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## Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

### **ASF Found in Sausages Brought into Japan**

**Report Categories:**

Livestock and Products

Agricultural Situation

**Approved By:**

Christopher Riker

**Prepared By:**

Aki Imaizumi

**Report Highlights:**

On October 22, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced that genomes from the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus were found in 1.5 Kg of sausages brought by a passenger from Beijing to Shin-Chitose airport in Hokkaido, Japan. The sausages were confiscated at the airport on October 1, 2018. MAFF has requested each Prefecture's Animal Health Director conduct thorough monitoring of any product brought in by international travelers. Port Animal Health Directors have also been encouraged to monitor international product. Producers of livestock products are being encouraged to avoid international travel to areas where ASF has been detected.

## **General Information:**

On October 22, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced that genomes from the African Swine Fever<sup>1</sup> (ASF) virus were found in 1.5 Kg of sausages brought by a passenger from Beijing to Shin-Chitose airport in Hokkaido, Japan. The sausages were confiscated at the airport on October 1, 2018. See <http://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/douei/attach/pdf/asf-144.pdf>. A partial, provisional translation developed by MAFF is included in Attachment 1.

Japan's National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO) has sequenced the virus and the ASF strain was determined to be identical to that identified in China, Poland, Estonia, Russia, and Georgia. The virus has been isolated, and results are expected in the coming weeks.

MAFF has informed each Prefecture's Animal Health Director of the finding, and reminded them to conduct thorough monitoring of any product brought in by international travelers (a provisional translation developed by MAFF is included in Attachment 2 herein). Port Animal Health Directors have also been reminded to monitor international product, while Japanese producers of livestock products are further encouraged to avoid international travel to areas where ASF has been detected.

## **Where is ASF in the World?**

Although there have been no ASF outbreaks in Japan, since 2016, 43 of 198 World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) reporting countries and territories have reported the disease as present:

Angola, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, People's Republic of Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Estonia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

See

[http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal Health in the World/docs/pdf/Disease cards/Report 1. Global situation of ASF Updated 191018.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Health_in_the_World/docs/pdf/Disease_cards/Report_1_Global_situation_of ASF_Updated_191018.pdf) .

## **Imports Account for Nearly Half of All Pork Consumed in Japan**

According to MAFF, Japan produced 1.3 million metric tons (MT) of pork in 2017 (on a carcass weight equivalent (CWE)). According to data published by Global Trade Atlas, Japan imported 1.1 million MT (product weight equivalent (PWE)) of fresh, chilled and frozen pork and products (totaling \$5.2 billion). The United States exported 406,816 MT (PWE) of pork and pork products to Japan during this period (33 percent of Japan's total pork and pork product import volume) valued at \$1.7 billion.

## **Table 1 – Japanese Pork and Pork Products Imports in 2017**

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<sup>1</sup> Per the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), African Swine Fever (ASF) is a severe viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs and is responsible for serious production and economic losses. This transboundary animal disease (can be spread by live or dead pigs, domestic or wild, and pork products; furthermore, transmission can also occur via contaminated feed and fomites (non-living objects) such as shoes, clothes, vehicles, knives, equipment etc., due to the high environmental resistance of ASF virus.

Japan Import Statistics				
Pork & Pork Products				
Partner Country	2017			
	USD	Share	Quantity (Metric Ton)	Share
World	5,170,018,474	100	1,158,814	100
United States	1,686,039,827	33%	406,816	35%
Canada	1,064,066,910	21%	234,244	20%
Denmark	551,481,151	11%	118,606	10%
Spain	522,120,343	10%	110,024	9%
Mexico	429,976,647	8%	93,055	8%
Netherlands	143,164,832	3%	35,367	3%
Chile	127,454,724	2%	28,282	2%
Germany	117,337,224	2%	28,566	2%
Italy	106,160,532	2%	16,796	1%
China	103,189,561	2%	23,293	2%
Hungary	94,982,025	2%	20,306	2%
France	71,824,332	1%	15,355	1%
Thailand	49,944,542	1%	5,742	0%
Ireland	40,018,244	1%	9,423	1%
Austria	38,468,272	1%	8,190	1%
Brazil	6,599,370	0%	1,437	0%
Portugal	4,577,173	0%	980	0%
Australia	4,250,521	0%	666	0%
Finland	3,143,802	0%	667	0%
Belgium	2,973,473	0%	670	0%
Taiwan	1,397,245	0%	167	0%
Korea South	316,764	0%	73	0%
United Kingdom	277,509	0%	57	0%
Singapore	111,251	0%	13	0%
Philippines	91,560	0%	15	0%
Sri Lanka	29,586	0%	4	0%
Switzerland	21,052	0%	1	0%
Panama	0	0%	0	0%

NOTE: Product is on a Product Weight Equivalent (PWE)

Source: World Trade Atlas

## Attachment 1

(PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION)

22nd October 2018

Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau

### **Detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) gene from pork sausage in baggage of passenger from China**

Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) has conducted gene test (PCR) for African Swine Fever (ASF) on 18th October Thursday and found positive, on the pork sausage (1.5 Kg. Heat processed to certain degree.) that was confiscated from baggage of passenger arrived at Shin-Chitose airport from Beijing on 1st October Monday.

AQS further carried out sequencing (analysis of gene sequences of PCR amplified product) on 19th October Friday, and as a result, sequence of PCR products got 100% match to the strain isolated in China, Poland, Estonia, Russian Federation and Georgia up to now, therefore found it closely related to those strain.

Currently virus isolation is undergoing to confirm the presence of infectious virus in National Institute of Animal Health, National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (the result is expected to be achieved in two to four weeks).

MAFF has been strengthening the border control, as well as giving warning to the stakeholder, since 3rd August this year, i.e. the date that ASF was first confirmed in China. Following the above mentioned confirmation, MAFF has sent information to the relevant Ministries and once again strengthened the border control.

In addition, MAFF has provided the relevant information and given guidance to pig producers so that they fully comply with Biosecurity Standards in order to prevent ASF from introducing to the farms through prefectural government and pig industries.

(Photo of sample)



## **Attachment 2**

(PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION)

10 shouan 3695  
22nd October 2018

Director General of Animal Quarantine Service

Director of Animal Health Division

Reaffirm of thorough implementation of border control with regard to expand of outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

Following the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in China, I have sent notification dated 7th August 2018 (reference 30 shouan 2568) to request Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) to:

Provide information to the stakeholder, including CIQ related organizations, manager of passenger terminal building, flight companies, shipping companies and travel companies; and

Implement thoroughly the border control in cooperation with stakeholders, by conducting interview by Animal Quarantine Officer, boot disinfection, detector dog activities, and verification of appropriate treatment of wastes and garbage produced in the ship/airplane.

In the light of condition that cases of outbreak of ASF in China have been continuously increasing, ASF virus gene was detected from pork sausage introduced as personal belonging of passenger from China, as a result of test carried out in your office. In this regard, we request to continue to thoroughly implement the border control.