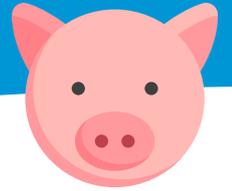




# African swine fever

Information sheet  
and activities for schools



## What is it?

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly infectious and contagious virus that affects both farmed pigs and wild/feral pigs. Unfortunately, pigs that catch ASF usually die.

We currently do not have African swine fever in Australia, but China, East Timor (Timor-Leste), Cambodia, Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Vietnam, Poland, Bulgaria, Belgium, Latvia, Ukraine, and Hungary are all fighting this disease.

African swine fever is not dangerous to human health, but humans are playing a very significant role in spreading this disease within and between countries. It is important to have good biosecurity in place at Australia's borders, between farms, and on-farm to minimise this risk.

## What are the symptoms?

ASF virus can affect domestic and feral pigs of all ages.

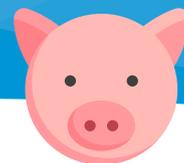
### Clinical manifestations include:

- ✓ Fever
- ✓ 'Blotching' of the skin
- ✓ Unco-ordination
- ✓ Diarrhoea
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Pneumonia

It has an incubation period of up to 15 days and most infected animals die within 10 days.

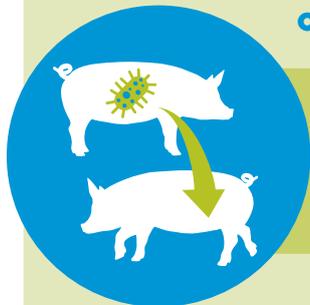
*Source NSW DPI*



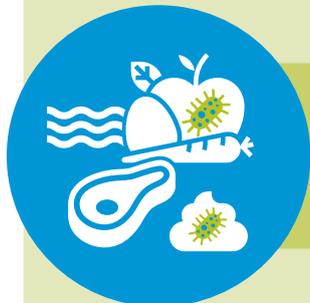


## How is it spread?

### African swine fever can spread to pigs via:



1 Contact with an infected pig (feral or domestic), or other animals



2 Through contaminated food, water, bedding, and faeces



3 Contaminated clothing and shoes of farm staff, or farm visitors



4 Contaminated vehicles and farm equipment



5 Through the consumption of ASF-infected meat

It is very important that people visiting Australia or returning to Australia from overseas do not bring any pork products in their luggage or carry-on. If they have brought any, it is essential that they declare it upon their arrival. It is also important to let officials at the airport know if they have been near any farms or pigs, because they may have unknowingly picked up ASF on their shoes or clothes. Even if they have not been near farms or pigs, they should not have any contact with Australian pigs until at least two weeks after their arrival/return to Australia.

ASF and other diseases can be spread to pigs through contaminated meat, meat products, or non-meat products that have been in contact with meat. Because of this, it is illegal to feed farm or feral pigs any of these foods (also known as swill) in Australia. If you have pigs at your school, or at home, make sure you're not swill feeding.



# African swine fever

## Information sheet



## Why is this important?

The Australian pig industry is a very important part of the Australian agricultural landscape.

### Some important facts and figures about Australia's pig industry:

It is worth \$5.2 billion



We have around 2.5 million farmed pigs and up to 24 million feral pigs in Australia at any given time.



Australia has around 3,700 pig producers



In Australia, 36,000 people have pig-related jobs, as farmers, processors, transporters, vets, nutritionists, etc.



Each year, the industry produces 397,000 tonnes of pork and pork products (roasts, chops, steaks, ribs, bellies, mince, ham, bacon, sausages).





## CLASS ACTIVITIES

### Setting the scene:

**Discussion question for class to frame the importance of pigs and pork in their life.**

*How often do you eat pork or pork products each week? Make a list of the products and the amounts and discuss what percentage of student diet has some type of pork. Students may need assistance in determining which foods contain pork.*

Watch the following video in class about the pig industry to understand more about pigs in Australia: <https://vimeo.com/343160916>

## ACTIVITY 1

Watch the following youtube videos to gain background information about ASF.

