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## African Swine Fever Identified in China

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, African Swine Fever (ASF) was identified for the first time in China on a farm near Shenyang located in northeast China. Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning province, is positioned 130 miles from the North Korean border, 652 miles from the Russian border, and 800 miles across the sea from Japan.

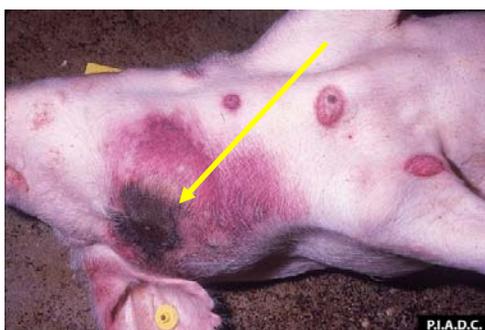


Of the 383 pigs on-site, 47 died due to ASF infection; the remaining animals were culled. In an effort to limit further spread, an additional 1000 pigs on farms in the surrounding area were also culled. By August 6, the World Health Organization reported that the number of pigs culled had expanded to 8116 that were within a 2-mile radius of the infected farm. An additional 1.9 million pigs located in Liaoning province had been checked following the outbreak and signs of disease spread were not identified at that time. Transportation of pigs into and out of the infected area has been banned.

The second reported case of ASF in China was announced on August 16 from a packing plant in Zhengzhou located in Henan province, China's second largest pork producing province. The packing plant is owned by Shuanghui (a subsidiary of the WH Group that also owns Smithfield Foods).

The ASF positive pigs were traced back to a farm in Jiamusi city located in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang, 560 miles north of where the first case of ASF was identified and approximately 90 miles south of the Russian border. Chinese officials moved quickly to implement a no pig movement zone within a 6-mile radius of the packing plant. Additionally, all pigs located within 2 miles of the plant were culled.

ASF is a highly contagious hemorrhagic disease that affects all ages of pigs and is characterized by high fever, loss of appetite, hemorrhages in the skin and internal organs, and death in 2-10 days following infection. Mortality can be as high as 100%. Transmission occurs via direct contact with infected pigs. Additionally, ticks can serve as reservoirs and vectors. There is currently no treatment or vaccine for ASF. (Source: <http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/>)



Multiple well-defined areas of hemorrhage. Lesions may contain dark, red necrotic centers.



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ASF was first reported in eastern Africa in 1921 and has become increasingly widespread in sub-Saharan Africa due to subclinical infection in warthogs and bushpigs. The first spread outside of Africa occurred in Portugal in 1957 as a result of contaminated waste from airline flights fed to pigs. From there outbreaks were reported in Italy, France, Belgium and the Netherlands; however, ASF has since been eradicated from these countries.



Numerous small areas of red to purple discoloration on kidneys



Well defined areas of hyperemia (reddening of the skin)



Most recently, ASF spread out of Africa was detected again in 2007 in the eastern European country of Georgia, brought in with contaminated food waste from a ship. Genetic sequencing revealed a close match to isolates in circulation in Mozambique, Madagascar, and Zambia. Since then it has spread rampant across eastern Europe through both domestic and feral pig populations and has been identified as far west as Poland. Losses due to spread across eastern Europe have been devastating and would be ratcheted up if ASF makes its way into Germany.

At this time, it is unknown how ASF was introduced into China; however, the outbreak may have begun as early as April 2018. The Chinese press reported that the owner of the ASF index farm (Zhang) purchased 45 pigs from Wang's farm (also located in Shenyang) on July 5. Wang noted that the last pig introduction into his farm occurred on March 24 when he purchased 100 piglets from a farm in Jilin city, approximately 250 miles northeast of Shenyang. In April, the pigs became sick and death loss increased. Rather than report the abnormal mortality, Wang sold the remaining pigs to Zhang and other farms near Shenyang.

While Liaoning province only accounted for approximately 4% of Chinese domestic pork production in 2017, expansion efforts in northeast China are ramping up. At least 8 Chinese production companies, including Wen's Foodstuff Group (China's largest producer) have announced plans to produce an additional 17 million pigs annually in the northeast in the near future. The output increase in the northeastern provinces would surge their percentage of domestic production to close to 17%. This would nearly equal the 129 million pigs produced annually by Henan and Sichuan provinces, China's top producing provinces, which account for nearly 20% of China's domestic production. If ASF continues to spread across China, it will undoubtedly have a significant impact on both Chinese domestic production and the global swine industry.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Don't use any products from these areas - examples would be vitamins, antibiotics, etc.
2. Quarantine/wash/disinfect other products that come from China before allowing them into the farm.

## **Welcome to Swine Vet Center Dr. Ryan Strobel**

Swine Vet Center is pleased to announce that Dr. Ryan Strobel has joined our team. Ryan grew up on a farrow to finish and row crop farm near Pemberton, Minnesota. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Minnesota in 2013. He then continued at the University of Minnesota and graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2017. Prior to joining SVC, Ryan worked at Suidae Health and Production based in Algona, Iowa. Ryan currently resides near Algona, Iowa, with his wife, Sarah and their two-month-old son, Levi. Outside of work, Ryan enjoys hunting, fishing and is a die-hard fan of Vikings football despite the hardships over the years.



SVC Office Hours: Monday through Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

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