

African swine fever stakeholder update

Author: | Lechelle van Breda, Manager,
Production Stewardship

Committee: | African Swine Fever Stakeholder
Weekly update

Meeting Date: | 6 March 2020

Item #	Item Name	ASF preparedness update	Major outcomes, recommendations, actions
1	<p>Australian Pork Limited</p> <p>Ms Margo Andrae</p>	<p>Australia remains ASF free.</p> <p>Changes in government have seen The Hon David Littleproud appointed as Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, he is demonstrating a continued commitment to biosecurity being a priority.</p> <p>Liaison livestock emergency animal disease training, run by Animal Health Australia, was completed by an additional six industry participants on the 3rd and 5th March. This expands our industry representation on emergency response committees.</p> <p>Ms Lauren Dimmack, a health and welfare scientist from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board is scheduled to give a webinar presentation on 16th March on ASF preparedness from a UK perspective.</p> <p>Industry continues to engage and work with stakeholders and government, upcoming forums Canberra, ACT on 12th and 13th March and in Perth, WA on 18th March.</p> <p>Upcoming ASF producer meetings include 17th March Bendigo, Vic.</p>	
2	<p>Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment update</p>	<p>Three new detector dog handlers funded by the ASF Response Package have completed training, another three handlers are due to graduate in March 2020. Detector dog selections were held this week in Melbourne and training will commence the week of 9th March 2020.</p> <p>Full flight screening operations for 5 flights from ASF countries is complete and of the 36 samples tested at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, 8 were found positive for ASF. The department is using the results to further refine traveller profiles. Additional flight screening commenced in February and will continue in March.</p>	

		<p>As at 1st March 2020, there have been 11 visa cancellations since 1st October 2019, 8 of which related to a failure to declare pork and pork products.</p> <p>There are reports on social media of pig deaths (336 confirmed dead as of 29th February 2020) in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The cause of the deaths are unknown. PNG are sending a team to the region to investigate. The department will assist PNG's National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority with their ongoing disease investigation.</p>	
3	Animal Health Committee update	<p>Animal Health Committee (AHC) met face-to-face, 3rd–5th March 2020 and discussed the outcomes of the AHC ASF taskforce working groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the developed ASF policy and procedures were finalised at the meeting and the ASF taskforce was wrapped up. • There are some outstanding issues that will be progressed by the working groups, using AHC's agreed recommendations. • A detailed wrap up of the AHC ASF discussions will be provided to APL shortly. 	
4	Next report	The next report will be distributed on Friday 20 th March 2020.	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.