



HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PIGS FROM AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Introduction:

As of August 5, 2025, Vietnam is experiencing a severe resurgence of African Swine Fever (ASF), a highly contagious viral disease affecting pigs. The country has reported: 1) 972 ASF outbreaks up from 514 in mid-July. 2) Over 100,000 pigs have died or being culled. 3) The virus has spread nationwide, with no province spared

The Vietnamese government has classified the situation as critical, prompting urgent national intervention. This crisis reminds us that Uganda must act now to protect its pig farmers before the disease outbreaks.

What is African Swine Fever (ASF):

ASF is a deadly viral disease that affects pigs, it does not affect humans, but it can wipe out the entire herds quickly. There is no treatment and no cure. It can survive for weeks in products, tools, clothes. Once it spreads, the only solution is to kill infected animals to prevent more losses.

How ASF spreads:

- ✔ From infected pigs or wild pigs.
- ✔ Through contaminated feed, water, clothes or vehicles.
- ✔ From feeding pigs raw or unboiled kitchen waste.
- ✔ Through pig markets and uncontrolled animal movement.



Reference:

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/vietnam-facing-worsening-african-swine-fever-outbreaks-2025-08-05/>

Why Uganda should be concerned:

Uganda's pork industry is growing fast and pigs are an important source of income and food for many smallholder farmers. But most farms have poor biosecurity and pigs often roam or mix with others at markets. If ASF enters Uganda, it could:

- ✔ Kill thousands of pigs
- ✔ Destroy livelihoods
- ✔ Cause pork shortages and price hikes
- ✔ Lead to national culling and trade bans

How farmers in Uganda can prevent ASF:

Use these low cost, high impact actions to keep pigs safe

| DO's | DONT's |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a fence to prevent your pigs from mixing with others. • Wash hands, boots and tools before and after entering pig areas. • Quarantine new pigs for least 2 – 3 weeks before mixing with the rest. • Restrict farm access- only allow essential personnel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't let pigs roam freely • Don't feed unboiled food scraps • Don't buy pigs from unknown sources or markets without inspection • Don't hide sick pigs or sell them secretly |

Recommendation to the Government (MAAIF)

- ✔ Train veterinary officers and local leaders on how to respond quickly to outbreaks.
- ✔ Encourage farmers to report sudden pig deaths.
- ✔ Equip district veterinary offices with rapid testing kits and reporting systems
- ✔ Create awareness campaigns to help farmers and communities understand what African swine fever is.

Call to Action:

Uganda must learn from Vietnam's mistake and prepare before it's too late. Let's protect our pigs, protect our food and protect our future.