

ASF Response

ASF Infected State Checklist

August 4, 2023

Please note: These procedures may be revised as the situation develops. This document serves as a reference and checklist for infected states to ensure no critical activity is overlooked in an ASF response.

INTRODUCTION

An outbreak of ASF in either domestic pigs or feral swine will have an immediate negative effect on the domestic pig economy and international trade. An effective response to an outbreak of ASF in the United States will require a unified response from States, Tribes, the private sector, and the USDA. Depending upon the outbreak's jurisdiction, response actions and authorities begin with the State and/or Tribe with supporting USDA coordination, resources, and authority.

The United States' primary eradication strategy for an ASF outbreak is stamping-out. A stamping-out response strategy is conducted with critical response actions including; movement control (establishing Control Areas and Free Areas), increased biosecurity, increased surveillance (active and passive surveillance), and epidemiological investigations.

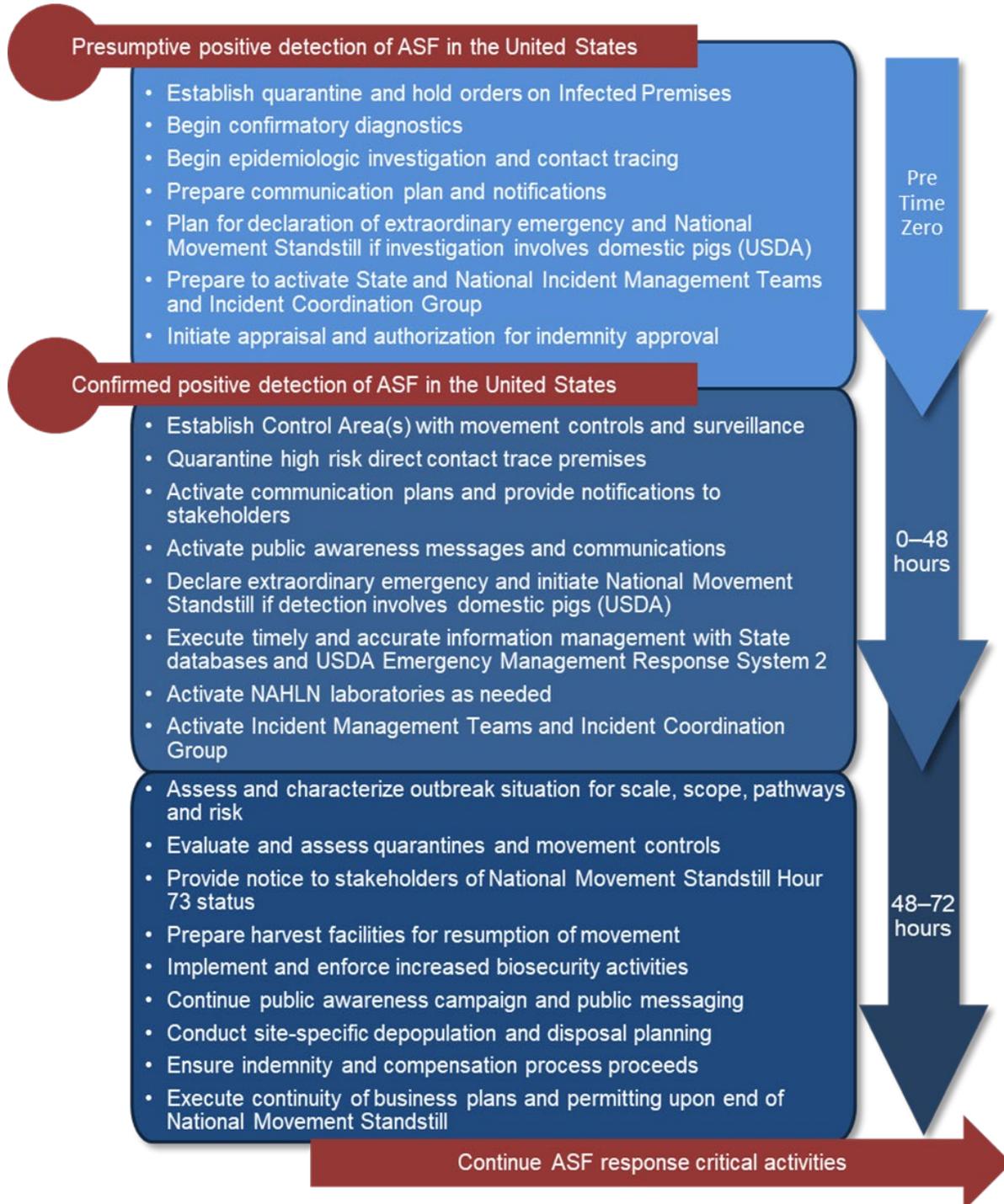
To date there is no treatment or commercially available, effective vaccine available for ASFV that meets requirements for emergency use in the United States, although significant advances in vaccine research continue to be made.

