

African swine fever update	Biosecurity on your farm	African swine fever factsheet	A reminder about swill feeding	Improvements to PigPass	APL African swine fever activities
2	4	6	8	10	12

## The threat of African swine fever gets closer

The threat of African swine fever (ASF) entering Australia is becoming more realistic as news of it spreading continues. Most concerning is the news that ASF has been confirmed in one of Australia's closest neighbours, East Timor. There have been 405 confirmed pig deaths in the Dili Municipality, all relating to small holder farms which make up the bulk of the industry in East Timor.

From its first incursion into Asia in August 2018, ASF has spread throughout China, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, North Korea, Myanmar, the Philippines and East Timor.

The rapid spread of the disease throughout Asia, highlights the severity and potency of ASF. Its spread to the Philippines and East Timor is highly likely to have come from travelling staff and tourists on commercial airlines. ASF can remain active in meat products, clothing, equipment and vehicles, and is easily spread through poor biosecurity and can be spread by swill feeding.

### What is this publication?

With the increasing threat of African swine fever (ASF), APL would like to ensure all producers are receiving information about the efforts to keep ASF out of Australia, and have the tools to increase their own biosecurity preparedness, not just members.

As such, APL's Biosecurity Update is a special addition to our publications schedule and has been distributed to all pig producers.

If you know a pig producer/owner who would like to receive this, or if you would like to receive our regular publications, including weekly communique, please contact Nikki Watson, Corporate Communications Executive, APL, at 02 6270 8802 or [Nikki.Watson@australianpork.com.au](mailto:Nikki.Watson@australianpork.com.au)

If you spot any suspicious disease symptoms, contact the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on **1800 675 888**

## How to improve your biosecurity preparedness

APL asks all producers to be on high alert, revisit their biosecurity plans and to make sure all staff and visitors to your piggery understand their biosecurity obligations.

APL's recently updated *30 Minute Plan for Piggeries* includes information and assistance which we ask all producers to consider in conjunction with their vet and their current biosecurity plan.

This plan and other information to guide your biosecurity plans are available on the APL website at [australianpork.com.au/asfresources](http://australianpork.com.au/asfresources) or at the Department of Agriculture's website at [agriculture.gov.au](http://agriculture.gov.au)



# African Swine fever update

African swine fever (ASF) is understandably causing concern among the Australian pork industry, particularly since the incursion into East Timor last month.

Australian Pork Limited is responding to increased industry concern and is working hard to ensure that all relevant parties are taking steps to prevent ASF reaching Australia's pig herd.

***APL asks all producers to be on high alert, revisit biosecurity plans and make sure all staff and visitors to piggeries understand their biosecurity obligations.***

APL has assigned Dr Lechelle van Breda as a temporary full time ASF coordinator to address producer and processor concerns, provide information and ensure that industry is as well prepared as possible to assist with preparedness, surveillance and, if need be, a response.

**You can find out what activities and meetings APL has been involved in regarding ASF on page 12.**

## Resources available

At [australianpork.com.au/asfresources](http://australianpork.com.au/asfresources) you will find a list of ASF related resources to assist you with your biosecurity preparedness and information you can share with other producers and members of the public to ensure everyone understands the serious nature of the ASF risk to the Australian pig industry.

This includes webinars, signs for your farm, biosecurity plans, factsheets and explanatory videos.

If you would like hard copy or electronic resources sent to you, please contact APL's ASF coordinator, Lechelle van Breda on 0447 099 397.



## APL ASF Coordinator

Lechelle van Breda

Manager, Production Stewardship,

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0447 099 397 or 02 6270 8823



A response plan is tabled by the state affected with the Consultative Committee on EADs, who review and recommend for approval, including a budget to cover the initial cost of eradication.

Senior decision makers responsible for the affected premise will be advised of the government's planned response.

Whilst an option during a response, a national standstill for all pig movements is not mandatory under the existing plan for an ASF outbreak. How widely pig movements are restricted will depend on the circumstances of the outbreak. Pig and product movements within a control (10 km around the affected farm) and restricted (3 km around the affected farm) areas will be restricted.

