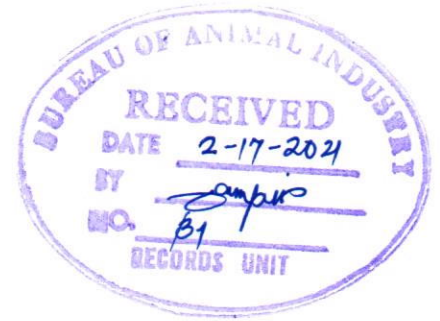




Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 06

Series of 2021

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND REPOPULATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ASF-AFFECTED AND NON-ASF AFFECTED AREAS

SECTION 1. SCOPE

The need to "recover" areas previously affected by ASF is paramount to increase the swine population's inventory and eventually stabilize the prices of pork in the longer term.


Exit and reclassification of an ASF outbreak zone are the initial steps for recovery, rehabilitation, and eventual repopulation. These are undertaken at the local level, initially at the barangay level, and progressing to the whole city or municipality itself. Likewise, the "sentinel program" is a science-based approach to detect the presence of a particular disease, in this case, ASF.

Moreover, these guidelines shall also cover the ASF-free Zones (GREEN ZONES) to further accelerate the increase in inventory of swine.

The intended beneficiaries who satisfy these guidelines' requirements would qualify for any DA-assistance program, including insurance coverage of animals.


SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- 2.1 **African Swine Fever (ASF)** is a severe viral disease that affects all breeds of domestic and wild pigs in the country. It has already caused grave production and economic losses in Luzon and some parts of Visayas and Mindanao.
- 2.2 **Backyard Farm** - any farm or household raising any of the following conditions: a) 1-20 heads of adult and zero young; b) 1-40 heads of young animals; or c) 1-9 heads of adult and 1-21 heads of young animals (*GAHP for Swine, BAFS, 2019*). These are swine farm operations that are on a smaller scale that are done by people in the vicinity of their residences and properties.
- 2.3 **Biosecurity Level 1** - level of farm biosecurity in compliance to minimum standards set by the Philippine College of Swine Practitioners (PCSP).

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- 2.4 **Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs)** are Community/Village-Based Animal Technicians (CBAT), Barangay Animal Health Workers (BAHW), para-veterinary workers, Barangay Livestock Aide (BALA), or any person assigned by the city/municipality at the Barangay) shall also be known as Barangay Biosecurity Officers or BBO who will be appointed, designated and registered as the frontliners of the BANTAY ASF SA BARANGAY PROGRAM and shall have specific responsibilities indicated in this order.
- 2.5 **Commercial Farm-** any livestock operator or farm which operation satisfies at least one (1) of the following conditions: a) at least 21 heads of adult and zero young; b) at least 41 heads of young animals; and/or c) at least 10 heads of adult and 22 heads of young animals (*GAHP for Swine, BAFS, 2019*). These are swine farm operations that are on a bigger scale employing modernized methods of farming.
- 2.6 **Contingency Plan** outlines the needed plans and procedures in the event of disease incursion.
- 2.7 **Dark Green Zone (Free Zone)** - the geographical limit which remains free from ASF virus.
- 2.8 **Emergency Preparedness Plan** outlines the needed plans and procedures to do before an outbreak occurs.
- 2.9 **Farmers Cooperative and Associations (FCA)** - a group of individuals, who underwent social preparation duly registered by any recognized government agency with at least 75% of members are engaged in agriculture related activities.
- 2.10 **Light Green Zone (Protected Zone)** includes cities and municipalities with no cases of ASF and considered low risk but are contiguous with the yellow zone, in terms of land mass.
- 2.11 **Local Government Unit (LGU)** is an administrative and political government unit subsidiary to the national government which could itself consist of sub-units as in the case of a province or a municipality.
- 2.12 **Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO)** in the absence of a MVO, the MAO shall perform duties in relation to livestock and poultry sector.
- 2.13 **Municipal/City Veterinary Office (MVO/CVO)** is tasked to provide technical support and carry-out veterinary related activities in the municipal and city level.
- 2.14 **Operations Manual** is a document with a comprehensive set of instructions, or Standard Operating Procedures, to guide disease responders and field staff on the conduct of disease outbreak activities.
- 2.15 **Outbreak Zone** is the site of infection or the ground zero.

