

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

JUN 30 2017

Quote: 232536

Mr. Patrice (Pat) Finnigan, MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Finnigan:

Thank you for your letter regarding concerns raised by the Canadian pork industry with respect to porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) prevention and the regulatory requirements for cleaning and disinfection of certain swine trucks entering Canada from the U.S. I understand this issue is of great concern to Manitoba's pork industry.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is mandated to protect the health of Canada's livestock and poultry resources; it is committed to co-operating with its industry stakeholders and federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) partners in this effort.

PED is not a federally regulated disease in Canada; it is a viral disease of pigs that causes diarrhea and vomiting, and adult pigs recover without any negative health consequences. It is sometimes referred to as a production-constraining disease, and some provinces have chosen to regulate it as part of animal health management. The disease is regulated in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and Ontario, and suspect cases of PED are reported to provincial authorities. Since the initial detection of PED in Canada, the CFIA has engaged and worked collaboratively with provincial and industry stakeholders to provide technical, diagnostic, and scientific support when needed or requested. The CFIA remains committed to continued co-operation with industry and FPT partners.

The *Health of Animals Regulations* require that certain empty swine trucks and all empty poultry trucks be cleaned and disinfected in the U.S. before entering Canada. These regulatory requirements are designed to protect Canadian poultry and livestock from diseases that are, or may be, present in the U.S. but not in Canada.

In 2014, the swine industry and the Government of Manitoba raised concerns about the use of recycled water at U.S. truck washes and the potential link to swine health risks. The CFIA did

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not find a clear link between procedures used at U.S. truck washing stations and the transmission of swine diseases in Manitoba. I am aware that the swine industry and the Government of Manitoba remain concerned about the quality of truck washes in the U.S. and the regulatory requirements for cleaning and disinfection of empty conveyances. I would appreciate your informing the Committee that I share these concerns.

That is why I have instructed CFIA officials to collaborate closely with the Government of Manitoba on this issue. At this time, government-to-government discussions are ongoing in order to find a mutually agreeable solution within the current regulatory framework.

I trust these discussions will lead to a timely resolution of this important issue and am pleased to provide a follow-up letter to you when a resolution is achieved. Our government remains committed to ensuring we have the most appropriate and effective biosecurity measures in place to protect our agricultural industries in Canada and enable further growth and opportunities for our sector.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP