



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Report of the Review of France's Animal Health Statuses

Classical swine fever, foot and mouth disease,
and swine vesicular disease

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Executive Summary

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognizes the animal health status of foreign regions under the authority of 9 Code of Federal Regulations Part 92. Starting in 2017, APHIS began periodically reviewing animal health statuses it conferred to foreign regions, to confirm that previously conferred statuses are maintained.

In 2019, APHIS reviewed the classical swine fever (CSF) status of the APHIS-defined European CSF region, EU zoning decisions for African swine fever (ASF), and the foot and mouth disease (FMD) and swine vesicular disease (SVD) statuses of 13 European Union (EU) Member States, including France. APHIS collaborated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on the review.

APHIS currently recognizes France as part of the APHIS-defined European CSF region, which APHIS has determined to be low risk for CSF. APHIS also recognizes France as free of FMD and free of SVD.

APHIS found no evidence that France has CSF, FMD, or SVD in its domestic swine or wild boar. APHIS concludes that France's veterinary infrastructure is capable of and its swine disease surveillance systems are sufficient to detect CSF, FMD, or SVD, should they occur. While there are pathways by which CSF, FMD, or SVD could enter France, mitigations exist to reduce the likelihood of incursions of these hazards.

While APHIS considers ASF to exist in parts of the EU, at the time of this report, it does not consider ASF to be present in France. APHIS recognizes EU zoning decisions for ASF rather than the ASF status of individual Member States, including France. APHIS concurrently reviewed the status of the EU ASF zoning and reported its findings in a separate overarching review of the European Commission (EC) emergency response framework for zoning decisions for ASF. ASF is discussed in this report in reference to swine health disease programs, the control and prevention of foreign animal diseases in France, and the EU regionalization (zoning) decisions for the control of ASF. France has not detected ASF in domestic swine or wild boar.

This review confirms that France remains low risk for CSF and free of FMD and SVD. APHIS concludes that its CSF, FMD, and SVD statuses for France can be maintained.

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Background

One of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) primary missions is to prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases into the United States. APHIS has regulatory authority in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 92 (9 CFR 92) [1], to assess import risk and conduct animal health status evaluations of foreign regions for several foreign animal diseases. Exporting countries must be conferred one or more APHIS statuses to be eligible to export certain animals or animal products to the United States.

Consistent with the regulations in 9 CFR 92, and under a review program started in 2017, APHIS periodically reviews the animal health status of foreign regions. APHIS assesses the animal health conditions in a foreign region to confirm that the region's APHIS recognition for one or more animal diseases can be maintained.

In 2019 APHIS reviewed the classical swine fever (CSF), foot and mouth disease (FMD), and swine vesicular disease (SVD) statuses of thirteen European Union (EU) Member States, including France. APHIS requested, received, and reviewed information relevant to the factors used to establish initial animal health statuses from the competent veterinary authorities of the thirteen selected Member States. This report makes France-specific determinations for CSF, FMD, and SVD. APHIS' determinations for the thirteen individual Member States, including France, will be collated into an overarching review of the APHIS-defined European CSF region and the EC emergency response framework for African swine fever (ASF), including regionalization activities to limit the spread of ASF. APHIS collaborated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on the review.

APHIS requested, received, and reviewed information from France's national competent authority for animal health, the Direction Générale de l'Alimentation (DGAL). APHIS determined that the documentation DGAL provided, supplemented by publicly available information, was sufficient to review France's animal health statuses without conducting a site visit.

This review evaluates France's veterinary infrastructure, livestock demographics, livestock movement and marketing patterns, surveillance programs, disease control capabilities, and emergency response systems for the specified hazards, as well as import controls and export certification processes. The review is intended to determine that 1) the hazards are not currently present in France; 2) the hazards are unlikely to be introduced into France and ultimately infect or contaminate swine commodities exported to the United States; and, 3) if France experienced an incursion of one of the hazards, their competent veterinary authorities would rapidly detect, report, control, and eradicate the disease, with exports to the United States promptly stopped to prevent the introduction of the hazard into the United States.

APHIS Animal Health Status Recognitions of France

APHIS currently recognizes France as part of the APHIS-defined European CSF region, which APHIS declared low risk for CSF, and recognizes France as free of FMD and SVD [2].

