

PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR)



African Swine Fever Projects

African Swine Fever (ASF) is an expanding devastating viral disease currently threatening the swine industry worldwide. It is a very complex viral disease that affects domestic pigs, producing clinical signs and lesions ranging from acute to sub-acute, chronic, and/or inapparent. Wild Suidae, specifically bush pigs

(*Potamochoerus larvatus*), wart hog (*Phacochoerus africanus*) and giant forest hog (*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*) are all known to be carriers of the ASF virus. Clinically, acute and subacute forms of ASF may resemble a variety of other swine hemorrhagic diseases, in particular it can be easily confused with classical swine fever and erysipelas. The disease is endemic in many sub-Saharan African countries and is classified as a List A disease by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). This listing is because of the potential for serious and rapid spread and resultant socio-economical consequences of great magnitude on the international trade of animal and swine products. In recent years, ASF has been found in the Caucasus region with potential to spread to adjacent countries. No treatment or effective vaccine is available against ASF and disease control is based on rapid la-



Sampling of young bushpig in Uganda; picture provided by Dr Karl Stahl, Swedish Agricultural University.

boratory diagnosis and the enforcement of strict sanitary measures. NWDP is collaborating with multiple partners to assist with investigating role of wild suidae in the potential spread of ASF to domestic swine. Two activities are addressing European Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) in the Ukraine. NWDP is collaborating with USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service to improve capacity within Ukraine to conduct disease surveillance in wildlife. Specific objectives for this project include strengthening Ukraine's wildlife management and disease surveillance program, promoting effective and efficient use of samples collected from the field to broaden surveillance of animal diseases, and strengthening existing response to emerging disease outbreaks in wildlife. NWDP also hopes to gain

firsthand experience in surveillance and control of ASF in wild swine. Another related collaborative project with Southern Research Institute is addressing capacity in Ukraine to collect and process samples (e.g., blood, spleen, lymph nodes, lungs, kidneys) from wild boars to test for ASF and CSF.

NWDP is also collaborating with multiple partners in Uganda and Kenya to improve understanding of ASF in native wildlife species. Collaborations with Makerere University and Swedish Agricultural University will apply a molecular ecological approach to understand the role of bushpigs in the epidemiology of ASF at the wildlife-livestock interface in Uganda. In addition a collaboration with US Army Medical Research Unit-Kenya, Central Veterinary Laboratories Kabete, the International Livestock Research Institute, and others is investigating ASF in desert warthog and wild pig populations in northeastern region of Kenya and to assess potential risk of ASF in these species to domestic swine in western and northeastern regions of Kenya.

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The original artwork on this page was created by the National Wildlife Disease Program's Erika Kampe and Sarah Goff