

Swine vesicular disease



outbreak alert



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P 1796
1985
(1988 print)
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SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE

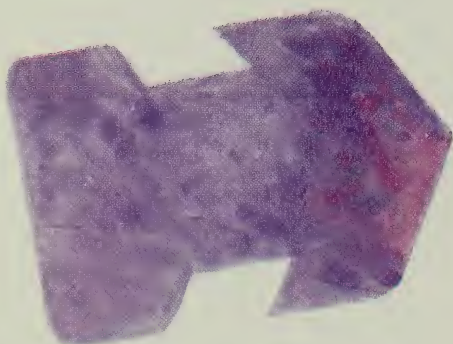
Swine vesicular disease (SVD) is caused by a virus. Although the disease is rarely fatal, in serious cases blisters form on pigs' mouths and feet, and they do not eat and become lame. The disease can also assume a less severe form where pigs continue to appear normal.

The virus is highly resistant to environmental conditions and disinfectants. Consequently, cleaning and disinfecting after an outbreak is very difficult. Measures to control and stamp out the disease are also expensive. The most frightening consequence of an outbreak is the economic loss that can result from the unmarketable condition of infected hogs. Millions of dollars in export trade can be lost if foreign countries refused to import our swine and pork products for fear of importing the disease.

Keeping Canada free from SVD is in the best interests of all Canadians. Read this leaflet carefully and learn what *you* can do to prevent SVD from endangering our swine industry.

History

Outbreaks have occurred in Hong Kong, Italy, France, Austria, Poland, Great Britain, West Germany, Switzerland and Japan. In Great Britain, SVD was diagnosed in December 1972, but despite intensive and costly efforts, the disease was not stamped out until 1984. SVD has not been found in North America and we're making every effort to keep it this way.



How SVD is spread

Infection most commonly results from:

- contaminated pork products imported by unsuspecting travellers;
- contact with infected hogs;
- movement of infected hogs through markets;
- contaminated clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment; and
- contaminated garbage. Some farmers feed swine garbage collected from restaurants. In infected countries, garbage feeding is a major cause of spread.



Unruptured vesicles on sole of foot

If an outbreak of SVD should occur in Canada

In the event of an outbreak, Agriculture Canada has developed an emergency program to control and stamp out the disease. Infected farms will be quarantined and all infected and exposed hogs slaughtered to prevent further spread. Farmers will be compensated for the loss of their swine. Infected premises will be cleaned and disinfected. Herds on surrounding farms will also be tested.

Costs of the program will be substantial. Canadians will have to pay the price with higher taxes.

Signs of SVD: what to look for

Symptoms appear 3 to 10 days after infection. In severe cases, pigs develop blisters on the feet. When a blister ruptures, it release a highly infectious fluid and leaves a shallow ulcer. In severe cases, complete or partial separation of the pig's hoof may occur. This may extend to the bulb of the

heel and subsequently to the sole of the foot. Blisters may also appear on the snout, tongue, mouth and teats.

Diagnosis is made on the basis of symptoms, and events leading to the appearance of the disease. However, since the symptoms closely resemble those of a number of other diseases, laboratory confirmation is essential.

Prevention

To prevent SVD from entering Canada, the government prohibits the importation of swine products from infected countries. Customs officials realize that the disease could be introduced by contaminated pork, clothing and footwear. They inspect the personal effects of incoming travellers, who must declare all meat products they have with them.

Also, under the Animal Disease and Protection Act, farmers must obtain permits from the Veterinary Director General if they wish to collect and feed garbage. The garbage must be thoroughly cooked before being fed to pigs.

