

African Swine Fever- Prevention and Preparedness

Overview of African Swine Fever and National-level committees and working groups in Canada under the leadership of the African Swine Fever Executive Management Board (ASF EMB)



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Morgan Radford, ASF Project Lead
Ontario's Big Bug Day
December 8, 2021

Prepared by the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC)

ASF- Overview of the Disease



Viral disease of all swine species



NOT a public health risk – **does not infect humans**



NOT a food safety risk – **pork is safe to eat**



Infection with ASF in swine is **fatal**



NOT reported in North America, but is spreading rapidly across Asia, Europe and has recently been detected in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti

ASF- Overview of the Disease

Transmission routes:

- Direct pig to pig contact
- Contaminated environment
- Soft ticks

Greatest transmission risks:

- Illegally imported infected pork
- ASF contaminated feed ingredients
- Feeding kitchen waste to pigs
- Movement of infected animals

ASF Globally- An increased threat?



ASF Threat Level Increasing

- Global increase in viral load



- Global movements (international trade and travel)



Why Such a Rapid Spread in Asia?

Two different swine populations

- Commercial herds with very good biosecurity similar to North America
- Outdoor/backyard production
 - Many families have a few pigs in their yard
 - Primary source of feed is kitchen waste (Note this practice is illegal in Canada)

Moving mostly through outdoor/backyard pig population

- Feeding infected pork products
- Environmental contamination
- Movement of infected hogs
 - To market or other locations

Wild Pigs

- Once ASF is detected in wild pig populations it becomes increasingly hard to prevent further spread of disease

What Happens if ASF is Detected in North America?

All international trade of live hogs and pork products will stop immediately

Response activities will begin immediately to understand the scope and contain the spread

- Federal government lead, provincial government and industry support

Disruption throughout the pork value chain: unprecedented and unpredictable impacts

- A discovery anywhere in North America will have implications for Canada due to interdependency of pork sector with U.S.

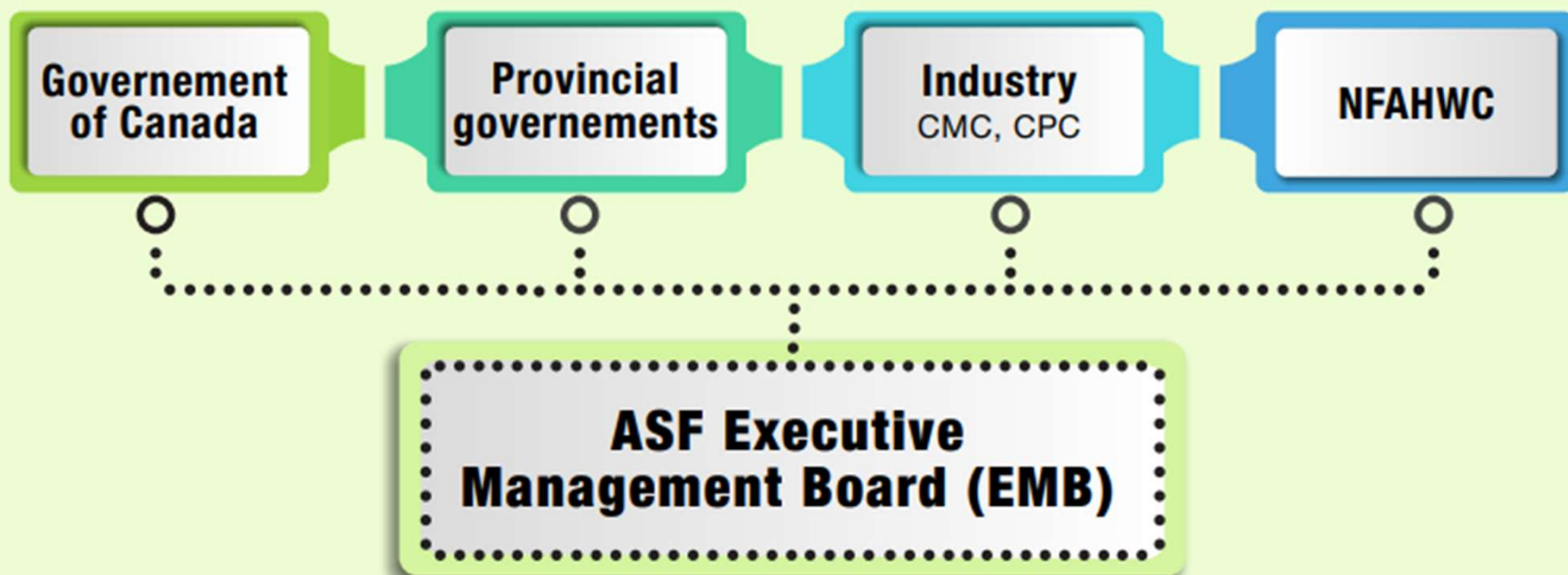


National Update on ASF Planning and Preparedness

Collaboration for prevention

Federal and provincial governments and industry are coming together to prevent entry and mitigate the impacts of ASF in Canada.

The **ASF Executive Management Board** has been brought together to develop and implement Canada's Action plan on ASF.



