



WHAT IS THE RISK OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VIRUS BEING SPREAD BY FEED?

African Swine Fever virus (ASFV) causes high mortality in swine and affects global trade of pork. Preventing the spread of ASFV is a high priority for the swine industry. ASFV is known to mainly spread by pig to pig contact or by swill feeding pork meat products that have not been cooked adequately. ASFV can also be spread by vehicle or people movement between farms. The swine industry should focus their investments in biosecurity efforts to control these well-known risk factors. Although ASFV can stay active under a wide variety of environmental conditions for a long time, it can be inactivated by adequate heat or chemical treatments.

What about ASFV spread by feed? Recent studies have demonstrated that ASFV can survive on feed or certain feed ingredients for extended times, but the actual risk of spreading ASFV by feed is not well known. In studies where scientists intentionally contaminated feed with ASFV and fed it to pigs, results indicate that it takes a relatively high amount of ASFV in feed to infect a pig when given a single feeding of the contaminated feed; but it was estimated that the risk of ASFV infection would be higher if pigs were fed the contaminated feed continuously as would be done in commercial production.

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A new study was designed to see if repeated feeding of ASFV contaminated feed would increase the risk of causing infection in pigs. In this study, a high amount of ASFV (previously shown to cause infection by feed) was intentionally added to unprocessed liquid porcine plasma. The inoculated liquid porcine plasma was mixed on feed and provided daily for 14 consecutive days to a group of pigs to see if repeated feedings would cause them to get infected. In fact, none of the pigs got infected with ASFV. The same feeding study was repeated using a different group of pigs and an even higher amount of ASFV on the feed. Again, no pigs were infected. The results of this study indicate that the risk of ASFV infection by feed was very low when using unprocessed ASFV-contaminated liquid porcine plasma mixed on the feed.

More is to be learned about the potential risk of ASFV spread by contaminated feed. However, current information from actual feeding trials suggests the amount of ASFV contamination in feed needed to infect pigs is relatively high.

Feed and feed ingredient suppliers using good manufacturing practices with high biosecurity standards represent a very low risk of ASFV spread by contaminated feed or feed ingredients.

APC is the global leader in manufacturing high quality, safe and effective spray-dried plasma products for use in animal feed. Other studies have shown that processing conditions used by APC to produce spray-dried plasma are able to inactivate ASFV that was intentionally added to the liquid porcine plasma. Spray-dried plasma is well known to benefit pig performance and health. The results of this new study and other biosafety research indicate that APC spray-dried plasma products represent no risk of causing ASFV infection when fed to pigs.