

IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

September 11, 2017



Do not bring food from Eastern Europe to Holland

The Producers Organization of Dutch pig farmers, POV, urges all employers from the Baltic States and Central and Eastern Europe not to bring food from their home country into The Netherlands, because of the risk of spreading African Swine Flu.

African Swine Flu has been in the Baltic states and Central- and Eastern Europe since 2014. And still there are outbreaks, recently in Romania and the Czech Republic. These are outbreaks in wild boars, but pig farmers in these areas are also affected. The affected countries are intensively monitoring to fight this feared and highly contagious disease as much as possible and prevent further spread.

African Swine Flu is a highly contagious viral disease and deadly for pigs. For humans the disease is harmless. The spread of the virus occurs by infected animals, lorries and passenger cars and people who have been in contact with the virus. Furthermore, the virus can be spread through food and drink, especially meat and meat products.

Given the many contacts between the Netherlands and Central and Eastern Europe, we would like to ask you for cooperation. It is in everyone's interest that the African Swine Flu virus does not spread further within Europe. That is why we urge everyone to be alert and to take all possible precautions and measures. Especially when a company with pigs is visited in The Netherlands, extreme hygiene is important: washing hands, possibly shower and clean clothes.

Furthermore, we urgently request you not to bring food and drink from Central and Eastern Europe into The Netherlands. **Especially no meat products.** This meat can and may be infected with the virus.

We would like to thank you on behalf of the Dutch and European farmers for your cooperation. Together we can make sure that the African Swine Flu does not spread further.

With best regards,

Ingrid Jansen, chairwoman of the Producers Organization for pig farmers, POV.