

# ASF Response

## Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency & 72-Hour National Movement Standstill

July 10, 2023

**Please note: These procedures may be revised as the situation develops or more information becomes available.**

### PURPOSE

This document provides policy for a USDA Extraordinary Emergency Declaration and 72-hour National Movement Standstill in the event of an African swine fever (ASF) outbreak on the mainland United States (not including Alaska, Hawaii, or U.S. Territories).

### AUDIENCE

This policy is for Officials, tribal officials, producers, owners, growers, private sector companies State, industry association organizations, and federal officials to plan for and implement a National Movement Standstill in the event of an ASF detection on the mainland United States.

This document is divided into three sections: summary policy, draft USDA Extraordinary Emergency Declaration, and draft 72-hour National Movement Standstill Federal Order.

### SECTION 1: SUMMARY POLICY

- ◆ The USDA will execute a declaration of extraordinary emergency to implement a 72-hour National Movement Standstill. USDA will communicate the requirements of the Standstill with State Animal Health Officials (SAHO) prior to an ASF outbreak and at the start of an ASF outbreak.
- ◆ The initiating event for a 72-hour National Movement Standstill will be a National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed detection of ASF virus in domestic pigs (not feral swine) located on the mainland contiguous United States. The USDA will communicate the starting time and stopping time for the 72-hour National Movement Standstill.
- ◆ The 72-hour National Movement Standstill applies to the intrastate and interstate movement of:
  - Domestic pigs,
  - Dead domestic pigs (dead stock pigs located on farms or premises, etc.),
  - Feral swine (human movements and transportation of feral swine).
- ◆ The 72-hour National Movement Standstill does **not** apply to:
  - Pork meat or pork products,
  - Swine germplasm (swine semen or swine embryos),
  - Feed or food for pigs, or feed or food for other livestock and poultry,
  - Livestock species other than pigs, such as cattle, sheep, goats, or poultry.

- ◆ All live swine that are in intrastate and interstate commerce at the start of the movement standstill must reach a destination and not be stopped on the road. Livestock in transit refers to pigs loaded in vehicles that have departed the point of loading, or pigs located in a livestock market.
- ◆ Swine arriving at slaughter establishments may be slaughtered provided they pass USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) antemortem inspection or equivalent State inspection.
- ◆ Swine in transport to Canada will not be permitted to cross the border and should return to point of origin.
- ◆ In the event of an NVSL-confirmed detection of ASF virus not involving domestic pigs but in feral swine only, USDA will not automatically execute a 72-hour National Movement Standstill. Instead, USDA and affected State(s) will establish initial Control Area(s) and Surveillance Zone(s) appropriate for the conditions of the detection. However, if there is an epidemiological circumstance that associates domestic pigs with the feral swine detection, USDA will implement a National Movement Standstill. An example of such a circumstance will be a detection in feral swine located or situated in a domestic pig epidemiological risk situation (such as feral swine commingled on a domestic pig premises or feral swine commingled at a buying station).

## SECTION 2: DRAFT USDA DECLARATION OF EXTRAORDINARY EMERGENCY

### ***Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency Because of an African Swine Fever Detection in the Mainland United States.***

A viral hemorrhagic disease of domestic pigs has been detected in the United States. The detection of African swine fever (ASF) occurred in [a domestic swine herd or feral swine directly associated with domestic pigs] in [State]. The herd is under quarantine.

While ASF is a disease of swine and is not a threat to public health, it is a critical threat to the United States due to its continued global spread and the millions of susceptible swine in the U.S. Mainland. It constitutes a real danger to the national economy and a serious burden on interstate commerce and international trade. The lack of a vaccine makes prevention of disease spread of utmost importance, and a rapid and through emergency response is crucial. Because of the consequences of allowing ASF to spread to other swine in the United States, it is necessary to identify, seize, and dispose of herds that are affected with the disease. Thus, the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that an extraordinary emergency exists because ASF is present in the mainland United States and is issuing a Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency. In concert with this Declaration, and to aid in the identification of affected herds, the Department is issuing a 72-hour National Movement Standstill Federal Order to prohibit interstate and intrastate movement of live swine.

The Department has reviewed the measures being taken in the contiguous United States to restrict movement of live swine for the 72-hour period beginning [effective date/time] and has consulted with the [listed] State Governments and Indian tribal officials. Based on that review and consultation, and the scope of the impact of this event on the national economy, the Department has determined that these States may be unable to adequately take the measures

necessary to restrict movement of live swine that may be infected with or exposed to ASF. Therefore, the Department has determined that it will take action to control ASF in the United States.

This Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency authorizes the Secretary to prohibit or restrict the movement within the contiguous United States or any portion of listed States, of any live swine in transit through [ending date/time]. Additional applicable definitions, details and exclusions are listed in the National Movement Standstill for Live Swine Federal Order, published [date inter/intra state movement Federal Order & info]. The appropriate State Government and Indian tribal officials in Washington and in the individual States have been informed of these facts and associated requirements.

This declaration of extraordinary emergency shall become effective [date/time].