The necessity and scale of a product recall would be decided by the National Management Committee established during a response, which includes the APL CEO, APL Board Director and the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer.

An outbreak discussion/scenario exercise has been planned for December this year, with a full exercise with supply chain partners and other stakeholders in 2020.

## Government actions to date

There has been an increased scrutiny of passengers and parcels arriving from ASF-affected countries, with a heavy focus on China and Vietnam, including inspections of shoes of passengers that reported having visited a farm.

There has been increased biosecurity messaging and inspections at all Australian airports.

Australian officials are intervening at regional transit hubs, such as Singapore and Hong Kong, to intercept passengers on indirect flights from ASF affected countries.

Airports at regional transit hubs have been advised not to sell pork products to passengers with connecting flights to Australia.

Government is engaging with Australian embassies overseas, international students, migration agents, e-commerce platforms, airlines, airports and more, in efforts to raise awareness of the ASF risk.

## What can you do?

1. Review your biosecurity plan thoroughly.
2. Review the *30 Minute Plan for Piggeries*.
3. Ensure all workers and visitors are aware of your biosecurity rules.
4. Prevent visitors from having unnecessary contact with your pigs.
5. Do not bring meat products into your piggery.
6. **Do not, under any circumstances, feed swill to your pigs.** It has been found to be a major cause of disease overseas and illegal under Australian law.
7. Create a PigPass NVD for any pig movements and report receipt of pigs onto your property using PigPass. Call PigPass on 1800 010 458 for help.
8. Avoid contact between feral pigs and your herd.
9. Ensure items and equipment coming on to or going off your farm are clean.
10. Clean and disinfect any equipment shared with other farms.
11. Practise good hygiene – all workwear should be freshly laundered and boots remaining within the piggery.
12. Ensure farms have clear 'clean' and 'dirty' zones
13. Print out and refer to the Emergency Animal Disease Poster
14. **Call 1800 675 888 if you suspect an exotic disease**

## At the border Travellers' behaviour

Border officials have reported a significant increase in the number of incoming passengers, especially from China, voluntarily declaring prohibited pork products in their luggage.

The 'leakage rate' (i.e. the percentage of pork making it through quarantine without being intercepted) is less than one per cent and considerably lower than other biosecurity risk material.

### Visa cancellation for security breach

On October 12, a passenger from Vietnam had her visa cancelled when she failed to declare 4.5 kilograms of uncooked pork meat (among other products). This received global media attention.

The Minister for Agriculture, Bridget McKenzie said the visa cancellation showed that Australia would not tolerate people putting our environment, industries, economy and way of life at risk.

This was the first time a passenger had their visa

cancelled, and she will not be allowed back into Australia for 3 years.

***"In the midst of what is potentially the biggest animal disease event the world has seen, it beggars belief that someone would deliberately attempt to bring pork meat past our border."***

***- Senator Bridget McKenzie,  
Minister for Agriculture***

More recently, a 60 year old man from Vietnam also had his visa cancelled for failing to declare 4 kilograms of pork filled mooncakes.

The introduction of visitor visa cancellations is in addition to a range of measures in place to support Australia's airport biosecurity. In response to the spread of ASF, heightened screening for banned imported pork products has been implemented at the border. A stronger approach to enforcement is also in place to ensure the issuing of infringements reflects the seriousness of the breach.

## East Timor

Scrutiny has been increased on people and packages from East Timor.

Government estimated the flow of passengers between East Timor and Darwin to be around 20,000 per year, mostly fly-in, fly-out workers, which were assessed as 'low risk'.

Government has been funding projects to build capability and raise awareness of serious animal diseases in our northern neighbours, including East Timor, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. This will help local authorities to quickly identify, report and contain outbreaks.

The Department of Agriculture is making plans for responses in the event that ASF appears in the northern feral pig populations.

Government is working with northern states and territories, including with Torres Strait local officials.

In the Torres Strait, there is a largely unregulated flow of people and animals moving for cultural purposes between south PNG and North Queensland. This was identified as a risk, and government was aware of it. Biosecurity officers on Thursday Island are preparing localised information and messages to raise awareness.

