

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** June 02,2020

**Report Number:** SF2020-0033

**Report Name:** Outbreak of African Swine Fever in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province

**Country:** South Africa - Republic of

**Post:** Pretoria

**Report Category:** Livestock and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

The South Africa Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development announced an outbreak of African Swine Fever in a small scale setting in the Eastern Cape Province. The incident was first reported in a communal pig farming area on April 22, 2020, and was confirmed on May 6, 2020 after investigations and a post-mortem examination was conducted by the Department's veterinary services. The outbreak did not extend to large-scale commercial operations, and thus far has not caused any disruptions to exports of pork and pork products.

## **Background**

On May 9, 2020, the Minister for the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) announced an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in a communal pig farming area the Amathole District Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province. Consequent to that the department reported the incident to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on May 10, 2020.

The incident was reported on April 22, 2020, and was confirmed on May 6, 2020 after investigations and a post-mortem examination was conducted by the Department's veterinary services. Five villages in the district were affected by the outbreak and 50 pigs reportedly died. South Africa previously had an ASF outbreak in (insert date), which was larger in scope and affected five provinces out of nine provinces in the country. South African authorities have not yet been determined whether this outbreak in the Eastern Cape is linked to the outbreaks in other provinces.

Since the latest outbreak occurred in a communal setting, it is difficult to control and monitor the movement and biosecurity of herds. Control measures currently in place are that (1) all infected pigs should be as far away as possible from those that are not; and (2) the infected pigs must be housed alone to avoid contact with other pigs in the area, to limit the spread of the disease. Additionally, the areas where the outbreak occurred have been quarantined and no pigs are allowed to move into, through or out of the area. Follow-up investigations by provincial veterinary services are underway to determine the extent of the outbreak.

## **South Africa's Pork Production**

In March 2020, the Eastern Cape Province produced only 7 percent of the total pigs slaughtered in the country. As of March 2020, the total pigs slaughtered in the country decreased by 6.5 percent.

Commercial farms place pigs into compartment units where the pig population is contained under a strict biosecurity system that mitigates the risk of spreading infections. This practice must be approved by DALRRD after an inspection by the veterinary services unit. As a result of this system and the small scale scope of the outbreak, the country's exports of pork products are continuing as normal.

## **South Africa's Exports of Pork and Pork Products**

During the past five years, South Africa exported pork and pork products at a value of US\$ 163 Million. Table 1 below shows the top 10 countries that imported pork products from South Africa over the past five years. Namibia and Mozambique were the leading importers, accounting for 33 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

**Table 1: Top 10 importers of South Africa's Pork and Pork Products (2015 to 2019); US\$ Million**

| <b>Importer</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| World           | 13,476      | 11,450      | 13,065      | 13,187      | 13,066      |
| Namibia         | 4,865       | 3,730       | 4,293       | 3,935       | 4,293       |
| Mozambique      | 2,758       | 2,256       | 2,387       | 2,901       | 3,573       |
| Lesotho         | 1,487       | 1,442       | 2,030       | 2,372       | 2,220       |
| Eswatini        | 1,357       | 1,244       | 1,420       | 1,120       | 860         |
| Botswana        | 1,080       | 1,209       | 1,343       | 1,237       | 1,092       |
| Zambia          | 482         | 437         | 211         | 37          | 41          |
| Congo (DRC)     | 289         | 220         | 196         | 321         | 121         |
| Zimbabwe        | 337         | 113         | 137         | 316         | 56          |
| Vietnam         | 146         | 109         | 214         | 385         | 51          |
| Hong Kong       | 166         | 230         | 97          | 77          | 89          |
| Others          | 510         | 457         | 737         | 484         | 671         |

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.