



National Updates and Opportunities to strengthen capacities for ASF outbreak management

*Presentation Title:*

South African experiences on ASF outbreak management

”



## Introduction:

- ▶ African swine fever (ASF) was first described in South Africa in 1928.
- ▶ A controlled area with control measures for ASF was declared in 1935.
- ▶ It was later found that these outbreaks in domestic pigs were caused by spill over from the sylvatic cycle.
- ▶ The natural sylvatic cycle between warthogs and argasid ticks was found to be endemic in certain areas of the country.
- ▶ Historically outbreaks occurred sporadically due to point introductions from the sylvatic cycle.
- ▶ For outbreak management, culling of all surviving domestic pigs in these isolated outbreaks were performed.





# Background

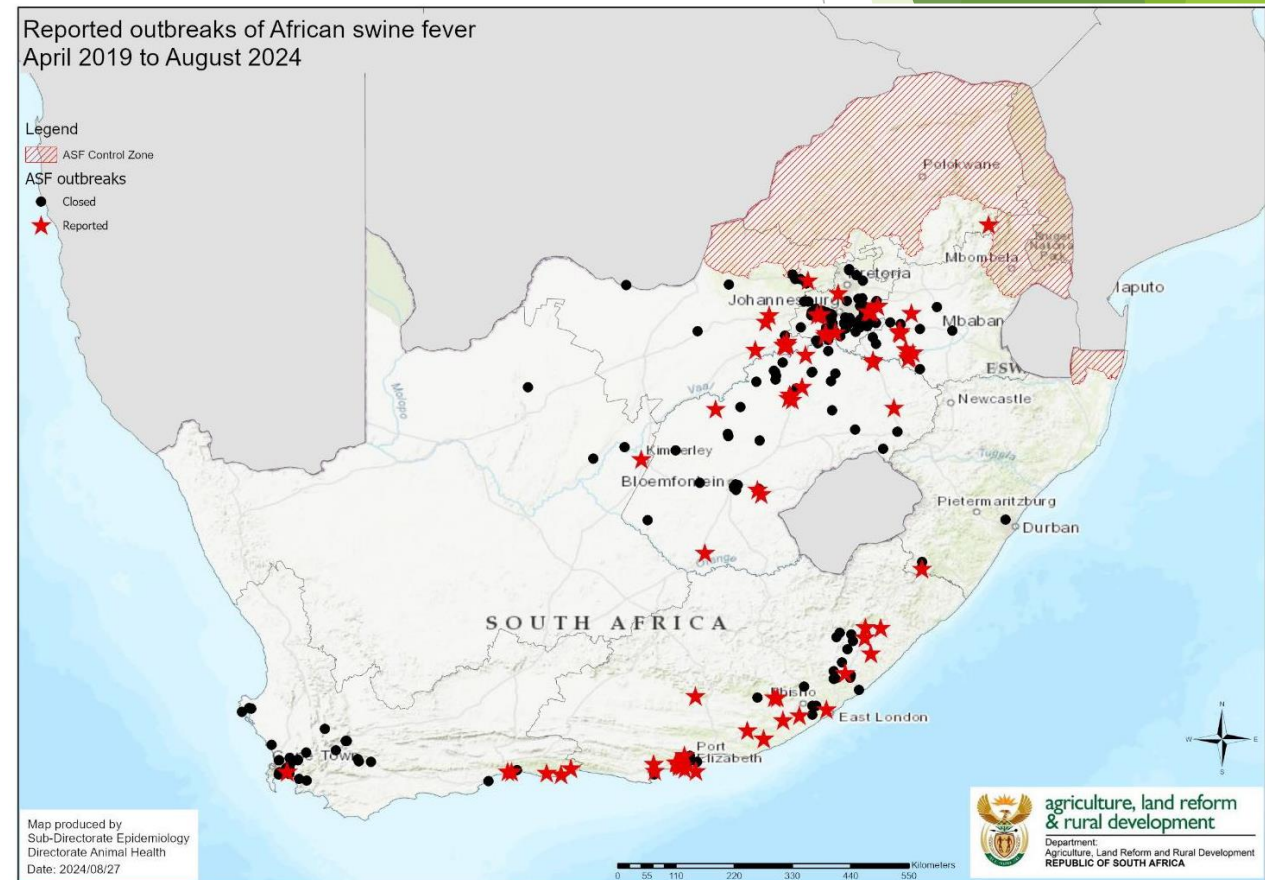
- Control measures for ASF legislated in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) in South Africa:

