



Information for Producers about CanSpotASF - Surveillance for African Swine Fever (ASF) in Canada

Revision date: May 2024. This is a working document and subject to change. Please ensure that you are referencing the most recent version.

What would be the impact of African swine fever on Canada's swine sector?

ASF can cause severe disease and mortality (over 90%) in your herd. If ASF is introduced in any pig or barn in Canada, borders will close, and all trade of live pigs and pork products will stop.

You can help with African swine fever surveillance!

Before mortality is seen, ASF can look like other diseases commonly found in your barn.

ASF surveillance aims to ensure early detection and rapid response, while avoiding spread of disease. Therefore, surveillance is one important tool to protect the commercial domestic swine sector.

The primary objective of CanSpotASF is risk-based early detection of ASF to protect the commercial swine sector from the associated impacts of this disease. Other objectives of CanSpotASF include providing evidence of freedom from ASF and to ease the transition to outbreak surveillance if a positive ASF case is detected in Canada.

CanSpotASF activities include the following:

1. Rule-out testing with cases selected at:
 - a. The barn/premises level by veterinarians
 - b. Laboratories by pathologists
 - c. Processing plants (federal and provincially licensed) by veterinary inspectors
2. Outreach and education
3. Wild pig surveillance
4. Setting a foundation for outbreak/post-outbreak surveillance should a positive case of ASF be confirmed in Canada.

How might my swine operation be a part of the ASF surveillance?

In the presence of common diseases ASF may be hard to detect until it has spread through the entire herd. Therefore, if we test to rule-out ASF as often as we can, we hope to detect ASF earlier. Veterinarians, pathologists and inspectors at abattoirs may select cases for rule-out testing when they see a condition that may mask the presence of ASF or in cases where ASF is not suspected but could be a differential diagnosis.

- Samples from your farm sent to laboratories for routine testing may be selected to rule-out ASF.
- Animals condemned at abattoirs may also be selected to rule-out ASF.



Surveillance of African Swine Fever in Canada

Remember: ASF is a reportable disease, meaning you are responsible for contacting the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) local district office immediately if you suspect the disease in your pigs.

Who will pay for testing?

ASF testing on eligible cases will be paid for by the provinces or the CFIA.

What happens if a CanSpotASF test is positive?

The ASF test is an excellent test; however, no laboratory test is perfect and in very rare cases a laboratory test can be positive without the disease present, this is known as a false positive. To ensure that the first confirmed case of ASF in Canada is a true case, a positive test is followed by further tests and thorough investigation:

- Additional ASF tests will be performed at the CFIA's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) laboratory in Winnipeg. This may require collecting samples from additional pigs.
- A local CFIA veterinarian, along with your farm veterinarian, will immediately check the health of your animals. This may be through a phone call or a farm visit.
- CFIA will place movement restrictions on your farm while awaiting the additional test results (48 to 96 hours expected wait time).
- If ASF is confirmed by further testing and investigation, CFIA will maintain movement restrictions on your farm and initiate response activities.

Reporting and Evaluation

Quarterly CanSpotASF reports are generated through the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN) with contributions from the regional/provincial swine surveillance networks including: the Canadian West Swine Health Intelligence Network (CWSHIN), the Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN), le Réseau d'alerte et d'information zoosanitaire (RAIZO), and the Atlantic region. CSHIN will continue to be used to generate information on CanSpotASF included in the quarterly CSHIN producer/industry reports. Surveillance reporting will be documented in the CanSpotASF annual report found at animalhealthcanada.ca/canspotasf alongside reporting from other CanSpotASF activities.



CanSpotASF

Surveillance of African Swine Fever in Canada

More information about CanSpotASF

CanSpotASF is a program under the direction of the ASF Executive Management Board (ASF EMB); a board that brings together federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) governments and industry representatives to provide guidance and prioritize activities across FPT governments and industry to address the risk of ASF introduction and establishment in Canada. CanSpotASF is a collaboration between:

- the swine industry,
- the CFIA,
- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network animal health laboratories,
- provincial governments,
- the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN), including the regional networks Réseau d'alerte et d'information zoosanitaire (RAIZO), the Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN), the Canada West Swine Health Intelligence Network (CWSHIN), and the Atlantic provinces,
- Animal Health Canada.

Producers requiring more information should contact their veterinarian.

CanSpotASF provides tools for ASF surveillance. Implementation was prioritized based on risk and feasibility.

