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Report Name: ASF Triggers Ban of Food Waste in Hog Feed

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Report Highlights:

An isolated ASF outbreak in October 2025 has prompted Taiwan to announce a phased ban on food waste in pig feed, with a transition period in 2026 and a total ban by 2027. The ban is expected to moderately increase Taiwan's demand for imported corn and soybeans, though the impact will be dependent on the speed of local implementation, exceptions for business-generated food waste, and changes in the hog sector. The government is supporting the transition with subsidies and infrastructure investment, but concerns remain about added pressure on waste management systems.

Isolated ASF Outbreak Triggers Phased Ban Plan on Food Waste in Hog Feed

In October 2025, Taiwan reported its first domestic ASF case at a pig farm in Taichung's Wuqi District, traced to unsterilized household food waste. The outbreak was quickly contained, but it prompted immediate regulatory tightening, including a temporary ban on food waste feeding and increased inspections.

In 2024, Taiwan generated approximately 772,000 metric tons (MT) of food waste. Of this, 483,000 MT (62.6 percent) were used as hog feed. Household food waste accounted for 505,000 MT (65 percent), with 42.8 percent used for hog feed, while business food waste contributed 267,000 MT (35 percent), all used for hog feed. The remainder was processed through composting (30 percent), bioenergy production (6.2 percent), and other uses such as black soldier fly cultivation (1.2 percent). As of October 2025, 435 out of 5,552 pig farms, about 8 percent, were registered to use food waste as feed, collectively raising approximately 470,000 pigs. Many of these farms primarily raise native black pigs, which require a longer rearing period and are well-suited to roughage-based diets, though not all pigs fed food waste are black pigs.

Given the importance of the pork industry to Taiwan and the potentially devastating impact if ASF were to resurface, banning food waste in hog feed is considered a critical measure to safeguard animal health and protect the sector's stability. This context sets the stage for a comprehensive policy response.

Executive Yuan's Decision

On December 4, 2025, the [Executive Yuan](#) (EY) convened to hear the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)'s report on the adjustment of the food waste hog feed policy. MOA stated that, in order to prevent the risk of African Swine Fever, the nationwide deadline for the complete transition away from food waste hog feeding is set for December 31, 2026. The government will also implement support measures to assist pig farmers in transitioning away from food waste feeding. To ensure effective implementation, the EY set four main objectives: prioritize disease prevention, ensure safe and effective food waste disposal, support industry transition, and promote resource recycling.

Considering differences among local governments in food waste classification, disposal planning, and support for pig farmers' transition, each municipality or county/city government may, according to its own plans, announce an earlier timeline for ending food waste hog feeding and introduce enhanced measures. Ministries were directed to assist local governments with strict control mechanisms and technological tools, accelerate the construction of food waste recycling facilities, and promote food waste reduction and education. Regional cooperation for waste management, especially during incinerator maintenance or emergencies, was also emphasized. This approach aims to balance disease prevention, food waste disposal, and the practical needs of pig farmers during the transition.

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA): Food Waste Hog Feed Policy Adjustment and Permitted Feed Sources During Transition

Starting in 2026, pig farms may continue using only certain types of food waste as feed, subject to explicit local government approval, compliance with all technical and biosecurity requirements, and strict regulatory controls. Permitted feed sources during the transition period include business-derived food waste such as leftovers from restaurants, schools, military units, correctional facilities, and supermarkets, as well as animal by-products including near-expiry domestic meat products and slaughterhouse residues.

It is important to note that specific plant-based business waste, such as fruit and vegetable residues, distillers' grains or lees, and bagasse, will continue to be permitted as hog feed even after the comprehensive ban on other food waste sources takes effect at the end of 2026.

Household food waste, as well as food waste from food stalls and apartment buildings, is strictly prohibited at all times. To further mitigate the risk of contamination and ensure traceability, pig farmers must submit a detailed list of waste source locations for local government review and approval. The use of food waste collected by municipal cleaning teams is also prohibited for hog feed purposes.

To qualify for continued use of permitted food waste, farms must install temperature monitoring and video surveillance systems to ensure and document proper sterilization by heating above 90°C for at least one hour, use GPS-equipped vehicles for waste transport, and pass a joint inspection by the end of 2025. Local governments are responsible for ongoing oversight and enforcement. The national deadline for the full transition away from food waste hog feeding is December 31, 2026, but local governments may implement the ban earlier based on their own circumstances.

To support the transition, MOA is providing tiered subsidies of NT\$3,600 per pig for those switching to commercial feed before the end of 2025, and NT\$1,800 per pig for those transitioning in 2026, as well as grants for equipment upgrades. Technical support and an industry guidance team will help black pig producers transition, including the development of dedicated feed formulas.

Ministry of Environment (MOENV): Food Waste Recycling Management and Disposal Planning

Following EY's [decision](#), MOENV will prohibit the sale of food waste collected by municipal cleaning teams to pig farmers and will strengthen real-time monitoring systems for pig farms. The ministry is also enhancing incinerator controls, expanding composting, black soldier fly, and bioenergy facilities, and promoting food waste reduction and recycling education in schools and communities. During the transition, some food waste may need to be incinerated or sent to landfill, which will significantly increase the burden on Taiwan's waste management infrastructure and raise concerns about capacity and environmental impact. To address these challenges, MOENV is working with local governments to expand and optimize food waste recycling facilities, ensure regional cooperation for waste management, and promote food waste reduction at the source through public education and food and agricultural literacy campaigns.

According to MOENV, Taiwan generates approximately 2,115 MT of food waste daily, of which 731 MT from business sources are used for hog feed. With the ban, an additional 1,384 MT of household food waste previously used for hog feed will require alternative treatment. Currently, food waste processing facilities have a daily capacity of about 1,100 MT, leaving around 284 MT per day that must be managed through incineration or landfill. MOENV further notes that the phase-out of food waste hog feeding is expected to stimulate private investment, with plans to increase processing capacity by 620 MT per day in 2026 and an additional 400 MT per day in 2027, ensuring sufficient capacity for future needs.

Feed Demand and Trade Impact

According to industry estimates, food waste-fed pigs require 4.0 kilograms of food waste per 1 kilogram of weight gain, while commercial feed-fed pigs require 2.8 kilograms of commercial feed per 1 kilogram of weight gain. Assuming a standard commercial feed formulation of 60 percent corn and 25 percent soybean meal, the projected changes in feed demand and trade value under the food waste ban scenarios would represent a modest increase to Taiwan's overall grains and oilseeds imports.

Scenario	Year	Additional Corn Demand (MT/year)	Additional Soybean Demand (MT/year)	Value*: Corn (US\$ million)	Value*: Soybean (US\$ million)
Household food waste banned	2026	90,860	48,462	\$22.7	\$21.8
All food waste in feed banned	2027	202,860	108,192	\$50.7	\$48.7

** Using a theoretical price of \$250/MT for corn and \$450/MT for soybean*

These figures represent the upper bound of potential increases in feed grain and oilseeds demand, as estimates do not account for the continued use of permitted plant-based waste materials (which are currently not separately counted in statistics). The actual impact on demand will depend on the extent of ongoing utilization of these exempt materials and how the sector adjusts to the policy change, including possible exits by smaller producers and potential expansion by economies-of-scale producers.

Conclusion

Taiwan's response to the ASF outbreak has led to a decisive policy shift. The phased, nationwide ban on food waste in hog feed is supported by subsidies, technical support, infrastructure investment, and special measures for black pig producers. The transition is expected to moderately increase demand for imported corn and soybean, with broader implications for waste management and the sustainability of Taiwan's hog sector.

Attachments:

No Attachments.