

# BIOSECURITY MEASURES FOR FERAL SWINE FACILITIES TO PROTECT AGAINST AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Practicing good biosecurity measures will help protect domestic and feral (wild) pigs from African swine fever (ASF) and other infectious diseases. "Biosecurity" may not be a common household word, but producers and the swine industry must ensure strict biosecurity procedures are in place to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses across the swine populations.

## WHAT IS ASF?

African swine fever is a highly contagious, reportable, and deadly viral disease affecting both feral and domestic 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.

## WHERE DOES ASF COME FROM AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

ASF is found in countries around the world, most recently in the Dominican Republic. This is the first time ASF has been diagnosed in decades in the western hemisphere. Although ASF has never been detected in the United States, it is important that swine producers are aware and vigilant. ASF 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. Though illegal in the United States, ASF can also be spread by feeding pigs garbage that contains raw, infected pork products.

### Biosecurity: Make it Your Daily Routine

1. Maintain good barriers and fences to prevent feral hogs from entering or escaping pens.
2. Always keep feral swine separated from domestic swine by at least 200 yards to prevent disease spread to domestic swine.
3. Routinely disinfect equipment, feed buckets, trucks, trailers and boots regularly to prevent bacteria or virus spread.
4. Don't share equipment with others unless it has been cleaned and disinfected between use.
5. Do NOT feed raw food or pork products to your pigs. It is illegal.

### Watch & Report Sick Pigs!

Timeliness is key because ASF spreads rapidly and can kill swine very quickly. Watch for these signs and symptoms:

- High fever
- Decreased appetite
- Weakness
- Red, blotchy skin or skin lesions
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing

**There is no treatment or vaccine for ASF. Protect Texas and the United States by knowing the signs and immediately reporting any sick or dying pigs to the TAHC or USDA at 1-800-550-8242 or 1-866-536-7593.**

