



July 29, 2021

## African Swine Fever (ASF) Awareness for Texas Veterinarians & Swine Producers

On July 28, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory announced the confirmation of African swine fever (ASF) in samples collected from pigs in the Dominican Republic through an existing cooperative surveillance program.

The USDA is committed to assisting the Dominican Republic in dealing with ASF, and they continue to work diligently with partners including the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. swine industry to prevent ASF from entering the United States. ASF is not a threat to human health, cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans and is not a food safety issue.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is committed to protecting the health and marketability of Texas swine, and is providing the following information regarding ASF to increase awareness and support USDA in their efforts to prevent this disease from entering the United States.

### WHAT IS 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 cannot 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 body fluid from an infected pig, by ticks that feed on infected swine, or can be transported on vehicles or clothing. ASF can also be spread by feeding pigs garbage that contains raw, infected pork products. However, state and federal regulations prohibit the feeding of uncooked meat to any type of swine.



## PREVENTION

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has numerous interlocking safeguards in place to prevent ASF from entering the United States. Pork and pork products from the Dominican Republic are currently prohibited entry as a result of existing classical swine fever restrictions. Additionally, the CBP is increasing inspections of flights from the Dominican Republic to ensure travelers do not bring prohibited products to the United States. CBP will also be ensuring that garbage from these airplanes are properly disposed of to prevent the transmission of ASF.

On-farm biosecurity is crucial to preventing any animal disease from developing and spreading. All pig owners and anyone involved with pig operations should know and follow strict biosecurity practices to help protect U.S. pigs from ASF. Work with your veterinarian to assess your biosecurity plans and make improvements as needed.

- [Learn how to protect your farm through biosecurity - ASF and On-Farm Biosecurity](#)
- [Biosecurity Guide: Keeping Your Swine Healthy](#)

## SWINE MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

At this time, there are no swine movement restrictions, related to ASF, in Texas. However, USDA prohibits the entry of pork and pork products from the Dominican Republic as a result of existing classical swine fever restrictions.

## 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.

## MORE RESOURCES

General Information:

- [http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/african\\_swine\\_fever.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/african_swine_fever.pdf)
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/swine-disease-information/african-swine-fever/seminar>
- [https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/swine/#asf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/swine/#asf)