Last Reported Detections of CSF, FMD, and SVD in France

French animal health authorities informed APHIS that their last cases of CSF were in domestic swine in 2002 and in feral swine in 2007 [3]. APHIS confirmed these dates via the World Organisation for Animal Health's (OIE's) World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) database [4]. FMD has not been reported in domestic livestock in France since 2001 [3,5]. SVD has not been reported in France since 1983 [3,6].

Vaccination Against CSF, FMD, or SVD in France

French animal health authorities report that no vaccination has occurred for CSF, FMD, or SVD in France within the last three years. French authorities cited overarching EU legislation (e.g. CSF via Council Directive 2001/89/EC, FMD via Council Directive 2003/85/EC, SVD via Council Directive 92/119/EEC) for each of the hazards as the basis for vaccination policy, including the overall prohibitions against use of vaccines except for approved cases of emergency vaccination [3].

France's Livestock Demographics

DGAL provided a swine sector fact sheet that described pork production in France. Summarizing, France is the third largest pork producer in the European Union, with approximately 12.8 million pigs, 1 million of which are sows. France has 4,870 swine breeding farms with more than 50 sows, and 990 swine breeding farms with more than 150 sows. For feeding, fattening, and production, in 2017 France slaughtered approximately 23 million pigs, yielding approximately 2.1 million tonnes of carcass weight. Ninety-five percent of French pigs are slaughtered in 23 specialized slaughterhouses; nine of those facilities have a capacity of more than one million pigs per year, and account for 60% of slaughter activity. Overall, swine production predominantly occurs in western France, with farms and slaughter/processing facilities there accounting for 75% of total swine production and 95% of France's pork and pork products. France's swine industry is trending toward larger, vertically-integrated production systems: 90% of pork production is generated by only 40 producer organizations which have integrated supply inputs (e.g. genetics, feed), production, and product outputs (e.g. slaughter, processing, further processing) [7, 8].

France has approximately 19 million cattle (circa 2016), 6.2 million sheep, and 1 million goats. French animal health officials provided demographics maps showing dairy cattle predominantly raised in western France; beef cattle or mixed operations distributed fairly evenly across France; sheep mostly raised in the central and southern part of France; and goats primarily raised in south-eastern parts of France [9].

Traceability - Identification and Registration of Swine and Swine Holdings

DGAL described France's requirements identification and registration of pigs and swine holdings. French national laws (e.g. May 2005 decree on the identification of pigs, October 2010 order on the identification of the pig population) stipulate that anyone in France owning pigs must report and register the pig(s) and the holding's geographical information into the national swine

registry database. Additionally, it is mandatory to notify pig movements in a national database. As of 2009, France's national swine registry still falls under the purview of DGAL but is managed by a swine industry association, BDPORC.

The swine registration and identification requirements described by DGAL align with EU requirements and norms for swine identification (e.g. Council Directive 2008/71/EC on the identification and registration of pigs). Summarizing, breeding swine that leave the farm of birth must be individually and uniquely identified prior to departure. Pigs for slaughter are identified, individually or by lot, prior to leaving the farm. Under Ministerial Order of May 2000, farmers must keep a farm registry documenting swine movements, including date of farm entry or exit and affiliated documents (e.g. health certificates); veterinary visits to the holding, including prescribed treatment or medication(s); and diagnostic test results. All documents must be kept for a minimal period of 5 years [3].

DGAL subsequently provided the identification and registration requirements for cattle and for small ruminants, including photo demonstrations of required identification tags and bovine passport and descriptions of moving cattle farm-to-farm and farm-to-slaughter [9]. Assuming compliance therewith, the information they provided suggests that French identification and registration requirements of ruminants align with EC requirements (as stipulated by EC regulation 1760/2000) and that cattle and cattle movements in France are traceable.

