

UK pig producers urged to review defense against disease

Spread of African Swine Fever, PEDV into new countries gives producers additional reason to practice caution

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BPEX is urging pig producers to review biosecurity to protect their herds against devastating diseases, including African Swine Fever (ASF) and porcine epidemic diarrhea virus ([PEDV](#)), which have both spread to new countries.

ASF has just been confirmed in wild boar within the EU, in Lithuania, while the virulent strain of PEDV in the U.S. has now crossed the border to Canada.

ASF is a particular risk to UK pig producers because it can be carried via affected pig meat products and there is a considerable number of pig farm workers who travel to and from eastern Europe. To alert staff to this risk, producers can order 'Don't bring it home' posters, free from BPEX.

Key points for good biosecurity include: the isolation of pigs on arrival to the unit, limiting access to vehicles and people, thorough cleaning and disinfection of livestock lorries and arranging an offsite collection point for deadstock collection vehicles. Producers should always ensure that pigs have no access to meat products or products which may have come into contact with meats.

For help, the Pig Health Improvement Project offers a [biosecurity tool](#), which includes specific advice on PEDV. There is also information available on [ASF](#) from Defra and the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Pig International