The Action Plan has two main objectives:

Prevention
Canada remains free of ASF

Objectives

.....**Preparedness**
The effects of an ASF outbreak
are minimized

Key
outcomes

Effectiveness of border and post-border
activities is enhanced

...

Stakeholder compliance with import
requirements is improved

...

Stakeholders adopt enhanced
biosecurity measures

Canada's wild pig population is managed

...

Canada quickly controls an ASF outbreak

Trade continues with top importing countries

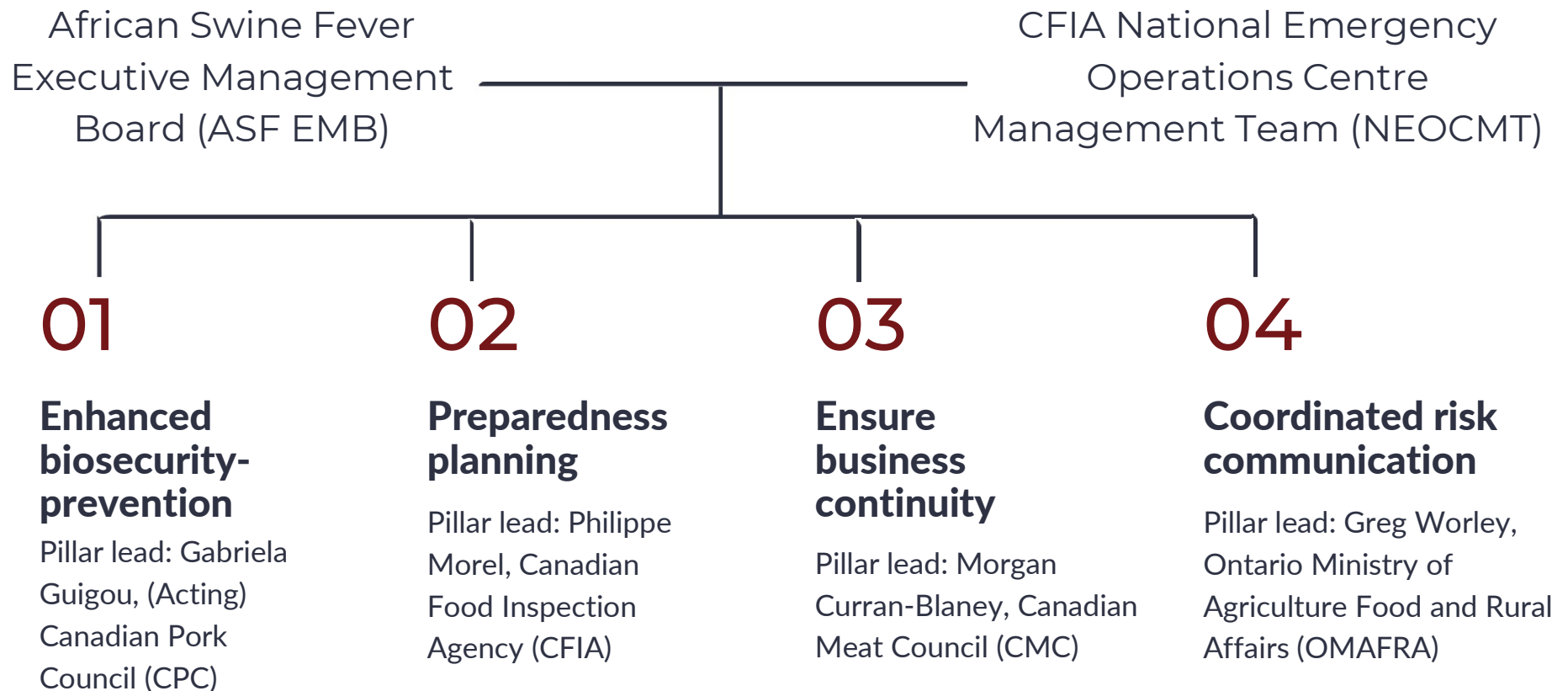
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Confidence in Canadian pork is maintained

...

Sector is able to adapt to market changes

Pillar Overview



The four pillars for action are based on the Pan-Canadian Action Plan for African Swine Fever

ASF EMB

01 Enhanced biosecurity-prevention

Biosecurity Working Group

Canadian Invasive Pig Working Groups

Subgroup 1:
Goal 1 and 3 of draft framework

Subgroup 2:
Goal 2 and 4 of draft framework

02 Preparedness planning

FPTI Exercise Working Group

Surveillance CanSpot ASF Technical Committee

- CAHSN laboratory subgroup
- Abattoir subgroup
- Reporting subgroup

FPTI Depopulation and Disposal Working Group

- Depopulation subgroup
- Depopulation technical panel subgroup
- Disposal subgroup
- Partnerships and development subgroup

Movement Control Working Group

- Essential vs. non-essential movements subgroup
- Live pigs in transit protocols subgroup
- Requirements for direct to slaughter movements subgroup
- Integration of traceability data subgroup

