



Newsflash

OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

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Dear Abattoir Owners

An outbreak of African swine fever occurred in the Amathole District in Eastern Cape. Please see below the press release as issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural development.

We have also attached the Biosecurity Guidelines on abattoirs and on farms as issued by SAPPO for the attention of our Abattoir Owners. Adherence to biosecurity measures will prevent abattoirs from becoming a source of the infection to other farms. Meat Inspection Agencies are reminded about the symptoms of the disease as per the email and other guidelines to ensure early detection of this disease at the abattoir.

Please feel free to contact us should you be in need of any assistance

Kind Regards

Gerhard Neethling
General Manager
Red Meat Abattoir Association

MEDIA STATEMENT

9 May 2020

MINISTER DIDIZA ANNOUNCES THE OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms. Thoko Didiza, MP would like to announce the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) at Amathole District Municipality in Eastern Cape.

This announcement follows investigations and a post mortem performed by departmental veterinary services on 13 April 2020, in the Amathole District Municipality whereby five villages were visited under the Mquma Local Municipality in which 50 pigs have died.

The Minister notes that this is the first time that an outbreak of AFS has been recorded in this province. In the past 3 years, outbreaks of ASF outside of the ASF controlled area occurred in the Free State, North West, Northern Cape, Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces. It has not yet been determined whether this outbreak in the Eastern Cape is linked to the outbreaks in other provinces.

“This outbreak occurred in a communal setting, which makes movement control and biosecurity between the respective pig herds difficult. Control measures currently in place include that all infected pigs should be as far as possible from those that are not and must be housed alone to avoid contact with other pigs in the area to limit the spread of the disease,” said Minister Didiza.

The area where the outbreak occurred has been quarantined; no pigs are allowed to move into, through or out of the area. Follow-up investigations by provincial veterinary services are underway to determine the extent of the outbreak.

Quick facts about ASF:

- It kills almost all infected pigs
- Other common clinical signs are bleeding on the skin and difficulty breathing
- There is no vaccine for ASF
- There is no treatment for affected pigs
- Prevention is better than cure

The disease is transmitted to pigs by contact with infected wild or domestic pigs and infected soft ticks, contact with people, vehicles equipment or shoes, and eating contaminated food waste, feed, or garbage. Awareness campaigns have been initiated to inform pig keepers in the affected area on how the disease is spread and how they can protect their pigs from the virus.

Pig owners and keepers should follow these recommendations:

- Enclose your pigs to prevent contact with pigs of unknown health status, including wild pigs and warthogs.
- Only buy healthy pigs from a reliable source.
- Preferably, do not feed kitchen waste, but if you have no option, remove all meats and cook the kitchen waste thoroughly.
- Do not to allow visitors to have contact with your pigs.
- Before having contact with pigs, wash hands, only use clean clothes, shoes, equipment and vehicles (that have not been in contact with other pigs).

The Minister would like to assure all citizens that ASF does not affect humans and the consumption of pork is safe. However, any meat and products from affected pigs can be a source of infection to other pigs. Farmers should therefore ensure that if any swill (kitchen waste) is fed to pigs that it is pre-cooked for at least an hour. This will ensure the inactivation of the ASF virus, as well as other diseases of concern.

If pigs from unaffected commercial pig farms in the area are moved to the abattoir for slaughter, they must be accompanied by health attestations to declare that the herds of origin have not shown any signs indicative of ASF or had higher than normal pig deaths. Commercial piggeries are encouraged to comply with compartmentalization biosecurity standards to protect their piggeries from infection.

Farmers/pig keepers are requested to be vigilant and to report any sudden illness and deaths in their pigs to the local State Veterinary office immediately so that swift action can be initiated to prevent the spread of this disease.

For media enquiries contact Reggie Ngcobo Media Liaison Officer 082 883 2458

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

Biosecurity Guidelines for Abattoir premises

{Prepared for SAPPO}

Slaughtering order

Commercial piggeries, with veterinary certificates should be allowed to slaughter first in the week. Small scale farmers are only allowed to slaughter at the end of the week (Thursdays and Fridays).

It is highly recommended that the abattoir creates a list of trusted suppliers. These suppliers must have basic biosecurity and some form of veterinary support. The trusted suppliers must be given preference to slaughter at the abattoir.

It is highly recommended that the driver always remains inside the vehicle. The co-driver or helper can exit the vehicle under strict conditions: Change of footwear and donning a disposable overall at the entrance point. If this is not possible, the abattoir staff must assist with offloading the animals and washing of the vehicle.

Abattoir entry

1. Access control at gate, this is where documents need to be checked before allowing entry onto premises. If documents are in order, the vehicle may sign in and proceed.
2. Only farms on the supplier list and in the right slaughtering order may gain access to the premises.
3. Wheels base disinfected (all vehicles)
4. At this point the co-driver must exit the truck and change into provided PPE. This should at a minimum be cleaned and disinfected boots and disposable overalls.

Offloading of animals

1. This should be done by the co-driver.
2. The abattoir staff are allowed onto the pig truck- they are responsible for movement from the loading ramp to the lairages. This is to minimise contamination between trucks
3. In the event of no co-driver, the abattoir staff may offload the pigs
4. The offloading area must be wash with a degreaser and disinfected at least once daily.

Washing of the truck

1. Trucks must follow a one-way flow through the premises as far as possible.
2. First a rinse with water must be done
3. Washing must be done with a degreaser and a foaming lance. BiTEK Shift is suggested, but any registered degreaser can be used.
4. After washing, disinfect with BiTEK GPC8 at 1:200 or any other twin chain QAC/glutaraldehyde combination with good virucidal properties.

Exit

1. Co-driver must change back into personal clothing
2. Wheelbase of vehicle sprayed on the way out.

CHARLES STREET VETERINARY CONSULTANCY cc

Animal Production Consultants

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Basic piggery and abattoir hygiene plan

{For SAPPO members}

Aim to use registered products with known efficacy against ASF.

Any cleaning procedure should include the following steps (pens, trucks, equipment, loading ramps, lairages etc)

1. Remove all visible dirt by scraping
2. Wet the area
3. Wash the area with a Soap / Degreaser
4. Let the area dry, if time allows
5. Apply disinfectant at the correct application rate
6. Let the area dry
7. If is advisable to have some "down time" - a period where no pigs enter the area/truck, where possible. A down time of 72 hours or more is advisable.

Foot dips

Have foot dips at the piggery entrance, as well as the entrance to every house.

Make use of a two step dip system

Step 1: dip your boot in a foot dip that just contains clean water, this will wash off any dust and mud making it easier for the disinfectant to work. Replace the water as soon as it becomes dirty.

Step 2: dip your boot in a foot dip containing an appropriate disinfectant. Replace the foot dip as soon as it becomes soiled.

Soap/ Degreaser:

Use BiTek Shift, at a 0.2% concentration (2ml in every litre of water), aim to use 1 litre of the dilution for every square meter to be washed.

Disinfectant:

BiTek GPC8: This disinfectant is effective against ASF at a 1:50 dilution rate (20ml per litre), aim to use 1 litre of the dilution on every 3 square meters to be treated. This disinfectant is safe for all surfaces, is noncorrosive and doesn't stain.

BiTek FAM 30: This disinfectant is effective against ASF at a 1:200 dilution rate (5ml per litre), aim to use 1 litre of dilution on every 3 square meters to be treated. This disinfectant is also good to use in foot dips at piggery entrances, at a 1:50 dilution rate (20ml per litre). The iodine base can stain surfaces.

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