



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## Portugal

### Livestock Report

### African Swine Fever Outbreak

**1999**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**An African Swine Fever outbreak has been detected in Portugal, with the virus identified in one animal, and a few others found to be serum-positive. The GOP has implemented a program to control the disease, including the slaughter of 600-1,000 head and prohibition on animal movement within a 10-km radius of the affected farm. A team of EU Commission inspectors is visiting Portugal to assess the situation, and the Commission will decide what further action is required at the EU Standing Veterinary Committee on 24 November.**

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Includes PSD changes: No

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report

Lisbon[PO1], PO

## Executive Summary

A Team of EU veterinary inspectors is currently in Portugal to assess the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) identified in a Low Alentejo farm. The assessment will culminate in an EU Commission proposal to be voted on at the next EU Standing Veterinary Committee meeting on November 23 and 24. One likely outcome will be a ban on exports from the effected area.

Portugal was declared ASF-free in 1993. On this occasion, the disease appeared in the Lower Alentejo, in *Aldeia dos Fernandes* in the Almodôvar council. All the animals on the farm were immediately slaughtered, as well as all the animals in a 3 km radius of the affected farm. In a second step, the control program included establishing a 10 Km -radius area around affected farm, within which all animals are subject to blood testing, and animal transit prohibited. Additional areas up to a total of 24 sq. km will also be surveyed through a random blood sampling process.

To date, the national veterinary laboratory has isolated the ASF virus in only one animal from the Almodôvar farm, and found a couple more serum-positive others in the origin. Hogs killed to-date as a precautionary measure are reported to number between 600 and 1,000 head.

As for the origins of this outbreak, a series of possibilities are being considered. These include the possibility that sick animals were contaminated many years ago, before the disease was eradicated or that the disease was transmitted by an insect-vector lodging in old installations. Another hypothesis is that the disease may have been carried in feed fed to the hogs that included bits of pork from Africa.

Producers are receiving 230 Pte/kg as a compensatory subsidy.

1 USD = 192 Pte.