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Report Name: Selangor Pig Farming Controversy - Industry Modernization and Environmental Concerns

Country: Malaysia

Post: Kuala Lumpur

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Report Highlights:

In January 2026, the Selangor state government proposed a centralized pig farming project in Bukit Tagar as part of broader efforts to modernize the industry, strengthen biosecurity, and address longstanding environmental concerns following years of ASF-related disruptions. The proposal generated significant debate and political tension after Selangor's Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah publicly raised concerns regarding water resource protection, environmental risks, and the long-term suitability of pig farming activities within Selangor. As Selangor remains an important pork-producing state, the outcome of this issue could influence future investment, herd recovery, and development of Malaysia's swine sector. The issue also presents opportunities to grow U.S. pork exports to Malaysia as well as potential decreased demand for genetics and feed commodities.

Selangor State Government's Perspective on Pig Farming Modernization Industry Background

Selangor is one of Malaysia's largest pork-producing states, with pig farming activities concentrated primarily in Kuala Langat and Sepang districts. According to the Malaysia Agrofood Statistics 2024 published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Selangor raised approximately 260,000 hogs in 2024¹. Following African Swine Fever (ASF)-related culling and farm closures, media reports indicated that the state's pig population subsequently declined to approximately 100,000 head². Nationally, Malaysia's swine population is estimated at approximately 1.18 million head in 2024³, serving mainly domestic non-Muslim consumption demand. These figures underscore Selangor's importance within Malaysia's commercial pig farming industry, although the consequences of the ASF outbreak and subsequent restructuring efforts have affected production.

Most pig farms in Selangor operate under open-house farming systems established before current regulations, urban expansion, and modern biosecurity requirements became more stringent. Over time, rapid residential development and growing public scrutiny created increasing pressure on the industry, particularly in Kuala Langat and Sepang, where many farms operate near rivers, villages, and populated communities. Longstanding concerns involving odor pollution, wastewater discharge, and farm management practices periodically attract complaints from residents and regulatory authorities.

ASF Impact and Industry Challenges

ASF has affected Malaysia's swine industry since the [first outbreak in Sabah in February 2021](#). The disease subsequently spread to other parts of the country including Peninsular Malaysia, contributing to a significant reduction in the national swine population. Against this backdrop, several farms in Selangor tested positive for ASF in early 2025, resulting in large-scale culling operations and renewed concerns regarding farm biosecurity, disease management, and industry recovery efforts. The outbreaks further highlighted ongoing challenges related to farm recovery efforts. The outbreaks further highlighted ongoing challenges related to farm management, biosecurity controls, and long-term sector sustainability as the industry continues to adapt to ASF, which Malaysia now considers as endemic. It also generated financial losses for farmers due to culling operations, movement restrictions, and production disruptions. Reports indicate that the outbreaks affected a substantial portion of Selangor's licensed pig farms, further complicating ongoing recovery efforts within Selangor, Malaysia's second-largest pig-producing state after Perak.

Selangor State Government's Modernization Proposal

In response to biosecurity and environmental concerns, the Selangor State Government proposed restructuring and modernizing the swine industry through a centralized pig farming model in Bukit Tagar, Hulu Selangor that [the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security supported](#). State authorities have emphasized that the initiative is not intended to expand pig farming activities, but rather to consolidate and better regulate existing operations under stricter biosecurity and regulatory controls. The restructuring effort aims to transition the industry away from scattered traditional open-house systems

¹ Malaysia Agrofood in Figures 2024 published by Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

² Berita Harian: Dakwaan isu penternakan babi di Selangor keterlaluan - Bahasa

³ Malaysia Agrofood in Figures 2024 published by Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

toward modern closed-house facilities equipped with centralized wastewater treatment systems, tighter operational monitoring, improved disease surveillance, and stronger farm management oversight. Modern commercial swine producers commonly use closed-house systems due to their ability to improve disease containment, regulate farm access, reduce odor emissions, and enhance production efficiency.

State authorities argue that centralized farming would allow easier enforcement, improve waste management, reduce pollution risks, and strengthen long-term disease control while maintaining stable domestic pork supply. However, industry sources indicated that development of modern closed-house pig farming facilities could require significant capital investment depending on infrastructure specifications, waste treatment requirements, and compliance standards. Additional investments would also likely be needed for supporting infrastructure including centralized wastewater treatment facilities, road access, utilities, and biosecurity systems. Despite concerns from industry regarding transition costs, the Selangor state government maintains that long-term restructuring is necessary to ensure the industry could continue operating under stricter standards while minimizing future disease outbreaks and recurring land-use and pollution-related conflicts within the state.

