

# INDUSTRY NEWS

Philippines Livestock | Animal Health | Animal Nutrition

## Philippines' pork consumption picks up as ASF concerns abate

Pork consumption in the Philippines has improved as consumers' fear of African swine fever diminishes, the Department of Agriculture reported.

DA Assistant Secretary for swine and poultry Constante Palabrica said ASF checkpoints in Metro Manila have also decreased from 14 to 10 amid the drop in the number of pigs being confiscated by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and local government units.

The government started the vaccination of pigs against ASF on August 30 in Lobo, Batangas, the ground zero of the outbreak.

Up to 150,000 doses of vaccine have arrived in the country. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA intends to complete the procurement of 600,000 doses of ASF vaccine by December.

"It seems that the fear of our consumers to eat pork has diminished amid the fast release of pork," Palabrica said. Pork demand is expected to increase with the holiday season.

(Source: Philstar, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2024)

## Philippines government approves USD 3.08 billion agriculture budget for 2025



The proposed PHP 178.273 billion (USD3.08 billion) budget for the Philippines' Department of Agriculture for 2025 was officially submitted to the country's Senate plenary, following its approval by the Finance subcommittee chaired by Senator Cynthia Villar.

During the proceedings, Villar committed to advocating for additional budget requests, including PHP 150 million (USD2.5 million) in additional funding for the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). These proposals will be conveyed to the Senate Finance Committee.

Villar also pledged her support for passing the Livestock Bill, which would allocate funds to the Bureau of Animal Industry to strengthen food safety measures. Additionally, she backed requests for more funding for the Philippine Carabao Centre and the National Dairy Authority.

For the Bureau of Plant Industry, Villar assured the passage of the Corn Bill. Senate Bill No 2625, which she sponsors, aims to develop the Philippine corn industry, and ensure the availability of affordable quality feeds and staple food.

This bill, under Committee Report No 246, seeks to enhance the competitiveness of the yellow corn industry while allocating 20% of the Corn Competitiveness Enhancement Fund to white corn development and indigenous varieties. (Source: Philippine News Agency, October 20<sup>th</sup> 2024)





## Philippines' ASF vaccine rollout to expand beyond Batangas province

The rollout of the African swine fever (ASF) vaccine in the Philippines is expected to extend to areas outside Batangas province, according to a senior agriculture official.

Philippines' Agriculture Undersecretary for Livestock Deogracias Victor Savellano announced that new strategies would be implemented to accelerate the distribution of the vaccine.

One of the challenges faced in the rollout is the requirement for blood testing of swine to confirm that they are free of ASF before vaccination. This process has caused hesitation among small backyard farmers, as infected swine must be culled.

While acknowledging that blood testing remains a necessary part of the process, Savellano mentioned that they were exploring other possible approaches to streamline the vaccination effort. (Source: ABS-CBN News, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2024)

## Philippine poultry farmers face losses as farm gate chicken prices plummet

Poultry farmers in the Philippines continue to incur losses as the farm gate price of chicken has dropped to PHP 98 (USD 1.71) per kg, while retail prices remain high at PHP 230 (USD4.02) per kg, The Philippine Star reported.



United Broiler Raisers Association (UBRA) chairman emeritus Gregorio San Diego expressed concern over the falling farm gate prices, highlighting the disparity between production costs and current market prices.

San Diego noted that farmers are struggling with production costs ranging between PHP 110 (USD1.92) and PHP 115 (USD2.01) per kg. He also pointed out that poultry raisers have no control over the retail prices, which are dictated by market forces.

He highlighted that the cost of DOC is stood at PHP 58 (USD 1.01), a significant increase from the previous PHP 22 (USD 0.38). This cost now accounts for 26% of total production costs.

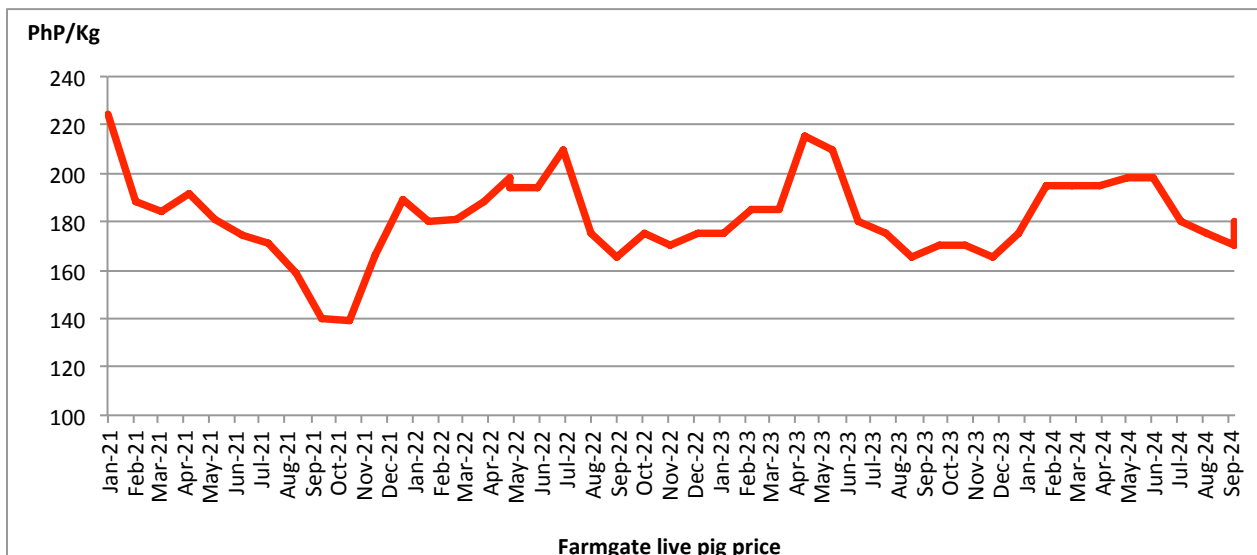
San Diego called on the Department of Agriculture (DA) to address the issue of overpriced retail chicken. He suggested that retail prices should only increase by 69% of the farm gate price.

"The DA should step in and address those involved in overpricing," San Diego said.

San Diego added that local poultry farmers are further impacted by the influx of imported frozen chicken. He estimated that at least 480 million kg of frozen chicken are expected to be imported in 2025. (Source: The Philippine Star, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2024)

## Live pig price in October 2024

The average farm gate live pig price in October 2024 is 180 PhP/Kg, which is 6% higher than the previous month, and 6% higher compared to the same period of 2023. (Source: Genesis Global Report, October 2024)



## Whole chicken price in October 2024

The average price of whole chicken in October 2024 is 197 PhP/kg, which is 5.4% lower than last month. Year-on-year increase of 10%. (Source: Philippines Department of Agriculture, October 2024)

