



A CPC UPDATE ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER ACTIVITIES

May 15, 2020

PREVENT, PREPARE, RESPOND, RECOVER

ASF ADVOCACY

Background

- CPC staff and board members are participating in a series of steering committees and working groups to address various aspects of the African swine fever (ASF) file.
- The Government of Canada is very active on the file and supportive of CPC's efforts.

What's new?

- ASF preparedness and response remains a priority for the CPC staff. Work on the different groups and committees with government and industry partners continues at a good pace.
- CFIA has communicated to the CPC that responding to foreign animal disease, such as ASF, remains a critical service in the context of COVID-19. If there is a disease incursion, CFIA would respond.
- The work to support CPC budget request for ASF has slowed as addressing producer needs due to COVID-19 has taken priority in discussions with the government.

ZONING AND COMPARTMENTALIZATION PREPARATION AND RECOGNITION

Background

- Canada has bilateral zoning agreements with the United States and the European Union.
- Similar agreements are required with other trading partners of which Japan is the most important.
- CPC staff is collaborating on the different initiatives to support Canada's ability to zone.

What's new?

- The CPC work on Biosecurity to support zoning continues. The focus is updating the National Biosecurity Standard and developing a voluntary benchmarking tool for producers.
- The CPC is also collaborating with CFIA and industry partners on the development of the National Standards for ASF free swine compartments in Canada.
- The Canadian government has started preliminary zoning discussions with Taiwan and Singapore.

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ASF COMMUNICATIONS

Background

- CPC is actively collaborating with other stakeholders, including staff at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- CPC is releasing an ongoing series of communications products via its members and CPC social media platform.

What's new?

- In light of the COVID-19 response, the CPC and provincial offices have identified gaps in the national communications plan and have identified measures to bridge these gaps.
- The CFIA has indicated their intention to change the format of the communications working group in the coming weeks.
- With the increased online talk of selling and buying farm animals, the CFIA is using social media to remind the public that good biosecurity is crucial and to never feed pigs food waste.
- The CPC and provincial offices are updating their website with the newest information available to small scale producers.

ASF STRATEGY

Background

- CFIA has released its revised framework for action to prevent and mitigate the impacts of ASF in the Americas ([ASF framework for action](#)).
- CFIA's forward agenda is available at ([CFIA ASF forward agenda](#))
- The CPC is a member of the ASF Executive Management Board (EMB) which includes CFIA, AAFC, Canada Border Services Agency, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec provincial governments, CMC and other stakeholders working together on the Pan-Canadian ASF Action Plan.
- The ASF EMB is meeting every two weeks.

What's new?

- All groups reporting to the ASF Executive Management Board working on the different areas of the ASF Pan-Canadian Action Plan are identifying gaps and reflecting on learnings from the COVID-19 situation.
- Workshops with pillar teams are taking place to focus on developing outcome statements and identifying activities consistently across all four pillars of the Pan-Canadian ASF Action Plan.

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WILD PIGS

Background

- Environment and Climate Change Canada has provided 3-year funding to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) to work on wild pigs.
- The CWHC has established an Operational Working Group and an Invasive Pig Strategic Working Group.
- Gabriela Guigou is representing the CPC in the Strategic WG that is meeting monthly.

What's new?

- The Strategic working group will initially focus on policies and processes to encourage a consistent and coordinated Pan-Canadian approach.
- Gabriela Guigou is working with a few members of this working group on identifying a population monitoring strategy.

DIAGNOSTICS AND SURVEILLANCE

Background

- All Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN) labs can test for ASF.
- Passive ASF surveillance is already underway in Canada.
- Gabriela Guigou is representing the CPC at the Surveillance working group alongside federal and provincial governments, industry, academia, and laboratory representatives.
- The Surveillance working group has come up with recommendations to better equip Canada to detect ASF earlier.
- A technical committee is working to implement surveillance recommendations.

What's new?

- The Surveillance technical committee started a project with the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network to roll out the testing component of the surveillance plan.
- Dr. Egan Brockhoff is working on the project.
- The technical committee is also working on communicating the surveillance plan to different audiences. Gabriela Guigou and Céline Bourbonnais are collaborating with CFIA in the development of these documents.

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FEED INGREDIENT IMPORTS

Background

- Imported feed ingredients including unprocessed grains and oilseeds, as well as associated meals (including corn, soybean, wheat, barley, rice, canola meal, soybean meal, flax seed meal, sunflower seed meal, and corn gluten meal) carry the risk of being contaminated with ASF.
- The Canadian government-imposed changes to import requirements for unprocessed grains and oilseeds, as well as associated meals destined for use in livestock feed, because of their risk of being contaminated with ASF.
- The list of countries affected by ASF is being updated as new countries report it to the OIE.

What's new?

- The CFIA is updating their plant-based feed import requirements to include India.
- All feed imported from India on or after July 1st needs to abide by the requirements for feed import.
- The establishment of a risk assessment tool for feed mills that includes the risk of viral pathogens is advancing.

BORDER MEASURES

Background

- The CPC is working with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the CFIA to increase preventive measures at the border, to increase traveller awareness and increase surveillance of flights coming from high-risk countries.
- Detector dog teams are focusing on flights/cargo coming from ASF affected countries.

What's new?

- Ports of entry were made aware of the outbreak in India.
- With the boarder closure due to COVID-19 the outreach to travellers has been put on hold.