



Elora, Ontario, Canada
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Animal Health Canada secures funding for African swine fever planning for current fiscal year

Animal Health Canada is pleased to announce confirmed funding for a third year of African Swine Fever (ASF) planning and preparedness project to action the Pan-Canadian Action Plan for African Swine Fever. The project will continue throughout this fiscal year with funding until March 2023.

Funding for the project comes from the collective contributions of the Canadian Pork Council, Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the AgriAssurance Program for the Animal Health Emergency Management Project (AHM). The funding will once again be used to prepare Canada against the threat of African Swine Fever.

“We have seen African swine fever spread across the world, causing devastating losses. Prevention and preparedness are crucial to protect Canada from this animal disease. The CFIA is pleased to continue its strong partnership with Animal Health Canada to mitigate and help prevent the entry of ASF into Canada,” says Dr. Mary Jane Ireland, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada.

The ASF project is a pilot as part of Animal Health Canada’s transition to a new model of increased collaboration. The project features a unique enhanced collaboration between federal, provincial, and territorial governments, as well as industry and subject matter experts who form the ASF Executive Management Board (ASF EMB). The ASF EMB provides strategic guidance and assists with prioritizing activities and has been successfully implemented for the past 1.5 years. Feeding into the ASF EMB, the project has over 15 working groups filled with key stakeholders under the 4 strategic pillars:

- Pillar 1: Enhanced biosecurity planning
- Pillar 2: Preparedness planning
- Pillar 3: Ensure business continuity
- Pillar 4: Coordinated risk communications

Project operations are supported by an AHC team, comprising Dr. Rayna Gunvaldsen, ASF National Project Manager, and two Project Leads, Drs. Danielle Julien and Lucie Verdon, as well as central support from the executive AHC team.

This year, a 10-point plan to action gaps identified from last year’s work is underway, and the organization looks forward to engaging stakeholders in this work.

“We are grateful to all of our funding partners for their support in this initiative; it certainly mirrors the collaborative spirit of work done under the ASF project, and the collective desire from all stakeholders to mitigate the risk of African Swine Fever to the Canadian swine population and our food supply,” says Dr. Melanie Barham, Executive Director of Animal Health Canada.

More information can be found at <https://animalhealthcanada.ca/african-swine-fever>

AHC (formerly the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council) was formed in 2010 as an outcome of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (2009) and was established as an advisory body to the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Committee and other stakeholders.

AHC is a unique not for profit organization which is funded jointly by federal, provincial, territorial, and industry/non-government stakeholders. AHC engages expertise to address important topics such as emerging diseases, animal welfare, animal health surveillance, antimicrobial use and resistance, and the emerging theme of “One Welfare”. AHC along with its divisions leads the initiation of projects to address animal health and welfare stakeholder needs in Canada.