

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: October 02,2019

Report Number: JA2019-0014

Report Name: Japan Initiates Process to Vaccinate Hogs against CSF

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Agricultural Situation, Pest/Disease Occurrences

Prepared By: Aki Imaizumi

Approved By: Alexander Blamberg

Report Highlights:

On September 20, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) announced its intention to permit vaccinations of healthy hogs in prefectures affected by Classical Swine Fever. MAFF's Expert Committee supported the draft amendment to existing guidelines which is open for public comments until October 7. If formally approved, governors in each of the prefectures will have the flexibility to develop regional vaccination programs.

General Information:

Classical Swine Fever (CSF) was detected in Japan for the first time in 26 years in September 2018 and has since been detected on hog farms across eight prefectures in central Japan. Approximately 144,000 hogs have been culled as of October 1, 2019. On September 13, 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced that CSF had been detected on a hog farm in Saitama prefecture (the eighth prefecture). This marked a key turning point in the spread of the disease as Saitama is located in the Kanto region of Japan which accounts for 25 percent of Japan's pork production (though Saitama itself only accounts for one percent). On September 17, MAFF announced a second detection in Saitama on a farm with 1,307 hogs.

On September 20, MAFF announced its intention to permit the use of CSF vaccinations on healthy hogs in affected prefectures. MAFF's Guideline for Specific Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Quarantine had previously prohibited vaccinations of healthy hogs. MAFF's Expert Committee tentatively approved a revision of this guideline pending a public comment period from September 27 to October 7. Once the comments are reviewed, the Expert Committee will make its formal recommendation to MAFF to revise the guideline. The draft amendment states that MAFF may nominate certain prefectures where the vaccine can be applied. MAFF is currently considering nine prefectures which have had CSF detections on hog farms or in the wild boar population (Saitama, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Nagano, Gifu, Aichi, Mie, and Shiga). Once nominated, each prefectural governor will have the authority to develop a vaccination program and identify specific areas within the prefecture for vaccination. The draft amendment prohibits the transfer of live hogs and certain items outside of vaccinated areas, but there is no restriction on the movement of pork products. Once vaccinations commence, Japan is likely to lose its CSF-free status at the Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Japan's CSF-free status was suspended in September 2018.

For more information on Japan's pork market, see FAS/Tokyo's 2019 Livestock and Products Annual Report ([JA9105](#)). For more information on Classical Swine Fever, see the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service [website](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.