

CanSpotASF

ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES THAT AIM TO PROTECT THE COMMERCIAL SWINE SECTOR FROM THE IMPACTS OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

As a plant manager, you can help ensure a successful early detection of African swine fever (ASF) and limit the extensive impacts that this disease would have on the Canadian swine sector. ASF detection will cause pork prices to plummet, and pork producers will be faced with some difficult financial decisions.



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

ASF can cause severe disease and mortality (over 90%). If ASF is detected in any pig or barn in Canada, borders will close to live pigs and pork products, hog prices will decline severely, and producer and processor livelihoods will be in jeopardy.

You can help with African swine fever surveillance!

Surveillance is one important tool to limit the devastating effects of ASF on the commercial swine sector. Before a dramatic increase in mortality is seen, ASF can look like other diseases commonly found in Canadian swine, therefore early detection surveillance is necessary. CanSpotASF is the name of the ASF early detection surveillance toolbox for Canada (Figure 1).

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 pigs.



How may my abattoir be a part of the ASF surveillance?

Part of the plan to enhance early detection of ASF is to test full-carcass condemnations for ASF. Tissue samples (usually spleen) will be collected by inspectors during the inspection process and sent to diagnostic laboratories for rule-out ASF testing. **There will be no requirement for the plant to hold condemned carcasses that are tested under CanSpotASF as ASF was not suspected to be the cause of these condemnations.**

Testing of abattoir condemnations is one tool in CanSpotASF. The first tool, rule-out testing at approved labs, has been active since August 2020.

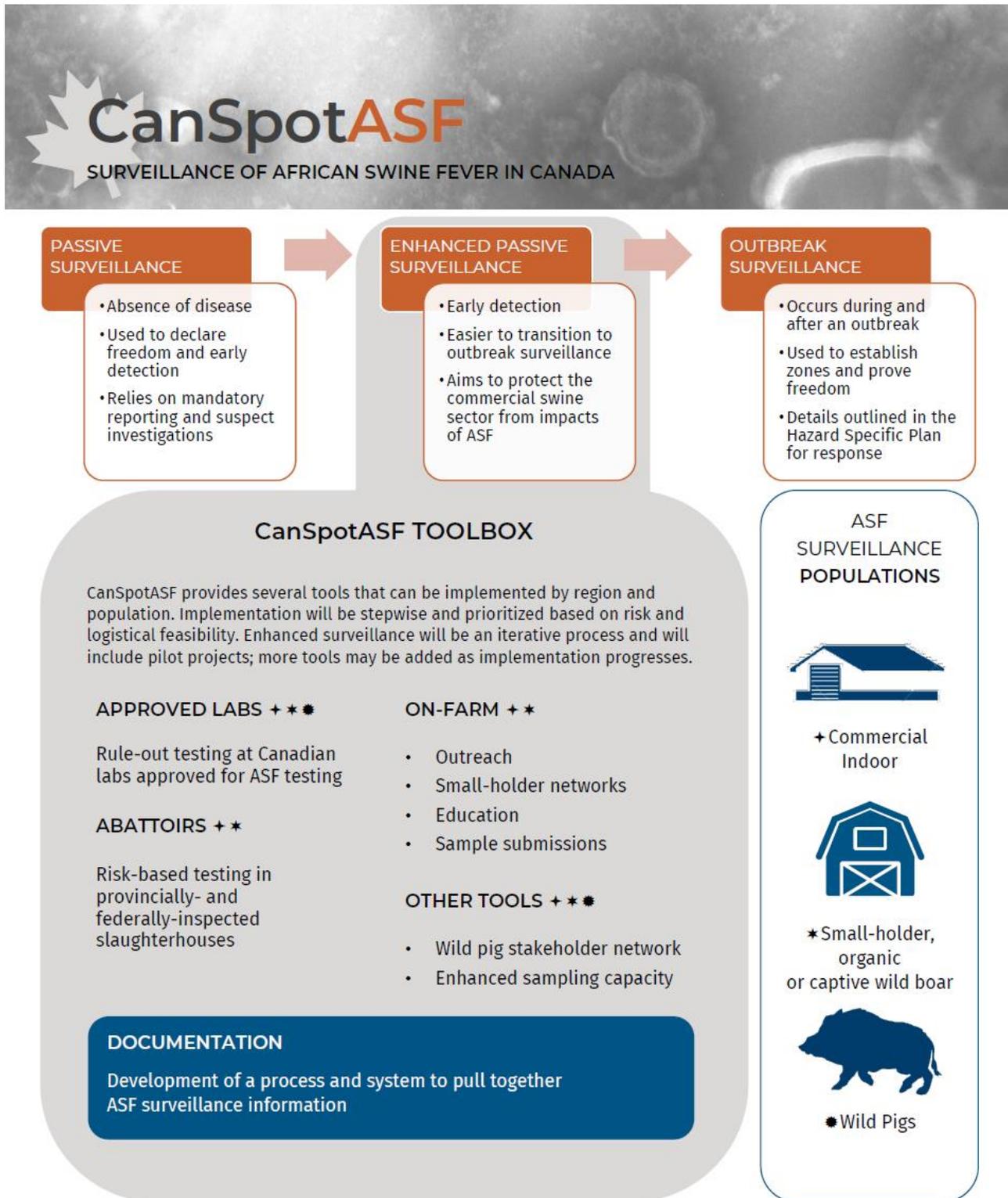


What happens if a laboratory rule-out test is positive?

The ASF test is very good; however, no laboratory test is perfect and in very rare cases a laboratory test can be positive without the disease being present - this is known as a false positive. To ensure that the first confirmed case of ASF in Canada is truly a case, a positive test is followed by further tests and thorough investigation. Therefore, if any test initially come back positive:

- The CFIA will immediately contact the abattoir where the sample was collected to verify trace back information on the premises of origin. There will be a need for the abattoir to verify this information very quickly (within 1 to 2 business hours).
- The CFIA district office affiliated with the premises of origin will:
 - Contact the owner or operator of the premises to schedule an on-site visit to perform a clinical examination of the suspect animals,
 - Complete an epidemiological investigation and risk determination,
 - Collect samples from pigs on the premises, and send these to the CFIA's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease laboratory in Winnipeg for ASF testing (48 to 96 hours expected wait time).
- Depending on the investigation at the premises of origin, or the extent and the frequency of the sanitation cycles applied at the abattoir since the collection of the samples, CFIA may require actions to prevent potential disease transmission at the abattoir during the time period while the NCFAD confirmatory testing is completed (estimated 48 to 96 hours).
 - Such actions may include cleaning and disinfection of unloading docks and live-animal reception areas.
 - While the required cleaning and disinfection is being completed, and until it is approved by the CFIA, the abattoir can continue to process animals that are already on site, but cannot receive new animals.
 - The length of this temporary halt in operations is dependent on the facilities' ability to mobilize the necessary resources to complete the required cleaning and disinfection.
 - Once the CFIA approval is obtained the abattoir can again begin to receive and process animals.
- If ASF is confirmed by further testing and investigation, CFIA will maintain movement restrictions and initiate response activities.

Figure 1: Overview of CanSpotASF - early detection surveillance for ASF in Canada.



Under the direction from the ASF Executive Management Board, the CanSpotASF enhanced surveillance for African Swine Fever (ASF) is a collaboration between the swine industry, the CFIA, diagnostic animal health laboratories, provincial governments, the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN) including the regional networks RAIZO, OAHN, CWSHIN, and the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS).