

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VS. SWINE INFLUENZA

Confused about the difference between **African swine fever (ASF)** and **swine influenza (swine flu)**? Whilst both are diseases of pigs, they are caused by different viruses and affect pigs in different ways.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

What is it?

African swine fever (ASF) is a 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. There is no vaccine available.

Australia is free of ASF and it's important that we keep it out. An outbreak of ASF would have a significant impact on pig health and production in Australia.

What are the signs?

Key signs to look out for are:

- unexpected deaths
- high fever and loss of appetite
- red/purple blotching of the skin

Does it affect humans?

No. ASF only affects domestic and wild pigs. There is no risk to human health from interacting with pigs infected with ASF or eating pork products.

SWINE INFLUENZA

What is it?

Swine influenza (swine flu) refers to influenza in pigs. The swine flu virus can cause influenza-like illness in pig herds and is spread from direct and indirect contact with pigs infected with the virus. Pigs are vaccinated against swine flu in many parts of the world.

What are the signs?

Key signs to look out for are:

- fever
- depression
- discharge from nose or eyes

Some pigs infected with the swine flu virus may not even show signs of illness at all.

Does it affect humans?

Although largely a disease of pigs, in rare cases, variants of swine flu can be passed onto humans. However, there is no risk to human health from eating pork products.

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.