

African Swine Fever Stakeholder Weekly Update

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Committee: | African Swine Fever Stakeholder
 Weekly Update
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Item #	Item Name	ASF preparedness update	Major outcomes, recommendations, actions
1	Australian Pork Limited Ms Margo Andrae	<p>Australia remains ASF free.</p> <p>Liaison Livestock emergency animal disease (EAD) training, run by Animal Health Australia, was completed by an additional sixteen industry participants on Friday, 29th November. This expands our industry representation on emergency response committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event of an EAD incursion, government officers, livestock producers, private veterinary practitioners and emergency workers can contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of an EAD response. • Industry personnel can be involved in three broad areas of an EAD response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representation on the National Management Group (NMG) and the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD). ○ Liaison and consultation with the affected jurisdiction managing the response. ○ Contribution of industry-specific advice and assistance in planning and conducting response operations. • https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/training/emergency-animal-disease-training/industry-ead-training/ <p>Industry and Government discussions are progressing to further improve biosecurity protection services at Australia's borders. Industry is supporting the placement of additional 3D scanner technology to screen incoming parcels at Australia's international mail centres.</p> <p>Whilst APL was informed of the Government's investment in a National Feral Pig Co-ordinator role for feral pig control, APL is awaiting contract finalisation with the Government. Once the contracts are in place the National Feral Pig Co-ordinator position will commence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://minister.agriculture.gov.au/mckenzie/media-releases/feral-pig-coordinator <p>Industry acknowledges the work of the state farming associations and the state government organisations in bringing producers together to inform them on ASF.</p>	

		The Industry ASF taskforce is continuing to work with the State/Federal Governments on disease preparedness. The joint Industry/CVO ASF taskforce will be meeting on 20 th December to review all disease response activities and requirements.	
2	Industry ASF taskforce Dr Ross Cutler	<p>The Industry ASF Taskforce is the coordinating body providing the technical link between industry, the Australian Government, and state and territory governments for decision making during animal health emergencies.</p> <p>The Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD) ran an ASF scenario on Thursday 5th December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Andrew Pointon and Dr Chris Richards, as members of the Industry ASF Taskforce, represented APL technically. • Ms Deb Kerr, General Manager, Policy (APL) also joined the group for the exercise. • The CCEAD recommends a response plan and budget to NMS for disease control/eradication. <p>The scenario tested the CCEAD process of disease control strategies and has provided further insight into some alternative approaches for the response to ASF. These will be explored in the coming weeks when the APL ASF technical group meets and in a further meeting between the APL ASF technical group and the CVO ASF task force to hone an operational response that both controls and eradicates the disease while permitting as much as possible "business as usual" for unaffected areas.</p> <p>Preparations continue for a National Management Group exercise on Monday 9th December.</p> <p>ASF in Timor Leste. A Food and Agriculture Organisation (a division of the UN) mission will visit Timor Leste next week at the invitation from the government of Timor Leste to advise on control of ASF in that country. Dr Ross Cutler, who assists APL with ASF matters has been nominated by the Australian Department of Agriculture to join the mission.</p> <p>APL delegates have joined the CVO ASF task force working groups on operational control for Destruction, Disposal and Disinfection, Movement permits and Processing. A delegate will be appointed to the working group on feral pigs.</p>	
3	Department of Agriculture Update	<p>The first part of an ASF simulation exercise (Exercise Razorback) was successfully completed on 5 December 2019. This part of the exercise involved the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD), comprising the Australian and state and territory Chief Veterinary Officers, representatives from the department, the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (CSIRO) and industry bodies. The exercise is testing the application of Australia's emergency animal disease response arrangements in the early stages of a simulated outbreak of ASF. The second part of this exercise will take place 9 December 2019. A summary of feedback on the exercise will be circulated when it is available.</p> <p>The Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS), as part of the Annual NAQS Scientific Discipline Meeting, held a workshop on African swine fever on 3 December in Cairns (and via videoconference). The workshop involved NAQS veterinary and animal health staff, along with veterinarians from Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian governments, Wildlife Health Australia, veterinarians from Biosecurity Animal Division (Australian Department of Agriculture, Canberra), scientists from ABARES and academics involved in feral pig ecology and modelling researchers from Charles Darwin University, CSIRO and Australian Wildlife Conservancy. The workshop discussion centred on sharing of research findings on</p>	

		<p>feral pigs, and discussion of these findings in the context for preparedness and surveillance for African swine fever.</p> <p>NAQS has completed surveys of feral animals in the Cobourg Peninsula and Croker Island areas of Northern Territory and along the eastern coast of Cape York Peninsula, from Port Stewart to north of Usher Point, Queensland. There was evidence of large pig populations and significant amounts of marine debris in the areas surveyed. A total of 136 pigs underwent post mortem and sampling as part of the survey. There was no evidence of ASF based on clinical observations and gross pathological findings.</p>	
4	AHC Update	A teleconference is taking place on 6 December 2019 to discuss updates to the ASF AUSVETPLAN manual, with a face-to-face meeting happening on 12 December 2019 at Animal Health Australia, to work through remaining issues. Finalisation of the consultation draft will be dependent on responses from the AHC ASF Task force working groups for specific content.	
5	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 13th 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.