03 Ensure Business Continuity

Hog Supply Working Group

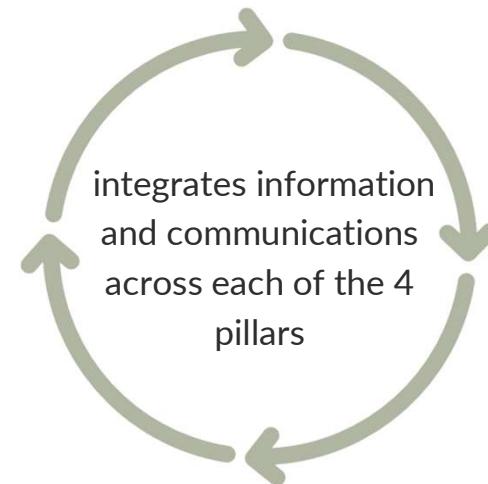
Zoning Industry-Government Working Group

FPT Business Continuity Working Group

Compartmentalization Working Groups

- Standards
- Framework
- Segregation

04 Coordinated risk communications



*FPT(I) = Federal, provincial, territorial, (industry)

*CAHSN = Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network

A photograph of a farm at sunset. In the foreground is a field of green corn. In the middle ground is a large, long white barn with a grey roof. To the right of the barn is a tall, grey wind turbine. The sun is low on the left side of the image, creating a bright glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

Enhanced biosecurity- prevention

Enhanced biosecurity prevention

Pillar 1 lead: Gabriela Guigou
(Acting Lead) (CPC)

Biosecurity
working group

Canadian Invasive
Wild Pig Working
Groups

Group 1: Goal 1 and 3
of draft framework

Group 2: Goal 2 and 4
of draft framework

Biosecurity working group

Chair: Audrey Cameron
(CPC)

Improve the level of biosecurity in the pork sector by updating the Canadian National Biosecurity Standards and developing a biosecurity benchmarking tool.

Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Working Groups

Co-chairs: Marnie Zimmer (CWHC),
Christa Arsenault (NFAHWC)

Bring together key partners to help inform invasive pig management decision-making in Canada with the goal to facilitate an action agenda to prevent and mitigate social and ecological harm of invasive pigs. This network will work on developing a Canadian wild pig strategy.

Subgroup 1: Goal 1 and 3 of draft framework

Chair: TBD

Develop goal 1 and 3 of the draft Canadian wild pig strategy.

Goal 1: Develop National leadership and strategic coordination for sustained wild pig eradication.

Goal 3: Leverage expertise, resources and coordinate support

Subgroup 2: Goal 2 and 4 of draft framework

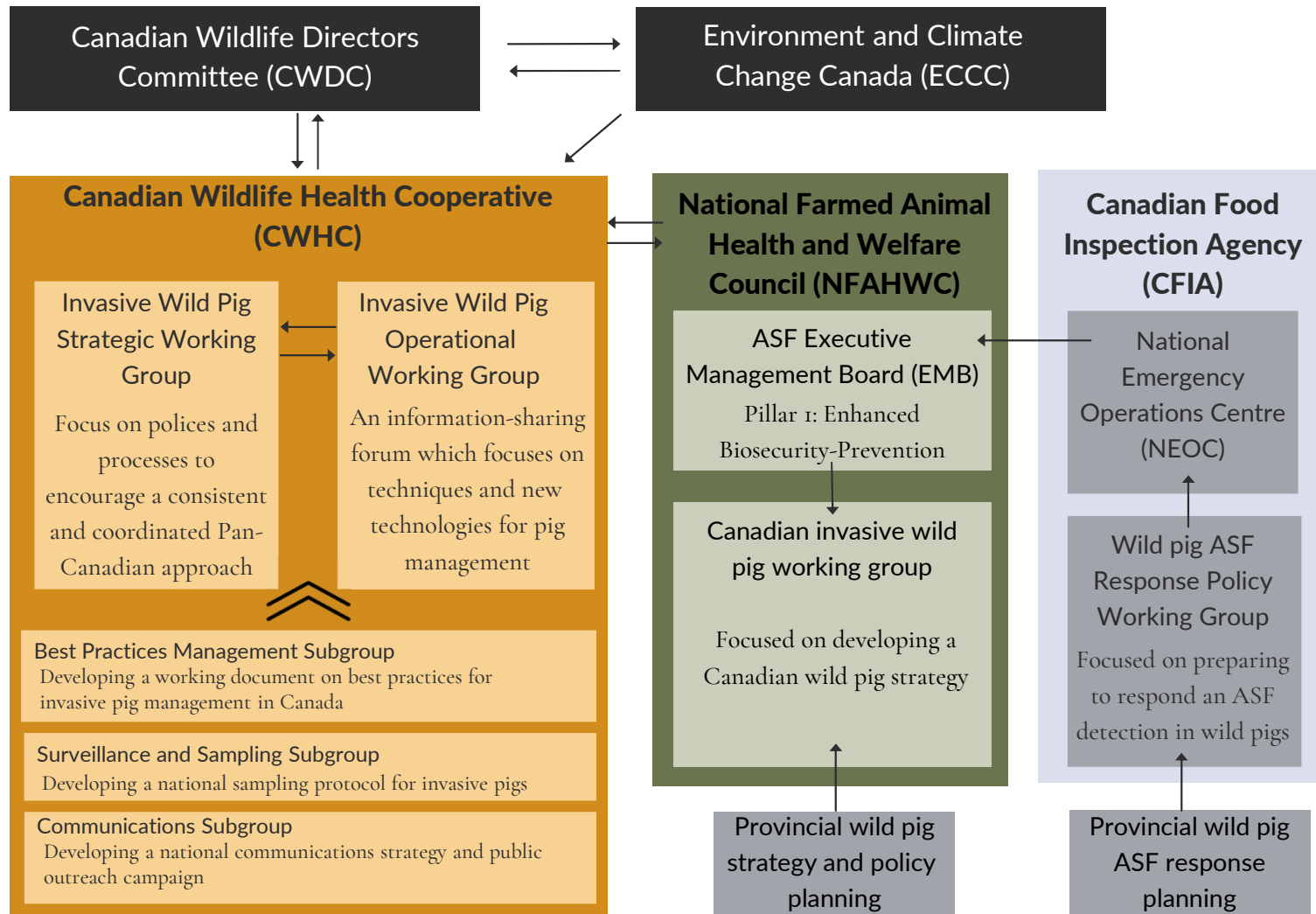
Chair: Gabriela Guigou (CPC)

