USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

USDA INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AROUND ASF

JOYCE BOWLING-HEYWARD DVM, MS
DIRECTOR, REGIONALIZATION EVALUATION SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
VETERINARY SERVICES
MARCH 23, 2021

North American African Swine Fever (ASF) Forums

ASF Forum I	ASF Forum II	ASF Forum III
April 2019	October,2019	TBD 2021
Host: Canada	Host: Mexico	Host: USA

Four pillars for action based on a foundation of science

Preparedness Planning

Enhanced Biosecurity

Ensure Business Continuity

Coordinated Risk Communications

Goals

- Government and industry leaders coming together to discuss the threat of African swine fever (ASF) to the Americas;
- Learn from experiences and recent outbreaks in Europe and Asia;
- Develop a roadmap for working together to respond to the threat of ASF;
- Determine best practices to mitigate trade impacts of ASF on the swine sector while controlling and eradicating ASF if it is introduced into the Americas.

US/CANADA Collaboration

- US and Canadian Swine industries are very integrated, with trade moving in both directions across the border.
- US and Canada have had several meetings to discuss specific issues of concern to industry, and to facilitate continuity of business in the event of an outbreak of ASF.
- Some areas of particular interest:
  - Compartmentalization
  - Better understand feral swine dynamics
  - Surveillance streams to facilitate rapid detection of ASF
  - Implement zoning in the event of ASF outbreaks.

ASF Forum with Chile

- USDA is working with Chile on a joint forum (hosted by Chile's Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero) to discuss ASF prevention, regionalization, and risk communication.
- Current plans are for a virtual format over two half-day sessions due to SARS-CoV-2 concerns.
- The goal of this meeting is to support capacity building and global preparedness in South America.

International Capacity Building

Viet Nam Project

Collaborators include:

- USDA- Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL)
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Viet Nam National University of Agriculture

Study

Evaluate the utility of oral fluids (collected by hanging rope in pen) as a sample type for ASF detection through simultaneous collection of oral fluid and individual (blood, tissue) samples. This study will be performed in commercial farms in areas with ASF activity in the immediate area.

Vietnamese collaborators are currently collecting samples for future testing. US and Canadian laboratory staff will travel to Viet Nam to perform diagnostics.

Romania Project

Collaborators

- USDA-Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL)
- Carthage Veterinary Services
- National Sanitary, Veterinary, and Food Safety Authority–Romania,
- University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania

Study

Evaluate the utility of oral fluids (collected by hanging rope in pen) as a sample type for ASF detection through simultaneous collection of oral fluid and individual (blood, tissue) samples. All work to be performed in commercial farms compatible with U.S. practices and with ongoing ASF activity in the immediate area.

Uganda Project

Collaborators

- Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Makerere University (MU) Central Diagnostic Laboratory
- Ugandan Ministry of Agricultural, Animal Industry and Fisheries
- National Animal Disease Diagnostic and Epidemiology Center
- Ugandan Virology Research Institute
- USDA Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Study

Conduct a serologic, clinical, pathological, and molecular diagnostic survey of swine at a large slaughterhouses. Sequencing the virus in ASF positive samples will allow for better understanding of the relationship between ASF genotype and strain and disease presentation.

QUESTIONS

Joyce Bowling-Heyward DVM, MS
Director Regionalization Evaluation Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
Joyce.W.Bowling-Heyward@usda.gov