How long does immunity last?

We are expecting incidence of PEDv to increase as cold weather approaches. This week we had a herd break for its second time, unfortunately. This herd first broke in May, 2013 and experienced a “typical” severe loss due to preweaning mortality. The veterinarian conducted an exposure program and closed the herd to gilts in June. Litters were tested by PCR for PEDv and after 4 sequential negative tests and 140 days closure, the herd was opened to PED naïve gilts. The herd remained clinically quiet and then broke last week and was confirmed on Monday as PEDv infected. A question we all have is, “how long does immunity last?” And specifically for this herd, might the clinical loss be less severe in the sows that were present for the first break? You may recall an earlier SHMP describing a similar herd (SHMP 2014-06-27 [pedv re-exposure case report]). As reported by Dr. Ackerman in that outbreak, so far, the veterinarian in this break believes the older sows have at least some protective immunity.

We performed a challenge experiment in sows recently and Dane will be presenting the preliminary results at Leman Conference on Tuesday (“Last Minute Topics” breakout session). We submitted an abstract for the AASV research session and have printed that below for your information. Watch for more information in upcoming issues of SHMP. Bob Morrison

References