

African swine fever stakeholder update

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Committee:	African Swine Fever Stakeholder Weekly update
Meeting Date:	20 March 2020

Item #	Item Name	ASF preparedness update	Major outcomes, recommendations, actions
1	Australian Pork Limited Ms Margo Andrae	<p>Australia remains ASF free.</p> <p>Australian Pork Limited is responding to the rapidly evolving impact of COVID-19 to ensure Australian pig producers and the wider industry are best placed to respond to the unfolding situation.</p> <p>APL is working closely with the National Farmers' Federation and directly with government to minimise any disruptions to production, processing and the supply of fresh pork to consumers. As part of this, agriculture ministers across all jurisdictions and industry are working to ensure agriculture is given Essential Services Status, which will allow producers and processors to remain operational and receive priority access to essential inputs including animal health treatments, hygiene products and fuel.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19 concerns ASF producer meetings that were scheduled for 17th March Bendigo, 18th March in Perth and Biloela, 8th April in Wagga have been postponed.</p> <p>APL, AHA and state government representatives met on 13th March to discuss the pig section of the AUSVETPLAN Valuation and compensation manual, suggesting a more dynamic pig price allowing compensation price to reflect current market values.</p> <p>National feral pig management coordinator Dr Heather Channon is convening an initial stakeholder meeting on 30th March, to commence the development of the National Feral Pig Action Plan and map-out feral pig strategies being undertaken across the country. Dr Channon's role is part of a \$1.4M federal government initiative to reduce the risks posed by Australia's 24 million feral pigs. She will coordinate activities and work collaboratively with stakeholders from industry and government, especially in the context of the biosecurity threat arising from ASF potentially reaching Australia.</p>	<p>APL has developed a COVID-19 webpage www.australianpork.com.au/covid-19 where industry can access general guidance documents and resources.</p> <p>For further details on feral pigs please contact Dr Heather Channon, National feral pig management coordinator, via 0423 056 045 or heather.channon@feralpigs.com.au</p>

		<p>APL attended a Regional ASF Socioeconomic and Livelihood Impact Assessment forum on 12th March, and discussed the current ASF outbreak situation in Timor-Leste and the Philippines. Highlighting the need to develop a regional east Asia-pacific plan and consistent guidelines on restocking.</p> <p>A decline in ASF reporting in Timor-Leste it is likely due to governments unable to provide further assistance to farmers. Gifts of live pigs are customary practices for Timorese and may be hindering ASF control measures.</p> <p>The Philippines total swine population is 12.7M head with 65% backyard farming. It was likely ASF started by dumping food waste from planes and estimated as of 24th February 234,586 pigs have been culled in the Philippines, with direct losses amounting to \$32M USD. The Philippines signed a national zoning and movement plan on 5th February and are offering free ASF lab testing for farmers prior to moving their pigs.</p>	
2	<p>Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment update</p>	<p>On 16th March 2020 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) released an official alert about the increased risk of ASF in the Pacific region. A number of activities are already being undertaken to address the risk presented by ASF in our near neighbours, including the confirmed ASF in Timor-Leste and Indonesia and the potential for ASF in Papua New Guinea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high risk material, such as meat products and live animals, is already targeted through our inspection activities in Torres Strait, • public awareness activities and community engagement have been increased in the Torres Strait, with the aim of enhancing disease awareness and reporting, • animal health surveillance activities undertaken by the department in northern Australia, including Torres Strait, target the early detection of exotic pests and diseases such as ASF, and • the department is also considering options for increased interventions on flights from PNG, noting that these flights may cease following the COVID-related Australian border closure. <p>The department continues to assist PNG's National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA) with their ongoing disease investigation into pig deaths in the Southern Highlands region. A NAQIA team has visited the site and is following through with testing samples to determine the cause of the deaths.</p> <p>Four new detector dog handlers funded by the ASF Response Package completed training in February 2020, another two handlers were due to graduate in early April 2020. Seven novice detector dogs commenced training in March 2020 and up to four are anticipated to graduate on 1st May 2020.</p> <p>The ASF targeting squad will commence its first activity in April 2020, which will involve purchasing and testing risk</p>	

		<p>product from retail outlets nationally. Coronavirus restrictions may affect its planned roll out.</p> <p>As at 18th March 2020, there have been twelve visa cancellations since 1st October 2019, eight of which related to a failure to declare pork and pork products.</p> <p>The ASF exercise planning team met on 16th March 2020 to discuss options for simulation exercises. There will be five workshops followed by a final workshop or exercise on findings and issues identified earlier. The workshops will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • movement controls – the movement matrices developed by the AHC task group for live pigs and semen will be tested, • Depopulation, Disposal and Decontamination (DDD) – focusing on how large numbers of pigs can be culled and disposed of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASF in feral pigs, • cost-benefit analysis of an ASF response, and • broad ASF strategy including transition to management. 	
3	Animal Health Committee update	<p>Some positive outcomes of the Animal Health Committee (AHC) face-to-face meeting on 3rd-5th March 2020 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsement of export abattoir Incident Action Plan guidelines, • endorsement of overarching principles for managing DDD of pigs during an ASF outbreak, • endorsement of guidance criteria for resolving infected and dangerous contact export abattoirs during an ASF outbreak, • agreement to improve communication with industry to ensure better understanding of movement permit conditions, • agreement to investigate provisions under jurisdictional legislation for product recalls that are not related to food safety, • development of risk matrixes to assist with management of products on-site at abattoirs during an ASF outbreak, and • these outcomes will be used to update the ASF AUSVETPLAN manual, which improve its overall operationalisation. <p>Although the AHC ASF taskforce has been stood down, several AHC ASF working groups continue to work on outstanding issues, with the aim to complete their tasks by June 2020.</p> <p>AHC will meet on Monday 23rd March 2020 to discuss resourcing and management for concurrent pandemic/EAD responses.</p>	
4	Next report	<p>The next report will be distributed on Friday 3rd April 2020.</p>	<p>All stakeholders are welcome to continue sending through or asking questions, or raising their concerns with both Ms Margo Andrae or Dr Lechelle van Breda.</p>