

WHAT is ASF?

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a **high-consequence viral disease** capable of causing massive production and financial losses to the US swine industry. It is a foreign animal disease and is not currently present in the United States.

WHY should swine producers worry about ASF?

Even though ASF is not found in the US, the chance of its introduction to the US is possible through live animal trade or international travel. Currently, **ASF was detected in the Dominican Republic**, and if ASF enters Puerto Rico or the US Virgin Islands, the pork trade of the entire nation will be affected.

HOW is ASF transmitted?

A healthy pig can get infected by coming in **direct contact** with an infected pig or infected wild boar or with a person who has been in direct contact with an infected pig. Visitors traveling from countries where ASF is present could pose a risk by bringing in infected pork products.



WHAT can I do to protect my pig herd from ASF?

There is **no vaccine or treatment available against ASF**. The only way to prevent ASF is by preventing its introduction into your farm. This can be achieved by implementing **farm-level biosecurity**:

- Require everyone entering the farm to shower and/or change into farm-specific boots and coveralls.
- Do not permit visitors with a history of international travel within the past 90 days, especially to countries where ASF is present.
- Avoid importing live pig feed from regions or countries where ASF is present.
- Do not feed swill/ kitchen waste to pigs.
- Prevent contact with wild boars by fencing the farm and providing indoor housing.
- Implement vector-control measures for pests like rodents, flies, ticks, and lice.
- Clean and disinfect equipment and transport vehicles after use.
- Buy pigs with known disease status and quarantine incoming stock.

For more swine biosecurity information and a biosecurity checklist visit: <https://vetmed.illinois.edu/swine-biosecurity>



WHEN should I suspect ASF?

Know the **signs** and **symptoms** of the disease and contact your veterinarian immediately if you find any of these signs:

- High fever (body temperature of 40.5°C or 105°F)
- Sudden death
- Decreased appetite
- Breathing difficulty and coughing
- Diarrhea and vomiting
- A pregnant sow may abort
- Red blotchy skin with wounds on ears, abdomen, and legs
- Pig appears weak

For more symptom information visit: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Animals/Animal-Diseases/African-Swine-Fever>

Infected pigs die within 6-13 days after the onset of symptoms; however, sometimes pigs die suddenly without showing any symptoms of the disease.



WHO should I report to if I suspect ASF?

If you see similar symptoms in your herd and suspect ASF, immediately contact your veterinarian or report it to the **State Animal Health Department (217)-782-4944**.