Develop goal 2 and 4 of the draft Canadian wild pig strategy.

Goal 2: Build community awareness of wild pig impacts and the need to report all wild pig sightings. Ensure verification of wild pig sightings.

Goal 4: Measure and Report on Performance Indicators

Wild Pig Working Groups In Canada- Organizational Chart

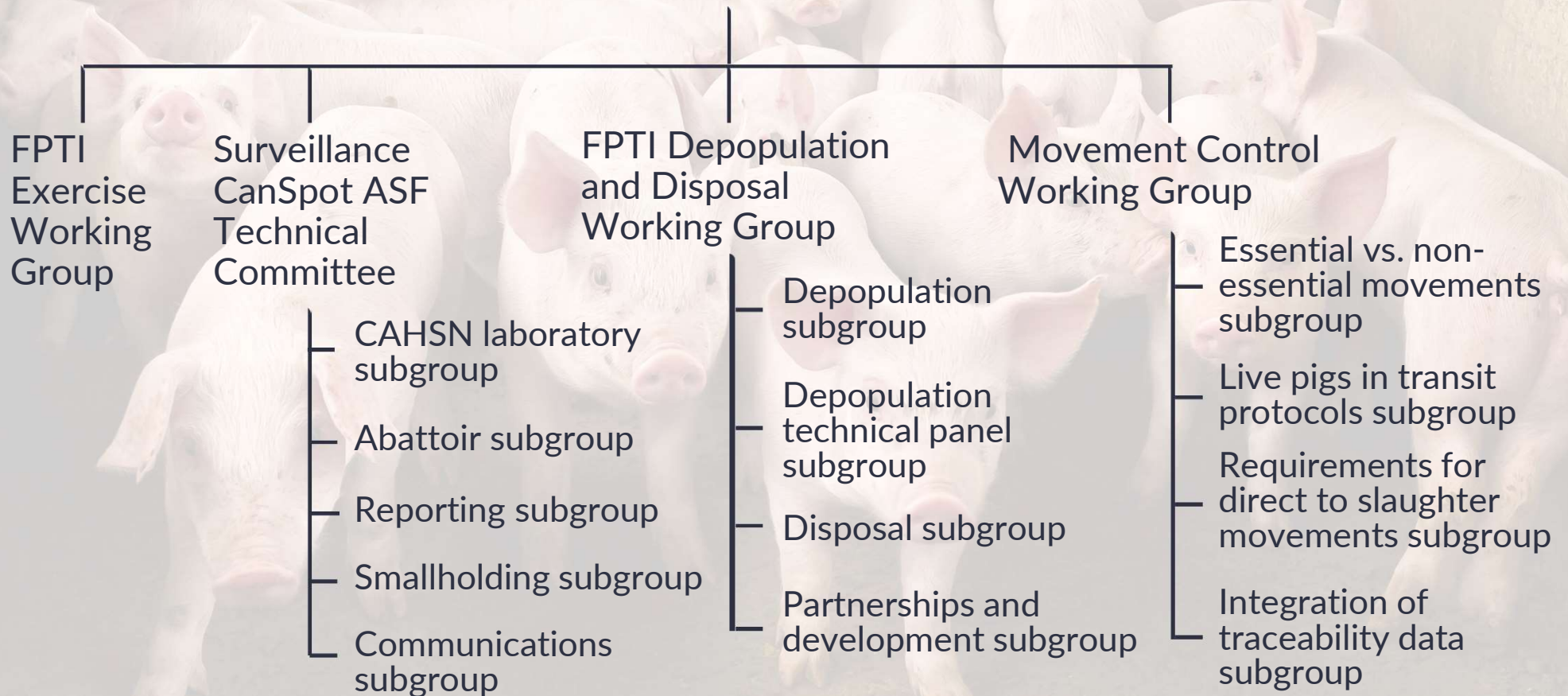


A large group of white piglets are crowded together in a pen, looking towards the camera. The piglets are of various sizes, with some in the foreground being larger than others. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Preparedness planning

Preparedness planning

Pillar 2 lead: Philippe Morel, CFIA



FPTI Exercise Working Group

Co-Chairs: Craig Price
(CFIA), Christa Arsenault
(NFAHWC)

Validate the execution of the protocols of all ASF preparedness activities through tabletop exercises, drills etc.

