

## ERADICATION PLAN FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (A.S.F.) IN SPAIN

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Erradication Plan. The final objective of the Combat Plan is to eliminate the disease. The Erradication Plan was begun in March, 1978, in the International Meeting in Avila, sponsored by the C.E.C. and with the participation of representatives from F.A.O. and O.I.E. After various subsequent meetings in Brussels, it was officially submitted to the E.E.C. and approved in June, 1980.

This Plan comprises two types of measures: A) General measures to be applied all over the national territory and B) Regional actions to delimit, declare and conserve Zones free from swine fever.

A) General measures. Among the general combat measures, the following are outstanding:

1) Urgent notification of the disease. The appearance of a disease in various pigs of an operation is considered to be suspicious of A.F.S. and the Official Veterinary is to be advised. 2) Special Field Combat Teams. In each province there are one or various teams, made up of 1 Veterinary and 1 Stockman, which go to the suspected farm, intervene in the name of the State, take samples to be sent to the Laboratory, quarantine the presumed focal site and immobilize all operations falling under the influence of the same. Once the diagnosis is confirmed, all the animals of the operation shall be slaughtered and the cadavers hygienically eliminated. 3) Indemnifications. The slaughtered pigs are indemnified in accordance with an established scale. In Farms which are qualified by the Ministry of Agriculture, the indemnification may be substituted by the payment of a percentage of the insurance premium. The owners of operations who have not fulfilled the corresponding legal norms shall not receive indemnification.

4) Declaration and extinction. Once A.S.F. is diagnosed it is officially declared in the Official Bulletin, plus the extinction carried out, 30 days after the last focus of infection is eliminated and all the disinfecting and de-insecting measures have been thoroughly done. 30 days must go by in the intensive farms and 3 months in the extensive before starting restocking. Two disinfections and de-insectings shall be carried out of the sites, materials and utensils with a two-week interval, and a pilot test with a control batch of pigs.

6) Vaccination against A.S.F. Movement of breeding stock is conditioned by vaccination against Classic Swine Fever. Once vaccinated, each pig is ear-tagged indicating the province letter and the registry of the veterinary in question. 7) Movement and transport control: Once inspected, the Official Veterinary shall provide a special document for the pigs to go with the transport and a copy for the destination point. The vehicles are disinfected and de-insected in the Slaughterhouses and, if the transport is for breeders, before loading in strategically located Centers.

8) Pig slaughtering: This shall be done exclusively in Slaughterhouses authorized for this purpose, with strict fulfilment of hygienic conditions. Veterinarian Inspection shall be done by Official Veterinarians. 9) Exploitation of human food remnants and others: It is forbidden to feed pigs with human food remnants or Slaughterhouse products or those from Industries, etc.. This may only be done if submitted to proper industrial treatment in registered exploitation Centers. 10) Responsibility

to Stockowner: The stockowners shall be involved in the combat of A.S.F. Denominations shall be created of "Proven Health Farms" and "Special Health Protection Farms". These farms shall have permanent health protection and shall be submitted to serological antibody investigation. Both are exempt from A.F.S. and C.S.F., and those of Proven Health conditions from other diseases as well. The Health Defense Groups are made up of the operations of a municipality, the stockowners of which commit themselves to fulfill a health program in order to defend themselves against A.F.S. They are considered as a whole as a Special Health Protection Farm. 11) Ordinance and reform of extensive operations: Measures have been taken for the sanitary ordinance of pig farms of this type, comprising the geographical limitation of "wooded pasture" area, the creation of a Registry, minimum dimension requirements, classification of operations, fencing, etc.. 12) Change of structure: The installation of new Farms or the enlargements of existing ones requires authorization from the Ministry of Agriculture and is only conceded when a series of siting and installation conditions are fulfilled, in order to impede A.F.S. contagion. The installation of independent fattening farms is forbidden. 13) Port and Frontier Measures: The importing of living pigs and pork-containing products is forbidden from countries with A.S.F.. Customs control is carried out by Veterinarian Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture.

B) Regional Actions. The fact of the existence of large areas in Spain with no or reduced casuistry of A.S.F. led the International Organizations and Spanish Services to consider delimiting A.S.F.-free areas in Spanish territory. The following conditions must be fulfilled: 1) Extension: One province shall be covered as a minimum. 2) Casuistry: There must have been no A.S.F. since 6 months and low incidence of the disease in the preceding years to that period. 3) Collaboration of Sector: All sectors in question shall have shown their interest in collaborating in the application of measures. 4) Structure of operation: Mostly of closed cycle. 5) Bearers: A serological study shall be carried out of the pig population in order to detect A.S.F. antibodies.

Reduction of number of disease foci: With these measures, the creation of the Intensive Operation Service against A.S.F. and the Registry of Operations in 1979, a notable decrease was achieved in the number of foci. From 1,780 in 1977 they went down to 349 in 1981, this implying an 80.4% reduction.