



# Classical Swine Fever

## Hog Cholera

Classical swine fever (CSF), also known as hog cholera, is highly contagious and an economically significant viral disease of pigs. CSF is identified by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a “high-consequence” foreign animal disease (FAD) because it is one of the diseases that poses the most significant threat to animal agriculture. The disease has been eradicated from the United States (U.S.) since 1978. Outbreaks have occurred in Asia, South America, Central America, including Mexico and parts of the Caribbean and Africa; therefore, a comprehensive disease surveillance program was implemented in 2006 with the goals of rapidly detecting the CSF virus in U.S. swine and mitigating the impacts of a large-scale outbreak. California has been free of CSF since 1970. CSF affects domestic and wild (feral) swine.

### Transmission

Pigs can become infected after eating food contaminated with the virus. This most commonly occurs from the feeding of uncooked or undercooked garbage or meat products to pigs. Pigs are then exposed by direct contact with infected pigs or by objects (fomites) contaminated by infected pigs (e.g., equipment, boots, clothing, buckets, pens). The virus is shed in the blood, saliva, nasal discharge, urine, feces, or tissues of infected pigs. The virus can also be spread in semen during breeding or across the placenta from infected sows to piglets. Less commonly, the virus is spread by aerosol in close confinement or by vectors (e.g. flies).

### Signs of Disease

**Do not feed uncooked or undercooked garbage, swill, or meat products to pigs. Implement fly control measures. In Spanish, this is also known as Escamocha, Lavaza, Descarte, Friegue, Filtradas, or Sobras.**

Severity of the disease varies with the strain of virus introduced. Disease can range from mild to severe. Acute infections occur rapidly (2 to 15 days) and results in variable rates of illness and death. Chronic infections occur over a longer period of time (2 to 4 weeks) and may only affect a few animals. Some infected pigs may not show signs of disease but serve to spread the virus to others.

Infected pigs may have a high fever (105-107°F), huddle, and stop eating. Intermittent constipation followed by diarrhea and conjunctivitis (reddened eyes) can occur. Hemorrhages of the skin may be seen as raised, reddened spots on the skin, or purple discoloration of the ears, abdomen, or inner thighs. Young pigs may have incoordination, weakness, and convulsions.

In breeding herds, the disease can affect reproductive performance. Infected sows may abort, have stillborn, mummified, malformed, or weak piglets.



### Prevention

To prevent the introduction of CSF, use strict biosecurity measures on your farm.

Minimize visitors on your farm and do not allow persons who have recently (last five days) had contact with animals, especially swine, in other countries to have contact with your pigs.

Clean coveralls and boots should be worn when contact with pigs is expected. These items should remain on the farm and be cleaned and disinfected prior to re-use.

Vehicles and wheel wells should be cleaned and disinfected before entering and leaving the farm.

### Report Classical Swine Fever immediately if suspected

Newly arriving or returning pigs should be isolated for at least 30 days before being introduced to the rest of the herd.

It is important to note that CSF **does not** affect humans.

### Animal Health and Food Safety Services Animal Health Branch

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