Worldwide pork production is highly interconnected by trades between countries and markets, what could increase the risk of introduction of foreign pathogens into the US.

**PROJECT**

The aim of these reports is to have a support system for near real-time identification of hazards that will contribute to the mission of assessing risks to the industry and ultimately, early detect, identify, or prevent occurrence of events, in partnership with official agencies, and with our international network of collaborators.

Monthly reports are created based on the systematic screening of multiple official data sources, such as government and international organization websites, and soft data sources like blogs, newspapers and unstructured electronic information from around the world that then are curated to build a raw repository. Afterward, a group of experts uses a multi-criteria rubric to score each event, based on novelty, potential direct and indirect financial impacts on the US market, credibility, scale and speed of the outbreak, connectedness, and local capacity to respond average is calculated. The output of the rubric is a final single score for each event which is then published in the report.

**Disclaimer:** These communications and the information contained therein are for general informational and educational purposes only, and are not to be construed as recommending or advocating a specific course of action.
AFRICAN SWINE FEVER – ASF

CHINA

On November 9, the government of China’s Sichuan province reported banning imports of live hogs and hog products from other regions to prevent the introduction of ASF. Sichuan and Henan are the two provinces with the highest pig production, representing over 30% of total Chinese production. Sichuan province slaughtered 69 million of the approximately 700 million pigs produced by China in 2016. Unfortunately, those efforts were not successful as last Friday, November 16, the first outbreak of ASF was reported in Yibin City in southeastern Sichuan.

Map 1: Concentration of pig production by province: Brown = 10 to 20 percent (Sichuan, HeNan); Orange = 5 to 10 percent (Shandong, Hubei, HuNan, Guangdong, Guangxi, YunNan); Yellow = 3 to 5 percent (HeiLongJiang, LiaoNing, JiangSu, AnHui, JiangXi, GuiZhou). Source: Gain report 8/15/18.
Since our last report, in addition to Sichuan province, another three provinces (Jiangxi, Fujian, and Hubei) reported the first ASF outbreaks in their territory, which suggests a southwestward trend in the epidemic. With 64 outbreaks reported in 18/34 provinces across China, the concern is that the disease may have steadily spread, and that major impact to pork suppliers may be seen in coming months.

Another potential drawback against current efforts to control ASF arose on Friday when the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed the first case of ASF in a wild boar (Jilin province, northeastern China), significantly increasing concerns around the effectiveness of control strategies implemented by authorities since last August.

The ASF epidemic has created, and will likely continue to create, disruptions in the Chinese market. The Chinese government's current policy of imposing cross-border trading bans to affected regions has created an imbalance in pig supplies throughout the country, and asymmetries in pork prices between regions. Moreover, on-going trade tensions with the US are increasing the cost of pork feed, which has been heavily reliant on US soya as a component. Finally, some believe the increase in pork prices in China may result in an opportunity for exporting pork into the country.
Map 3: Geolocation of the last eight outbreaks reported since 11/5/18.

Contaminated feed

One of the major concerns is that commercial feed may become ASF-contaminated. In a statement to the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, the Tangrenshen Group reported that ASF was detected in feed samples in one of their units. The feed was manufactured by their 51 percent owned subsidiary, Bili Meiyingwei Nutrition Feedstuff. Following this statement, on November 13, Tangrenshen Group followed up stating that test made by one of the units has actually ruled out the presence of ASF in feed. Subsequently, the operation resumed work as normal.

The economic impact of the presence of ASF on the valuation of companies may be demonstrated through the variability in the market. The market for Tangrenshen decreased from 4.91 yuan at its highest on November 12 to 4.71 yuan on November 13 before regaining all ground an closing at 4.95 yuan on the 13. Whether the increase in stock price on November 13 is a reflection of negative ASF results, it is possible detection of ASF in feed may have influenced an already volatile market. ASF does have an influence on stock prices reflected by a decrease in many pig-related group stocks including Tangrenshen Group following the initial detection of ASF in China in August this year. This indicates we should include valuations in disease outbreak surveillance.

References:

● https://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/marketing/let-pork-supply-challenge-begin