The Epidemiology of African Swine Fever (ASF) Virus and its Potential for Introduction into Australia

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Purpose:
• To inform the Australian pig industry about ASF and identify the risk & potential for introduction to & spread within Australia.

Take home messages:
• Given the “clean” status of the Australian pig herd, ASF will devastate the Australian herd
• ASF is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic pigs
• Virtually every successful ASF eradication programme has required destruction of all domestic pigs in an affected area
• Once a feral pig population becomes infected, the infection is likely to persist
• ASF virus is very stable across a range of temperatures and pH, particularly when held in a protein rich environment (blood, serum, meat, etc.)
• No vaccines or treatments exist for ASF
• The spread of ASF into eastern Europe in 2007 was thought to have originated from swill dumped from a ship
• Border security measures and farm biosecurity should be maintained
• On-farm Biosecurity should not only relate to stopping the spread of diseases we know may be present, it must also take into consideration the potential for exotic disease spread.

Additional information:
• Contact Pat Mitchell at pat.mitchell@australianpork.com.au or 03 5488 2306 for additional information.