Surveillance CanSpot ASF Technical Committee

Co-Chairs: Theresa Burns
(NFAHWC), Amy Snow
(CFIA)

Develop ASF surveillance recommendations to put forward to the ASF EMB and guide the Implementation of surveillance activities.





Smallholder Swine Course for Veterinarians

This course will prepare veterinary professionals to provide health services to smallholder swine producers. Topics include general health and production practices; approaching the sick pig/ herd; performing a diagnostic workup; and vaccination strategies.

Online Webinar: Available upon registration

Date: Every Tuesday from October 26 to November 16, 2021 (four seminars in total)

Time: 5:00 to 6:30pm EST

RACE-approved CE: 1.5 hours per seminar

Cost: FREE

Register: Click [here](#) to register for the webinar



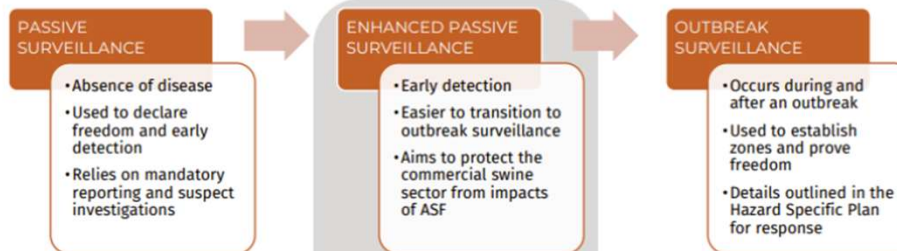
Speaker:
Dr. Suzanne Burlatschenko
DVM, ABVP, MPH

This course is provided as a component of strengthening Canada's preparedness for African Swine Fever (ASF). Read more [here](#). Email cahssinfo@ahwcouncil.ca if you have questions.



CanSpotASF

SURVEILLANCE OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN CANADA



CanSpotASF TOOLBOX

CanSpotASF provides several tools that can be implemented by region and population. Implementation will be stepwise and prioritized based on risk and logistical feasibility. Enhanced surveillance will be an iterative process and will include pilot projects; more tools may be added as implementation progresses.

APPROVED LABS + + ●

Rule-out testing at Canadian labs approved for ASF testing

ABATTOIRS + +

Risk-based testing in provincially- and federally-inspected slaughterhouses

ON-FARM + +

- Outreach
- Small-holder networks
- Education
- Sample submissions

OTHER TOOLS + + ●

- Wild pig stakeholder network
- Enhanced sampling capacity

DOCUMENTATION

Development of a process and system to pull together ASF surveillance information

ASF SURVEILLANCE POPULATIONS



+ Commercial Indoor



* Small-holder, organic or captive wild boar



● Wild Pigs

CSHIN/CanSpotASF report (Q3/2021)

CanSpotASF	Number of eligible cases / Nombre de dossiers admissibles	Number of negative cases / Nombre de dossiers négatifs	Number of positive cases / Nombre de dossiers positifs
Maritimes			
2021 Quarter 3 (Jul 1 to Sept 30) / 2021 T3 (1 ^{er} juillet - 30 septembre)	7	5	0
Cumulative / Cumulatif	19	11	0
RAIZO (Québec)			
2021 Quarter 3 (Jul 1 to Sept 30) / 2021 T3 (1 ^{er} juillet- 30 septembre)	82	37	0
Cumulative / Cumulatif	508	109	0
OAHN (Ontario)			
2021 Quarter 3 (Jul 1 to Sept 30) / 2021 T3 (1 ^{er} juillet- 30 septembre)	60	13	0
Cumulative / Cumulatif	195	50	0
CWSHIN (Western provinces / Provinces de l'Ouest)			
2021 Quarter 3 (Jul 1 to Sept 30) / 2021 T3 (1 ^{er} juillet- 30 septembre)	35	53	0
Cumulative / Cumulatif	241	192	0

FPTI Depopulation and Disposal Working Group

Co-chairs: Heather
Arbuckle (CFIA), Craig
Price (CFIA)

Discuss options and approaches for large scale depopulation of hogs in the event of an ASF outbreak. This includes options for disease control depopulation, welfare slaughter as well as disposal.

Depopulation technical panel subgroup

Chair: Julie
Dufour (CFIA)

Develop and
share procedure
and/or training
references of
depopulation
methods.

Disposal subgroup

Chair: Edward
Malek (CFIA)

Share provincial
and territorial
planning for
disposal options
and methods.

Partnerships & development subgroup

Chair: Gabriela
Guigou
(CPC/CCP)

Seek support to
develop
depopulation and
disposal
technology,
methodology or
planning

Movement Control Working Group

Co-Chairs:
Hélène Trépanier (MAPAQ), Amy Snow (CFIA)
Nadia Bergeron (Olymel)

Develop recommendations for movement controls in the period between a highly suspected/confirmed positive case of ASF and the time when the CFIA has established the necessary movement controls.