---

USDA Secretary of Agriculture

### SECTION 3: DRAFT 72-HOUR NATIONAL MOVEMENT STANDSTILL FEDERAL ORDER

#### ***Temporary Order of National Movement Standstill of Live Swine Due to an African swine fever Detection in [State(s)].***

***This Federal Order is effective on [date/time].***

#### BACKGROUND

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized by the Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.), to issue regulations and orders and to carry out operations and measures to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate diseases and pests of livestock. The Secretary has delegated these authorities and responsibilities to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This Federal Order is issued in accordance with 7 U.S.C. §§ 8305, 8306, 8308, 8310, 8313 and 8315.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that an extraordinary emergency exists because African swine fever (ASF) is present in the mainland United States and that presence threatens the health of swine in the United States. In conjunction with the Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency, APHIS is issuing this Federal Order to provide guidance on how to manage livestock in transit at the time a 72-hour National Movement Standstill is announced for ASF and to ensure that livestock are managed under a consistent framework. ASF is a contagious and often fatal viral disease of swine, never encountered in the United States until its detection on [xxx xx, xxxx]. While the ASF virus is not a threat to human health, it is very much a threat to the seventy-seven million hogs in the U.S. swine economy. The United States is the world's third-largest producer and consumer of pork and pork products. In recent years, the United States has been either the world's largest or second largest exporter of pork and pork products, with exports averaging over 20 percent of commercial pork production in most years.

Since 2007, ASF has increasingly been reported outside of its historical presence in Africa. In the past 5 years, it has affected domestic pigs or wild boar in at least 17 Asian countries, 15 European countries, and the Dominican Republic and Haiti. APHIS and its domestic and North American partners have been preparing to respond to a potential transmission of the ASF virus to the United States. Accordingly, APHIS is issuing this Federal Order to address the ASF outbreak that the United States is currently experiencing.

Specifically, the 72-hour National Movement Standstill will allow for responders to begin the following activities:

- Communicate outbreak and immediate actions needed;
- Establish initial Control Areas;
- Communicate location of initial Control Areas;
- Communicate where movement controls and permits are required when the standstill ends;
- Conduct initial high priority contact tracing from infected premises;
- Increase biosecurity and passive surveillance nationally;
- Increase active surveillance nationally with available capabilities; and
- Halt international trade of impacted products, as necessary.

Therefore, APHIS, in consultation with the States and their swine industries, is taking immediate action to find out important information about the extent to which this virus exists in this country, while reducing the opportunity for its further distribution. As U.S. hog operations are heavily concentrated in the Midwest and in eastern North Carolina, we recognize the actions required under this Federal Order may affect some States more than others. Acquiring sufficient information to describe the current disease situation and to outline specific State and Federal government actions taken to control the disease will increase confidence among the public and reduce concerns from our trading partners.

## MOVEMENT STANDSTILL REQUIREMENTS

This Federal Order requires the following:

- ◆ **For a period of 72 hours, effective [XXX xx, XXXX, XX:00 a./p.m. Eastern Standard/Daylight] Time, the intrastate and interstate transportation of the following, from any location in the contiguous United States, is prohibited:**
  - Live swine of any kind (including pets such as miniature pigs or potbellied pigs);
  - Dead domestic pigs (dead stock pigs located on farms or premises etc.);
  - Feral swine (human movements and transportation of feral swine).
- ◆ All live swine that are in intrastate and interstate commerce at the start of the movement standstill must reach a destination and not be stopped on the road. Livestock in transit refers to livestock 1) loaded in vehicles that have departed the point of loading or 2) held in a livestock market.
- ◆ Swine arriving to slaughter establishments may be slaughtered provided they pass Food Safety and Inspection Service antemortem inspection.

**ASF Response**  
*Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency &  
72-Hour National Movement Standstill*

---

- ◆ Live swine in transport to Canada will not be permitted to cross the border and should return to point of origin or find an acceptable alternate destination within 12 hours.
- ◆ Producers and transporters who disregard this order may be subject to civil penalties and may have additional requirements (hold order, quarantine, permitting or other restrictions for movement of pigs) placed on their premises by State or Federal animal health officials.
- ◆ The 72-hour National Movement Standstill does **not** apply to:
  - Pork meat or pork products;
  - Swine germplasm (swine semen or swine embryos);
  - Feed or food for pigs, or feed or food for other livestock and poultry;
  - Livestock species other than pigs, such as cattle, sheep, goats, or poultry.

#### STATE ACTION

During the 72-hour period, APHIS VS will collaborate with States and the private sector on identification of Control Areas, which will subsequently require permits for any movements; and on plans for resumption of movement in the Free Area.

During the 72-hour period, APHIS VS will collaborate with States to identify critical low risk movements necessary to respond to animal welfare concerns.

Prior to the end of the 72-hour period, at approximately 48 hours, APHIS VS will confirm the anticipated end of the standstill order, or announce any intention to extend it, through notification with State animal health officials and on the APHIS website at [www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep).

For more information regarding this Federal Order, you may contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ or via email at \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_.

Rosemary Sifford  
Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service