

MANUAL ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER FOR PIG PRODUCERS



Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
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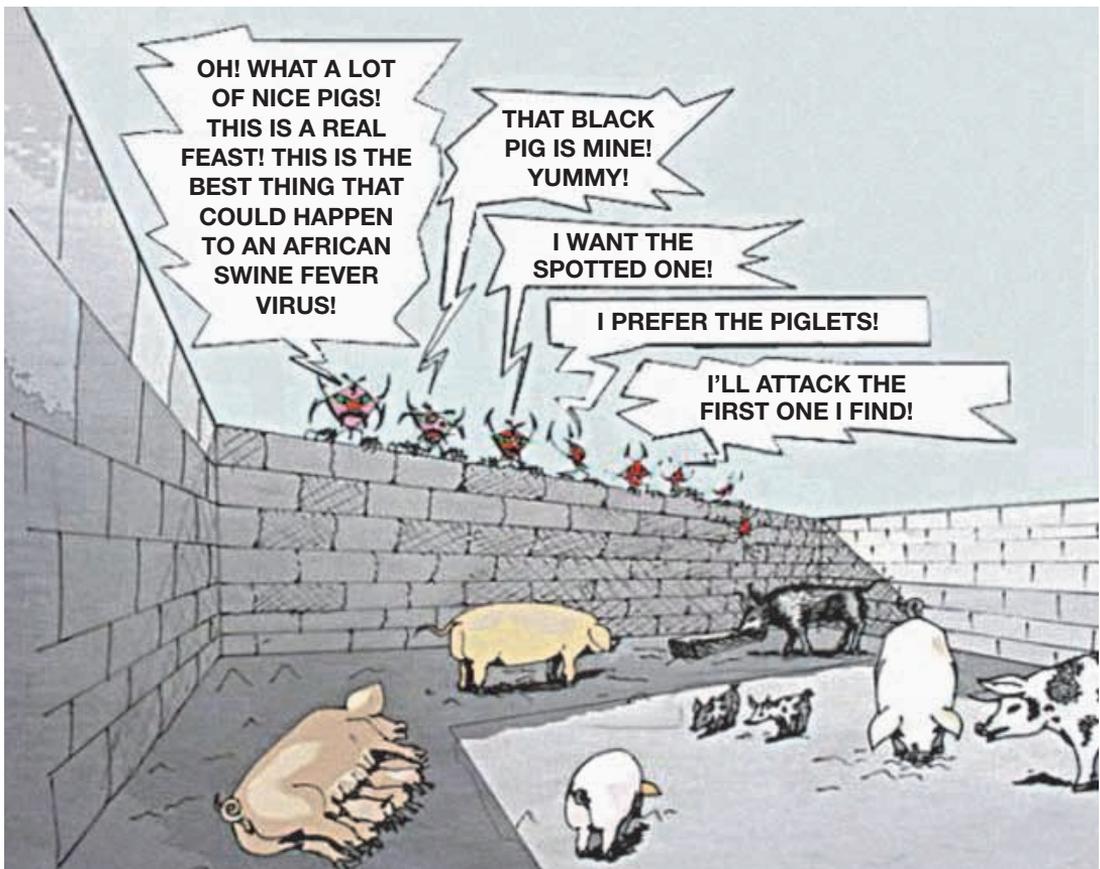
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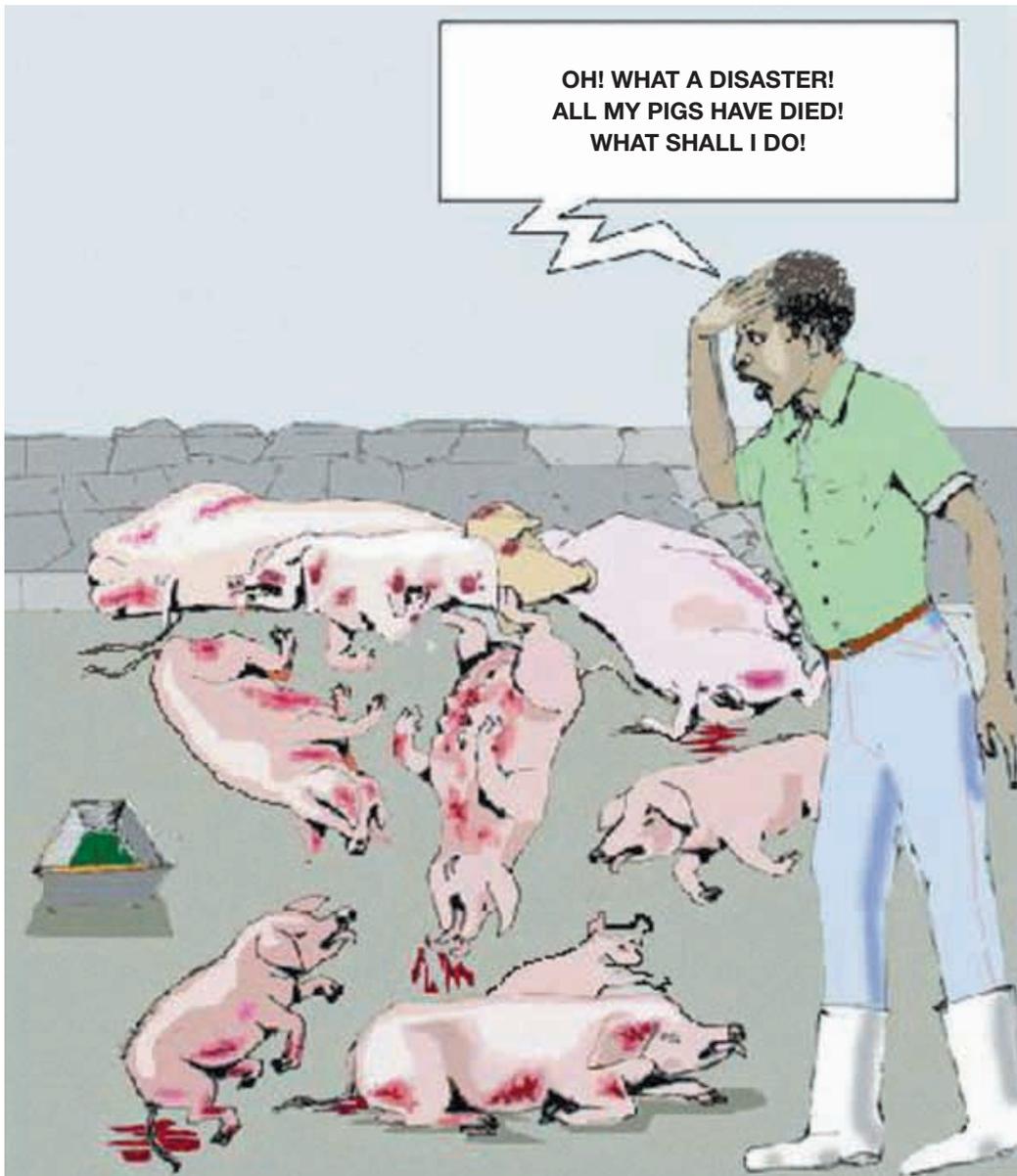
Rome, 2001

African swine fever is a very important disease of pigs. It is caused by a **virus**, which is a microbe that cannot be seen without special microscopes.

This microbe attacks domestic and wild **pigs**, causing great losses in pigs of all races, sexes and ages. It does not affect other animal species or humans.



The disease can often **kill all the pigs** of a pig owner and, by contagion, can even cause the death of practically all the pigs in nearby villages.



After being infected by the virus, pigs usually **become sick** and die within a few days.

Sometimes, pigs may **die suddenly** without any other signs of disease.



The **signs of disease** will vary from one pig to another.

The most common signs of disease are as follows:

- **lack of appetite**
- **fever** – the body temperature rises
- **weakness**
 - **difficulty in moving** and sometimes staggering as if drunk
 - **huddling** together



- **vomiting** blood
- **diarrhoea**, sometimes with blood
- **difficulty in breathing**, abdominal respiration and coughing
- **abortion** by pregnant sows
- **red spots on the skin** of white pigs



Sometimes when pigs have been **chronically infected** for a long time, their growth is stunted and they may have swollen joints and wounds on the skin that persist and do not seem to heal.