Essential vs. non-essential movements subgroup

Co-Chairs: Amy Snow (CFIA), Glen Duizer (MB Ag)

Identify 3-4 highest risk movements in spreading ASF. List movements essential for animal welfare and those considered non-essential. Determine how to consider movements linked to an approved compartment.

Live pigs in transit protocols subgroup

Co-Chairs: Bob Burden (AHM), Mikki Shatosky (AHM)

Using the AHM in-transit protocols document as a starting point, list and map locations for temporary pig holding and define recommended distances for alternate transport for pigs stuck in-transit.

Requirements for direct to slaughter movements subgroup

Co-Chairs: Jorge Correa (CMC), Nadia Bergeron (OLYMEL)

Draft a national recommendation to determine if (and which) slaughter plants will continue to accept pigs. Determine the on-farm, transport company and abattoir requirements to continue movements.

Integration of traceability data subgroup

Co-Chairs: Jeff Clark (CPC), Jessica Fox (SHO)

Determine how traceability data can track essential movements. Make recommendations on pending reports. Identify routine pig movements. Determine how to identify and track all movements in last 30 days on suspect premises.

A red semi-truck is parked in a lot, pulling a long trailer that has many small, square windows. The truck is facing right. The background shows a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text "Ensure business continuity" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Ensure business
continuity**

Ensure business continuity

Pillar 3 lead: Morgan Curran-Blaney, Canadian Meat Council

Hog
Supply
Working
Group

Zoning Industry-
Government
Working Group

FPT Business
Continuity
Working Group

Compartmentalization
Working Groups

— Standards

— Framework

— Segregation

Hog Supply Working Group

Chair: Donald Boucher
(AAFC), Claude
Vielfaure (Industry)

New Working Group – launched mid-October 2021

Develop a Canadian plan (step 1) to outline regional differences and considerations dealing with a coordinated swine depopulation during the initial 6-month period if ASF is detected in Canada.

Zoning Industry- Government Working Group

Co-Chairs: Suminder
Sawhney (CFIA), Christa
Arsenault (NFAHWC)

Develop and implement an approach to ensure that Canada can rapidly zone and/or compartmentalize. Ensure successful negotiation of zoning agreements with key trading partners.

FPT Business Continuity Working Group

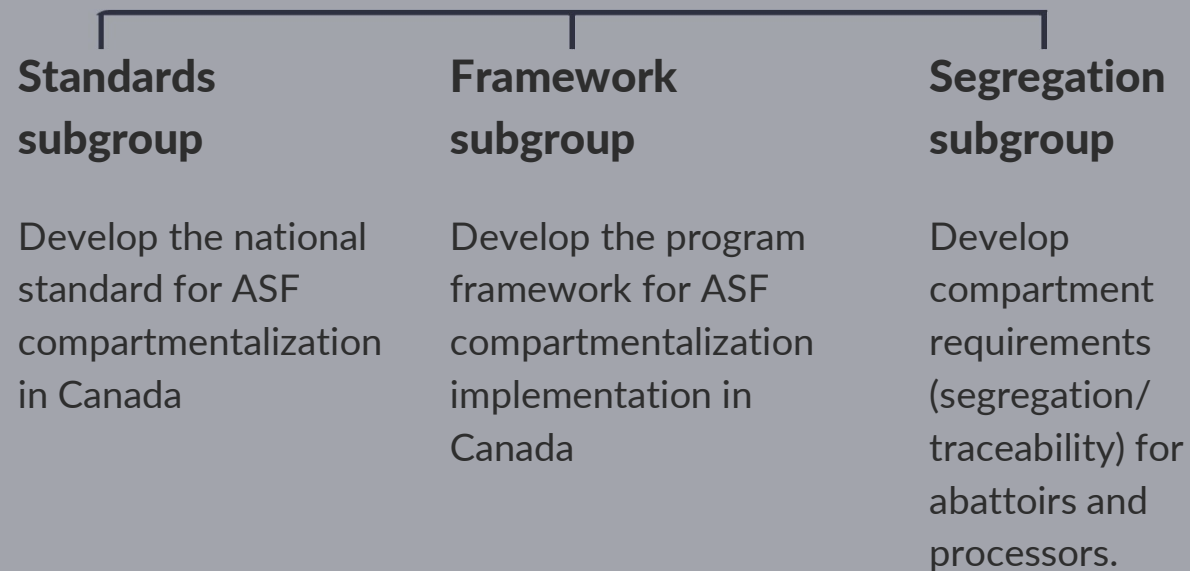
Chair: Nicole Howe
(AAFC)

Discuss impacts to surplus healthy animals and potential short-mid-long term federal, provincial and territorial governments and industry response and recovery efforts.

Compartmentalization Working Group

Co-Chairs: Egan Brockhoff (CPC-CCP) , Penny Greenwood (CFIA)

Develop the national standard for ASF compartmentalization in Canada.



A person's hands are holding a white smartphone, with the screen facing away from the camera. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of warm, golden-yellow and blue light spots, suggesting an indoor setting with decorative lighting. The overall tone is professional and modern.

