



Canadian Pork Council
Conseil canadien du porc

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER FORUM REPORT

May 6, 2019

The African swine fever (ASF) forum organized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, was held in Ottawa on April 30 and May 1, 2019. During the 2-day event, 150 leaders and decision makers from government and industry from 15 countries shared their expertise and collaborated to develop a framework to support action to address the threat of ASF. Participants worked on 4 topics: preparedness planning, enhanced biosecurity, business continuity, and coordinated risk communications.

This framework lays the foundation for:

- Achieving a high state of readiness to swiftly control ASF should it enter the Americas
- Strengthening biosecurity measures to prevent the entry of ASF and mitigate its spread into the domestic and wild pig populations
- Establishing agreements in the swine sector to mitigate the trade impacts of ASF
- Effective communications to best inform Canadians and international partners about the risk of ASF

The Forum participants identified some key takeaways:

- Countries in the Americas are free from ASF, there is a window of opportunity to act decisively in a coordinated manner.
- The spread of the disease is human-driven, so increasing awareness beyond swine industry stakeholders is needed.
- The epidemiology of the disease is complex and unique, the persistence of the virus in pork meat products and survival in carcasses of wild pigs in the environment requires rigorous approaches to preparedness and biosecurity.
- Need to gain a better understanding of the wild pig populations in our countries and the Americas as a whole.
- Zoning and compartmentalization are key tools to minimize trade disruptions and require a strong partnership between industry and veterinary services to implement, ideally in peacetime.
- Traceability and biosecurity measures (both already part of the Canadian Pork Excellence program) are key to zoning and compartmentalization.
- Trust between trade partners is imperative to establishing zoning agreements.
- The real game changer for control and eradication would be a vaccine. We need more investments to support research to get an ASF vaccine to market.
- Use existing partnerships and governance to advance work on ASF nationally, regionally and globally.

Next Steps:

- Feedback from participants will be review and incorporated to the Areas of Action identified in the Framework for Prevention and Control of ASF.
- An official report on the Forum discussion and recommendations will be published by CFIA by the end of May 2019.
- Several proposals and ideas for zoning and compartmentalization introduced during the ASF Forum will be discussed during the next Pork Value Chain Roundtable, May 8-9, 2019 in Ottawa.
- Conversations continued at the Executive Board meeting of the World Organization of Animal Health's (OIE) Regional Commission of the Americas meeting, held in Ottawa on May 2, 2019.
- Additionally, the developed framework will add to the discussions about the advancement of a global strategy on ASF happening the 26 to 31 of May, 2019 in Paris, at the 87th OIE General Session and with the Chief Veterinary Officers of the G7 meeting on May 24, 2019 in Paris.