Royal Concerns Over Pig Farming Activities in Selangor

In Malaysia's constitutional monarchy, the Sultan serves as the sovereign ruler of his respective state, holding significant moral and ceremonial authority, and his public positions on matters of state policy carry considerable weight with both government officials and the broader public. Early discussions between [the palace and state authorities focused on relocating existing pig farming](#) operations from Kuala Langat and Sepang to a centralized facility in Bukit Tagar as part of efforts to address longstanding concerns related to pollution, wastewater management, and public complaints.⁴ According to statements by Selangor state officials following discussions with the Sultan, the palace initially supported efforts to relocate existing farms away from their current locations, provided that the state adequately addressed environmental concerns. However, as public debate escalated, the Sultan's position became increasingly firm, with the palace eventually no longer supporting further discussions involving large-scale pig farming within Selangor.

In early 2026, [Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah expressed concern](#) that the proposed centralized pig farming project in Bukit Tagar could affect water catchment areas and rivers that provide water to populations in Selangor and the Klang Valley. The Sultan emphasized that protection of water resources should take precedence over large-scale livestock projects that could potentially create long-term ecological risks. He raised concerns over possible river contamination, wastewater discharge, odor pollution, and the long-term effectiveness of waste management and enforcement systems even under a modern closed-house farming model. The palace also highlighted that pig farming activities in Selangor have long generated recurring complaints involving pollution, waste disposal, odor emissions, and farm management issues, particularly in areas surrounding Kuala Langat and Sepang where pig farms operate near residential communities and waterways.

⁴ The Vibes.com: Pig farm to be moved to Bukit Tagar as soon as possible

The Sultan also questioned the long-term necessity of maintaining large-scale pig farming activities within Selangor when pork supply could instead be [sourced from other states such as Sarawak](#)⁵ or through imports from external suppliers.

In addition to environmental and operational concerns, the issue also carries significant social and political sensitivities within Malaysia's Muslim-majority society. The palace appeared cautious that prolonged public debate surrounding large-scale pig farming projects could contribute to unnecessary public tension and social unease if not carefully managed. The royal institution consistently emphasizes cautious long-term land-use planning, protection of public interests, and preservation of harmony within the state.

Implications for Malaysia's Swine Sector

The controversy surrounding pig farming in Selangor extends beyond a state-level land use dispute and has broader implications for Malaysia's swine sector. Selangor has historically been one of the country's largest commercial pig-producing states, and any reduction, relocation, or restructuring of pig farming activities could affect domestic pork production capacity.

Malaysia's pork self-sufficiency ratio declined from 93.4 percent in 2021 to 67.8 percent in 2024⁶ reflecting the significant impact of ASF related disruptions on domestic production. Against this backdrop, the ASF outbreak, subsequent farm closures, and uncertainty surrounding future development plans have raised concerns regarding long-term industry expansion, investment decisions, and herd recovery efforts. Industry stakeholders have expressed concerns that prolonged uncertainty may discourage reinvestment in modern production facilities and accelerate consolidation within the sector. Selangor accounted for approximately 22 percent of Malaysia's swine population in 2024, highlighting the significance of developments in the state for the broader industry.

While uncertainty surrounding future pig farming development in West Malaysia continues, the industry is expanding in other regions of Malaysia. Sarawak has planned to expand its commercial pig industry and increase annual production from approximately [350,000 head in 2025 to 860,000 head by 2030](#) as part of efforts to strengthen domestic supply and develop export opportunities. Importing countries, such as Singapore, recognize Sarawak's ASF-free status, as well. As a result, Sarawak may potentially offset production constraints faced in Peninsular Malaysia.

Trade and U.S. Industry Implications

Malaysia imports pork and pork products to supplement domestic production, sourcing supplies primarily from countries such as Spain, Denmark, Netherlands, Canada, and the United States. Further contraction of domestic pig production in Selangor could increase Malaysia's reliance on imported pork products. Given existing ASF-related restrictions affecting imports from major suppliers to Malaysia, including Spain, the United States has a possible opening to secure more market share and increase exports.

⁵ Kosmo: Isu Babi - Sultan Selangor dukacita ada pihak ingkar titah (Bahasa)

⁶ Malaysia Agrofood in Figures 2024 published by Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

At the same time, a smaller domestic swine herd could reduce demand for production inputs used by local farms, including feed ingredients, swine genetics, and live animals. Any significant decline in Malaysia's swine population would likely reduce demand for imported feed ingredients, including soybean meal and feed grains. Conversely, if Malaysia moves forward with modernization and herd recovery efforts, demand for these inputs could improve over time. These effects should be viewed separately: weaker domestic pork production may support pork imports, while a smaller swine herd may reduce demand for farm-level inputs.

Attachments:

No Attachments.