

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**New, non-PED Coronavirus detected in pigs with diarrhea**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Feb. 11, 2014) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is informing pork producers and veterinarians that a new coronavirus has been detected in pig fecal samples from four different swine farms in Ohio by Dr. Yan Zhang, a virologist from ODA’s Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL). The virus cannot spread to humans or other species and poses no risk to food safety.

The farms from which the samples were taken experienced outbreaks of a diarrheal disease in sows and piglets in January and early February of 2014. The clinical signs of the disease were similar to that of porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) and transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE), which are both caused by coronaviruses. Electronmicroscopy of fecal samples from the four farms showed the presence of coronavirus-like viral particles. In one of the four farms, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for TGE viruses and PED viruses currently circulating in the U.S. were negative, but all 10 samples were positive for a new virus. PED and the new virus were detected in fecal samples from the other three farms.

Sequence analysis of the new coronavirus shows that it is a deltacoronavirus, distinct from PED and TGE viruses. The new virus has been designated as Swine DeltaCoronavirus (SDCV). This virus is closely related to a coronavirus which was detected in Hong Kong in 2012. The virus cannot spread to humans or other species and poses no risk to food safety. Further study is needed to confirm whether or not this virus is the cause of diarrheal disease in affected pigs.

The ADDL offers PCR tests that can detect all three of these coronaviruses (PED, TGE and SDCV). For testing information, please contact the ADDL at 614-728-6220 or visit ADDL’s Website: www.ohioagriculture.gov/addl/.

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Media Contact: ODA Office of Communication, 614-752-9817

Please note: Dr. Tony Forshey, Dr. Beverly Byrum and Dr. Yan Zhang will be available for media questions at the Ohio Pork Congress on Wednesday, February 12th from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Ohio Pork Congress is located at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North, 6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus, OH 43229. Those who are unable to make the Pork Congress can call the Office of Communications to schedule a time to speak with ODA officials.