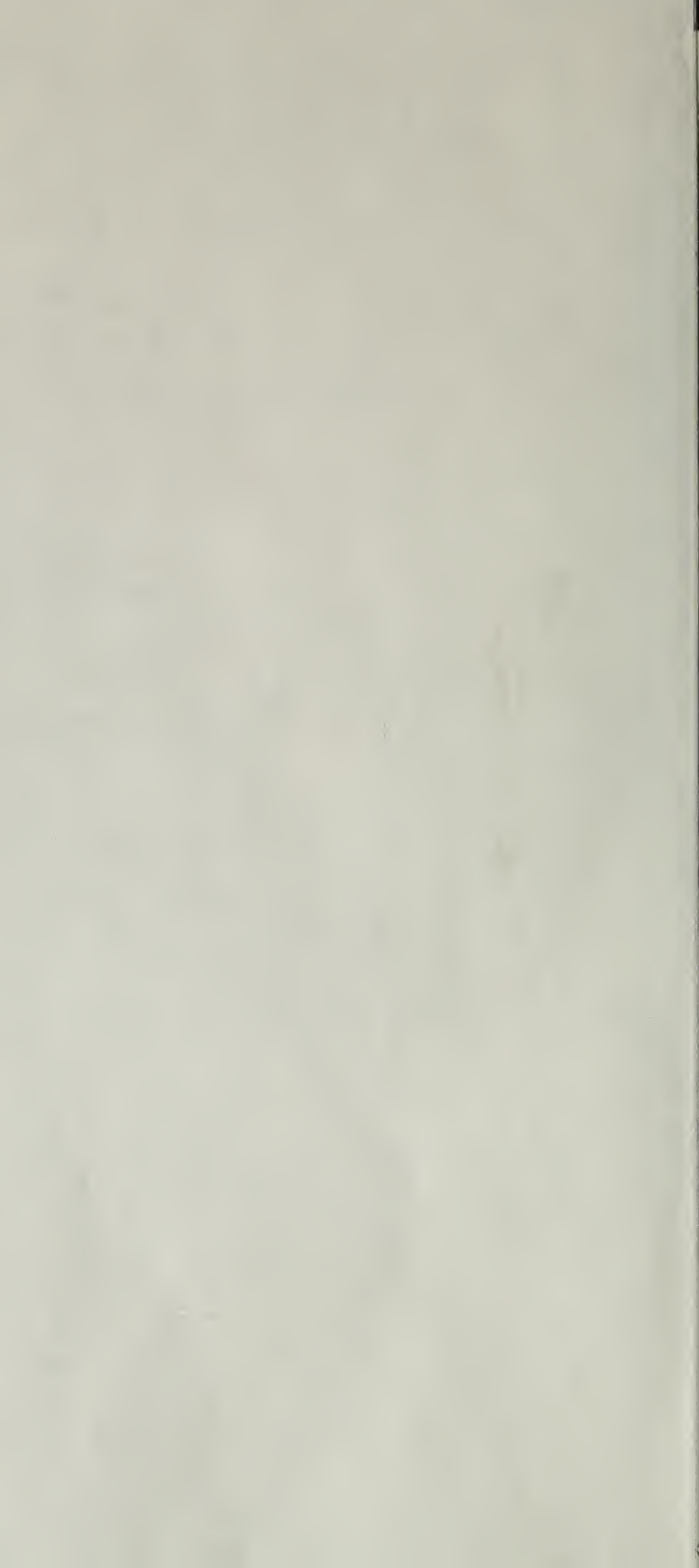


Unruptured vesicle on top of snout (top view)

What YOU can do

When travelling:

- Declare all pork products you wish to bring into Canada.
- If you visit a farm while abroad, make sure that clothing and footwear you wear on the farm are free from soil and manure before entering Canada.
- If you visit a farm while abroad, do not go near a Canadian farm for 14 days.



On your farm:

- Be alert to abnormal conditions in your herds.
- Should you notice symptoms of SVD in your livestock, contact your veterinarian or notify Agriculture Canada. By law, you must report suspect cases. It's your moral obligation to Canada's swine industry.
- Isolate hogs that show signs of the disease. Do not remove them from your farm.
- Don't let people, animals, vehicles or equipment enter or leave your farm until a veterinarian has examined your livestock.

For more information, contact:

Animal Health Division

Agriculture Canada

2255 Carling Avenue

Ottawa K1A 0Y9

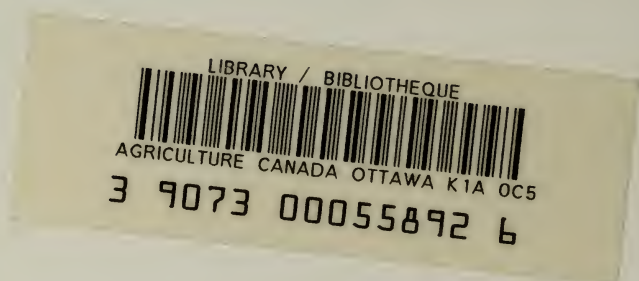
Telephone: (613) 995-5433

or the nearest Agriculture Canada veterinary inspection office.

PUBLICATION 1796/E, available from
Communications Branch, Agriculture Canada,
Ottawa K1A 0C7

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Cat. No. A43-1796/1985E ISBN: 0-662-13900-3
Printed 1985 Reprinted 1988 10 M-1:88

Également disponible en français sous le titre
Maladie vésiculaire du porc.



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