France's Veterinary Infrastructure

Organizational structure of the national competent authority for animal health

The national competent authority for animal health in France is the Direction Générale de l'Alimentation (DGAL, which translates to the Directorate-General for Food). DGAL has six branches, including the most relevant for this evaluation, the Sous-direction de la santé et de la protection animales) (SDSPA, which translates to Subdirectorate of Animal Health and Protection). The Animal Health and Protection unit is responsible for animal health policies, including measures against contagious and emerging diseases, and for epidemiological surveillance. Providing specific administrative and oversight services relevant to this evaluation is the Office for Animal Identification and Movement Control, which provides identification and traceability services, and the Mission des urgences sanitaires (translated to Health Emergency Response Unit), which intervenes in emergency management of animal disease outbreaks [3]. French animal health officials provided organizational diagrams in their supporting information, which are not presented here. They also clarified their organizational structure in an email to APHIS on April 17, 2020.

Field Veterinary Services, including Veterinary Certification

Regional veterinary services exist in France to coordinate national-level DGAL ordinances with local veterinary services. France is currently divided into 18 regions—13 in mainland France and 5 in France's overseas territories¹. These regions further subdivide into 101 departments, 96 of which are in France proper. The prefect is the representative of government within each region or department, and responsible for implementing government policies, including animal health and veterinary services. The regional authorities in France primarily responsible for implementing

¹ NOTE: the veterinary infrastructure and responsibility is similar, but differently named, for France's overseas departments. The overseas departments will not be discussed here or throughout.

agricultural policy are the Regional Directorates for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (DRAAFs). Each DRAAF contains a Regional Food Service (SRAL), which implements DGAL’s national policies on food safety and quality via the local offices in its domain [3].

Local veterinary authorities are situated throughout France. Depending on their location, they are either named a sub-regional Directorate for the Protection of Populations (DDPP) or a sub-regional Directorate for Social Cohesion and Protection of Populations (DDCSPP). The two perform similar functions, and the acronyms are essentially synonymous [3].

Regional Directorates and sub-regional Directorates are staffed by veterinarians, technical staff, and administrative personnel who provide field veterinary services for their area. Local units are organized into three branches: one for Animal Health, one for Food Safety, and one for the Environment. Veterinary inspection, including official tasks conducted on livestock holdings and assembly centers, can be conducted by permanent employees of the government or contract-hire private veterinarians, or “mandated veterinarians”-- vétérinaires mandatés, VMs, in other places referred to as “official auxiliaries”. These private veterinarians can only perform official tasks for which they are authorized. Only veterinary inspectors can sign and issue health certificates for export [3].

France also has private veterinarians— vétérinaires sanitaires (VSs) or vétérinaires habilités (VHs) —who are also authorized to perform official tasks, mostly preventative measures conducted on farms or in food businesses. These private veterinarians are selected by the livestock owner or food business operator, who pay directly for services [3].

Per DGAL, and as described above, only “official veterinarians, contractual agents or State contractors may be considered as certifying veterinarians”. DGAL then described the combined training and mentoring strategy by which veterinary inspectors are hired and subsequently groomed. To summarize, in addition to pre-hire and continuous training on a broad range of animal health topics for new veterinary inspectors, experienced veterinary inspectors serve as mentors to new veterinary inspectors. The mentoring veterinary inspector accompanies the new veterinary inspector on certification inspections until it is determined the new inspector can work autonomously [3].

Legal authority to conduct animal health activities

DGAL provided a table of EC legislation that governs animal health in the EU, including EU-specific legislation for the hazards under review [3]. They subsequently clarified and provided some of the relevant French national legislations that transpose some of the required animal disease control measures, programs, and standards, including specific national decrees for measures to combat CSF, FMD, and SVD. Additionally, they clarified that the overarching primary French national legislation governing animal health is the *Rural and Maritime Fishing Code*, and specified in which articles various veterinary services activities are promulgated [9].

Infrastructure and financial resources

DGAL officials provided data and information related to infrastructure staffing and budget. The data is available in the supporting information. Summarizing a few relevant points: for 2017, 605.5 € million of a 634.2 € million overall budget (over 95%) went towards animal health and

food safety activities, including veterinary inspection. Those budgets supported a staff of 403 animal health veterinarians, 894 food safety veterinarians, 1,196 other animal health officials and 2,729 other food safety officials. DGAL provided the staffing levels at each organizational level, with the bulk of staff employed at DDPPs and DDCSPPs, i.e., at the departmental/local level [3]. Overall, APHIS determined that DGAL appears to allocate sufficient financial resources for its veterinary infrastructure, that those monies seem to be appropriated for relevant tasks, and that staffing levels appear sufficient for delivering field veterinary services.