USDA's immediate actions upon National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmation of ASF virus in domestic pigs are as follows:

- ◆ Take immediate steps to declare an Extraordinary Emergency;
- ◆ Issue a [72-hour National Movement Standstill](#);
- ◆ Authorize indemnity for depopulation of Infected Premises in conjunction with APHIS, State, and Tribal animal health officials according to the depopulation methods allowed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA); and
- ◆ Authorize payment for virus elimination at a uniform, flat rate, based on the size of the affected premises.

In the event of an NVSL confirmed detection of ASFV in feral swine only (a detection not involving domestic pigs), USDA will not automatically execute a 72-hour National Movement Standstill. Instead, USDA and affected State(s) will establish Control Area(s) and Surveillance Zone(s). USDA will execute a 72-hour National Movement Standstill upon a detection of ASFV in feral swine if there is an epidemiological circumstance requiring such action.

CHRONOLOGY OF ASF RESPONSE ACTIONS



ASF INFECTED STATE CHECKLIST

Is There a Presumptive Case of ASF in Domestic Pigs or Feral Swine?

- Reference the ASF Case Definition if needed, available in the *ASF Response Plan: The Red Book*, [Section 4.2](#).
- Communicate **immediately** with the VS Field Operations (FiOps) Area Veterinarian In-Charge (AVIC) and appropriate FiOps leadership. [Reference VS Guidance 12001.5](#) and [VS Area Offices](#), as appropriate.
- If duplicate samples were collected during the initial investigation, ensure you have the tracking information of the sample sent to National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL); if a sample will be forwarded from a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory, check on its status and obtain tracking information.
- Anyone submitting diagnostic samples *must* ensure samples have accurate national premises ID numbers on samples *and* on sample submission forms.
- If samples still need to be collected and/or shipped, discuss speed/transport options with your VS AVIC **immediately**.
 - ◆ For a presumptive positive case of ASF, APHIS and State will begin elevated coordination and planning of response activities when presumptive positive case definition is met.
 - ◆ NVSL confirmation is needed for official WOAH notifications: VS Strategy & Policy (S&P) will determine when bilateral and multilateral trade notifications are made.
 - ◆ Upon confirmed positive case, official response activities will begin.
 - ◆ The [Certified Swine Sample Collector \(CSSC\)](#) training program ensures that the sample collection capacity is met to help ease the workload on existing FADDs and swine veterinarians.
- Immediately confer about depopulation with the company/producer involved and the appropriate State and APHIS officials (including appropriate method, required equipment and personnel, and other logistics).
 - In beginning stages of an outbreak, NVSL confirmation is required prior to depopulation if requesting indemnity from APHIS. The State Animal Health Official and APHIS must both agree to depopulation.
- Discuss disposal options of carcasses and other materials (including appropriate method, required equipment and personnel, applicable regulations, etc.). To get started, please see the [APHIS Carcass Management Dashboard](#).
- Get premises loaded into EMRS2 and State systems; if your State does not have pre-loaded premises data (loading prior to an incident is strongly preferred, more information is available [here](#)).
- NAHLN laboratories need to begin electronic messaging of results immediately, if not already doing so. If results are unable to be messaged, make sure a communication process is in place to relay results to all necessary parties, including EMRS2.