# Biosecurity on your farm

## Biosecurity – an important part of your disease risk management program

You can be part of the solution by improving the practical measures that have been implemented to limit the introduction and spread of disease within your farm, onto your farm and/or from one farm to another (or elsewhere. For example, an abattoir).

By implementing your biosecurity plans and making ongoing improvements to address gaps you will help to maintain the health of your animals, reduce costs of disease, and maintain productivity.

To assist you with this, APL has produced a video “Biosecurity at your Piggery” that is available at <http://australianpork.com.au/biosecurityatyourpiggery/>

APL encourages you to hold a meeting with all of your staff to discuss your farm’s biosecurity protocols, watch the video and then share ideas on how biosecurity practices on your farm can be improved to raise your defences.

Some key practical considerations include:

### Staff & Visitors

Any person coming into your farm has the potential to bring disease in with them on their clothing and skin.

- Determine whether the visit is necessary – ban all non essential visitors. No matter if it is your veterinarian, company representatives, maintenance workers, advisers or rodent control contractors.
- Ensure all visitors comply with the farm’s quarantine period for people who have been in contact with other pigs and for people who have just been overseas.
- Provide personal protective clothing and footwear for visitors to use if they need to enter the farm.
- Arrange for visits to be held away from the farm to avoid entering the pig unit.
- Provide showering facilities for all staff to use (including hair wash) both on entry and exit from the farm, wherever possible OR ensure that all staff and visitors comply with the farm’s line of separation policies.



- Ensure entry to farm production site for people and vehicles is restricted by having a limited number of entry points that are protected.
- Ensure signage has been erected on the site to convey that access is restricted.
- Obtain a signed agreement for all individuals entering the site that the farm’s biosecurity procedures must be adhered to.

### Swill feeding

Swill feeding, or the feeding of food scraps to pigs that contains meat or other mammalian by-products is illegal in Australia. **See page 8 for more information on swill feeding.**

African swine fever can be spread to pigs by feeding food scraps containing contaminated pork or pork products.

- Don’t allow any food containing pork or pork products on site by farm staff, visitors and contractors. See page 6 for more information on swill feeding.

### Incoming raw materials and equipment

- Limit equipment taken on farm to essential items.
- Ensure equipment coming onto your farm has been cleaned and disinfected on both entry and exit.
- Leave all vehicles in the “dirty” zone.
- Install a cleaning and disinfection station to remove contamination and disinfect vehicles, equipment and items needing to enter the site and manage run-off.

## Replacement stock and semen

- ❑ Ensure that pigs and/or semen are sourced from properties with documented, enhanced biosecurity practices.
- ❑ Clean and disinfect the exterior of semen containers to minimise the risk of virus transmission.
- ❑ Ensure that quarantine periods for the introduction of replacement stock have been established in consultation with your veterinarian and that these are being complied with.
- ❑ Review your procedures for receiving pigs. When pigs arrive what do you do, what are your quarantine practices, is your quarantine area far enough away from the rest of your pigs and how do you manage quarantined pigs and the staff moving between both herds?

## Feed

- ❑ Ensure grain and feed is delivered, stored, mixed, and fed in a manner that minimises contamination and spillage.
- ❑ Ensure imported feed additives are stored away from pig production areas for an agreed period of time (quarantine), set in conjunction with company representatives, nutritionists and/or, veterinarians, such that the farm's policies are complied with.
- ❑ Ensure any feed spillages are cleaned up promptly and disposed of to avoid attracting other animals.

## Is your feed safe?

We know that African swine fever can survive in feed. The US National Pork Board has outlined some key discussion points to consider when assessing supplier and feed ingredient safety.

Download the feed ingredient safety decision tree and discussion points at [australianpork.com.au/feedsafety](http://australianpork.com.au/feedsafety)

## Farm cleanliness

Vertebrate pests can spread disease to pigs.

