



AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS AFRICAN SWINE FEVER?

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious, reportable, and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and feral (wild) pigs. ASF is not a human health or food safety concern because it only affects swine and can not be transmitted from pigs to humans.

ASF is found in countries around the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. More recently, it has spread through China, Mongolia, Vietnam, and throughout parts of the European Union. It has never been found in the United States.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Signs and symptoms of ASF include:

- high fever
- decreased appetite
- weakness
- red, blotchy skin or skin lesions
- diarrhea
- vomiting
- coughing
- and difficulty breathing

TRANSMISSION

African Swine Fever is spread between swine through contact with the body fluid of an infected pig, by ticks that feed on infected swine, or can be transported on vehicles or clothing. African Swine Fever can also be spread by feeding pigs garbage that contains raw, infected pork products. However, state and federal regulations prevent the feeding of uncooked meat to garbage feeding swine.

PREVENTION

Practicing good biosecurity will help protect pigs from ASF and other infectious diseases. Producers and the swine industry must ensure strict biosecurity procedures are in place to best prevent the introduction and spread of viruses across swine populations.

1. Record keeping: Producers should maintain strict records of visitor traffic including personnel, vehicles and equipment on farms and at pig production facilities.
2. Foreign visitors: Take caution when welcoming visitors who have previously been at swine facilities in countries where ASF is present. While stringent biosecurity practices aid in preventing the spread of ASF, it is not recommended to allow foreign visitors from ASF affected countries on your swine facility.
3. Control wildlife, rodents and pests: Wildlife and other pests can transmit many diseases and compromise biosecurity.
4. Sanitation of the farm: soap, chemicals, and drying of facilities are key components of a biosecurity plan that can keep the level of disease-causing pathogens to a minimum.

REPORTING AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

It is essential that producers and veterinarians report sick pigs showing potential signs of ASF to state or federal animal health officials immediately for appropriate testing. Timeliness is key because ASF spreads rapidly and can kill swine very quickly.

The Texas Administrative Code requires that certain livestock and fowl diseases be reported to the TAHC within 24 hours of diagnosis. To report sick swine, call the 24/7 TAHC Hotline at 1-800-550-8242.