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- 2.16 **Pink Zone (Buffer Zone)** include cities and municipalities adjacent to the Red Zone and areas considered mainly as "market" area for hogs (i.e. NCR).
- 2.17 **Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO)** - Under Local Government Code of 119 Article 19/Section 489, the PVO is generally tasked to work with the Local Chief Executive as technical support and ensure formulation of necessary measure in the conduct of veterinary related activities in the provincial level.
- 2.18 **Quarantine Zone** is defined as the area up to 1-kilometer radius from the infected premises.
- 2.19 **Real-time PCR (qPCR)** - molecular technique used in the laboratory to detect the presence of a targeted DNA molecule. This is used as the confirmatory test for ASF.
- 2.20 **Recovery Plan** details the actions needed to be conducted for the safe recovery or restoration of normal activities in areas with confirmed disease outbreak.
- 2.21 **Red Zone (Infected Zone)** are areas with confirmed cases of ASF.
- 2.22 **Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL)** is a government laboratory under the DA Regional Field Office that provides services in support to animal health and production, regulatory, research and surveillance in the region.
- 2.23 **Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA)** - an electronic database containing basic information of farmers and fisherfolks, and members of DA-accredited farmer organizations (FOs), such as multipurpose cooperatives, irrigators' associations, and people's organizations.
- 2.24 **Sentinel Animal** - an animal that is placed in a given environment and then monitored to detect the presence of an infectious agent in that environment.
- 2.25 **State Universities and Colleges (SUC)** refers to any public institution of higher learning that was created by an Act passed by the Congress of the Philippines. These institutions are fully subsidized by the national government, and may be considered as a corporate body.
- 2.26 **Yellow Zone (Surveillance Zone)** a high-risk area because of dense population of swine and volume of trade of pigs, pork and pork products.

SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To release an area or zone from "Quarantine" following successive negative surveillance results in the Quarantine Zone.
- 3.2 To restore livelihood and continuity of economic activities in Red Zones mindful of reclassification as Yellow Zone;

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- 3.3 To increase resilience and capacities of pork producers in managing future disease outbreaks;
- 3.4 To guide commercial farms in their recovery, rehabilitation, and repopulation efforts.

SECTION 4. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS


- 4.1 Adopting harmonized ordinance relevant and pertaining to the prevention and control of African Swine Fever (ASF) at the Provincial and Municipal levels.
- 4.2 Preparation and regular updating and implementation of Municipal African Swine Fever Control and Prevention Plan aligned with Regional initiatives of the DA Regional Field Office (DARFO). The DA RFO can provide technical assistance in the preparation and updating of the plan.
- 4.3 Participating farms within the barangay are registered with the local government unit
- 4.4 Proof of membership to an FCA
- 4.5 RSBSA-registered
- 4.6 **BANTAY ASF SA BARANGAY** is established
- 4.7 Compliant with Biosecurity Level 1
- 4.8 Owner and staff have been trained in Biosecurity procedures

SECTION 5. INTENDED BENEFICIARIES

- 5.1 Individual small hold swine raisers registered with RSBSA
- 5.2 Farmers' Cooperative and Associations (FCAs)
- 5.3 Qualified/Interested Commercial Farms
- 5.4 Local Government Units
- 5.5 State Colleges and Universities