- ❑ Ensure that perimeter fencing does not allow feral animals, including feral pigs, to enter into your pig production sites and buildings.
- ❑ Maintain a clean site, including vegetation, scrap metal and equipment, to minimise places for vertebrate pests to thrive.
- ❑ Ensure disposal of dead animals is being done in such a way to prevent wildlife, rodents and other animals being attracted to them.

## Disease awareness

- ❑ Conduct staff training with your veterinarian so that they are able to identify an exotic disease and know what to do and who to contact if they see any unusual symptoms
- ❑ **Ensure that all staff know and can easily access the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline number – 1800 675 888.**

## Keep records

- ❑ Record any information that might help to quickly identify the origin of an exotic disease. This is critical.
- ❑ Make sure you keep appropriate records as they will be important to you, your neighbours, across the State and across Australia.

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility – everyone plays a role. If producers do not implement good biosecurity practices on farm, they risk compensation being denied by the state/territory Chief Veterinary Officer in the case of an outbreak on their farm.

We all need to ensure that everyone adheres to biosecurity requirements, whether at the border or on-farm, to protect sustainability and business continuity of the Australian pig industry. For more information relating to ASF and biosecurity visit [australianpork.com.au/asfresources](http://australianpork.com.au/asfresources)



AUSTRALIAN  
Pork®

Australian Pork Limited (APL) is a unique rural industry service body for the Australian pork industry. We are a producer owned company delivering integrated services that enhance, support and promote the viability of Australia's pig producers.

What makes APL producer owned is the funding that is received primarily through statutory pig slaughter levies, collected under the Primary

Industries (Excise) Levies Act 1999, with additional research specific funds provided by the Australian Government.

With the funding, our aim is to enhance opportunities for the sustainable growth of the Australian pork industry by delivering integrated marketing, innovation and policy services along the pork industry supply chain. APL pursues opportunities for the industry at both the domestic and international level.



# FACT SHEET

## AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) VIRUS

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly infectious and contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs. ASF is usually fatal in infected pigs.

ASF is subject to the statutory notification and control obligations internationally. The substantial losses related to an ASF outbreak in countries exporting pigs or pork are linked to import bans imposed from countries free from the disease. ASF does NOT affect public health or food safety, i.e. pork meat is safe to eat.

With ASF now spreading in most of Asia, APL urges ALL producers to take extra precaution with their herd's biosecurity. We recommend that all producers review their farm biosecurity plan and complete the Piggery Biosecurity Audit Checklist in the National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Pork Production publication at <https://bit.ly/2JJPSXa>.



Some clinical signs of ASF virus infected pigs. Source: CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory.

## General ASF Disease Facts

- ASF is a notifiable, highly contagious disease of wild and domestic pigs
- given the uninfected status of the Australian pig herd, ASF will devastate the Australian herd if it is introduced
- the spread of ASF into eastern Europe in 2007 was thought to have originated from swill dumped from a ship
- no vaccines or treatments for ASF are currently available
- ASF affects all age groups of pigs
- it is difficult to diagnose ASF based on clinical signs or lesions because of its similarity with other haemorrhagic diseases
- symptoms of ASF include fever followed by dullness, vomiting, diarrhoea, breathing difficulty, coughing, nasal and eye discharge, abortion, blue or red discolouration of the skin (cyanosis) particularly the ears and snout, and death within seven days
- ASF can occur in acute, sub-acute or chronic forms. The death rate is dependent on the severity of the symptoms, with death rates of pigs with acute forms up to 100 per cent
- infection is spread from pig to pig by contact with infected discharges and faeces, consumption of infected meat, bites of soft ticks, the bites of lice and flies and/or from contaminated syringes. Contaminated feed, water, clothing, footwear, vehicles, equipment, soil and wildlife can also spread the virus
- the most likely sources of ASF infection are pork products, porcine genetic material and incursions by infected pigs
- the most significant risk of entry of ASF virus into Australia is via illegally imported contaminated pork products that are swill fed to domestic pigs and/or accessed by feral pigs
- swill feeding of pigs in Australia is prohibited
- ASF virus is very stable across a range of temperatures (including temperatures below 0°C) and pH (4–13), particularly when held in a protein rich environment (blood, serum, meat, etc.) and can persist in unprocessed frozen pork for up to three years.
- once a feral pig population becomes infected, the infection is likely to persist
- All pigs on a farm must be destroyed if a farm tests positive to ASF.