France’s Ability to Detect, Control, and Eradicate CSF, FMD, or SVD Surveillance for CSF, FMD, and SVD

The goal of France’s surveillance strategy for CSF, FMD, and SVD is early detection of these hazards in domestic swine, and early detection of CSF in wild boar. CSF is the only of the hazards for which France has an active surveillance program. France only conducts passive surveillance for FMD and SVD [3, 9].

Serological and Virological Testing Under France’s Active CSF Surveillance Program

France conducts active CSF surveillance on slaughter pigs (random selection for serological and virological testing) and breeding swine (annual testing strategy for farms). Via the slaughter component, DGAL submitted information stating that approximately 8,000 or approximately 10,000 serological tests are performed annually, and approximately 3,000 virological tests annually. For breeding swine, DGAL’s information states that only serological sampling is performed—approximately 6,700 samples are collected and tested each year from on-farm breeding swine. However, samples for virological testing are eventually collected from approximately 2,300 breeding swine sent to slaughter each year, and tested [3].

DGAL reported that all CSF diagnostic test results were negative. However, they also provided 2015 surveillance data confirming that they do—as they should—occasionally obtain non-negative CSF serological samples. These non-negative samples were subsequently re-tested at France’s national reference laboratory for CSF, and CSF was excluded as a diagnosis [3].

CSF surveillance in Wild Boar

DGAL provided information describing their surveillance efforts for CSF (and ASF) in wild boar, including their technical instruction of December 2018 on *Monitoring of events of pig stocks in wild animals*. This document describes the CSF (and ASF) monitoring strategy and objectives and provides technical details about how French animal health officials assign risk levels for wild boar surveillance, etc [9, 10]. Additionally, France lays out its passive surveillance for wild boar in French national legislation DGAL/SDSPA/2018-938, which further details surveillance objectives and levels of testing (including risk-based sampling) and other technical elements for the surveillance of sick or dead wild boar. Surveillance itself is a collaboration with national Hunting/Wildlife officials and with national/regional hunting associations (program acronym, SAGIR). From mid-September 2018 to early-June 2019, 326 dead wild boars (found) were collected, sampled, and assayed for CSF. All results were negative [9, 11].

Epidemiological Investigations of Suspect Cases and Disease Confirmation or Exclusion

France’s surveillance strategy for CSF, FMD, and SVD is early detection in domestic swine for all three hazards, and early detection in wild boars for CSF. Underpinning this strategy is a

passive surveillance system that is highly reliant on these hazards being notifiable in France. There are mandatory reporting requirements for suspect cases of these diseases by veterinarians, farmers, operators, dealers, hunters, and others. Should any of these individuals report disease suspicions, or in the event of a non-negative test result, control measures (e.g. quarantine or movement controls) can be implemented as further epidemiological investigations or diagnostic testing is conducted. For CSF (and ASF), 2, 1, and 12, disease suspicions were reported on swine farms for 2016 - 2018, respectively. For FMD and SVD, in the same timeframe, 3, 8, and 7 on-farm disease suspicions were reported, respectively [3].

Laboratory Confirmation of Swine Diseases

France has departmental (regional) laboratories and private laboratories (if approved, and audited) that can conduct certain diagnostic tests. The list of laboratories, and tests for which they are approved, is available online (in French) at: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/laboratoires-agrees-et-methodes-officielles-en-sante-animale>. France's departmental (regional) laboratories are authorized to conduct certain serological tests for CSF and FMD. However, confirmatory testing is done at the national reference laboratories for these diseases. The national reference laboratories for CSF, FMD, and SVD are animal health laboratories of the Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES, translated to the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety). The NRL for CSF (and ASF) is the ANSES laboratory in Ploufragan; the NRL for FMD is the ANSES laboratory in Maisons-Alfort [3, 12, 13].

