

African swine fever stakeholder 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>To strengthen biosecurity across the supply chain Industry has funded two biosecurity projects that will assist producers to be ASF ready. Firstly, Scolexia Animal & Avian Health will lead a research project that will provide producers with on-farm decision support tools to identify practical options for mass herd euthanasia, disposal and decontamination in the event of an exotic disease outbreak. Secondly, a project led by researcher Dr David Hamilton will create and validate practical best practice truck biosecurity and disinfection guidelines for use at export abattoirs. Both projects will strengthen our ability to respond to ASF and enhance Industry biosecurity practices.</p> <p>Research veterinarian, Dr Victoria Brookes who completed her APL funded PhD on exotic disease prioritisation and investigation in 2014, has released a study on ASF. The review demonstrates there are limited reports of ASF transmission between wild boar and domestic pigs in Europe. The researchers concluding that compartmentalisation of feral and domestic pig populations could be used to support trade of domestic pigs. To view the pre-print article visit: https://authorea.com/users/337883/articles/467664-a-scoping-review-of-african-swine-fever-virus-spread-between-domestic-and-free-living-pigs</p> <p>The ASF preparedness webinar series hosted by Victorian Farmers Federation pig group, Agriculture Victoria and APL can now be accessed these via the links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar 1 – Global impacts of ASF https://kapara.rdbk.com.au/landers/6dd71f.html • Webinar 2 – On-farm biosecurity best practice https://kapara.rdbk.com.au/landers/43cc89.html • Webinar 3 – ASF outbreak preparedness and response in Australia https://kapara.rdbk.com.au/landers/a82863.html <p>The AUSVETPLAN ASF manual writing group met on 15th July and continue to incorporate endorsed material from Animal Health Committee ASF Taskforce working groups, to support the revision of the second interim version of the ASF manual.</p>	<p>APL continues to respond to COVID-19, for more information visit www.australianpork.com.au/covid-19.</p>

		<p>On 15th July APL's Biosecurity Strategic Review Panel met and discussed global biosecurity threats to the pork industry and how best to keep Australia ASF free while ensuring ASF remains a priority for government.</p>	
2	Global ASF update	<p>National lockdown and movement restrictions enforced as a result of COVID-19 have had significant impacts on Timor-Leste's ability to respond to ASF. Seven of the country's 13 municipalities are affected by ASF. Due to travel restrictions Australian experts can only provide remote assistance making control efforts difficult. At the Australian border, since 1st January til 31st May 2020 there has been 8,000 international travellers intercepted by biosecurity officers and over 1,300 mail articles with porcine products detected. Due to COVID-19 border closures, Australia's detector dogs working at airports have been redeployed to focus on illegal pork product entering via mail and cargo. To read the full article visit: https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-07-07/coronavirus-is-helping-australia-fight-african-swine-fever/12427004</p> <p>Global ASF updates from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) can be viewed on the Global ASF Research Alliance website: https://www.ars.usda.gov/GARA/FAO.htm.</p> <p>A global initiative for the control of ASF has been launched by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in collaboration with FAO to minimise the impacts of ASF. To read more visit: https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/global-action-needed-now-to-halt-spread-of-deadly-pig-disease/</p> <p>New ASF vaccine research is being led by Kansas State University and MEDIAN Diagnostics Inc. (or MDx), a veterinary medicine company based in South Korea. The research is entering the first year of funding and will continue through 2023, trialing various vaccine candidates in the hope to find a safe and effective ASF vaccine. To read the full article visit: https://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/animal-health/k-state-researcher-joins-south-korean-firm-develop-asf-vaccine?NL=FP-005&Issue=FP-005_20200717_FP-005_205&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_5_4&utm_rid=CPG02000003416405&utm_campaign=51229&utm_medium=email&elq2=b899f5630414418886828f6aff8ad1f3</p> <p>Heavy rains and flooding across southern China in Guangdong province, the Guangxi region and other areas since mid-June are likely to have contributed to a surge in ASF outbreaks. ASF infected pigs are typically buried but it is thought that the recent rains may have spread the virus via groundwater. Until recently ASF outbreaks have declined presumably due to smaller herds and better hygiene. The last reported outbreak was on 5th June 2020, however it is probable that many outbreaks go unreported. It has been predicted that pig numbers in some of the southern provinces impacted by the rain could fall by 20% with live pig prices in the south likely to increase. For more information please see:</p>	

		<p>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-swinefever-floods/china-floods-blamed-for-fresh-african-swine-fever-outbreaks-idUSKBN24B0ZF</p> <p>An interview with Dr Adrian Balaban a Romanian veterinarian, shares insights into dealing with ASF firsthand. Dr Balaban addresses key questions including the impacts of ASF in Romania including spread between wild boar and domestic pigs, biosecurity measures implemented on farm to mitigate the risk of ASF and the associated costs of an outbreak. To Listen to the interview click the link: https://soundcloud.com/user-588379556-79374034/asf-in-romania</p> <p>Dr E. Wayne Johnson, a senior technical consultant at Enable Ag-Tech Consulting, gave a global ASF update discussing the recent spread, markets, clean up and eradication programs associated with ASF. To watch the presentation visit: https://youtu.be/9FcvSPI Rets</p> <p>German authorities desperately try to keep potentially ASF-infected wild boar out of Germany by extending the fence along the German-Polish border creating a 240km barrier. To read the full article: https://t.co/lKxLGr2x3T</p>	
3	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	<p>The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (AWE) ASF Co-ordination Group will meet next week and any pertinent updates will be shared in a timely manner.</p> <p>AWE and APL will meet in early August to discuss ASF research projects being undertaken by both government and Industry.</p>	
4	Next report	The next report will be distributed on Friday 21 st August 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.