

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

FACT SHEET



African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease that can impact wild pigs and all farmed pigs regardless of farm size and type of production operation.

ASF has never been found in Canada, but is spreading around the globe. The virus can persist for a long time in the environment, pig carcasses and in a variety of swine products. It poses a significant risk to the health of ALL Canadian pigs on all types of pig farms and the Canadian economy.

ASF cannot infect humans, but people are the most likely source of introducing the virus into Canada. Global movements of people, feed ingredients and pork products increase the risk of ASF entering Canada.

ASF is not a food safety risk. Canadian pork is safe to eat. There is no treatment or vaccine for ASF, and death rates can be 95% or higher in infected pigs.

In Canada, ASF is a reportable disease under the Health of Animals Act. All suspected cases must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).



ASF Infection can lead to

- Slow, painful death for your pigs
- Depopulation on your farm (possible even if your farm doesn't have ASF but neighboring farms do)
- Quarantine of your farm or home
- Affect your ability to own pigs
- Loss of income
- No matter the size of your farm, how many pigs you have, or how you raise them, your pigs are susceptible to the deadly ASF virus.

Clinic Signs

- High fever (40 - 42°C)
- Loss of appetite
- Weakness
- Inability to stand
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea with bloody discharge
- Red or blue blotches on the skin (particularly around ears and snout)
- Coughing or labored breathing
- Abortion in pregnant sows

ASF should be suspected based on clinical signs along with a high death rate in the herd. Pig owners should report suspicious symptoms or deaths to their veterinarian as soon as possible.



TRANSMISSION and SPREAD of ASF

- Directly between infected and healthy pigs through contact with the blood, tissues, secretions and excretions from infected pigs
- Indirectly by contact with the virus through:
 - contaminated pork or meat products, contaminated swill or kitchen waste
 - contaminated vectors such as feed, vehicles, farm equipment, footwear and clothing

PROTECT YOUR PIGS



DO

- **Carefully source feed**, and feed ingredients from a trusted supplier with proper biosecurity controls and who can provide you information on the ingredients and their origin.
- **Ensure you dispose of food waste** where other animals, including pets, wild pigs and other wildlife, do not have access to it.
- **Stay vigilant when people visit or work on your farm.** Clothes and footwear could be contaminated with ASF, especially if people have returned from countries with ASF within the past 14 days.
- **Only obtain new animals from reputable sources** and limit the frequency of introducing new pigs to the herd.
- **Contact your veterinarian immediately** if you suspect your pigs are sick and could be infected. A list of veterinarians that specialise or work with swine can be found at www.SmallScalePigFarming.com.



DON'T

- × **Don't feed meat products to pigs; this is prohibited in Canada.** Meat scraps could be contaminated with ASF. Be cautious when feeding any food or kitchen waste to pigs as they might have been in contact with meat. Even a trace amount of ASF could infect your pigs.
- × **Don't let pigs wander or have contact with wildlife.** Provide secure fencing and housing to ensure there is no direct or indirect contact between your pigs and wild pigs.
- × **Don't spread disease.** Clothing, footwear and/or equipment that comes into contact with pigs or other animals should be washed in hot water with detergent and dried on high heat.
- × **Don't bring back meat or pork products into Canada** when visiting other countries. This is illegal, except for cooked canned products.