Emergency Response Capability

Emergency Response Framework via a National Contingency Plan

DGAL provided a copy of France's National Emergency Health Response Plan for Animal Health (French acronym, PNISU), which defines the national framework and general principles for emergency response and some specific plans, protocols, and actions to take if an animal disease outbreak occurs. Per the PNISU, CSF (and ASF), FMD, and SVD are all covered by the National Emergency Health Response Plan for Animal Health. Each of these diseases, however, requires a specific contingency plan to supplement the general emergency response principles.

The French framework aligns with EU and international standards and norms for emergency response. Summarizing, control and communication centers are established at the national, departmental, regional, and local level, and operational centers are established at the departmental level and at the local level. The PNISU includes flow charts and instructions for handling suspect cases, including follow-up epidemiological investigations and sample collection for diagnostic testing. Other important details include, but are not limited to: establishing 3km protection zones and 10km surveillance zones around infected premises; restrictions on movement or marketing of animals or animal products and control measures from these zones, including quarantine and other movement controls; census-taking of farms and agricultural facilities in or around infected areas; depopulation, disposal, and cleaning and disinfection measures; indemnity; emergency vaccination; and recovering status at the end of an outbreak [9, 14].

France's Ability to Certify Exports of Animals and Animal Products

Export of animals and animal products

France has exported a few live swine to the United States—3 in 2017, 268 in 2018— but did not export any to the US in 2019 [15]. France exports swine meat (fresh, chilled, or frozen) and other pork products, but available data does not indicate France exports these commodities to the United States [16]. Summarizing their export trends, France exports approximately 25% of its swine production within the EU (e.g. Italy, Spain, Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany) and to third countries (e.g. China, Philippines). Approximately one quarter of French meat is sold fresh, the bulk of which (75%) moves through supermarkets. Approximately half of French pork is made into cooked pork products, by French companies, almost all of which (95%) is sold on the domestic market [7].

Export certification procedures for animals and animal products

France's overarching export certification requirements for animals and animal products are stipulated in French national legislation Memorandum DGAL/SDASEI/2018-419 on health certification for export of animals and products from animal sectors towards third countries. French animal health officials state that this legislation broadly satisfies APHIS export certification requirements for meat products regarding traceability, and animal disease status; requirements for certifying veterinary officials; and requirements for the process of endorsing a certificate. Additionally, French officials stated that national legislation Memorandum DGAL/SDASEI/2018-635 describes the process by which meat and meat products can be exported to the United States. DGAL described export certification procedures. Summarizing, the food business operator requests certification services from the local DDPP or DDCSPP office, and submits supporting documentation via a French online database (EXPADON). DDPP or DDCSPP staff first review the supporting documentation and, if sufficient, initiate the physical control (inspection) on product for export. Frequency of controls is determined by DGAL instructions. All export certificates are embossed and made available by the DGAL local services to prevent fraud. Specific instructions for each destination may be provided by DGAL [3].

Potential for CSF, FMD, or SVD Incursions in France

APHIS identified four pathways by which the hazards under evaluation could be introduced into France: via natural movement of wildlife (e.g. feral swine); via incoming vehicular or human traffic; via commercial import of contaminated animal product; and via commercial import of infected live animals. This section briefly describes risks and mitigations for each.

Natural Movement of Wildlife, Particularly Feral Swine

France shares land borders with Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Andorra, and Spain. Migrating wild boar are a direct concern to France, as evidenced by the protective fencing measures taken by France (and other EU Member States) in response to ASF. Notably, France fenced portions of its border with Belgium, in proximity to the ASF detections in Belgium.

For the hazards under review in this evaluation, however, CSF was last detected in any of France's neighboring countries in 2009 (Germany, wild boar) [17, 18] and FMD was last detected in France's neighboring countries in 1993 (Italy) [19]. Italy was also the neighboring country with

the most recent detection of SVD, which occurred in June 2015. Italy subsequently self-declared to the OIE that they are free of SVD [20, 21]. Therefore, while man-made interdictions, such as fencing, can reduce migration of feral swine but not fully eliminate it, the absence of the hazards in adjacent regions reduces the likelihood of the hazards being introduced into France via this pathway.