## Recommendations

### Biosecurity Considerations for Producers

- border security measures and farm biosecurity must be maintained
- implement biosecurity for farm workers returning from international travel
- consider implementing a quarantine period of seven to 10 days for all workers that have travelled overseas to countries where ASF has been reported, ensuring quarantine periods are served in Australia and all footwear is destroyed/remains abroad.
- limit visitors to farms/ban all non essential visitors
- maintain a visitor register that visitors have to sign to confirm that:
  - they have showered and changed clothes since their last exposure to pigs
  - they have not returned from overseas travel where ASF has been reported within the last seven days and
  - where they were and on what dates and where they visited pigs.
- provide clean clothes and boots for visitors to wear while on-site.
- follow other generally accepted biosecurity practices:
  - routinely clean clothing and footwear
  - control entry to the farm
  - implement a policy that does not permit staff to own or work with other pigs
  - keep non-farm vehicles outside of farm or at least their drivers inside their vehicles.

### Additional reading:

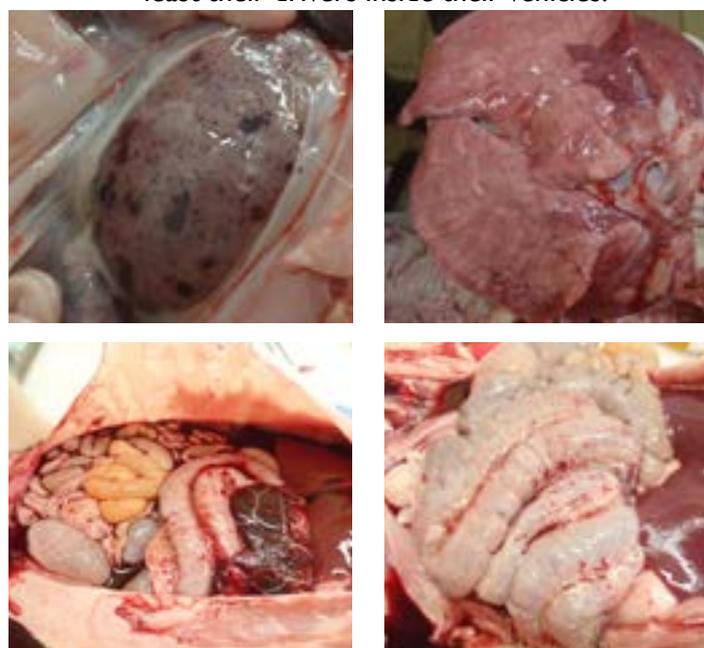
APL recommends you consult with your veterinarian regularly and urges you to contact them if you observe any unusual disease symptoms.

Emergency Animal Disease Watch hotline 1800 675 888.

For a great resource to show to all piggery staff how to identify ASF and how to protect domestic pigs from infection, produced by the European Food Safety Authority and the European Commission see African Swine Fever: how to stay one step ahead <https://bit.ly/2P99uHb>.

APL Project 2014/483: The epidemiology of African Swine Fever virus and its potential introduction into Australia was funded to inform the Australian pig industry about ASF and identify the risk and potential introduction and spread within Australia.

For a copy of the report please contact Dr Lechelle van Breda at [lechelle.vanbreda@australianpork.com.au](mailto:lechelle.vanbreda@australianpork.com.au).



ASF virus-infected pigs. Source: CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory.

Put your World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) – ASF awareness tool somewhere visible or near your gate sign to indicate biosecurity procedures.



All photographs supplied by: CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory.

# A reminder about swill feeding

With African swine fever (ASF) currently posing a real threat to Australia, it is important for everyone to understand what swill feeding is so they can ensure it doesn't get on the menu of Australian pigs.

