African swine fever

General information

Australia is free from African swine fever.

Queenslanders need to remain on alert for African swine fever as the serious disease of pigs continues to spread in neighbouring countries.

African swine fever is an infectious viral disease of domestic and feral pigs. People cannot be infected. African swine fever can result in a very high mortality rate in infected pigs and no vaccine or treatment is available. If it were introduced to Australia, African swine fever would significantly impact pig health and production.

How can pigs become infected?

Pigs can become infected with African swine fever virus by:

- eating contaminated pork products and feed
- close contact with infected pigs
- contact with contaminated equipment.

The greatest risk of introduction is from people illegally bringing pork or pork products into Australia from overseas and the products being fed to or eaten by pigs.

Australia does not import fresh pork and the Australian Government has strengthened requirements for importing pork products from countries with African swine fever.

You can help reduce the risk of African swine fever being introduced by complying with the requirements for what can and can't be brought into Australia—visit agriculture.gov.au

Never feed pigs swill—people food is not pig food

The spread of African swine fever internationally has been linked to domestic and feral pigs eating food or food waste containing meat or meat products.

You can help protect against African swine fever by:

- always disposing of food waste and scraps properly so pigs can't access and eat them.
- never feeding pigs swill, which is food or food scraps that has come into contact with or contains animal matter such as meat and meat products. It is best to feed pigs commercially available feed.

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia, including Queensland.

If you suspect the presence of African swine fever, you must report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or contact the **Emergency Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

Queensland Government

Protect Australia's pigs

Everyone has a role to play to protect against African swine fever.

For pig keepers, the following actions should be undertaken to protect your animals:

- Have a biosecurity plan in place.
- Ensure all workers and visitors are aware of your biosecurity rules.
- Do not feed pigs swill—it is best to feed pigs commercial pig feed.
- Ensure items and equipment coming on to or going off of your farm are clean. Clean and disinfect any equipment shared with other farms.
- Practise good hygiene—wear clean clothes and footwear on a property with pigs.
- Prevent visitors from having unnecessary contact with your pigs.
- Prevent contact between farmed and feral pigs.
- Notify Biosecurity Queensland immediately if you suspect African swine fever.
- You must be registered as a biosecurity entity with Biosecurity Queensland. Visit qld.gov.au/BiosecurityRegistration to learn more.

For pig farm biosecurity plans and templates visit farmbiosecurity.com.au

For everyone:

- Keep illegal imports of pork or pork products out of Australia.
- Declare all meat and meat products when returning to Australia from overseas.
- Don't feed pigs swill.
- Dispose of food waste and scraps properly so pigs can't access and eat them.

Report signs of African swine fever

The signs of African swine fever in pigs can include:

- death (possibly before other signs are noticeable)
- blotching/reddening of the skin
- high fever
- lack of coordination or stiff gait
- difficulty breathing
- abortion
- diarrhoea
- vomiting.

If you suspect African swine fever, you must immediately contact **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

More information?

For more information on African swine fever call **13 25 23** or visit qld.gov.au/AfricanSwineFever

Subscribe to the biosecurity alerts at daf.qld.gov.au/alerts

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