

- Report all suspected cases to your local State Veterinarian or Animal Health Technician.

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THIS DISEASE?

ASF is not transmitted to humans and there is no public health risk associated with the disease. However, it is not recommended to eat the meat of any clinically sick animal or animal that has died.

### WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF ASF?

- Severe cases of the disease are characterised by high fever and they die quickly within 2-10 days.
- Deaths can be as high as 100% and the disease spreads quickly between contact pigs.
- Other clinical signs may include: abortion in pregnant sows, pigs don't want to eat, depression, difficulty breathing, vomiting, bleeding from the nose or rectum, diarrhoea and redness of the skin of the ears, abdomen and legs.
- Some forms of the virus produce less intense diseases, though deaths can still range from 30-70%.
- Chronic disease symptoms include loss of weight, intermittent fever, respiratory signs, chronic skin ulcers and arthritis.

### HOW IS THE DISEASE DIAGNOSED?

- ASF may be suspected based on clinical signs (unexplained and quick deaths of pigs) and confirmation must be made through prescribed laboratory tests.
- ASF is a controlled animal disease and any suspicion thereof must be reported to the local State Veterinarian or Animal Health Technician as required by the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984).
- Once the disease has been reported, a State Veterinarian or Animal Health Technician will investigate and collect samples for testing to confirm or rule out ASF.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE TO PREVENT OR CONTROL THIS DISEASE?

#### Prevention and control measures

- There is no effective treatment or vaccine for ASF.

- Strict import policies are used to ensure that neither infected live pigs nor pork products are introduced into countries free of ASF. This includes ensuring proper disposal of waste food from aircraft, ships or vehicles coming from infected countries.
- In the ASF controlled areas, it is impossible to control wild pigs and soft ticks that sustain the ASF disease cycle. As required by the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984), pigs in the ASF controlled areas of South Africa have to be kept in pig-proof pens, camps or kraals to prevent contact with wild pigs. Movement restriction apply in these ASF Controlled areas.
- It is critical to ensure that meat from warthogs or infected pigs is not fed to susceptible pigs.
- All successful eradication programs have involved:
  1. Rapid diagnosis;
  2. Slaughter and proper disposal of all pigs on infected premises ;
  3. Thorough cleaning and disinfection;
  4. Movement controls ;and
  5. Surveillance.



Feel free to contact your nearest State/Private Veterinarian/Animal Health Technician for further information.

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# AFRICAN SWINE FEVER



SOUTH AFRICAN PORK  
 PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION



agriculture,  
 forestry & fisheries

Department:  
 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW OWN PIGS?

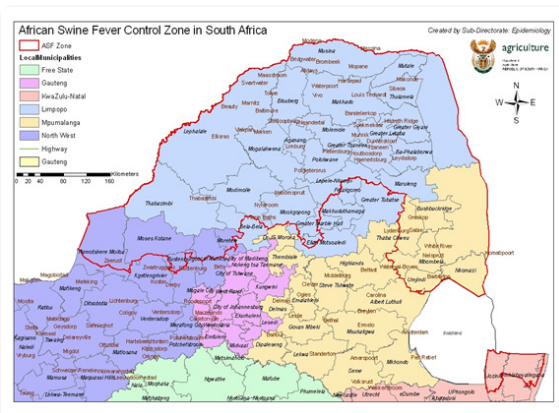
The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries wants to help you to prevent a disease called African Swine Fever which is found in pigs.

## WHAT IS AFRICAN SWINE FEVER?

- African Swine Fever (ASF) is a disease which affects pigs and spreads very quickly.
- Domestic pigs show severe disease and most die; it affects all age groups.
- Warthogs, bush pigs and wild pigs may carry the virus but do not show symptoms of the disease.
- ASF typically causes high fever and rapid death is seen within 2-10 days on average.
- Death in pigs may affect as much as 100% of the herd/group.

## WHERE IS THE DISEASE FOUND IN SOUTH AFRICA?

- ASF generally occurs and is endemic in countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In South Africa, there are defined ASF controlled areas in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and KwaZulu Natal Provinces where the disease occurs in wild pigs all the time (see map). Movement restrictions for all wild and domestic pigs and their products apply to, from and within these areas to prevent the disease from spreading to the unaffected areas of the country.



## HOW IS ASF TRANSMITTED AND SPREAD?

- In the ASF controlled areas, the ASF virus circulates between warthogs/bush pigs/wild pigs (that do not show disease) and soft ticks (*Ornithodoros* spp.). This creates a continuous threat to domestic pigs that come into contact with wild pigs or their ticks.
- The ASF threat from wild pigs and their ticks to domestic pigs mainly occurs only in the ASF controlled areas. Illegal movement of wild and domestic pigs and their products poses a risk to pigs in the rest of the country. Risk products include carcasses and meat from hunted wild pigs, as well as pork from pigs which were not slaughtered at an abattoir.
- Pigs can get the disease from contact with infected soft ticks or by eating meat from infected pigs. Once a pig has the disease, the virus is found in all of its fluids and meat.
- The virus is spread very quickly through direct or indirect contact between infected pigs and healthy pigs. People, clothing, vehicles or equipment (e.g. buckets or brooms) may transport the virus from infected to healthy pigs - even if there is no direct contact between the pigs.
- The virus remains infectious for long periods of time in the blood, tissue and faeces of infected pigs. This means that people, vehicles or equipment that come into contact with these infected materials can transmit the disease to healthy pigs. Uncooked or undercooked pork from infected pigs are also very high risk products, even if the pig was not sick at the time when it was slaughtered.
- The virus may survive in pork and in the environment for months. Contaminated holdings and premises pose a high risk.

## RISK OF FEEDING KITCHEN WASTE/GARBAGE (SWILL) TO PIGS

- Pigs usually become infected by contact with infected pigs or by ingestion of kitchen waste or garbage (swill) containing undercooked or uncooked infected pig meat or pig meat products. Do not feed any untreated kitchen waste to your pigs and do not allow your pigs to get access to any waste or garbage. Even kitchen waste that seems to contain only vegetables may not be safe because it may have come into contact with raw pork.
- According to the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984), in the whole of South Africa, swill feeding of pigs is prohibited unless it is properly boiled for at least 1 hour or treated and sterilized.

- Pigs should be fed with commercial feed products or with materials which have been boiled thoroughly for at least 1 hour.



## RISK OF BUYING AND SELLING FROM UNKNOWN SOURCES WHILE PIGS ARE SICK

If infected pigs, warthogs or their products are moved illegally out of the ASF controlled areas, it exposes the rest of the country's pigs to the disease. Similarly, if infected pigs, warthogs or their products are imported illegally from other countries, it may cause an outbreak of ASF, or other diseases which may even be worse, in South Africa.

- Ensure that you know where you are buying your pigs from and what the disease status of the farm of origin and surrounding areas are.
- Do not buy pigs if there are any sick pigs at the farm of origin or if you are not sure where the seller buys his pigs from. Auctions and buying through speculators are high risk activities especially if the health status of the pigs cannot be verified.
- Remember that the environment, including the holdings and the soil, will be contaminated by sick pigs. Healthy pigs that are handled at infected premises (e.g. auctions, speculators) at a later stage may be exposed to the virus before you buy them.
- Affected farms and properties are quarantined to prevent the spread of the disease to other pig farmers. Under no circumstances may pigs or their products be sold or allowed to leave the property from quarantined farms or from any herd or area that is suspected to be infected with ASF.