

DISEASE IN-FOCUS: AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

What is ASF?

African swine fever (ASF) is an exotic, contagious viral disease affecting both domesticated and wild pigs. It spreads rapidly through contact with infected animals or contact with contaminated pens, trucks, clothing or feed. Pigs can also remain carriers for the disease for quite some time.

What's the risk?

Australia is currently free of ASF. However in February 2019, virus fragments were detected in meat products seized at our border, indicating the importance of remaining vigilant. If ASF was to enter Australia, it could severely damage our pig meat and associated industries.

How can you reduce the risk?

One of the easiest ways you can protect Australia's pork industry from ASF and other disease threats is to feed your pigs the right feed.

Food waste that has come into contact with meat or contains meat must not be fed to pigs. This type of food waste, known as swill, could contain the ASF virus, which can be passed onto your pigs if they consume the infected food waste.

Strong on-farm biosecurity practices are also essential for anyone who has pigs. Visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/industry/pigs for more info.

What are the signs to look out for?

If you see anything unusual in your pigs or if you have a number of sudden deaths in your herd, you should report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Key signs of ASF include fever, red/purple blotching of the skin and incoordination.

MORE INFORMATION

Animal Health Australia

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/asf

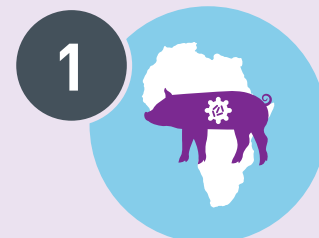
Australian Pork Limited

www.australianpork.com.au/industry-focus/biosecurity

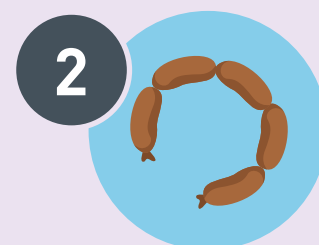


SWILL FEEDING

How could swill feeding cause ASF in pigs?



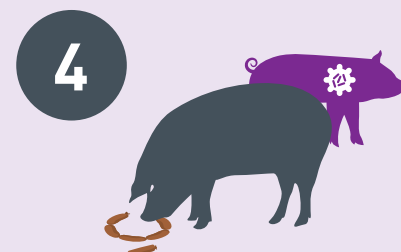
1
Livestock in countries with ASF become infected with the disease.



2
Those infected livestock are processed into meat products overseas.



3
The meat (which can harbour or be contaminated with the ASF virus), may be illegally or inadvertently introduced into Australia.



4
Food or food waste containing the disease-causing agents are fed to pigs. The pigs then become infected, which poses a significant risk to Australia's pig industry.