-  African swine fever kills pigs: <https://youtu.be/r0JjZ21JslI>
-  Emergency preparedness for African swine fever: [https://youtu.be/6DxGz\\_9m2G8](https://youtu.be/6DxGz_9m2G8)

➤ Create a mind map in pairs with all the things you have learned about ASF from these videos and share with the class.

➤ Using student devices, research the following questions:

1. Describe three ways that African swine fever can be spread
2. Describe what is swill feeding, and why is it dangerous?
3. Describe two things overseas travellers must declare when they arrive in Australia.
4. Complete the following sentences:
  - a) African swine fever is a [VIRUS] that is not [DANGEROUS] to humans, but is deadly to [PIGS].
  - b) Because of the [DEVASTATING] impact African swine fever could have on Australia's pig industry, it is important to ensure we have good [BIOSECURITY] practices in place.



## CLASS ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY 2

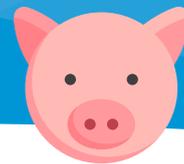
#### Why is the African swine fever threat so important to Australia?

Conduct a classroom discussion about what effect a disease like African swine fever would have on the Australian industry in relation to the following:

- Pigs (domestic and feral)
- Pork and pork products at supermarkets and butchers
- Jobs in the industry

Individually, students are to collate this information in the table form below:

How ASF would affect on Australia	Economic	Social	Political	Environmental
Pigs domestic and feral				
Pork and pork products at butchers and supermarkets				
Jobs in the industry				



## CLASS ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY 3

#### Assessment task – African swine fever video/website

Individually, or in small groups, create a short video (5 minutes) or website that could be used in an airport to warn travellers returning from overseas about the risks of African swine fever, and what role they can play in keeping it out of the country.

This task must include the following:

- An outline of the script or list of the pages to be included — ie a storyboard.
- For each topic, a detailed description of the information and the sources of this information (including a reference list).
- A description of the technology used to create — ie, if using a mobile phone, which app was used, or which web design tool was used and why.
- The actual product – video or website – negotiate with your teacher about how it will be submitted and what format.

Assessment of task will refer to the task outline, with most of the weighting being for the background information quality and the quality of the video or website.

A reference list must be included to all resources, including websites. Must include at least 4 resources.



## CLASS ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY 4

Individually, or in small groups, design a website or a poster using Microsoft SWAY that could be used to educate pig producers about the dangers of swill feeding on farms. Use this website to start your research: [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/163414/Swill-feeding.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/163414/Swill-feeding.pdf)

This task must include the following:

- What is swill feeding of pigs?
- What foods are classed as swill?
- Why is swill feeding so dangerous?
- What diseases could be contracted from eating swill?
- What can pig producers do to manage any swill products from contaminating their pigs?.

Must include the following:

- Any relevant photos must be included.
- A reference list must be included to all resources, including websites. Must include at least 4 other resources. Use Bib Me or Easy Bib to create.

### ACTIVITY 5

Play the following Kahoot about ASF with your class for revision and summarising all the learning about ASF:

 <https://create.kahoot.it/share/de918727-432b-4c09-b4c8-21b7d9d7e343>

**Australian Pork would like you to share what your students can come up within activities 3 and 4.**

**Please send to:** [rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au](mailto:rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au)





## CLASS ACTIVITIES

## EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Create a debate for and against the importation of pig and pork products in the light of ASF. Use the following report for information, so as to include the risks of legal importation and traveler risks of bringing in pork products. Present the debate in class.

- ▶ <http://australianpork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/African-Swine-Fever-Final-Report-140819.pdf>

### Relevant online resources about ASF

- ▶ Information about the ASF virus and/or web resources the students could look at: <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/asf/>
- ▶ <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/ead-bulletin/ead-bulletin-no-120>
- ▶ <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/asf#offshore-measures>
- ▶ Other resources/videos can be found here: <http://australianpork.com.au/industry-focus/biosecurity/african-swine-fever/>
- ▶ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-09-30/african-swine-fever-outbreak-in-timor-leste/11559812>
- ▶ <https://www.abc.net.au/landline/>