder pigs and/or will not increase the number of sources of pigs, and/or will not change sources to one that is a higher risk of breaking with PED virus.
- 2) Increased traffic to Weststar Pork – any increased traffic as a result of this expansion would travel along the currently used road directly south of Arnaud that runs in front of the Weststar barns and would not require alternate roads to be used
- 3) Any additional manure that will require spreading will continue to be applied using a drag hose and injector as is currently the case.
- 4) Any additional manure that will be required to be applied will not result in application to fields that are closer to or in a higher risk location to neighboring farms than what are already receiving manure

Provided the above assumptions are correct, I believe any increased risk of introduction of PED virus to the Weststar Pork area to be negligible.

Chief Veterinary Officer’s comments regarding potential sources of Weststar Pork’s PED break in 2019:

*“Unknown source. Unknown Contact. Estimate area spread. Risk factors; IP13 active case at time, undergoing backfeeding for elimination & < 2.5 km away. Indirect contact also possible through deadstock pickup linked with IP11 (see above) & transport contact with high risk high traffic facility (Provincial abattoir). Either would imply an unidentified biosecurity issue. Note This was a BA surveillance detection - no clinical signs initially reported.”*



Tony Nikkel DVM  
Director of Veterinary Services  
295 Niverville MB  
ROA 1E0  
Cell: 204-325-2013



Dr. Brad Lage  
Sr. Manager of Animal Health & Welfare  
Maple Leaf Agri-Farms