African swine fever	Highly contagious viral disease transmitted by wild pigs, warthogs, bushpigs and the tampan (Ornithodoros moubata), and characterised by high fever, reddish discolouration of the skin of the abdomen and hind quarters, in co-ordination, somnolence, high mortality and haemorrhage in all internal organs, especially in lymph nodes	Pigs, Wild pigs, bushpigs and warthogs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All pigs in a controlled area excluding wild pigs, warthogs and bushpigs that are not tamed, shall be kept in pig proof camps, kraals or pens</li><li>2. All infectious or contaminated things fed to pigs in the Republic, shall be cooked beforehand for at least 60 minutes or sterilised</li></ol>	Contact animals shall be isolated and destroyed under the supervision of an authorised person	Infected animals shall be isolated and destroyed under the supervision of an officer or authorised person.
---------------------	--	--	---	---	--



# Change in ASF epidemiology

- The last twelve years the epidemiology of ASF in South Africa gradually changed to a domestic pig cycle.
- Epidemics 2012, 2016/2017 and 2019-present.
- This necessitated that the approach to ASF outbreak management was adapted to the new reality.





# Quarantine

- On suspicion of ASF (history/clinical signs/PM findings) property placed under quarantine in writing.
- Prohibit movement of pigs/pig products unless under state veterinary permit and in compliance with conditions of said permit.
- Need to report any further morbidity/mortality.
- Compulsory destruction and disposal of ASF infected and in-contact pigs under official supervision
- Correct disposal of deceased animals (to prevent spread).
- Effective perimeter control to protect adjoining land.
- Keep a register of all susceptible species present on the property.

Western Cape Government  
VETERINARY SERVICES: ANIMAL HEALTH  
VEEARTSINDIENS: DIEREGESONDHEID  
Tel: 044 803 3770  
Email: vg@george@westerncape.gov.za  
State Vet George, Western Cape  
ENQUIRIES/NAVRAE: Dr Janse van Rensburg  
REFERENCE/VEREWSYING: Ithemba@thu.pigs

Western Cape Government  
VETERINARY SERVICES: ANIMAL HEALTH  
VEEARTSINDIENS: DIEREGESONDHEID  
Tel: 044 803 3770  
Email: vg@george@westerncape.gov.za  
State Vet George, Western Cape  
ENQUIRIES/NAVRAE: Dr Janse van Rensburg  
REFERENCE/VEREWSYING: Ithemba@thu.pigs

**VETERINARY QUARANTINE NOTICE/VEEARTSENY KWARRANTYN KENNISGEWING**

Served on/Aan: Pig owners of [redacted]  
Address: [redacted]

You as the owner/person responsible are hereby notified that/ U as die eienaar/verantwoordelike persoon word hiermee in kennis gestel dat: die varke/pigs on the property/op die perseel: [redacted] in the municipal area of [redacted] in die munisipale area: [redacted] are infected or suspected of being infected with/ is besmet of is vermoedelik besmet met: Afrika Varkpes/African Swine Fever and are therefore placed under quarantine/ en word daarom onder kwarrantyn geplaas.

No pig or pig products may be moved, or caused or permitted to be moved to or through or from this property except upon the authority of a written permit issued by a State Veterinarian and in accordance with the conditions set out in such a permit/ geen dier of dierlike produkte insluitende mis mag vanaf of deur die eienaar vervoer word tensy a skriftelike permit deur die Staatsveerts uitgereik is en al die voorwaardes in die permit nagekom is.

The following animal disease control measures must be applied on this property/ die volgende diersiekte beheermaatreëls moet op die eiendom toegepas word:

1. Dead pigs must be disposed of safely and effectively, as agreed with the responsible State Veterinarian and the Local Municipality.
2. No person may leave the premises without cleansing and disinfecting all shoes (and clothing) and preferably changing footwear.
3. All pig pens to be cleansed and disinfected once depopulated.
4. Any mortalities must be reported to the State Veterinarian/George.

This notice is issued in terms of the provisions of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984), as amended, and remains in force until repealed in writing by a State Veterinarian when the State Veterinarian is satisfied that the disease has been eradicated or poses no further risk/ Hierdie kennisgewing is uitgereik ingevolge van die Diersiekte Wet 1984 ( Wet 35 van 1984) soos gewysig, en bly van krag totdat die Staatsveerts dit skriftelik ophet wanneer die Staatsveerts is dat die siekte uitgeroei is of geen verdere risiko inhou nie.

