

# R&D Snapshot

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

**Investigator:** Eric Neumann

**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:**

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