

INDUSTRY NEWS

Philippines Livestock | Animal Health | Animal Nutrition

Philippines pig sector still struggling with ASF

ASF continues to depress pork production in the Philippines, making it more reliant on imports.

The herd inventory at the end of June dropped 5.6% YoY to 9.55 million heads. Most pig production (72%) comes from smallholders, while commercial farmers hold 26% of the production share.

This fragmented nature of farming is making biosecurity a shared challenge for the entire industry. However, some disease prevention strategies will help production increase slowly over the rest of 2024.

As demand picks up in the country, the government has allowed for more imports by extending its tariff reduction on pork imports through 2028. Local authorities understand that restoring local production will be difficult. Brazil is the largest supplier of pork to the Philippines, with imports soaring 109% YoY in 2024. (Source: AsianAgribiz, November 7th 2024)

Philippines' agriculture faces setbacks as weather and ASF impact third-quarter production



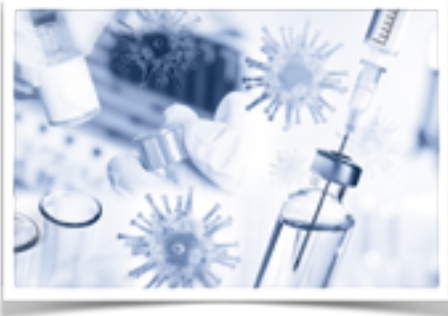
The Philippine agriculture sector recorded a decline of 3.7% in production during the third quarter of this year, as adverse weather conditions and the resurgence of African swine fever (ASF) impacted farm yields.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the sector produced goods worth PHP 397.43 billion (USD 6.8 billion), down from PHP 412.7 billion (USD 7.07 billion) in the same period last year. Aside from poultry, all commodity groups registered declines in output.

This recent contraction marks the second consecutive decline in the agriculture sector's performance in 2024, following a modest increase of just 0.2% in the first quarter.

The Philippines' Department of Agriculture attributed the downturn to harsh weather conditions, compounded by the lingering effects of ASF on swine production.





Philippines expands ASF vaccination to disease-free areas

The Philippines' Department of Agriculture (DA) has announced plans to vaccinate swine in areas free from African swine fever to address low participation rates in the ongoing vaccination drive.

According to Administrative Circular No 13, the program will now cover swine in barangays with no active ASF cases for at least 40 days and areas previously identified as red or pink zones but currently free of active cases. Red zones denote areas with ASF infections, while pink zones are adjacent areas that remain uninfected.

The vaccination campaign will focus on weanling or grower swine aged at least four weeks. These swine must be healthy or have tested negative for ASF.

As of November 8, active ASF cases have been reported in six regions and 20 provinces, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry. Since the Philippines recorded its first ASF outbreak in 2019, a total of 76 provinces have been affected. (Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, November 28th 2024)

livestock production dropped by 6.7% to PHP 61.67 billion (USD1.05 billion), with swine yields alone declining by 8%. The impact of ASF is projected to continue affecting swine production into the first quarter of 2025, particularly in major swine-producing regions. (Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, November 8th 2024)

Philippines to review livestock transport regulations

The Philippines' Department of Agriculture (DA) is conducting a comprehensive review of the regulations governing the transport of livestock, particularly chickens and hogs, to address ongoing supply challenges exacerbated by lingering animal health issues.

This extensive review of regulations, including DA Administrative Order (AO) No. 5, series of 2019, aims to ease supply bottlenecks for chicken and pork without compromising food safety. DA Administrative Order 5, issued in 2019, sets guidelines for the local transport of animals, animal products, and by-products to protect public health and combat animal health threats.

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) is also reviewing DA Administrative Circular 2, series of 2022, which modified the National Zoning and Movement Plan to control African swine fever (ASF). ASF has devastated the pig industry since its outbreak in 2019. In collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration, the DA is working to make ASF vaccines commercially available in the Philippines.

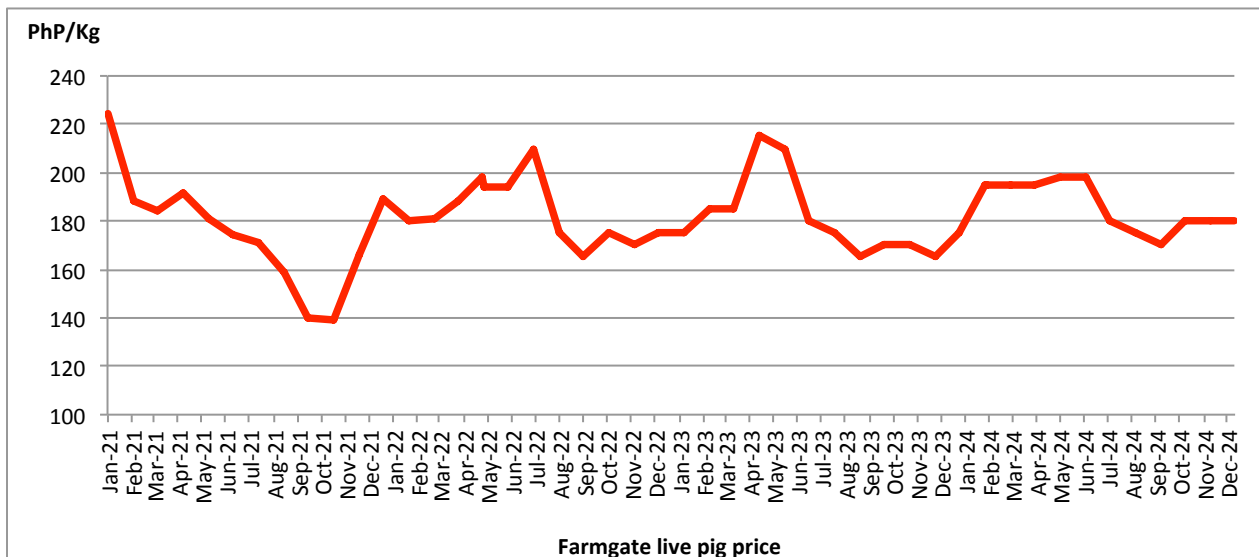
The review is aim to streamline these processes and update safety measures to ensure stable supply and reasonable prices for pork, poultry, and other products while safeguarding both public health and the livestock industry.

The department is also considering a multi-billion-peso investment to improve quarantine facilities, enhance monitoring and inspection capabilities, and establish regional laboratories. (Source: The Philippine News Agency, November 20th 2024)



Live pig price in December 2024

The average farm gate live pig price in December 2024 is 180 PhP/Kg, which is same as the previous month, and 3% higher compared to the same period of 2023. (Source: Genesis Global Report, December 2024)



Whole chicken price in December 2024

The average price of whole chicken in December 2024 is 203 PhP/kg, which is 8.9% higher than last month. Year-on-year increase of 14.8%. (Source: Philippines Department of Agriculture, December 2024)