Name: **Dr Leana Janse Van Rensburg**  
STATE VETERINARIAN  
GEORGE  
Bsc, BVSc, MMedVet(Bull)  
Reg no. 515/7585

Signature: [Signature]  
State Veterinarian/Authorised Official/  
Staatsveerts/Gemagtigde beampte

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN  
2022 -01- 24  
DR LEANA JANSE VAN RENSBURG  
BSc, BVSc, MMedVet(Bull)  
Reg no. 515/7585  
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE



# Forward/Backward tracing

- Full forward tracing of where live pigs or potentially contaminated products moved to, from the time at least 15 days prior to first clinical signs.
- Full backward tracing of any new pigs introduced from 15 days before the first clinical signs, as well as potentially infected feed sources or any other possible fomites.
- Appropriate action/investigation to be taken by State vets at origins and destinations.





# Action plans for control of the outbreak

- Recommended to follow a consultative approach with the farmer, community, local municipality and any other role players and should address the following aspects:
  - Biosecurity
  - Movement controls
  - Resources required
  - Culling
  - Disposal
  - Disinfection
  - Surveillance
  - Requirements for lifting of quarantine
- The action plan needs to be developed on a case by case basis on the merits present on the property.
- For example if an outbreak is detected very early on a commercial piggery that has an abattoir on the farm, could implement complete isolation of infected houses and slaughter the uninfected houses preventatively...





# Challenges

- Many challenges in communal/informal pig keeping as pigs mostly not effectively confined.
- Group of pigs often owned by different owners.
- Swill/waste often fed.
- Found that in more extensive conditions not all pigs necessarily exposed, thus difficult to determine which pigs infected and in-contact.
- Enforcement often difficult in these farming systems and find it only works to manage the outbreaks if the community is on-board with the proposed control measures.

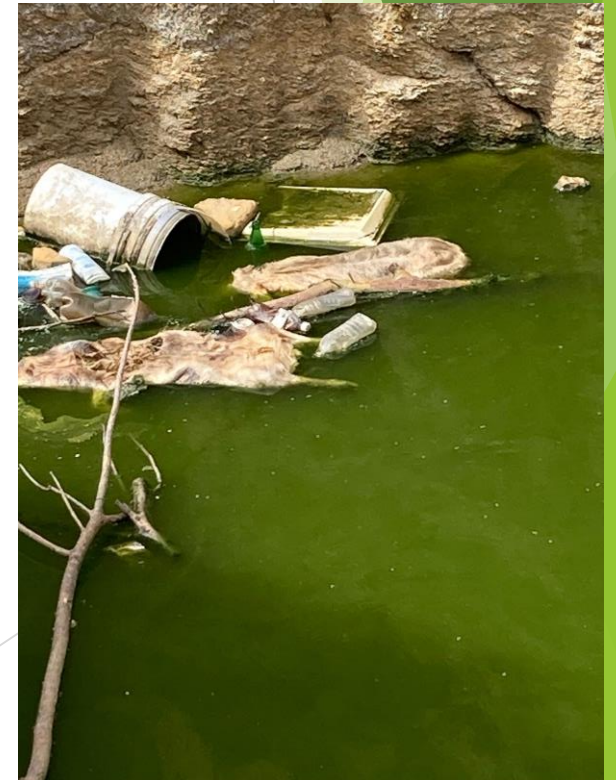


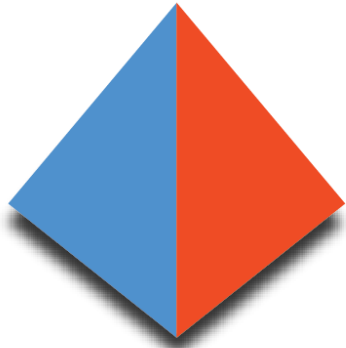




# Conclusion

- ▶ South Africa developed an ASF disease management strategy for the country in 2024, which highlights the fact that ASF is a socio-economic disease and beyond the control of Veterinary Services on its own and needs interdepartmental task teams to achieve the following:
  - ▶ Declare disaster areas where outbreaks occur (access to further resources)
  - ▶ Ensuring a clear and consistent message is given to the public
  - ▶ Safe disposal of waste
  - ▶ Cooperation with Animal Production structures





# GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

*Africa*



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

