

African swine fever outbreak and surveillance update report



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

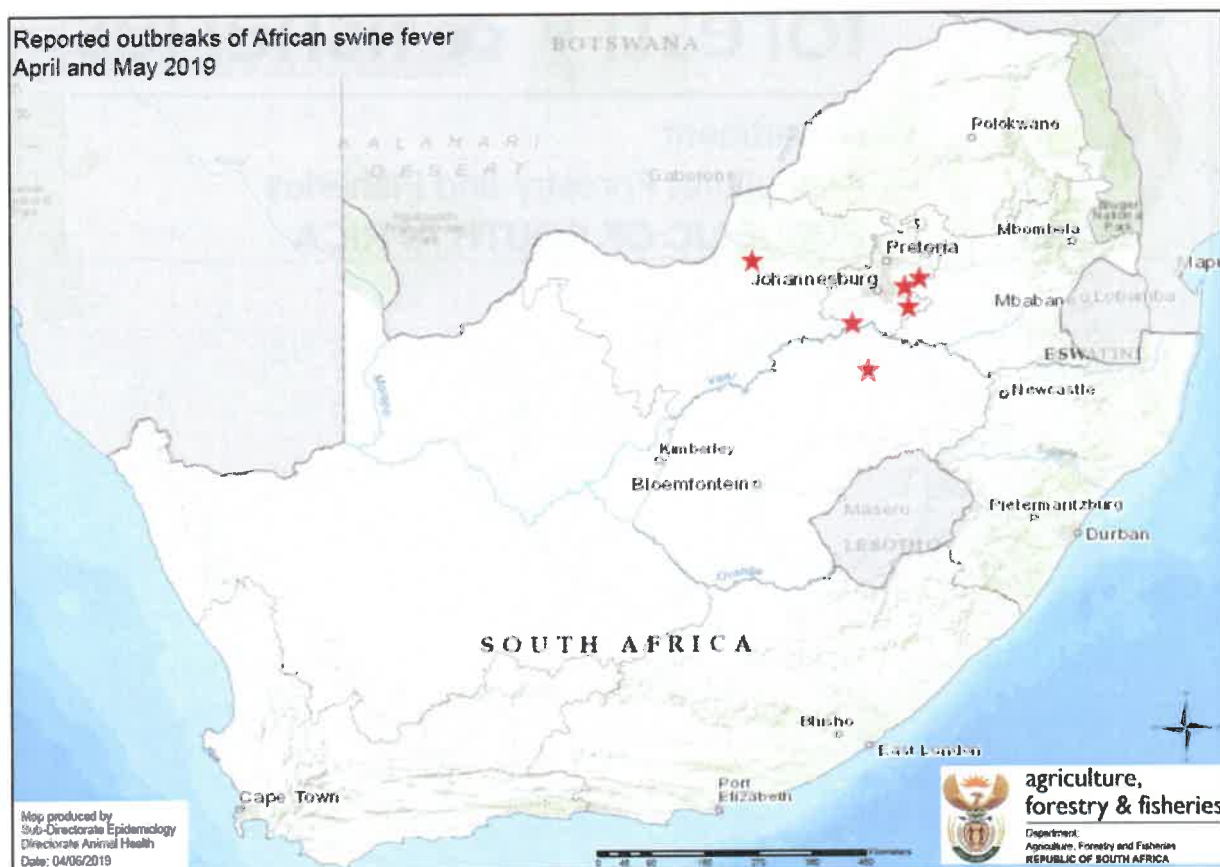
Report compiled by:
Directorate: Animal Health
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1. Introduction and summary

Since April 2019 there have been six reported outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) in South Africa, all situated outside the ASF controlled area.

The following areas have been affected:

Date notified to the OIE	Locality	Province
10 April 2019	Zeerust area	North West Province
18 April 2019	Delmas area	Mpumalanga Province
30 April 2019	Daveyton area	Gauteng Province
13 May 2019	Heilbron area	Free State Province
22 May 2019	Vanderbijlpark area	Gauteng Province
4 June 2019	Nigel area	Gauteng Province



2. Epidemiological investigation

North West

The outbreak in the North West occurred on a farm between Zeerust and Lichtenburg, situated about 10km outside of South Africa's ASF controlled area and occurred mainly in European Wild Boar pigs that were kept free-ranging and could interact with warthog in the area. The farmer also kept a few Landrace pigs, but had no biosecurity in place. Pigs started dying from 27 March 2019 and the State Veterinary office in the area was contacted. The state veterinarian visited the farm and suspected ASF on post-mortem and submitted organ samples to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Transboundary Animal Diseases laboratory (OVR-TAD). The samples tested positive on PCR.

