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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary - Public

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Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Pigs Infected with ASF Identified Before Reaching Hong Kong Border

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Livestock and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

Late in the evening of August 13, media reports stated that two pigs were confirmed to be infected with the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus in the interim transfer house in Shenzhen, China before crossing the border with Hong Kong. Pigs are required to pass through this transfer house for additional monitoring and inspection before entering Hong Kong so as to ensure pigs supplied to Hong Kong are healthy and free of ASF.

Reportedly, on August 13th the Hong Kong Center for Food Safety was notified by mainland Chinese authorities that two pigs were detected to have the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus in the interim transfer house in Shenzhen. According to the arrangement between the Hong Kong and Chinese governments and recently implemented requirements to prevent additional ASF cases in Hong Kong all pigs exported to Hong Kong must be subjected to an inspection before crossing the border.

It is believed that the interim house will be closed for thorough cleansing and an investigation will be conducted to trace the source of the infected pigs. The Hong Kong government is probably faced with the dilemma whether to accept pigs from mainland China on August 14 without passing through the infected interim house. If Hong Kong trucks are allowed to pick up pigs from farms in China and bring them to Hong Kong directly, with inspection at the border, the new normal daily supply of 2,000 pigs from China to Hong Kong will not be affected. (Before the first ASF case in Hong Kong in May, the normal daily supply was 4,000 pigs.) However, this workaround will increase the risk of having ASF spreading to Hong Kong. Also, this idea is likely to be opposed by local farms who fear the disease could wipe out their herds.

The Hong Kong government has not yet issued any press release.

Forty-three local Hong Kong farms will continue to supply around 300 head each day to the Hong Kong market.