

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: February 05,2021

Report Number: HK2021-0013

Report Name: African Swine Fever Detected in a Hong Kong Pig Farm

Country: Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Prepared By: Caroline Yuen

Approved By: Alicia Hernandez

Report Highlights:

Following the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) virus in six pigs of a local pig farm, the Hong Kong government ordered the culling of all 240 pigs shared in the same shed with the infected pigs.

On February 4, 2021, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) confirmed the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) virus in a local pig farm. This is the first local ASF case in the past decade. Based on contingency plan, the AFCD ordered the culling of all 240 pigs sharing the same shed with the infected pigs and prohibited other pigs in the same farm from moving out. As a precautionary measure, this temporary trade suspension and movement measure also has been applied on pigs in the three farms located within three kilometers next to the infected farm. Meanwhile, samples were taken from pigs in the infected farm and farms in the proximity. No abnormality was found. The AFCD pledged that they would step up inspection and surveillance of all pig farms in Hong Kong and would trace the source of virus.

The AFCD indicated that they would notify the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) and send samples to an OIE reference laboratory for further testing.

The media did not have wide coverage on the ASF news. Neither is there any discernible impact on consumers' confidence in the safety of fresh pork. The supply of live pigs from other farms and China has not been affected and the slaughterhouse operates normally.

Currently, there are around 43 pig farms in Hong Kong, accounting for 15 percent of live pig supplies in Hong Kong. The daily local supply of live pigs ranged from 280 to 360 heads in the past twelve months, while the imported share from 1,600 to 2,000 heads.

Back in May 2019, Hong Kong had two cases of ASF in the city's largest slaughterhouse. Both pigs were imported from China. The incidents resulted in the culling of 10,000 pigs which were with the infected pigs in the slaughterhouse. The facility was then closed for a few days for cleansing and disinfection. As this was the only major slaughterhouse in Hong Kong, the supply of fresh pork was stopped. Since then, the Hong Kong government (HKG) introduced a measure prohibiting live pigs from remaining in the slaughterhouse more than 24 hours. The purpose is to make thorough cleaning and disinfection possible on a daily basis and allow the slaughterhouse to continue normal operation in the event of ASF. As such, when another three dead pigs were found in the slaughterhouse in September 2019, the HKG did not close the facility and the city continued to have the supply of fresh pork.

Attachments:

No Attachments.