



African swine fever update

adapted from DAFF ASF update report, 6 Sep 2019

Several additional outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) have occurred in Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga and the Free State provinces since May this year. This brings the total number of outbreaks in 2019 in South Africa outside the ASF control zones to 17 (fig 1).

A variety of properties have been affected, from semi-commercial farms to backyard holdings. In all cases, the disease was detected due to observation of clinical signs, most notably increased mortalities. Outbreaks were either reported to veterinarians who then investigated further, or were detected via forward-tracing from other outbreaks.

The virus appears to be spreading in several ways, including through the movement of infected pigs as well as through fomites and infected swill.

The majority of the outbreaks have been shown to be caused by the same genotype 1 virus. However, the two outbreaks in the North West were caused by unrelated viruses.

The sale of pigs at auctions has been suspended in Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga and the Free State in an attempt to stop the spread of the virus. Affected herds have been quarantined and culled with the assistance of the South African Pork Producers' Organisation. The infected carcasses were disposed of by burial or burning, followed by cleaning and disinfection of the facilities in which they were kept.

The scope to continue controlling the disease in this way is limited if the outbreaks continue. All pig keepers and veterinarians are encouraged to apply strict biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

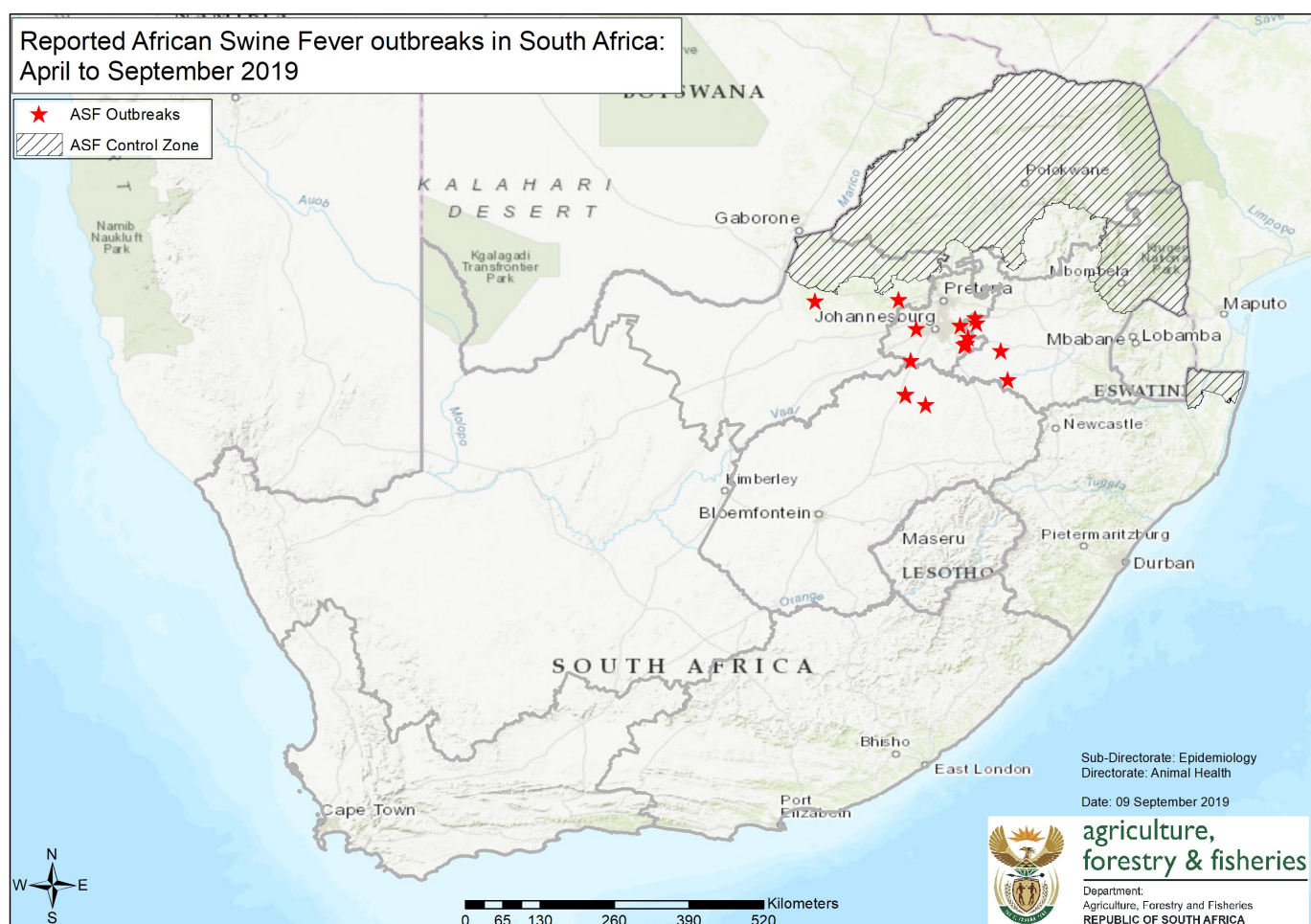


Figure 1: Locations of reported African swine fever outbreaks in South Africa outside the control zones: April-September 2019 (DAFF)

Western Cape presentations at SASVEPM 2019

Several officials from Western Cape Veterinary Services attended the annual conference of the Southern African Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SASVEPM) in August 2019.

There was no shortage of representation of the Western Cape in the conference presentations either.

Belinda Peyrot, veterinary technologist in the virology section of the Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory, presented an investigation of the molecular epidemiology of the avian influenza viruses isolated from coastal wild birds in the Western and Eastern Cape during the outbreak of H5N8 AI in 2017 and 2018. She found that the viruses affecting these birds clustered together with viruses isolated from terrestrial birds in these same areas, but had undergone some changes.