Mpumalanga

A farmer in the Delmas area, who buys in weaners to grow pigs for slaughter, experienced 10 pig mortalities over the weekend of 13-14 April 2019. He had recently bought pigs from an auction. The farmer contacted a private veterinarian who suspected ASF on post-mortem and submitted organ samples to OVR-TAD, which tested positive on PCR. The state veterinarian then visited the farm on 18 April and submitted further samples. The state veterinarian also visited the auction and obtained records for backward and forward tracing of pigs from February 2019.

Gauteng, Daveyton

From the auction records it was found that four communal farmers from Daveyton had bought a total of ten pigs from the auction. When the state veterinarians went to investigate, pig mortalities were noted and samples sent to OVR-TAD, who confirmed infection by means of PCR.

Free State

A farmer in the Heilbron area reported increasing pig mortalities to a private veterinarian, who performed post mortems on 7 May 2019. ASF was suspected and organ samples sent to OVR-TAD, who confirmed ASF on PCR. The farmer had visited an auction in Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng on 24 and 27 April, as well as 4 May 2019, where he had not sold all his pigs and had brought them back to his farm.

Gauteng, Vanderbijlpark

A farmer in the Vanderbijlpark area had bought pigs at the auction from the infected farm in Heilbron and subsequently experienced pig mortalities. The state vet visited the farm on 13 May 2019 and on suspect post mortem, submitted organ samples to OVR-TAD, who confirmed ASF.

Gauteng, Nigel

A 7 person owner group of a communal herd of pigs reported mortalities and sickness in his pigs in Nigel, Ekurhuleni local municipality. The state vet conducted a post mortem and submitted to the ARC-OVR TAD, who confirmed ASF on PCR on 29 May 2019. More than twenty pigs had died and all owners claim they do not buy pigs at auctions, but do sell them there.

3. Control measures implemented

Province	Area	Control measures	Culling completed
North West	Zeerust	Farm was quarantined and the carcasses disposed of, as well as the property disinfected.	8 April 2019
Mpumalanga	Delmas	Farm was quarantined and the carcasses disposed of, as well as the property disinfected. With a 30km surveillance zone established. Auctions in the area were suspended.	24 April 2019
Gauteng	Daveyton	Area was quarantined and the carcasses disposed of. Auctions in the area were suspended and movement controls implemented	2 May 2019
Free State	Heilbron	Farm was quarantined and the carcasses disposed of, as well as the property disinfected. Auctions in the area were suspended.	15 May 2019
Gauteng	Vanderbijlpark	Area was quarantined and the carcasses disposed of. Auctions in the area were suspended and	24 May 2019

		movement controls implemented	
Gauteng	Nigel	Pigs were counted and quarantined and movement controls implemented.	31 May 2019

4. Surveillance

In the North West 15 surrounding pig farms were visited and 50 serum samples collected, which all produced negative results. Follow-up investigation and surveillance is occurring in the wildlife in the area.

In Mpumalanga all the auction records were traced in the Province and all pig farms in a 3km radius from the infected farm were sampled and all tested negative.

In Free State all movements from infected areas were traced and investigated, as well as any reported suspect occurrences. All further samples have tested negative for ASF.

In Gauteng all movements from infected areas were traced and any reported suspect occurrences have been investigated and sampled with negative results. Further forward and backward tracing, as well as sampling is continuing.

5. Trade implications

ASF is a disease listed by the OIE and thus has trade implications when an outbreak occurs outside of the controlled area. However, South Africa has a system of approving pig compartments that are free of specific diseases, including ASF. No outbreaks of ASF have ever occurred in South Africa's officially approved pig compartments which have specific biosecurity measures in place to prevent the entry of ASF. South Africa can thus provide the necessary guarantees to certify freedom from ASF, FMD, CSF and PRRS for pigs and pig products from these compartments. The list of approved pig compartments is available on our website on the linked titled "List of officially approved South African biosecure pig compartments" on: <https://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/importexport/export>.



// Director Animal Health

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