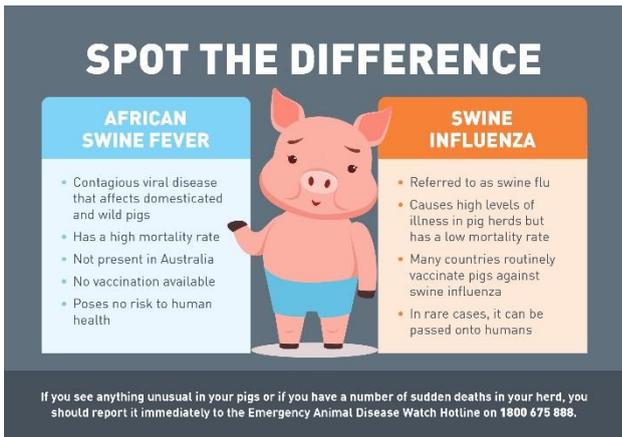


African swine fever stakeholder update

Author: | Lechelle van Breda, Manager, Production Stewardship

Committee: | African Swine Fever Stakeholder Weekly update

Meeting Date: | 29 May 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>Pig producers, vet consultants, APL and Agriculture Victoria in association with the VFF pig group met on 26th May to discuss ASF preparedness and provide an update on current government and industry activities, future plans and identify gaps.</p> <p>APL, AHA and state government representatives met on 25th May and continue to review and update the African swine fever AUSVETPLAN manual.</p> <p>The Victorian Farmers Federation pig group, Agriculture Victoria and APL are hosting an ASF preparedness webinar series on 16th, 23rd and 30th June.</p> <p>Webinar 1: ASF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Global ASF Pandemic (CSIRO) • Economic Impact of ASF (APL) <p>Webinar 2: On farm biosecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity Best Practice Protocols (Apiam Animal Health) <p>Webinar 3: ASF in Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outbreak preparedness and response (AgVic) <p>See the attached flyer for further details. Registrations can be sent to pigs@vff.org.au</p> <p>AHA continues to raise awareness on the difference between ASF and swine influenza. Click on the image below to find out more.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>APL continues to respond to COVID-19, for more information visit www.australianpork.com.au/covid-19.</p>

		<p>On 3rd June at 3pm (AEST), APL will host a webinar for producers, describing the animal health surveillance, disease detection and indigenous training activities undertaken by the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS). As ASF was recently confirmed in Papua New Guinea, this is a timely opportunity for producers to better understand NAQS's activities. If you have any questions ahead of the webinar, please email Dr Heather Channon, National Feral Pig Management Co-ordinator.</p> <p>Details of feral pig control programs being conducted across Australia by community groups, regional, state and research agencies, knowledge/information gaps and funding opportunities are being identified by Dr Channon. This will inform how a nationally co-ordinated approach will reduce the threats (economic, social and environmental) that feral pigs pose. Mercado has been commissioned to conduct an analysis of the current situation with feral pigs. A Steering Group to lead, direct and develop the National Feral Pig Action Plan is currently being formed.</p>	
2	Global ASF update	<p>Scientists at the Pirbright Institute in the UK are one step closer to developing a vaccine for ASF, confirming that 100 per cent of pigs immunised with their trial vaccine survived a lethal dose of ASF virus. Dr Christine Middlemiss, the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, said: "This is a very encouraging breakthrough and it means we are one step closer to safeguarding the health of our pigs and the wider industry's role in global food supply from African swine fever."</p> <p>APL CEO Margo Andrae featured in part of the ABC Country Hour's story on the vaccine. Audio of the story is attached to this email.</p> <p>India has confirmed ASF to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), with more than 10,000 pigs infected and suggestions outbreaks could have occurred as early January 2020. Currently all pigs within a one-kilometre radius of the epicentre are being culled.</p> <p>OIE data indicates ASF related pig deaths this year will be greater than 6.9 million reported for 2019, currently official reports for 2020 stand at 5.4 million with the strong assumption there is under-reporting. Read more here.</p>	
3	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment update	<p>Due to reduced volumes of international mail arriving into Australia as a result of COVID-19, international mail facilities increased screening of all non-letter class international mail arriving into Australia from 25th May 2020 at all facilities. This ensures that non-letter class mail from all ASF affected countries, including India, will be screened by the department.</p> <p>After consultation with Singapore Food Agency, the pork industry and state/territory jurisdictions, the department has finalised and sent a proposal on the form and content of an ASF pre-emptive zoning arrangement for Singapore's consideration.</p>	

		<p>NAQS is conducting feral animal surveys of Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, from 24th-31st May 2020 and Mapoon and Napranum area, western Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, from 30th May – 6th June 2020. These are pre-planned feral animal surveys, which have been modified to focus on feral pigs in particular (due to ASF risks).</p> <p>The department will hold a teleconference with PNG's National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) on 4th June 2020 to discuss survey results and NAQIA's priorities for ongoing containment and food security.</p>	
4	Animal Health Committee update	<p>AHA provided an update on the progress of the ASF AUSVETPLAN manual to AHC on 28th May 2020 for their review and comments.</p> <p>AHC plans to meet in late June to discuss and finalise any outstanding items from the AHC ASF taskforce.</p>	
5	Next report	<p>The next report will be distributed on Friday 12th June 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>