Lesley van Helden, state veterinarian in the epidemiology section at Western Cape Veterinary Services, presented her work on serosurveillance for hepatitis E virus in commercial pig herds supplying the City of Cape Town.

She found a high seroprevalence for hepatitis E in pigs at slaughter age, as well as several risk factors associated with seroprevalence in pig herds.

Shira Amar, compulsory community service veterinarian at Wingfield Military Base, presented a study of working dogs with lumbosacral disease, analysing the length of time between diagnosis and boarding of the dogs when they were no longer able to work. She found that the median time to boarding was 230 days, but that female dogs were more likely to be boarded sooner than male dogs.

John Grewar, research and innovation manager at South African Equine Health and Protocols, presented an analysis of whether the zebra in the Western Cape were capable of maintaining a reservoir of African horse sickness virus. The risk of this was found to be extremely low. He also gave a presentation detailing the new protocols for control of African horse sickness in the control zones of the Western Cape.



Outbreak events

Salmonella enteritidis was detected on several **chicken** farms surrounding **Cape Town**. In all cases the affected houses were treated with antibiotics and follow-up samples were taken to ensure effectiveness of treatment.

Three **pigs** from two large, commercial farms in the **Malmesbury** state vet area showed classic diamond-shaped lesions of **swine erysipelas** after slaughter and scalding at the abattoir. No clinical signs were observed prior to slaughter. Both farms routinely vaccinate their breeding stock against erysipelas.

Brucella ovis was detected in **rams** near **Vanrhynsdorp**.

In **Lutzville**, three **ewes** were treated for **pasteurellosis**.

Sarcoptic mange was seen in **dogs** in **Mamre**.

Clinical signs of **nasal bots** were seen in **sheep** near **Darling** and **Malmesbury**.

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Disclaimer: This report is published on a monthly basis for the purpose of providing up-to-date information regarding epidemiology of animal diseases in the Western Cape Province. Much of the information is therefore preliminary and should not be cited/utilised for publication

