Swine Disease Global Surveillance Report

Worldwide pork production is highly interconnected by trade between countries and markets, which could increase the risk of introduction of foreign pathogens into the US.

**PROJECT**

The aim of these reports is to have a structure for near real-time identification of hazards that will contribute to the mission of assessing risks to the industry and ultimately, early detection, identification, or prevention of occurrence, in partnership with official agencies, and with our international network of collaborators.

Monthly reports are created based on the systematic screening of multiple official data sources, such as government and international organization websites, and soft data sources like blogs, newspapers and unstructured electronic information from around the world then curated to build a raw repository. Afterward, a group of experts use a multi-criteria rubric to score each event, based on novelty, potential direct and indirect financial impacts on the US market, credibility, scale and speed of the outbreak, connectedness, and local capacity to respond from which an average is calculated. The output of the rubric is a final single score for each event which is then published in the report.

*Disclaimer: These communications and the information contained therein are for general informational and educational purposes only and are not to be construed as recommending or advocating a specific course of action.*
African Swine Fever (ASF) Reported in Vietnam

Although it has not been officially reported to the OIE, the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Animal Health Department released a communication confirming that ASF has been detected in two provinces in northern Vietnam, Hung Yen and Thai Binh, southeast of the capital city of Hanoi and at approximately 100 miles (160 km) from the Chinese border (Maps 1,2). Eight outbreaks have been reported, and all pigs in the affected farms have been culled. Neighboring farms are being tested as well. Local authorities initiated general measures to contain the outbreaks and disinfect the area through quarantine and restrictions of animal movements, but, so far, the total number of cases is still uncertain.

Recently, on February 15, Taiwanese authorities communicated that ASF was detected in seized pork products, presumably from Vietnam, at the Tainan airport. According to Taiwanese authorities, since late August 2018 they have been testing samples of pork products from foreign countries. From a total of 928 tested samples, 20 samples have been found to be ASF-contaminated. All positive samples originated from China, until this first case of a confiscated product of a passenger entering Taiwan on an airline coming from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. On February 15, FAO updated the ASF Situation site, detailing that the gene sequence showed 100 percent similarity with the ASF virus in China, but the exact source of the meat was unknown. As of today, it has been speculated that the most likely route of introduction into Vietnam was through smuggling of contaminated pork products from China, based on volumes and price differentials between the two countries, which generated a positive gradient of pork products into Vietnam illegally.
Also, today the first case of ASF was reported in the Chinese province of Guangxi, making a total of 26 provinces affected by the disease since last August. Guangxi is one of the two Chinese provinces bordering Vietnam. The other neighboring province, Yunnan, reported its first ASF case last October.

So far this year, ASF has been reported in two countries that share borders with China, Mongolia and Vietnam, demonstrating the challenge that ASF represents to the entire region.

References:

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