CanSpotASF is an iterative process with annual reporting and adjustments. The published CanSpotASF annual reports link can be accessed at animalhealthcanada.ca/canspotasf.

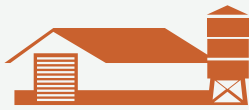
CanSpotASF is a voluntary program implemented across Canada.



Surveillance of African Swine Fever in Canada

CanSpotASF is the enhanced African Swine Fever (ASF) surveillance targeting swine populations, such as commercial swine, smallholders, pet pigs and wild pigs. It is a voluntary program implemented across Canada.

ASF Surveillance Populations:



Commercial Indoor



Small-holder, organic



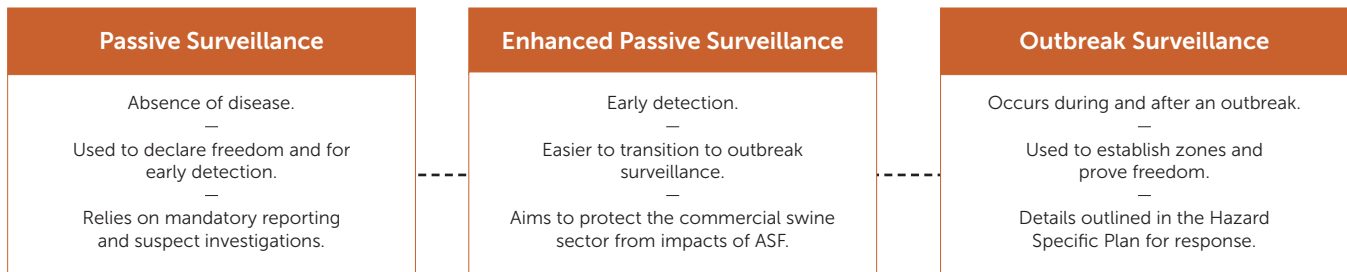
Pet Pigs



Wild Pigs

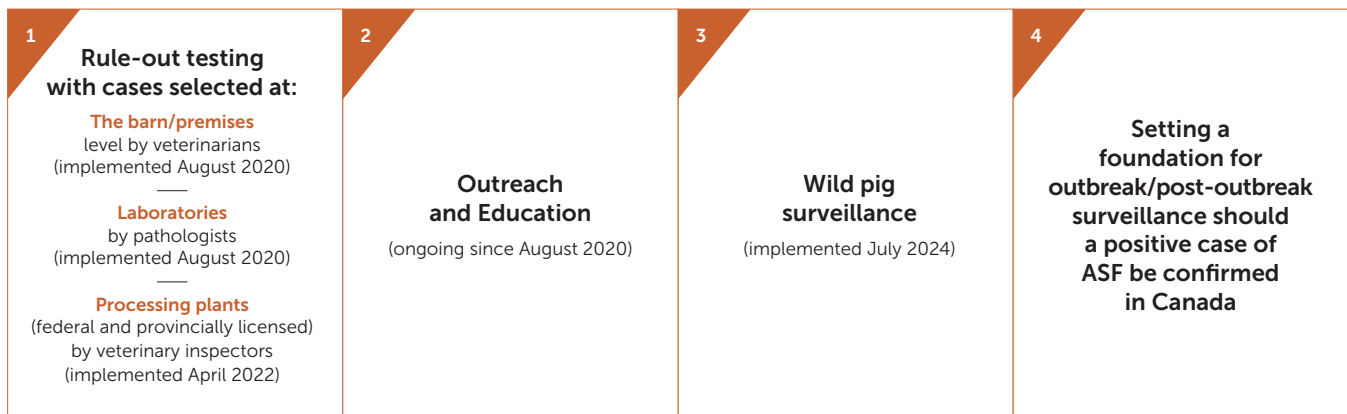
The primary objective of CanSpotASF is risk-based early detection of ASF to protect the commercial swine sector from the associated impacts of this disease. Other CanSpotASF objectives include providing evidence of freedom from ASF and easing the transition to outbreak surveillance if a positive ASF case is detected in Canada.

Canada has three types of ASF surveillance:



Any suspicion of ASF has been reportable to CFIA since 1991.

CanSpotASF activities include the following:



Further information: CanSpotASF provides tools for ASF surveillance. Implementation was prioritized based on risk and feasibility. CanSpotASF is an iterative process with annual reporting and adjustments. The Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN) generates a quarterly report on CanSpotASF testing. The CanSpotASF program is a collaborative initiative under Animal Health Canada.