African swine fever is spreading across Europe!
Let’s fight this disease together!

African swine fever (ASF) is a very contagious viral disease that affects swine and wild boars. The disease was already present in Eastern Europe and turned up in Belgium in September 2018 (wild boars).

As a pig farmer it is your responsibility to take the necessary precautions to avoid the introduction of this disease into your farm.

Carry out the following actions across the entire country*:

1. Apply strict hygiene and biosecurity measures on your farm
2. Immediately report any suspicion of ASF to your veterinarian
3. Check every person that works on the farm premises or that wants to enter the farm

All imposed measures in or outside the infection zone are explained on http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/ppa/
Read them and apply them!

* Specific measures apply to the farms that are located inside the infection zone (see instructions of the LCU + website).
The disease

African swine fever (ASF) is a very contagious viral disease that affects swine and wild boars. There are no specific symptoms that occur with ASF. Every unusual death must be considered a possible occurrence of ASF.

The disease can occur in three forms:

an acute form:
- heavy fever, anorexia, diarrhoea,
- lethargy, a tendency to gather close together
- blood disorders that are accompanied by subcutaneous haemorrhages and jaundice
- a quick death (2 to 3 weeks) and a mortality rate that comes close to 100%.

subacute form: less intense symptoms, a lower mortality rate with death over a longer period of time.

chronic form: diffuse symptoms that point to a disease developing over the course of several months, such as
- abortions, shorter pregnancies, growth retardation in piglets
- little weight gain when fattening up the animals.

Main ways of transmission

ASF can be transmitted through:

- contact with contaminated pigs or wild boars
- meat/meat products from contaminated animals
- contaminated objects such as shoes, clothing, vehicles, equipment
- people who have been in contact with contaminated animals or who have recently visited affected areas.

The virus remains contagious for a long time on cadavers of animals, in the environment and in meat/meat products of contaminated animals.

Humans are not susceptible to ASF, so there is no public health risk.

3 ways to eradicate ASF

Prevention

There is no vaccine for ASF. The only way to prevent the introduction of the virus into your farm is to implement the following hygiene and biosecurity measures:

- use a hygiene barrier, apply a control plan for harmful organisms
- apply the hygiene measures to every person that enters the stables
- put new pigs in quarantine
- do not feed pigs with kitchen waste
- prevent contact between the pigs and wild boars
- Deny access to the farm to every person, every vehicle and all equipment that has been in contact with wild boars or that has been in affected areas in the previous 72 hours.
- avoid working with labour forces that come from affected areas.
- for pigs that are kept outside:
  - put up double fences to prevent contact with wild boars
  - place signs for passers-by that state that it is forbidden to feed the pigs

Early detection

Always contact your vet when you discover symptoms that might point to ASF or in the case of any unusual mortality.

If your vet can not rule out ASF after making a diagnosis, then he or she must notify the FASFC and send samples to a laboratory to analyse.

It is always better to analyze too many samples than one too few!

Eradication

There is no treatment against ASF.

The applied measures are aimed to isolate the outbreak as quickly as possible to prevent the disease from spreading and to eradicate the virus.

These measures are laid down in the European legislation and are, among others:

- slaughtering all the pigs at the outbreak and destroying all the carcasses
- cleaning and disinfecting the contaminated farm
- establishing restriction zones around the outbreak where movement of animals, goods and people is prohibited or limited