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USDA Hosts Fourth African Swine Fever Action Week October 28-November 1, 2024

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Stakeholder Announcement

Contact:

APHISpress@usda.gov

WASHINGTON, October 29, 2024 -- The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is hosting its fourth African Swine Fever (ASF) Action Week this week (October 28-November 1, 2024). We are encouraging U.S. swine producers, small farms and owners of all types of pigs to join us to learn about ASF and what they can do to help protect the U.S.

swine herd.

ASF has never been detected in the United States. However, since the 2021 detections in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the closest to the United States in decades, USDA has partnered with industry and states to enhance already strong safeguards to protect U.S. swine from this costly disease.

"While this disease poses no threat to human health, nor is it a food safety concern, if ASF gets into the United States, it would be catastrophic at many levels," said Dr. Rosemary Sifford, the United States' Chief Veterinary Officer. "It has the potential to kill millions of pigs, resulting in an estimated \$75 billion in economic losses over 10 years. This would inevitably lead to higher grocery prices for consumers and could severely disrupt our trade relationships with other countries."

Join us all week on \underline{X} (formerly Twitter), <u>Facebook</u>, and the <u>Protect Our Pigs website</u> to learn more about what APHIS is doing and what you can do.

Through the Protect Our Pigs campaign, USDA is raising awareness of ASF to help producers and veterinarians quickly find and share actionable information to defend their herds and livelihoods. Free resources, such as custom videos, downloadable materials, and interactive training guides are available at the Protect Our Pigs website at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/swine/protect-pigs/spread-the-word.

Be sure to check the website and sign up for our <u>GovDelivery email list</u> so you don't miss any Action Week events or information.

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