



agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK IN VICTOR KHANYE MUNICIPALITY, NKANGALA

This office would like to inform you of an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) which has occurred in Victor Khanye Municipality (formerly Delmas), Nkangala District which falls outside South Africa's ASF Control Area.

BACKGROUND

Disease event

African Swine Fever (ASF) was confirmed on a small scale intensive pig farm in the Victor Khanye/eMalahleni (formerly Witbank) State Veterinary Area on 17th April 2019. On 15th April 2019, an unusually high mortality of 10 pigs was observed and the farmer immediately took 2 pig carcasses to a local private veterinarian for post mortem. Post mortem revealed lesions highly suspicious of ASF. Samples were collected and submitted to Ondestepoort Veterinary Institute and ASF was confirmed by PCR on the 17th April 2019 by the Transboundary Animal Disease Programme (TAD).

Mpumalanga veterinary officials were notified of the ASF outbreak telephonically by the Gauteng Veterinary Department on the 17th April 2019 and the farm was immediately placed under quarantine telephonically. On 18th April 2019, Mpumalanga Veterinary Officials visited the affected farm and it was established that the pig farming operation is solely a pig fattening enterprise (and not breeder) where the farmer purchases pigs from the local auctions, fattens them and sells them. The pigs are not free ranging but housed in individual holding pens and are fed on swill.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN

Farm was immediately placed under quarantine. An animal register of all pigs on the farm was created. Owner was instructed to immediately report any deaths to the State Veterinarian or Animal Health Official for Laboratory Sample Collection. Backward and forward tracing commenced by obtaining all auction records from Trio Auctioneers in Sundra dating back to February 2019. Records revealed all the pig purchases and sales made by the owner and all sellers and buyers will be contacted for clinical examination and sample collection from pigs on their premises. A protection/biosecurity zone with a radius of 3km from the infected farm and a surveillance zone of a radius of 30km has been established. Although there will be no auctions held in Victor Khanye as they are closed for the Easter Holidays, all pig auctions in Victor Khanye have been immediately suspended. Nkangala ASF Veterinary Operational Committee (VOC) and Outbreak Response Team will be formed on 23 On 17th April 2019. Due to the current transport challenges being experienced by Nkangala District, assistance from other Districts will be highly appreciated.

All officials should be on high alert for cases of sick or dying pigs and the illegal movement of wild pigs within the ASF free zone of South Africa's ASF control zone.