## Examples of swill include, but are not limited to:

- foods scraps
- bakery waste
- pet foods (both dry and wet)
- waste from restaurants, and
- used, untreated cooking oils and fats

## Exceptions include:

- milk or milk products of Australian origin or that have been legally imported for stock-feed use
- rendered and commercially manufactured meat meals produced in accordance with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Rendering of Animal Products (see: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/5666>), and
- feed that has been approved in writing by the relevant authority within the State or Territory Government.

Swill feeding is considered one of the biggest biosecurity threats to Australia's pig industry. Swill – defined as food scraps or food waste that either contains or has come into contact with meat or meat products – can carry viruses including, but not limited to, ASF, Foot and Mouth Disease, and transmissible gastroenteritis – that are not found in Australian livestock.

## Swill is a “Prohibited Pig Feed”, which means it is illegal in ALL Australian states and territories

Swill is a “Prohibited Pig Feed”, which means it is illegal in all Australian states and territories, and for all classes of pigs, including pet pigs, hobby pigs, and pigs kept on your properties for personal consumption.

Some pig owners may not know or understand the potential dangers of swill feeding, while others may view it as something they have always done, harmless, and a good way to recycle food waste.

The 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak in the UK is believed to have been caused by swill feeding, and an outbreak of any of the previously mentioned viruses would devastate the Australian pig industry. In a 2013 report by ABARES, it was estimated that the cost to Australia in the event of a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak would be over \$50 million over 10 years.

## As such, strong penalties will apply to anyone:

- feeding swill to pigs
- allowing pigs to access to swill
- storing swill at a place where one or more pigs are kept, and
- collecting and or supplying swill to be fed to pigs

## If you're worried about accidental swill feeding, remember to:

- Source feed that has been prepared under a quality assurance programme like FeedSafe®
- Ask for a vendor declaration from your feed supplier so you have documentation showing pigs have not been fed any contaminated substances.



State-specific information: <http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/livestock/pigs/feeding-your-pigs/>

APL's “Swill Feeding – it's illegal” fact sheet is available from [australianpork.com.au/swillfeedingfactsheet](http://australianpork.com.au/swillfeedingfactsheet)

# Is your farm feral pig proof?



Watch the APL video on biosecurity at [australianpork.com.au/biosecurityatyourpiggery](http://australianpork.com.au/biosecurityatyourpiggery)



Decent fencing is a core element of biosecurity. For farms designed from scratch, the fence around the farm buildings extends to the load out ramp on the perimeter and includes the silos and the staff amenities building. This means that “clean” farm areas are separated from “dirty” non-farm areas. In this sense, the fence keeps transporters, other vehicles, visitors, and other pigs out.

The real risk to the “home” pig population comes from feral pigs. It has been estimated that there are as many as 24 million of them nationally and they are spread all throughout the country. Even if you have not seen them, they are probably in your area. They have, unfortunately, at one time or another, breached the biosecurity of many large farming businesses.

For practical purposes, a fence that restricts animal movements to within two metres of your buildings should be adequate. If you can do more, terrific, but what you are really trying to prevent is nose to nose contact between the farm pigs and any nearby feral pigs. You will know that some diseases can be transmitted several kilometres in the air but that’s with large populations of source animals all in one spot. For one or two (feral) animals a metre or two is enough.

In addition to thinking about how far the fence is from the buildings, you will also need to think about maintenance to make sure that there are no holes or gaps under the fence and gates. A one metre high, well-maintained ringlock fence will serve you well against feral pigs. If you want to keep people out, something higher is necessary, but don’t overthink it –chances are, people can and will breach anything if they are determined enough.

Your existing stock fences will be a deterrent to feral pigs and will add to any special barrier you erect. Where feral pigs have penetrated farms, they have walked through open gates or doorways, crawled under gates or fences, and/or walked right through fences. They have been attracted to sows on heat as well as to spilled feed.

A recent ABC Landline show (September 28) showed a NSW grain farm fenced with a pig proof fence that was well-suited for the job. They used a Waratah 15/150/15 Stocksafe-T Long life Blue 250m with apron - ~\$1200 per roll plus GST (prices will vary). You need to order it specially. That fence is 1.5 metres high. It has an apron at the bottom (See above).

