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The National Renderers Association Statement on Rendered Products, Blood Products, and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv)

Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) is causing much damage and concern in the pork industry. Recently, pig feed was speculated to be a risk for spreading PEDv, necessitating a look at the facts. PEDv is killed by heat, and various combinations of temperature and time will destroy the viability of the virus. Research in pig manure (the main culprit in spreading the disease) shows that temperatures of 140 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes; 160 degrees Fahrenheit for 10 minutes, or even 68 degrees Fahrenheit for 7 days results in no detectable live PEDv. The rendering process significantly exceeds these thresholds (at a minimum of 240 degrees Fahrenheit for 40 minutes) and kills pathogenic organisms such as PEDv.

Rendered products produced under the industry's HACCP-based Code of Practice, including all protein meals, fats and greases, are safe for use in animal feeds. Approximately 95% of the rendering capacity in North America follows this program including time and temperature control points as well as re-contamination prevention after processing. These renderers adhere to strict biosecurity, sanitation, and good manufacturing practices (GMP's) in their facilities and trucks designed to prevent cross contamination from raw to finished product.

In addition, scientific evidence indicates spray dried bovine or porcine blood and bovine or porcine plasma products are safe feed ingredients. Hygienic animal blood collection and manufacturing practices, including spray drying, inactivate many different viruses more stable than PEDv. Blood processing includes heating the blood products to over 175 degrees Fahrenheit and slowly cooling, facilitating virus deactivation.

Furthermore, PEDv is among a family of viruses that do not survive over long periods in dry environments. PEDv, even if added to products after processing, would not survive in dry, rendered protein meals or spray dried blood products that are typically stored for a significant period of time, often months or more.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David L. Meeker".

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