

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2021-0002
September 17, 2021

Subject: APHIS Suspends the Interstate Movement of Live Swine, Swine Germplasm, Swine Products, and Swine Byproducts from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing this Federal Order to prevent the possible introduction of African swine fever virus (ASF) into and spread of ASF within the continental United States.

Effective immediately, APHIS is suspending the interstate movement of all live swine, swine germplasm, swine products, and swine byproducts from Puerto Rico (PR) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) until APHIS can establish sufficient mitigations to authorize such movement. APHIS is taking this action because of the proximity of PR and the USVI to the Dominican Republic (DR), which is currently reporting a significant outbreak of ASF. In addition to proximity, considered factors include the frequency of passenger travel, international mail shipments between the DR and PR and the USVI, and the frequency of small scale commercial agricultural trade between the DR and PR and the USVI, all of which increase the risk of spread of ASF to PR and the USVI.

For more information regarding this Federal Order you may contact Dr. Dawn Hunter at Dawn.K.Hunter@usda.gov.



Rosemary Sifford
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Federal Order Suspending the Interstate Movement of Live Swine, Swine Germplasm, Swine Products, and Swine Byproducts from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

DA-2021-0002
September 17, 2021

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is issuing this Federal Order to prevent the possible introduction of African swine fever (ASF) into and spread of ASF within the continental United States. ASF is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic swine that can spread rapidly in swine populations and can have extremely high rates of morbidity and mortality.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Animal Health Protection Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. § 8301 *et seq.* Section 8305 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any animal, article, or means of conveyance if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction of any pest or disease of livestock into the United States or the dissemination of any pest or disease of livestock within the United States.

The Dominican Republic is currently reporting a significant outbreak of ASF. While ASF is not known to occur in Puerto Rico (PR) or the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), because of the proximity of PR and the USVI to the Dominican Republic, the frequency of passenger travel and international mail shipments between the Dominican Republic and PR and the USVI, and the frequency of small-scale commercial agricultural trade between the Dominican Republic and PR and the USVI, APHIS has identified several pathways for the possible introduction of ASF from the Dominican Republic to PR or the USVI. Moreover, there are known commercial and feral pig populations in both territories, and there are currently no restrictions on the interstate movement of live swine, swine germplasm, swine products and swine byproducts from PR or the USVI into the continental United States.

Accordingly, effective immediately, APHIS is suspending the interstate movement of live swine, swine germplasm, swine products, and swine byproducts from PR and USVI in cargo and passenger baggage.

For more information regarding this Federal Order you may contact Dr. Dawn Hunter (Dawn.K.Hunter@usda.gov).