# All pigs need a PIC

With just three months before the festive season, pig owners are reminded that every property where a pig lives needs a Property Identification Code (PIC), whether it's a large or small herd, pet pig or a pig being fattened for holiday feasts.

A Property Identification Code (PIC) is a unique identifier issued by state and territory government to identify property keeping livestock. PICs are assigned to individual properties by Local Land Services in NSW and by the Department of Primary Industries or equivalent in other states.

PICs are easy to get through state and territory departments and compulsory for all properties with livestock.

PICs play a big role in Australia's biosecurity system. In emergencies, such as fire or flooding, or in the event of a disease outbreak, PICs are used for locating properties which have livestock on them. If you don't have a PIC, you may miss out on health warnings to protect your

pigs. You may also miss out on information regarding support for yourself and your animals during this time.

Get a PIC, identify your pigs correctly, register with PigPass and record all pig movements on the PigPass database.

Unsure where to start or to send people looking for a PIC? Contact details for the relevant Government agencies are below:

State	Contact number
Queensland	13 25 23
New South Wales	1300 795 299
Victoria	1800 678 779
Tasmania	03 6165 3240
South Australia	08 8207 7919
Western Australia	08 9780 6284

## PigPass mobile app

The new PigPass App is available to download for **FREE** on Apple and Android devices from the App Store and Google Play – simply search for 'PigPass' and download. The app has been designed to make PigPass reporting possible on the run from a mobile device. An active internet connection is not required (i.e. the data is "cached" until within mobile coverage).

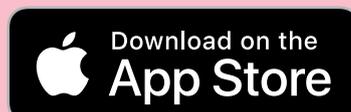
The PigPass is completed via the app on your mobile device and is then scanned onto the transporter's phone via a QR code. The transporter then scans it to the receiver's phone or other device via QR code at the destination. You can also email the PigPass to an email address directly from the app. To use the app, all parties in the supply chain will need to download and set up the app on their mobile device.

You can help us with the roll out of the PigPass app by downloading it and giving it a try. Please email your feedback about the app to [helpdesk@pigpass.com.au](mailto:helpdesk@pigpass.com.au)



**Need help?**

Visit [pigpass.com.au](http://pigpass.com.au)  
or call 1800 001 458



# Improvements to PigPass

PigPass is a significant industry asset that enables governments and APL to trace pigs in the event of a food safety incident and disease outbreak.

Adjustments to enhance the PigPass system is an ongoing activity for APL – but we need you to help us make PigPass even better by reporting your pig movements, encouraging others to report pig movements and by checking movement reporting details to prevent inadvertent errors.

To report pig movements you must have a PIC and you must be registered for PigPass. Visit [www.pigpass.com.au](http://www.pigpass.com.au) to register. Reporting movements to PigPass is simple. Each time you move pigs off your property you need to fill in a PigPass NVD form and give a copy to the receiver of the pigs. When you receive pigs onto your property you simply login to the PigPass online portal and click on report a property to property movement. You will be asked to record the serial number of the PigPass that came with the pigs and the number of pigs you received.

## Mandatory reporting

Governments are progressively implementing the requirements for mandatory reporting – SA, NSW, WA and Victoria now have mandatory reporting. Victoria's arrangements will commence early in 2020 and the remaining states are also progressing towards mandatory movement reporting. Until all jurisdictions have implemented these arrangements, PigPass is a mix of voluntary and mandatory reporting.

## Stop the spread of ASF

All those who move and receive pigs should be using PigPass. This will make it easier for all our producers, saleyards and abattoirs to make the transition to mandatory reporting. If a disease event – like African swine fever (ASF) – were to occur now, tracing all pigs within a short time is likely to be compromised if all

pig movements are not reported. It doesn't matter if you are a commercial producer, own one pet pig, are a saleyard or abattoir, or if you own a couple of pigs for your own use, pig movement reporting helps us help you to keep your pigs safe.

“ The key to controlling a disease like ASF is the efficacy of PigPass to trace all pig movement within a short timeframe.

