

Introduction

This document provides a brief overview of the new *ASF Response Plan: The Red Book (April 2020)*. The *ASF Response Plan* provides the best known strategic guidance for USDA APHIS and responders at all levels in the event of an ASF outbreak occurring in domestic or feral swine. Please see the full *ASF Response Plan* for further information, located at www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep.

Goals of a ASF Response

The goals of an ASF response are to

1. detect, control, and contain ASF in swine as quickly as possible;
2. eradicate ASF using strategies that seek to stabilize animal agriculture, the food supply, the economy, and to protect public health and the environment; and
3. provide science- and risk-based approaches and systems to facilitate continuity of business for non-infected animals and non-contaminated animal products.



Achieving these three goals will allow individual swine facilities, States, Tribes, regions, and industries to resume normal production as quickly as possible. The objective is to allow the United States to regain disease-free status without the response effort causing more disruption and damage than the disease outbreak itself.

Four Epidemiological Principals of Response

Four basic epidemiological principles form the foundation to contain, control, and eradicate ASF in the U.S. swine population:

1. *Prevent contact between ASF virus (ASFV) and swine.* This is accomplished through
 - a. quarantine of infected swine and movement controls in the Control Area (Infected Zone [IZ] + Buffer Zone [BZ]),
 - b. utilization of Network-Based Controls (NBCs), and
 - c. enhanced biosecurity procedures that include preventing contact between feral swine and domestic swine.
2. *Stop the production of ASFV by infected or exposed swine.* This is accomplished by mass depopulation (and disposal) of infected and potentially infected swine; prioritization may increase effectiveness.
3. *Stop the transmission of ASFV by vectors.*
4. *Prevent ASFV from becoming established in feral swine populations.*

Response Strategies

The United States' primary control and eradication strategy for ASF in swine is the establishment of quarantines and movement controls with eradication by stamping-out. There is currently no effective vaccine available for ASFV in domestic swine. APHIS acknowledges that there may be significant challenges to eradicate ASF, depending on the outbreak (e.g., if feral swine are infected). The following table provides an overview of the primary response strategies for both domestic and feral swine.

Overview of ASF Response Strategies in Domestic and Feral Swine

	Domestic Swine	Feral Swine
Primary Control Strategy	Control Areas around Infected Premises	Control Areas around Infected Pigs
Focus	Preventing ASFV from coming in contact with susceptible swine	Limiting viral spread & transmission through the establishment of Control Areas
Supported primarily by	Quarantine and movement controls, enhanced biosecurity	Surveillance, immediate carcass removal and disposal
Control Area Size	Minimum 5km (3km IZ + 2km BZ)	Minimum 5km (3km IZ + 2km BZ)
Primary Eradication Strategy	Stamping-out*	Stamping-out* with Population Reduction

*Stamping-out is the depopulation of clinically affected and in-contact swine. Infected Pigs will be depopulated in the quickest, safest, and most humane way possible. To be most effective in stopping the disease transmission, it may be necessary to prioritize depopulation based on clinical signs and epidemiological information. Stamping-out will require a well-planned and proactive coordinated public awareness campaign.

Authorization for Response Activities

When the criteria for a presumptive positive ASF case have been met, the APHIS Administrator or VS Deputy Administrator can authorize APHIS personnel—in conjunction with State, Tribal, and unified Incident Command personnel—to initiate certain response activities of the index case (Infected Premises or Infected Pig), including an epidemiological investigation of Contact Premises.

Upon ASFV confirmation by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, the Secretary of Agriculture will

- ◆ take immediate steps to declare an Extraordinary Emergency;
- ◆ issue a National Movement Standstill of at least 72 hours with a detection in domestic or feral swine;
- ◆ authorize depopulation of Infected Premises; and
- ◆ authorize payment for virus elimination at a uniform, flat rate, based on the size of the affected premises.

Coordinated Public Awareness Campaign

In an ASF outbreak, a public awareness campaign must be effectively coordinated with audience-appropriate information both created and distributed. This supports the response strategy by

- ◆ engaging and leveraging stakeholder relationships to provide unified public messages for all audiences;
- ◆ addressing the issues and concerns relating to food safety, public health, and animal welfare;
- ◆ addressing issues and concerns related to interstate commerce, continuity of business, and international trade; and
- ◆ widely disseminating key communication messages to consumers and producers.

Movement Controls

A temporary hold order, a quarantine and/or some type of stop movement will be immediately issued on a premises by State authority, or Tribal authority, upon strong suspicion of ASF on a premises. Each State's animal health emergency response plan should describe implementation along with considerations for the highly-integrated swine industry.

National Movement Standstill

A National Movement Standstill is a complete stop in live swine movement across the United States. It is intended to allow States, Tribes, and industry to gather initial critical information for a unified approach to an ASF response, while inhibiting further virus transmission before effective disease control measures can be successfully implemented. A National Movement Standstill

- ◆ is issued by USDA upon confirmation of ASF *in commercial swine* for at least 72 hours,
- ◆ is effective only if all parties involved understand the reasons and goals, and have planned for it.



Network Based Controls

Network Based Controls (NBCs) are designed to be used in combination with traditional Control Areas to assist in limiting the spread of ASFV. NBCs will target response resources to high risk epidemiologically-linked premises in an effort to rapidly detect new cases. All premises that are tracked/linked to an Infected Premises are subject to Control Area restrictions and diagnostic testing.

What Else Will Occur During an ASF Response?

Critical activities and tools must be implemented to execute and support any response strategy. These activities and tools must support a science- and risk-based approach that protects public health, animal health, the environment, and stabilizes animal agriculture and the economy. Some of the critical activities that will be employed are as follows:

- ◆ Diagnosis and Reporting
- ◆ Surveillance
- ◆ Epidemiological Investigation and Tracing
- ◆ Quarantine and Movement Control
- ◆ Continuity of Business (Secure Pork Supply Plan)
- ◆ Information Management
- ◆ Public Communication and Messaging Campaign
- ◆ Health and Safety
- ◆ Biosecurity
- ◆ 3D (Depopulation, Disposal, Decontamination) Activities
- ◆ Wildlife Management & Vector Control
- ◆ Indemnity & Compensation