Incoming Passenger and Vehicle Traffic

The entry pathway of incoming vehicular or human traffic is also mitigated by France's border interdiction efforts. Vehicles and passengers can enter France via all four travel modes—road, rail, air, and sea. Some of these arriving vehicles and passengers (e.g. road, rail) are entering from other EU Member States, and those vehicles and passengers are subject to no veterinary controls. Vehicles or passengers (e.g. air, sea) arriving from third countries are subject to veterinary controls, conducted by France's Customs Directorate. Customs may implement random inspections for prohibited passenger products. For passenger or vehicle arrivals from third countries, French Custom's officials implement border interdiction efforts primarily by enforcing the EC's rules (eg. EC/206/2009) for personal consignments of animal products arriving into the European Union. Summarizing this legislation, travelers are prohibited from bringing meat, milk, or their products unless they are small amounts (<10kg) from certain destinations (Faroe Islands, Greenland, or Iceland), or otherwise exempted (e.g. infant milk or food). France's border veterinary inspection unit (Service d'inspection vétérinaire et phytosanitaire aux frontières, SIVEP) communicates and coordinates with Customs officials by identifying third countries with animal diseases, and implementing targeted controls. Any prohibited passenger products that are found are subsequently confiscated and destroyed [3]. Given the overall high volume of international travel, and the speed and distance over which modern international travel can occur, it is possible that one of the hazards could be introduced into France via this pathway.

Import Controls for Pork and Pork Product Imports

DGAL provided import statistics for pork and pork products [7] and APHIS obtained trade data independently using the WTO's International Trade Centre's TradeMap database [22]. Summarizing, France's top 10 suppliers of swine meat in 2018 were other EU Member States. Spain was France's top supplier, by a very large margin (approximately 10-fold), followed by Germany (approximately 210,000 tons and 29,000 tons, respectively). The United States was France's largest non-EU Member State supplier of swine meat in 2018, at 76 tons. For edible offal, including swine offal, again France's top 10 suppliers in 2018 were all EU Member States. Spain was France's top supplier, by a large margin, for this commodity group, followed by Germany.

The arrival processes and border veterinary controls for arriving pork and pork products differs if entering France as part of intra-Union trade or if entering France as an import from a third country. Namely, there are no true border controls for animal products moving between Member States as intra-Union trade. These products do undergo inspection and certification prior to intra-Union trade, and those inspection and certification processes include documentation, identification, and physical checks.

The more rigorous border veterinary controls are applied to animal products arriving into the EU from third countries. Animal products from third countries are subject to requirements stipulated by EC legislation (e.g. 97/78/EC). To summarize, these products must enter an EU

Member State, in this case France, at a French border control posts (BCP) approved for animal products. The official competent authority, DGAL, must be notified prior to arrival and each consignment of arriving products must be accompanied by a “common veterinary entry document” (CVED) and an export health certificate. DGAL border veterinary officials perform document controls, identification checks, and physical inspection on certain arriving animal products. Every arriving consignment of animal products is subject to documentation and identification verification, including confirmation via seal or label inspection and export health certificate that the consignment is from an approved establishment in an authorized country. However, not all arriving products are subject to physical inspection. Instead, the type (e.g. temperature, organoleptic) and frequency of physical checks is determined by the EU and based on a number of factors, including frequency of arrivals or risk of the consignment. Similarly, risk-based and other factors can trigger some consignments to be sampled for laboratory testing. If, during any of these entry control processes, the animal products are determined to not satisfy entry requirements, or otherwise present an animal health or public health risk, BCP officials can reject the entry and return or destroy the product [3].

Member States are required to register the aforementioned activities for animal products into the EC’s Trade Expert and Control System, [TRACES](#). TRACES is the European Commission’s online database for recording the movements of animal products via intra-EU trade and the movements of animal products imported into, or transiting, the EU from third countries.

Import Controls for Live Animals

APHIS confirmed live animal imports entering France via the WTO’s International Trade Centre TradeMap database [23]. Summarizing, France’s top five suppliers of live swine in 2018 were other EU Member States, with Belgium being their top supplier. The United States of America and Canada were listed as the sixth and seventh top suppliers, but from the value or the manner in which the data was tabulated (e.g. “0” or blank) APHIS assumes that these two countries more likely were supplying swine semen or germplasm. France imports live ruminants and small ruminants, again their top 10 suppliers for each of these commodity groups being other EU Member States. They received the most cattle from Belgium, by a large margin, and the most sheep and goats from Spain, also by a large margin.