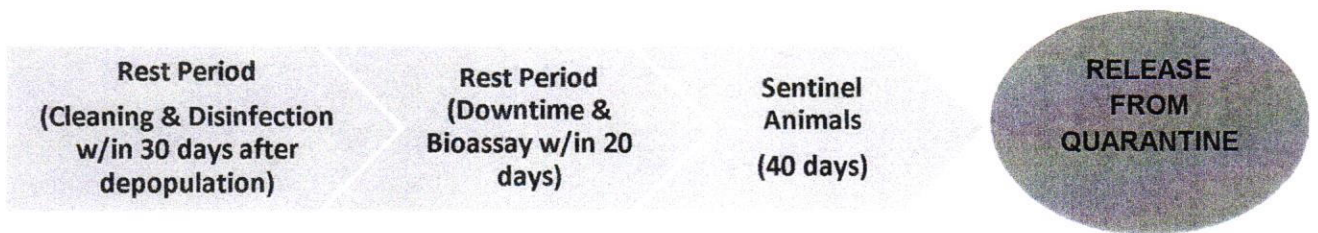
SECTION 6. RELEASE FROM QUARANTINE – RECOVERY

It is of utmost importance that there must be no new ASF outbreaks within the barangay, and within the 500-meter radius, as evidenced by Weekly ASF Negative Monitoring and active surveillance using DA-recommended ASF screening test, before implementing the protocol for release from quarantine. It must also be emphasized that all farm owners should agree to strictly follow protocol for repopulation, biosecurity, monitoring and surveillance.

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The following procedures shall be completed following the timetable illustrated below:



The Local Government Unit shall guide farms in proper cleaning and disinfection. PVO/CVO/MAO shall conduct farm inspection to assess compliance with cleaning and proper disinfection procedures.

6.1 Cleaning Procedures


- 6.1.1 Remove all organic debris from the farm and uproot/cut grass to expose rat burrows and hiding places.
- 6.1.2 Clean and wash all equipment, all movable and non-movable facilities, and grounds around the buildings.
- 6.1.3 Empty lagoon and pits where pig manure are collected. The solid wastes removed should be buried in a pit lined and topped with hydrated lime. Alternate procedure is to stop using the pit and mix 100kg of caustic soda/cu.m. of lagoon or pit.
- 6.1.4 Repair and install bird proofing nets.

6.2 Disinfection Procedures

- 6.2.1 Use a foaming agent to improve disinfectants' effectiveness when cleaning for the entire facility/building.
- 6.2.2 Ensure all organic debris from the farm facilities and equipment are removed.
- 6.2.3 Disinfect all equipment, all movable and non-movable facilities, and grounds around the buildings at least three (3) times in one (1) month.
- 6.2.4 Use only approved disinfectant for ASF Control. Ensure correct dilution, coverage and contact time.
- 6.2.5 Focus on equipment where viruses are likely to persist, i.e., feeders, nipple drinkers, water troughs, dunging area, etc.
- 6.2.6 Treat with caustic soda and spray with hydrated lime.

6.3 Downtime

Downtime for 30 days after cleaning and disinfection shall be implemented to further decrease the area's bacterial load and the risk of residual ASF virus.

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6.3.1 Environmental Sampling

Environmental sampling or bioassay validates the quality of cleaning and disinfection using laboratory tests. Environmental samples will be collected from well water, the topsoil of the burial site, surfaces of gestating pens, farrowing pens, nursery/growing pens, pathways, canals, stock room of feeds, weighing/market area, etc.

Barangays with negative monitoring reports for more than 30 days after depopulation may proceed to Bioassay/Environmental Sampling

The first screening test shall be done on **day 7**. After cleaning and disinfection, PVO/CVO/MAO shall collect environmental samples and submit them to RADDL using screening test kits. Specimens shall also be collected from farms within the 500 -meter radius of the infected farm (for them to be included for release from quarantine). PCR testing shall validate positive screening test results. Positive PCR test shall require the farm/barangay to repeat the procedure of cleaning, disinfection, and downtime.

Second screening test shall be done at **day 14** (7 days after initial test). CVO/MAO shall collect environmental samples and submit to RADDL for testing using PCR. If results are negative for the second bioassay using PCR, the farm qualifies to receive sentinel animals and shall now prepare the area for the introduction of sentinel animals.