Immediately initiate premises temporary hold order, quarantine, and/or some form of stop movement by State authority or Tribal authority upon strong suspicion of ASF on a premises. Confirmation of ASF by NVSL is *not* needed for States, or Tribes, to implement quarantines and/or movement controls on individual premises during an investigation.

THEN, REVIEW POLICY GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS FOR RESPONSE...

ASF will be a new animal disease response for the USDA and States. Policy guidance documents will be produced and posted on APHIS website. Please communicate as much as needed with APHIS (VS FiOps and S&P) to ensure you are aware of existing guidance and have the appropriate information needed to respond.

Health and Safety of Responders

Though ASF is not a threat to public health, responders may be exposed to other health hazards; prevention of adverse human health events related to emergency response efforts is very important. In an incident, refer any health and safety questions or concerns to the Safety Officer or other designated response official.

- ◆ APHIS EMSSD provides services that support agency and interagency emergency management activities, and protect the health, safety, and security of APHIS and other USDA personnel.

The health and safety of all personnel is affected by the mental state of those involved in the ASF response effort. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed resources specifically for emergency and disaster responders, State and local planners, health professionals, and

- ◆ the general public at <https://emergency.cdc.gov/coping/index.asp>;
- ◆ additional general mental health information is here: www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth;
- ◆ a mobile disaster app for first responders available here: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/samhsa-disaster>.

APHIS employees can also find support through the Employee Assistance Program found here: <http://www.foh4you.com/>.

72-Hour National Movement Standstill

In the event of a National Movement Standstill, USDA will provide clear, concise requirements for its implementation, and make the notice easily accessible to all stakeholders. Specifications of issuance will at least be defined for:

- ◆ a specific geographical area or boundary (e.g., National or other);
- ◆ a specific requirement that all live swine in transit at issuance must reach a destination;
- ◆ specific start and stop times indicating the duration of a standstill;
- ◆ a specific list of what items are restricted from movement (e.g., live swine; swine deadstock removal); and
- ◆ a specific list of what items are exempt from movement restrictions (e.g., negligible risk Food Safety and Inspection Service [FSIS]-inspected products).

Trade restrictions will be communicated via APHIS and FSIS. For more information, see the APHIS Exports [website](#).

Hour 73 Options

- ◆ After the 72 Hour Standstill, APHIS VS will execute one or more of the following Hour 73 options for production premises dependent upon premises specific circumstances:
 - ◆ Continue National Movement Standstill for an additional period beyond Hour 73 exempting swine movement to slaughter establishments in Free Areas.
 - ◆ End the 72-hour National Movement Standstill at Hour 73.
 - a. Premises in Free Areas resume intrastate and interstate commerce at Hour 73 without permits unless movement is into an established control area.
 - b. Premises in established Control Areas need permits for intrastate and interstate commerce.
 - ◆ Establish a smaller geographical or jurisdictional movement standstill area (such as part of a state, or an entire state, or a region) for interstate and /or interstate commerce at Hour 73.
 - a. Premises in Free Areas resume intrastate and interstate commerce at Hour 73 without permits unless movement is into an established control area.
 - b. Premises in established control areas need permits for intrastate and interstate commerce.

Communication & Coordination (*ASF Red Book*, [Section 3.4.2](#))

- ◆ Calls between relevant parties, including but not limited to appropriate APHIS officials, company officials, and affected States, should begin immediately.
- ◆ Upon ASF confirmation, state public affairs, APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS Trade Staff, & industry should coordinate timing and content for **ANY** public announcements and bilateral trade notifications.
- ◆ Effective communication and messaging are among the most important critical activities to the overall ASF effort. ASF communication objectives must
 - ◆ furnish accurate, timely, and consistent information;
 - ◆ maintain credibility and instill public confidence in the government's ability to respond to an outbreak;
 - ◆ minimize public panic and fear; and
 - ◆ address rumors, inaccuracies, and misperceptions as quickly as possible.