The key to controlling a disease like ASF is the efficacy of PigPass to trace all pigs within a short timeframe. The sooner this occurs, the sooner movement restrictions can be lifted, and your business can get back to normal as soon as possible.

It is also very important for export markets who need to be assured that our governments have control of a disease outbreak. This assurance combined with surveillance to ensure the disease is eradicated are the cornerstones of our return to exporting pork and pork products to other countries.

## Accuracy is key

It is very important to ensure that the data you enter in your movement reports is accurate and correct. It is easy to make a small mistake that could cause big problems if we need to trace pigs quickly in an emergency situation. To help with this, we have introduced a new check point in the PigPass system that will ask you to stop, check and verify that the serial number and the sending PIC has been entered correctly for every PigPass you enter.

## PigPass NVD book price increase

You may have noticed the price of PigPass NVD books has increased. This is to recover the increased cost of postage passed on from suppliers in March 2019.

The price for a 20 page PigPass NVD book is \$45 if ordered online, and \$50 if ordered over the phone.

A 50 page PigPass NVD book is \$65 if ordered online or \$70 when ordered over the phone.

The cost free options of ePigPass are still available and include logging in to PigPass and click on ‘Get a PigPass NVD’ or use the new PigPass mobile app.

# Compensation and valuation in an emergency animal disease response

Animal Health Australia has released a factsheet which explains how compensation is payable by governments following an exotic disease incursion, such as ASF.

Compensation is determined and managed by state and territory governments under their own legislation.

The payment of compensation, the process for claims, and the timeframe in which a claim may be made varies between states and territories.

Compensation is not intended to maintain profitability or business continuity. Its primary intention is to promote early reporting, which promotes rapid response and early return to trade. As such, owners should have their own business continuity plans in place.

For any questions, please contact Deb Kerr, General Manager Policy on [deb.kerr@australianpork.com.au](mailto:deb.kerr@australianpork.com.au)



## APL African swine fever meetings and activities

APL has been working closely with Federal and State and Territory Government, as well as industry groups and supply chain to spread the word about the threat of African swine fever and ensure biosecurity preparedness to prevent or manage an outbreak. These meetings this month included:

- Lechelle Van Breda presented at the Queensland Biosecurity/ Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Pig Health – ASF, emergency disease and response workshop
- Heather spoke at the combined AGM for the Feed Ingredients and Additives Association of Australia and Stock Feed Manufacturer's Council of Australia, updating them on APL's biosecurity activities, surveillance projects and feed biosecurity.
- APL's Biosecurity Strategic Review Panel meeting was held in Canberra where the panel covering the global ASF situation, quarantine and risk assessment of ASF in feed, Australian preparedness and research activities.
- African swine fever preparedness teleconference is being held weekly with key stakeholders to ensure consistent communications.
- APL staff held an Emergency Disease Incursion briefing to ensure responsibilities and processes were clear in the case of an ASF outbreak.
- APL attended the ASF preparedness workshop in Victoria with Dr Cameron Bell, Victorian Chief Veterinarian, Agriculture Victoria and pig veterinarians.
- APL Board and ET met with VFF pig farmers for updates on ASF, domestic market conditions and Research and Development approach change to ensure these issues are communicated and understood. Margo and Pete met with a group of NSW producers to have a similar conversation.
- APL attended the 2019 NSW/ACT biosecurity round table, the 2019 Victorian round table, the 2019 QLD biosecurity round table and the Biosecurity preparedness/response/recovery round table QLD to contribute to the strengthening of biosecurity across the states.
- Animal Health Committee meeting and EADRA/ AUSVETPLAN discussion.
- Industry ASF committee meeting and CVO task group (APL, pig vets and processors).
- Deb Kerr has had discussions with NZ Pork.
- Margo Andrae spoke at a press conference being held by the Federal Minister for Agriculture on the enforcement of biosecurity laws, resulting in a visa being cancelled.
- APL was invited to attend Senate Estimates.
- Margo has been addressing a large number of media requests to ensure the industry's concern is reaching the general public.