Coordinated risk communication

Coordinated risk communication

Pillar 4 lead: Greg Worley, OMAFRA

ASF Communication Network

Formalize the collaborative and multijurisdictional approach in the area of communications with regards to ASF prevention and preparedness; and create leadership from various partners to leverage their audiences, expertise and resources.

Chair: Micheline Joannis (CFIA)

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

CFIA COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

TRAVELLER AWARENESS

BORDER PROTECTION

- Increase in CBSA Detector Dog teams
- Video promoting detector dog programs
- Customs handouts for farm visits
- Airport Customs Halls digital screens and posters



PUBLIC FACING MESSAGING

- Messaging in travel clinics (pending)
- Inflight messaging on international flights to Canada
- Airport signage, departure and arrivals areas
- Placemats for airline check-in counters
- Social media advertising campaigns
- Social media influencer campaigns
- CFIA contribution to joint strategy with IATA and OIE
 - 46 airlines in North Asia and Asia Pacific
 - 2020 Chinese New Year travel season
 - Posters, boarding cards, seatback flyers, videos, inflight messaging

PARTNERSHIPS

- Official letters to international airlines
- Information kits to associations representing
 - Travel agents
 - Airlines
 - Airports
- Outreach
 - Int'l Air Transport Association
 - Board of Airline Representatives Canada
- Articles in industry association publications/newsletters

ETHNOCULTURAL COMMUNITY AWARENESS

PUBLIC FACING MESSAGING

- Small ethnic food retailer awareness campaign
- Campaign landing page
- Social media advertising (Facebook, Instagram)
- Social media messages (WeChat, Weibo, LinkedIn)
- 1-800-O-CANADA recorded message
- Passport inserts
- Passport Offices Digital Display Network messaging
- Service Canada Mobile Outreach program handouts (pending)

ETHNIC MEDIA OUTREACH

- Media outreach
- Interviews
- Media kits

FOREIGN WORKERS & INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Direct message to employers of temporary foreign workers
- LinkedIn message to immigration lawyers
- Information kits to
 - International student associations
 - Community associations and service centres
 - Foreign temporary workers programs (home, farm services, food processing sectors)
 - Visitor Access Centres (pending)
 - Provincial Tourism boards and Immigration programs (Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program)
 - Travel partners
 - Landing clinics in international airports (pending)



EMERGENCY PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

PREPAREDNESS

- Outreach - Canadian Pork Council
- Communications resource capacity expansion e.g. learning days
- Consumer behaviour polling
- Chronicle 360 podcast

RESPONSIVENESS

- Communications approach
- Roll-out plan
- Draft announcement materials and key messaging
- B-roll footage for use by media, National Emergency Operations Centre
- Information kits for
 - Members of Parliament, OGDs; Provinces; Importers/Exporters

BIOSECURITY & TRACEABILITY, ASF IMPACT

- Small holder awareness campaign
- Public opinion research
- Videos featuring producers
- All missions messages (four to date), in partnership with GAC
- Outreach
 - Canadian Pork Council
 - Provinces (MB, QC, ON)
 - Canadian Meat Council

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ASF

- News releases
- Social media content
- Media technical briefing
- Discussion panel on risk communications
- Communications contribution to final report
- Web postings

MEDIA

PROACTIVE

- Ministerial announcements and photo opportunities
- Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) statements
- Proactive media outreach series (La Presse)
- Media interviews with CVO and other experts (lab managers re testing)
- Spokesperson training
- Promotion of Executive Management Board
- Media outreach to Small ethnic food retailers

RESPONSIVE

- Key messages, media lines, Qs&As

WEB COMMUNICATIONS

AWARENESS

- Web content by target audience
 - Travellers, producers, pig owners, hunters, importers
- Products
 - Infographics
 - Fact sheets
 - Videos
- ASF specific content on federal partner websites e.g. travel.gc.ca



