AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) 
WHY IT’S A CONCERN & 
PREVENTION, PLANNING & RESPONSE IN THE UNITED STATES

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What is ASF?

- Infectious disease caused by the ASF virus that affects members of the suidae family: domestic pigs, feral swine, wild boar and other exotic swine species

- Negligible health risk to other livestock species

- Does not infect humans and is not a public health risk
What is ASF?

- Unique virus with 20 genotypes and multiple clinical presentations
- Highly resistant in environment, especially at lower temperatures
- Can survive in meat and meat products for extended time
What is ASF?

- Transmitted by direct and indirect contact
- Incubation period is 5 to 21 days
- Varying clinical presentation but typically includes high fever, anorexia/lethargy/recumbency, hemorrhaging, and death in 7-10 days
- Diagnosed by PCR and Virus Isolation at USDA FADDL or approved NAHLN laboratories
- No treatment; no vaccine.
Why Is ASF a Concern to the U.S.?

- Potential health impact on nation’s swine herd
- Potential economic impact on swine/ag sector
- Potential trade restrictions
- Recent spread to previously unaffected areas in Europe and Asia
ASF Current Distribution

- **China**: 107 detections in domestic swine; 2 detections in wild boar in 25 China Provinces/Autonomous Regions/Municipalities
- **European Union**: 10 countries affected; 9 countries have reported ASF in their feral swine population.
- **Subsaharan Africa; Trans-Caucasus Region; Russia, and as of 2019 Mongolia**

Source: OIE 2019
ASF – Globe Trotter

- Uncooked/undercooked pork products fed to pigs (imported, illegal)
  - Portugal, Spain (1960); Italy (1983); Belgium (1985); Russia (2008); Romania, China (2018)

- Raw pork waste/garbage at airport or shipping ports
  - Lisbon (1957), Malta, Sardinia (1978), Georgia (2007)

- Movement of infected wild boars
  - Russia (2008)
Prevention, Planning & Response Activities

- Prevention
- Response Planning/Exercises
- Diagnostic Capacity
- Surveillance and Analysis
- International Coordination
- Education & Outreach
What Can You Do?

- Report suspect cases

- Practice Good Biosecurity
  - On the farm
  - At the fair
  - Returning from international travel

- Learn more
  - http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/ (Iowa State University Center for Food Safety & Public Health)
  - https://www.swinehealth.org/ (Swine Health Information Center)
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Note: This presentation was adapted from an ASF presentation created by the Iowa State University Center for Food Safety & Public Health (CFSPH) and last updated in 2018. The full presentation is available at http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/.