Epidemiological Investigation & Contact Tracing (*ASF Red Book*, [Section 4.5.3](#))

- ◆ Intensive contact tracing activities will also be required during an ASF outbreak to identify all Contact Premises. Use the [ASF Epidemiology Questionnaire](#) to quickly gather the most critical information about premises.
- ◆ Conduct aggressive contact tracing of Infected Premises, including premises epi-linked through a network relationship, where appropriate.
- ◆ Immediately initiate surveillance activities to determine any wildlife contact, particularly for feral swine, as well as an assessment to determine whether *Ornithodoros* spp. ticks are implicated in, or present a risk for, ongoing disease transmission.

- ◆ Rapidly follow up on any sick calls.
- ◆ Rapidly collect and share trace-forward and trace-back information of movements from an Infected Premises to aid in disease control.
- ◆ Contact tracing should identify all domestic pig movement onto and off of an Infected Premises that occurred within the last 30 days of onset of clinical signs (i.e., two WOAH incubation periods for ASFV).
- ◆ Additionally, all premises or locations having a shared direct or indirect contact during the last 15 days with the Infected Premises will also be traced and subject to surveillance requirements.

Zones, Areas, and Premises Designations

- ◆ Quarantine Infected Premises.
- ◆ Establish Control Areas (movement controls) around Infected Premises.
- ◆ Conduct aggressive contact tracing of Infected Premises, including premises epi-linked through a network relationship, where appropriate.
- ◆ Conduct stamping-out to eradicate ASF virus.
- ◆ Conduct surveillance in Control Areas and Surveillance Zones.
- ◆ Implement enhanced biosecurity.

Surveillance and Diagnostics(*ASF Red Book*, [Section 4.3.1](#))

- ◆ Conduct surveillance in Control Areas and Surveillance Zones.
- ◆ NAHLN laboratories provide rapid standardized surveillance and response testing for FADs. NAHLN maintains and updates a list of laboratories approved for ASF testing [here](#).
- ◆ Trained personnel and field collection kits are required to effectively collect samples from swine.
- ◆ During an FAD outbreak, the quantity and frequency of samples collected need to increase; the [Certified Swine Sample Collector \(CSSC\)](#) training program ensures that the sample collection capacity is met to help ease the workload on existing FADDs and swine veterinarians.
- ◆ [Table 4-1](#) in the ASF Red Book details what specimens should be collected for diagnostic testing at NVSL-FADDL. Additional specific information on how to package and label laboratory submissions is also available [here](#).
- ◆ Confirmatory diagnostic testing for ASF will be performed at NVSL FADDL, with NVSL's Diagnostic Virology Laboratory providing support during an outbreak. Consult NVSL-FADDL guidance on the APHIS website for conducting sample collection.

Appraisal and Indemnity Procedures for Domestic Pigs

- ◆ State and APHIS officials must approve depopulation prior to receiving indemnity.
- ◆ Depopulation will occur only after the *USDA APHIS Appraisal & Indemnity Request Form* is signed by appropriate parties.
- ◆ Appraisal and compensation documents released by the ICG or the unified IC during an incident specify personnel responsibilities, appraisal procedures, assessment of compensation eligibility, payment of indemnity, and required forms and reports during an ASF outbreak.

Biosecurity (*ASF Red Book*, [Sections 1.3.2.3.1 and 4.10](#))

- ◆ Guidance and best practices are available through industry-led efforts such as the [Secure Pork Supply](#) and U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP).
- ◆ Owners, producers, veterinarians, and responders should observe strict biosecurity measures during an incident or suspected incident.
- ◆ Proper biosecurity during an ASF outbreak has two key functions: containing the virus on Infected Premises (biocontainment) and preventing the introduction of ASFV from the movement of personnel and fomites to naïve premises (bioexclusion).

