

# FEEAD Outreach Brief

A newsletter about foreign, emerging and endemic animal diseases

## African Swine Fever

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### What is African Swine Fever (ASF)?

ASF is a highly contagious viral disease of swine.

### Is the disease a foreign or emerging/endemic disease?

ASF is a foreign animal disease.

### What animals are affected?

Domestic and feral swine.

### Can people be infected?

No.

### Is there a vaccine?

No.

### How is it transmitted?

Blood-sucking insects spread the disease to susceptible herds. Ticks can carry the virus for life and maintain it in their colonies for years. The virus can be shed in bloody feces or nasal discharges, which can contaminate the environment.

The easiest way to infect a susceptible herd is to feed them raw or undercooked garbage containing pork products infected with the AFS virus. Swine that consume the garbage become infected or remain asymptomatic but remain carriers of the virus.

### What is the incubation period of the disease?

Infected swine may show signs after an incubation period of 5 to 19 days (if they have direct contact with infected animals) or less than 5 days (if infected by a tick bite).

### What are the symptoms?

Symptoms include:

- High fever
- Anorexia
- Lethargy
- Bluish skin blotching on ears, tail, lower legs, and hams
- Hemorrhages in the skin and organs
- Hyperemia
- Vomiting
- Lesions on snout, legs and toes
- Death

### Is this disease preventable?

Yes. Producers should have biosecurity practices such as:

- Cooking garbage to at least 158 degrees Fahrenheit
- Not importing pork products from ASF endemic countries
- Controlling blood-sucking arthropods
- Disinfecting facilities regularly
- Keeping feral hogs off the property

### Is this a reportable disease?

Yes. If a veterinarian diagnoses a case of AFS, it must be reported immediately to state or federal animal health regulatory officials so they can control/eradicate the outbreak by implementing quarantines.

### Who should be contacted if ASF is suspected?

Immediately contact a private veterinarian or the state or federal animal health regulatory agency.

#### Additional information:

The Center for Food Safety and Public Health:

[http://urano.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/african\\_swine\\_fever.pdf](http://urano.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/african_swine_fever.pdf)

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#### Additional information:

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If you have comments concerning the "FEEAD Outreach Brief," please contact:  
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\*Source of material: "Quick Facts about Foreign and Emerging Animal Diseases" Bulletin, 2008. Texas AgriLife Extension Service