

I want to issue a retraction and an apology for some of the information I recently used in a press release about PEDv. In the article I discussed a study in Iowa where approximately 50 convenience stores had their floors swabbed and all of them tested positive for PEDv. I did the cardinal sin in Extension and did not verify the source before I used it in an article. I had heard presenters at two different producer meetings discuss the study, and one of them also discussed Dr. Lowe's trailer-slaughter plant study so I made the incorrect assumption that both were actual studies. After the news release was published, I tried to confirm the source of the convenience store study and could not, and the more I visited with industry leaders about it, I believe it is unfortunately an "urban legend".

Again, I apologize for releasing this unconfirmed study. After serving in Extension for 26 years, I should have known better, but the study seemed like such a logical one to do that I used it before establishing its validity.

A positive that I take out of this is that there are still a lot of good people that don't believe everything they read and aren't afraid to question it. As long as that happens, the industry will benefit.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob Thaler