Depopulation

- ◆ It is imperative to implement and enforce increased biosecurity measures on infected premises.
- ◆ To be most effective in stopping disease transmission, depopulation of clinically affected swine and, as appropriate, swine that are directly exposed to the virus.
- ◆ Depopulation and disposal of Infected Premises or Pigs must be conducted in a biosecure manner to prevent further disease spread.
- ◆ All indemnity request forms, herd plans and State and APHIS approvals must be obtained.
- ◆ For feral swine, work with the unified IC as well as in APHIS Multiagency Coordination Groups to coordinate depopulation and disposal activities in accordance with the [NAHEMS Guidelines: Wildlife Management and Vector Control for an FAD Response in Domestic Livestock](#).

[3D Activities/NVS Support](#)

- ◆ 3D activities include the depopulation, disposal, and decontamination during an outbreak.
- ◆ To contact the NVS and/or request resources, please email NVS@usda.gov.
- ◆ Due to the nature of ASFV, 3D options may be limited; therefore, the supplemental [ASF 3D Guidance—Option Matrices and Considerations](#) assists responders in determining the 3D alternatives during an outbreak.
- ◆ This guidance, the Carcass Management Dashboard, and other tools are available on the [APHIS Carcass Management website](#).

Movement Control, Permitting, and Continuity of Business

- ◆ Determine appropriate zones, areas, and premises designations in the event of an ASF outbreak, and re-evaluate these designations as needed throughout the outbreak based on the epidemiological situation.
- ◆ Each State's animal health emergency response plans should describe the implementation of quarantine and movement controls.
- ◆ The incident management team will manage specific permits for ASF infected premises.
- ◆ Continuity of Business permits (non-infected premises in a control area) will be requested by swine producers and managed by the incident management team. Requests for interstate commerce need to be approved by the receiving state as well.

Refer to the [National Continuity of Business: Standardized Permitting Guidance \(by Type of Movement\)](#) for further information

- ◆ The [Secure Pork Supply](#) plan provides biosecurity guidance and assists in preparing the swine industry, including producers, haulers, and packers to maintain business continuity during an outbreak.
- ◆ The EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway can be used for submitting permit requests and receiving permits for high volume producers, alternate methods may be more suitable for lower volume producers.
 - Refer to the [Ready Reference Guide - EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway](#).

Meat Harvest Facility, Off-Site Rendering, and Spray Dried Blood Plasma Response Plans

These plans are a critical industry resource for implementing biosecurity practices aimed at preventing or recovering from an onsite ASF infection. They provide virus elimination standards following an ASF detection onsite and outline biosecurity practices to ensure continuity of business for these facility types:

- ◆ [Meat Harvest Facilities in the Free Area with a Contact Premises status](#).
- ◆ [Meat Harvest Facilities located within a Control Area that do not have an Infected Premises status](#).
- ◆ [Meat Harvest Facilities with an Infected/Positive premises status](#)
- ◆ [Off-Site Rendering Response Plan](#)
- ◆ [Spray Dried Blood Plasma Response Plan](#)

Information Management ([Section 4.8](#))

- ◆ EMRS2 is the official USDA APHIS system of record in an ASF outbreak. It contains critical information, such as Infected Premises data, and provides automation for essential response processes (e.g., resources, and permitting).
- ◆ It is essential that EMRS2 contain accurate premises data prior to an incident to facilitate response efforts and devote resources to critical response tasks.
- ◆ States are strongly encouraged to import data before an ASF outbreak occurs. More information on EMRS2 is located [here](#).
- ◆ For general information management, see [FAD PReP Manual 3-0 Incident Information Management and Reporting](#).

More Information

- ◆ The FAD PReP website, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep>, will be updated with new ASF response and policy guidance during the outbreak; Please check these documents frequently as procedures do change as needed. The FAD PReP ASF page is linked in the right navigation bar.
- ◆ [APHIS ASF Website](#)