Similar to animal products, the arrival processes and border veterinary controls for arriving live animals differs if the animals are entering France as part of intra-Union trade or if entering France as an import from a third country. There are no true border controls for animals moving between Member States as intra-Union trade. The EC has overarching regulations for intra-Union trade of live animals and germplasm, i.e. 90/425/EEC concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Union trade of certain live animals and products. The EC also has species-specific intra-Union trade requirements, e.g. 64/432/EEC, which stipulates the animal health requirements for intra-Union trade in swine. Summarizing, the competent authority for the Member State of origin verifies that the animals (or germplasm) for intra-Union trade meet EC identification and registration requirements and meet animal health requirements, as verified by a health certificate, and are accompanied by other transport documents. Additionally, the animals must originate from eligible holdings, i.e. holdings not subject to any movement restrictions.

Border veterinary controls are applied to animals arriving into the EU from third countries. Animals from third countries are subject to requirements stipulated by EC legislation (e.g. 91/496/EEC). To summarize, animals must enter an EU Member State, in this case France, at a French border control post (BCP) approved for animals. Border veterinary officials must be notified prior to arrival and each consignment of arriving animals at least 24 hours in advance, so that official veterinarians can be available to provide inspection services. Each consignment of live animals arriving from third countries must be accompanied by a CVED and export health certificate. DGAL border veterinary officials perform document controls, identification checks, and physical inspection on the arriving animals. Every arriving consignment of animals is subject to documentation controls, identify verification, and physical inspection. Collectively, these border control processes confirm via the export health certificate that the animals are from an authorized country and meet all entry requirements for health status. The corresponding physical inspection of animals is largely focused on animal welfare, and fitness for travel. The physical check can include a clinical examination, and may trigger the collection of samples for laboratory testing. Similarly, risk-based and other factors can trigger some consignments to be sampled for laboratory testing. If, during any of these entry control processes, the animals are determined to not satisfy entry requirements, or otherwise present an animal health or public health risk, BCP officials can reject the entry and quarantine, return, or euthanize the animal(s) [3].

Member States are required to register the aforementioned activities for live animals into the EC's Trade Expert and Control System, [TRACES](#). TRACES is the European Commission's online database for recording the movements of live animals via intra-EU trade and the movements of animals imported into, or transiting, the EU from third countries.

African Swine Fever Considerations for France

Part of APHIS' scope of this review was to evaluate EU and Member State emergency response measures against African swine fever (ASF), including regionalization activities to limit spread of the disease. ASF has not been detected in France, and thus APHIS cannot evaluate zoning decisions made there. However, APHIS notes France's proactive preparedness and mitigation efforts, particularly along the France-Belgium border. Summarizing those efforts, France presented information suggesting collaboration with Belgian animal health authorities via task forces and other forums to share data related to ASF outbreaks and harmonize prevention strategies. France has taken precautionary measures against ASF, including but not limited to fencing along the Belgian border; creating and adjusting observation and enhanced observation zones near the Belgian border; conducting passive surveillance and biosecurity assessments of domestic swine holdings in these zones; and actively collecting and testing dead wild boar for ASF [9].

Conclusions

From the preceding information, APHIS found no evidence that France has CSF, FMD, or SVD in its domestic swine or wild boar. APHIS concludes that France's veterinary infrastructure is capable of and its swine disease surveillance systems are sufficient to detect CSF, FMD, or SVD, should they occur. While there are pathways by which CSF, FMD, or SVD could enter France, mitigations exist to reduce the likelihood of incursions of these hazards.

France has not detected ASF and thus has not established ASF-restricted zones. Therefore APHIS can make no conclusions regarding ASF in France. However, French animal health officials voluntarily provided information demonstrating ASF prevention and preparedness measures, including specific measures taken in the border region with Belgium.

This review confirms that France remains low risk for CSF and free of FMD and SVD. APHIS concludes that its CSF, FMD, and SVD statuses for France can be maintained.

References

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