



African Swine Fever FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is African Swine Fever (ASF)?

ASF is a contagious, viral hemorrhagic disease that affects domestic pigs and wild boar, leading to high morbidity and mortality. ASF does NOT pose a risk to public health. There is no cure for this disease.

Where is ASF found?

ASF is endemic in Sub-Saharan Africa and is also found in Eastern Europe. It was recently detected in the Dominican Republic (July 2021) and Haiti (September 2021). It has never been found in the United States.

Can humans get ASF?

ASF is not a threat to humans and is not transmissible to humans. You cannot get ASF from being around pigs and you cannot get ASF from eating pork products. ASF is not a food safety issue - your pork is safe to eat.

What are the clinical signs of ASF?

High fever, decreased appetite, lethargy, red blotchy skin lesions, diarrhea and vomiting, coughing. Occasionally the first clinical sign is sudden death.

What do I do if I think my pig has ASF?

Immediately report animals with any of the clinical signs of ASF to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 614.728.6220, or USDA 614.856.4735. Also, talk with your herd veterinarian.

Why is ASF a concern?

Although humans cannot contract ASF, ASF is a concern for our swine industry. It is a devastating, deadly disease that would have a significant impact on US livestock producers, their communities, and the economy if found here. It would also cripple US pork exports. There is currently no treatment or vaccine available for this disease.

How is ASF spread?

ASF is spread via numerous routes. It can be spread by contact with infected animals' body fluids, from animal to animal, or from contaminated inanimate objects (clothing, boots, vehicles). It can also be spread by the soft tick *Ornithodoros* or from feeding pigs uncooked garbage that contains infected pork products.



How can I prevent ASF?

Biosecurity is extremely important, not just in the case of ASF, but in prevention of all diseases. Biosecurity measures may include fences, restricted visitor access to swine operations, quarantining new animals, disinfecting footwear prior to entry, and having dedicated clothing for swine facilities. Also, domestic swine should not have contact with feral swine and garbage feeding is strongly discouraged.

How is ASF treated?

There is currently no treatment or commercially available vaccine for ASF. The only eradication strategy is to depopulate all infected and exposed animals.

I just have backyard/show pigs, do I need to worry about ASF?

Yes- ASF can affect ALL swine, not just those in commercial herds. The secondary impact of this disease will be felt by the entire swine industry. This includes exports, trade, and transport/movement of all pigs. Good biosecurity practices should be implemented no matter the size of the swine operation.

What is the difference between ASF and other swine diseases?

ASF shares its clinical signs with many other diseases. That is why it is important to work with your veterinarian and report anything that looks suspicious immediately. ASF can only be diagnosed with laboratory tests.

What can I do to prepare for an ASF outbreak?

It is important to become knowledgeable about ASF and what to do if you suspect the disease. Having a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) as well as [a secure pork supply plan](#) is vital.

Where can I find more information on ASF?

- Center for Food Security and Public Health [Factsheet](#)
- USDA APHIS [Website](#) and [Factsheet](#)
- US Customs and Border Protection [Website](#)
- Secure Pork Supply [Factsheet](#)
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship [Website](#)