RESPONSIVE

- Dark website in the event of an outbreak

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

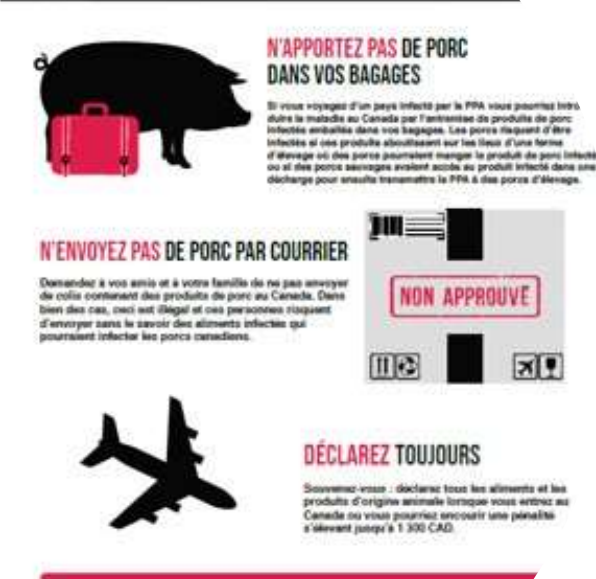
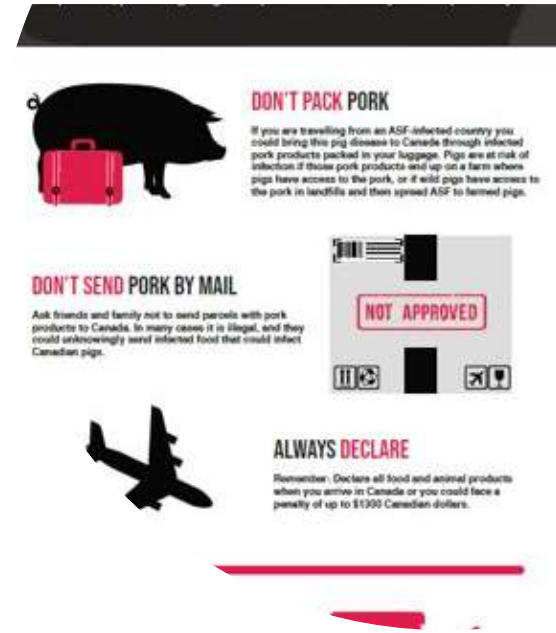
- Communications Working group
 - Federal
 - Provincial
 - International
 - Travel stakeholders
 - Industry stakeholders
- International Risk Communications Working group
 - OIE Risk Communications survey



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canada



Don't Pack Pork: Traveller Awareness Campaign

Social Media and Web

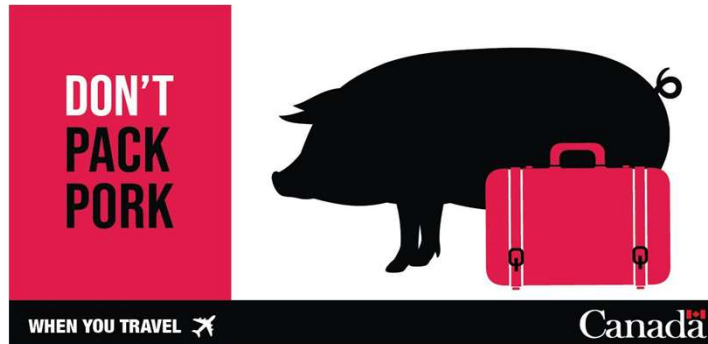
 Canadian Food Inspection Agency
December 20, 2019 · 🌐

If you're travelling, don't pack pork or food items that contain pork in your luggage. When you return to Canada, you could receive a penalty of \$1300 for any undeclared pork products, but even worse, you could unknowingly spread African swine fever.

A single case of African swine fever (ASF) in Canada could devastate Canadian pig herds and our pork industry. #ASF #AfricanSwineFever 🐷



👍 You and 48 others · 11 Comments · 119 Shares



Signage: Posters + Airline Placemat

3 WAYS TO PROTECT CANADA'S PIGS FROM AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

1 Don't pack pork when you travel
You could bring this pig disease to Canada if you pack pork products in your luggage when you travel internationally.

2 Don't send pork by mail
Ask friends and family not to send parcels with pork products to Canada. In many cases it is illegal, and they could unknowingly send infected food.

3 Always Declare
Declare all food and animal products when you arrive in Canada or you could face a penalty of up to \$1300 Canadian dollars.

PREVENTING THE GLOBAL SPREAD OF ASF IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

[INSPECTION.CA.CA/PROTECT-PIGS](http://inspection.ca.ca/protect-pigs)

Stop • Arrêtez • Detener • Atansyon

TRAVELLERS: Don't pack pork! You could receive monetary penalties for travelling with prohibited pork products.

VOYAGEURS: ne transportez pas de porc! Vous pourriez recevoir des sanctions pécuniaires pour avoir voyagé avec des produits de porc interdits.

VIAJEROS: Viajeros: No lleven carne de cerdo. Podría recibir sanciones monetarias por viajar con productos de cerdo prohibidos.

REIZIGERS: Neem geen varkensvlees mee! U kunt een geldboete krijgen als u met verboden varkensvleesproducten reist.

VWAYAJÈ YO: Piga pote vyann kochon! Ou kapab peye amann si wap vwayaje ak pwodwi vyann kochon ki entèdi.

inspection.gc.ca/Protect-Pigs
inspection.gc.ca/Proteger-Porcs

 Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Canada



Always, Always
have a plan.

Take Home Messages

- To date a huge amount of planning work has been completed for ASF preparedness, but there is still more that needs to be completed.
- Planning accomplished to date is needed even if ASF is never detected in North America.
 - Modifications can be made if necessary and applied for other disease outbreaks in swine or for other foreign animal disease planning.
 - Plans developed for ASF preparedness have already been used for COVID-19 example surplus hogs due to staff shortages at processing plant from COVID-19.
- The collaborative model of the ASF Executive Management Board (ASF EMB) serves as a model for other species groups in foreign animal disease planning and preparedness.

Resources

www.ahwcouncil.ca/african-swine-fever



ASF Coordination Team



Dr. Christa Arsenault
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Ms. Morgan Radford
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Dr. Michelle Thompson
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www.ahwcouncil.ca/african-swine-fever
www.ahwcouncil.ca/fr/african-swine-fever