6.4 Introduction of Sentinel Animals

The number of sentinel animals is 10% of normal stocking rate or as approved and recommended by PVO/CVO/MAO. Sentinel animals shall be at least 60 days old piglets weighing 15-20 kg each.

Owners and staff of farms selected for repopulation should have undergone training on biosecurity and facilities and should conform with the minimum biosecurity standards for small hold and commercial farms. Further, sentinel animals must be sourced from ASF-free farms and must comply with their respective province's policies for incoming stocks from outside the province.

6.4.1 Monitoring and Testing

- 6.4.1.1 Weekly monitoring for absence of clinical signs of ASF. If signs were observed, disease investigation will be conducted.
- 6.4.1.2 As a screening test, fecal samples will be collected at days 7 and 21 and tested using the DA recommended ASF test kit. If results are POSITIVE, validation using PCR is required. If the PCR result is POSITIVE, Department of Agriculture AO No. 22, Series of 2020 or the Guidelines on Swine Depopulation after ASF confirmation shall be implemented.
- 6.4.1.3 If results are NEGATIVE, the remaining procedure for repopulation protocol shall proceed. For the final test before release from quarantine, blood samples will be collected on day 40 for PCR test.
- 6.4.1.4 All Sentinel animals shall be disposed of following the all-in all-out principle.



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SECTION 7. RESTOCKING/REPOPULATION

The initial number of the restocking animals to be distributed through eligible beneficiaries shall be determined by the TWG created by the DA RFOs for this purpose.

Restocking to full capacity SHALL be allowed when released from quarantine provided all the provisions below are complied with.

- 7.1 The farmer must be registered with RSBSA and his farm must be geotagged by the city/municipality;
- 7.2 Must agree to regular farm visit for health monitoring, surveillance and biosecurity evaluation;
- 7.3 Submission of weekly ASF Negative Monitoring Reports by the Biosecurity Officers.

SECTION 8. DECLARATION AS ASF FREE STATUS

Repopulation of previously infected municipalities would qualify for consideration for the upgrading an area's status. Successful implementation of "**BANTAY ASF SA BARANGAY**" in all barangays would make the concerned municipality qualified for progressive upgrading from RED zone to PINK zone.

Local declaration of ASF free status at the City/Municipal level shall be done by the PVO while local declaration at the Provincial level shall be done by the DA-RFO Regional Executive Director upon the recommendation of the Regional Quarantine Officer and submission of documentary evidences.


SECTION 9. TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS

Animals which will be used for this program shall be allowed unhampered pass, provided the necessary documentary requirements and quarantine protocols are complied with.

Furthermore, conveyance means (trucks) including drivers and other personnel involved in the transport shall undergo the prescribed biosecurity procedures before, during and after transport. Those procedures shall include disinfection, downtime and provision of Personal Protective Equipment to be implemented by BAI and its Regional Veterinary Quarantine Officers.

SECTION 10. OTHER PROVISIONS

- 10.1 Clustering/Consolidation of operation is encouraged and shall be given priority for assistance.
- 10.2 Pork producers in the **YELLOW ZONES/GREEN ZONES** shall also be entitled to government assistance of breeder repopulation provided they follow Section 4.2-4.7 of Section 4.

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- 10.3 Stocks should come from ASF negative farms following ASF protocol on animal movement.
- 10.4 The government and the private sector may opt to import breeder animals from an ASF-free country to augment the existing breeder base population.
- 10.5 Availment of other government interventions and support related to ASF repopulation is subject to their respective guidelines of implementation.

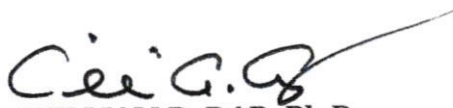

SECTION 10. REPEALING CLAUSE

All existing orders, circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this administrative order's provisions are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Done this 10th day of February, 2021 in Quezon City, Philippines.


WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary 

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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