

African swine fever stakeholder update

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Committee:	African Swine Fever Stakeholder Weekly update
Meeting Date:	26 June 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>The Department funded Industry ASF Liaison Officer appointment has been awarded to Dr Kirsty Richards and Mr Tony Abel. Each brings good understanding and networks in their respective areas. Dr Richards will focus on enhancing government and industry collaboration and increasing on-farm biosecurity for APL members. Mr Abel will focus on increasing on-farm biosecurity for small producers and non-APL members.</p> <p>The Chief Veterinary Officers/Industry ASF Technical Committee met on 18th June to discuss how to progress recommendations supported by Animal Health Committee (AHC). Key outcomes are that industry has and continues to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully present a technical perspective of ASF as it affects farms, • Provide to AHC a greater understanding of the industry including the whole supply chain, • Act as a powerful voice for industry, • Matters raised out of the Industry ASF Technical Committee are being taken to the AHC Taskforce working groups, • Positively engaged additional industry representatives where required for specialised Working Groups (eg. Processor representation on Processor WG), and • Improve the effectiveness of the AHC Taskforce Working Groups with direct industry involvement. <p>Phase two of Exercise Razorback, an ASF exercise designed to enhance government and industry preparedness will commence on 29th June. It aims to identify gaps in arrangements, policies, plans and procedures that might impact an emergency response to ASF. Workshops will focus on key policy, operations and communication during an ASF response;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost benefit analysis, • Movement controls including the size of declared areas, inter-jurisdictional movements and the administration of movement permits, • Destruction decision-making across different sized herds, 	<p>APL continues to respond to COVID-19, for more information visit www.australianpork.com.au/covid-19.</p>

- ASF in feral pig populations in different regions of Australia, and
- Transition to management; phase two of a response in the case that ASF is considered ineradicable or not desirable to eradicate.

Industry consultation including with a range of producers, processors and state farming organisations will be an integral component of these workshops. Outcomes from these workshops will generate comprehensive data to enhance strategic disease response decision-making and inform national ASF strategy.

APL has worked with MINTRAC to develop an [ASF eLearning program](#) to help meat inspectors identify, manage and report ASF should the disease hit Australian shores. The course is freely available and is also a great refresher for stock handlers, QA managers and wild pig shooters.



AHA hosted a number of Transformational Change to National Animal Health Surveillance Workshops on 16th, 17th and 19th June. These workshops aimed to inform and improve national surveillance for both exotic and endemic disease.

The next [ASF preparedness webinar series](#) will be held on 30th June, hosted by Victorian Farmers Federation pig group, Agriculture Victoria and APL.

Webinar 3: ASF in Australia

- Outbreak preparedness and response (AgVic)

For registrations and to view Webinars 1 and 2 please email pigs@vff.org.au.

The AUSVETPLAN ASF manual writing group will meet 15th July to evaluate and continue revising the second interim version of the updated ASF manual.

APL's Biosecurity Strategic Review Panel will meet to discuss ASF and other global biosecurity threats to the pork industry on 15th July.

Agribusiness leader John Maher has been announced as the Chair of the National Feral Pig Action Plan steering

		group. A preliminary Action Plan will be delivered to the Federal Department of Agriculture by January 2021. To receive more information and regular monthly National Feral Pig Action Plan updates please contact Dr Heather Channon via heather.channon@feralpigs.com.au .	
2	Global ASF update	<p>ASF continues to spread rapidly in the Highlands region of Papua New Guinea (PNG), according to the National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority's (NAQIA) managing director Joel Alu. ASF has now also been reported in the Tambul-Nebilyer District of Western Highlands Province, however the number of dead pigs is yet to be confirmed. Read more here.</p> <p>NAQIA is enforcing strict control of imports on pork meat and products into PNG and is planning to step up port of entry inspection procedures. Read more here.</p> <p>A backyard farm (24 pigs) in western Poland has tested positive for ASF. Reported on June 15th, this is the first time ASF has appeared in a backyard farm and now brings the total number of positive farms to 241 since ASF first entered Poland in 2014. The farm was located near the village of Ratowice, 21 km east of known cases of ASF in wild boar and about 125 km from the German border. With infected wild boar reported as close as 10 km from the German border, this highlights the importance of continued surveillance. In May 2020, there were substantially fewer reported ASF outbreaks in wild boar in western Poland when compared with previous months. Rather than the virus receding it is assumed that passive surveillance is more difficult since COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were enforced and is likely to explain the decline in reported cases.</p> <p>Between 2016 and 2019, Africa has experienced regular ASF outbreaks, with more than 60 officially reported outbreaks. Recently there has been a surge in new cases with nearly a million pigs culled in Nigeria. At one of the largest co-operatives in west Africa, Oke-Aro pig farming estate in Matogun, Lagos state, it was reported that 500,000 pigs were culled. It is possible farmers continued to sell infected pigs before ASF was noticed. The lack of early detection and poor record keeping is likely to have assisted with the spread of the virus and continues to make management difficult. Read more here.</p>	
3	Animal Health Committee update	AHC met on 25 th June to discuss and finalise any outstanding items from the AHC ASF taskforce.	
4	Next report	The next report will be distributed on Friday 24 th July 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.