

Contingency planning – movement restrictions due to an outbreak of ASF

In light of the recent 'jump' of ASF to Western Europe, AHDB has created a practical guide to help producers ensure they have a robust contingency plan in place, should they be placed in a restricted zone.

Make sure your contingency plan is clear, achievable and understood by all staff. Prepare now to avoid panic later.

Remember, ASF is a notifiable disease. If you suspect an outbreak you must contact APHA Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.

Aims

1. Ensure staff are aware of the actions to be taken in the event the farm is placed within a movement restriction zone
2. Create a clear, documented emergency plan, including all potential risks that may arise
3. Provide practical advice on the actions that should be taken while in the restriction zone
4. Ensure the plan maintains health and welfare standards, and assurance scheme compliance

General guidance

1. Contact your processor for advice on the current situation and any contract changes
2. Liaise with your vet and farm assurance scheme, as necessary
3. Contact your AHDB knowledge exchange manager for additional guidance
4. Ensure all staff have access to and are familiar with the contingency plan

Plan

1. Map out a plan for each stage of your unit as to how you would manage if placed into a restriction zone. See Appendix 1 for templates to help draft your plan.

Identify what steps you would take regarding the following:

1. Feed suppliers – ensuring supplies to manage an emergency, forward orders and any adjustments required. Consider alternatives if you are going to have restricted access or availability
2. Neighbours – alternative space, buildings or storage areas that could be used as temporary housing
3. Contractors – management of fallen stock, bedding supplies, any other materials
4. Farm assurance scheme – check the guidance on contingency planning, make sure you will remain compliant with your scheme. If in doubt, check now to avoid issues later on

Ensure you are conforming to legal and assurance scheme requirements (space allowance, movement licenses, etc.).

Quick links include:

1. Defra Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock
2. Defra Guidance Caring for pigs April 2013
3. Red Tractor Pig Standards
4. RSPCA Welfare standards for pigs
5. Defra Register land you use to keep livestock

Keep a list of key industry contacts to hand to save time, should they be required. Some suggestions are included below, along with space to add more.

Company	Name of contact at company	Telephone number	Opening hours			
Local APHA office						
Vet						
Feed supplier						
Abattoir						
Haulier						
Bedding supplier						
Consultant/nutritionist if used						

Appendix 1: Contingency plan considerations

Stage of production	Feed	Water	Housing	Bedding