

MEETING REPORT

African Swine Fever Stakeholder Teleconference

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Committee:	African Swine Fever Stakeholder Weekly update
Meeting Date:	Friday 13 December 2019

Item #	Item Name	ASF preparedness update	Major outcomes, recommendations, actions
1	Australian Pork Limited Ms Margo Andrae	<p>Australia remains ASF free.</p> <p>Minister for Agriculture, Bridget McKenzie, announced the Australian Government has boosted biosecurity funding by \$66.6M to mitigate the threat posed to Australia by ASF. To enhance the Government's efforts on keeping ASF out of Australia, the extra funding would put more officers, detector dogs and state-of-the-art x-ray machines on the front line. Measures funded through the ASF response package include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 more frontline biosecurity officers will start to be deployed from January 2020 to do half a million more passenger screenings each year • Six new detector dogs to be deployed at airports and mail centres by July 2020 • Two new 3D x-ray machines at Melbourne and Sydney mail centres to be deployed by July 2020 • Biosecurity officers will have a new capability to issue infringement notices on the spot at airports • A new biosecurity squad will be established onshore to check products brought into Australia for sale aren't fraudulently labelled • Zoning arrangements will be developed to help support continued market access for our pork producers should the unthinkable happen and ASF reaches a part of Australia. <p>ASF preparedness activities continued with the National Management Group exercise on Monday 9th December. Several gaps were identified, and industry will work with the Chief Veterinary Officers to address these issues.</p> <p>The ASF AUSVETPLAN writing group met on Thursday 12th December. This manual is nearing completion but requires further input from the AHC Taskforce working groups and should be finalised early in the new year.</p>	

		<p>The Industry ASF taskforce is continuing to work with the State/Federal Governments on disease preparedness. The joint CVO/Industry ASF taskforce will be meeting on 20th December to review all disease response activities and requirements.</p> <p>Animal Health Australia has developed a fact sheet titled <i>Spot the difference: African swine fever vs swine influenza</i>. Designed to alleviate some of the confusion people (and the media) have in regards to the misreporting of ASF as swine flu, this factsheet is now available on the AHA website on their ASF webpage.</p>	
2	Department of Agriculture update	<p>On 5 and 9 December 2019, the Department of Agriculture led two African swine fever simulation exercises (Exercise Razorback) to test consensus decision making for the Consultative Committee for Emergency Animal Diseases and the National Emergency Animal Disease Management Group. Agriculture Ministers were briefed on the exercises at the AGMIN meeting on 10 December 2019. Both exercises were successful, and raised several issues regarding preparedness for ASF. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement controls; • Managing abattoirs and the need for policy on product recalls; • The role of feral pigs; and • The cost-sharing threshold and the need for cost benefit analysis to support increasing it. <p>Key outcomes and actions from the NAQS workshop on ASF held on 3 December in Cairns, which will be fed into the National ASF Task Force Feral Pig Working Group, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for coordinated action on national feral pig abundance modelling • Preferred options for sample collection when 'gold standard' approach isn't possible (e.g. third-party collectors, cold-chain issues) • Learnings from research to inform feral pig management/control • Traditional culling methods (e.g. aerial shooting) can actually facilitate disease spread by changing pig behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mob territorial disruption ○ Increased ranging behavior ○ Creation of a 'vacuum' effect • Traditional metrics (e.g. numbers killed) to measure culling don't necessarily align with improved outcomes • Need to define success and find metrics to measure that instead. 	
3	Animal Health Committee Update	<p>NSW representatives attended an infected premises operational training workshop organised by Vic Agriculture on 11-13 December 2019 in order to share learnings.</p> <p>Communication and engagement materials have been updated to reflect changes to the NSW Biosecurity Regulations that come into effect 13 December 2019 in relation to prohibited matter for pigs and ruminants. These regulations will strengthen the legal requirements to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk presented by feeding or supplying swill. These materials</p>	

		will be distributed to stakeholders within NSW in the coming week.	
4	Next report	The weekly report will continue to be scheduled whilst stakeholders have concerns and continued interest in the activities underway and will be reviewed mid January. The next report will be distributed on Friday 20 th December.	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.