

Hog cholera (classical swine fever)



outbreak alert



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HOG CHOLERA (CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER)

Hog cholera is the most deadly of all foreign swine diseases. Symptoms can be mild to severe, depending on a pig's resistance to the disease. Canadian swine have a low resistance and up to 60% may die.

There is no treatment. The virus does not affect humans or other animals.

Hog cholera is currently sweeping through continental Europe and has had grave economic impact. In the past, periodic outbreaks in Canada cost us millions of dollars in lost export sales, lost domestic production and costs to control and stamp out the disease. Increased international travel and importation of swine products could once again introduce hog cholera into our country.

Keeping Canada free from hog cholera is in the best interests of all Canadians. Read this leaflet carefully and learn what you can do to prevent and control outbreaks.

History

Continuous or sporadic outbreaks of hog cholera occur in practically all hog-raising countries of the world. In North America, the disease has been eradicated from the United States since 1976 and Canada since 1963. Mexico continues to experience periodic outbreaks.

How hog cholera is spread

Hog cholera can be introduced into a healthy herd of swine by:

- carrier pigs recovered from a milder form of the disease or piglets born to infected sows;
- infected pigs moving through markets;
- contaminated pork products imported by travellers;
- contaminated clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment;
- contaminated garbage. Some farmers feed their swine garbage collected from restaurants. In infected countries, garbage feeding is a major cause of spread.



Pigs may develop a high-stepping gait.

If an outbreak of hog cholera should occur in Canada

In the event of an outbreak, Agriculture Canada has developed a national emergency program to control and stamp out the disease. Infected farms will be quarantined and all infected and exposed hogs will be slaughtered to prevent further spread. Farmers will be compensated for the loss of their swine. Infected farms will be cleaned and disinfected. Herds on surrounding farms will also be tested for infection.

Signs of hog cholera: what to look for

Symptoms usually appear 2 to 4 days after exposure to the virus. They are:

- high fever;
- loss of appetite;
- reddening or hemorrhaging of the skin;
- bloody diarrhea;
- nasal discharge; and
- nervous signs, such as an unsteady gait and paralysis of the hind limbs.

Infected pigs often huddle together and pile on top of one another. Those that die usually do so within 2 weeks of exposure.

Symptoms closely resemble those of a number of other swine diseases, so laboratory diagnosis is essential. Veterinarians take blood samples from all suspect swine to identify those that have been exposed to the disease, yet show no signs of infection.

Prevention

To prevent hog cholera from entering Canada, the government imposes strict regulations on our imports of swine and pork products from foreign countries. Customs officials watch for travellers bringing in contaminated pork, clothing and footwear. They inspect personal effects, and the travellers must declare all meat or meat products they have with them.

Also, Canadian garbage feeder operations are government controlled to ensure that refuse is cooked properly before being fed to pigs.

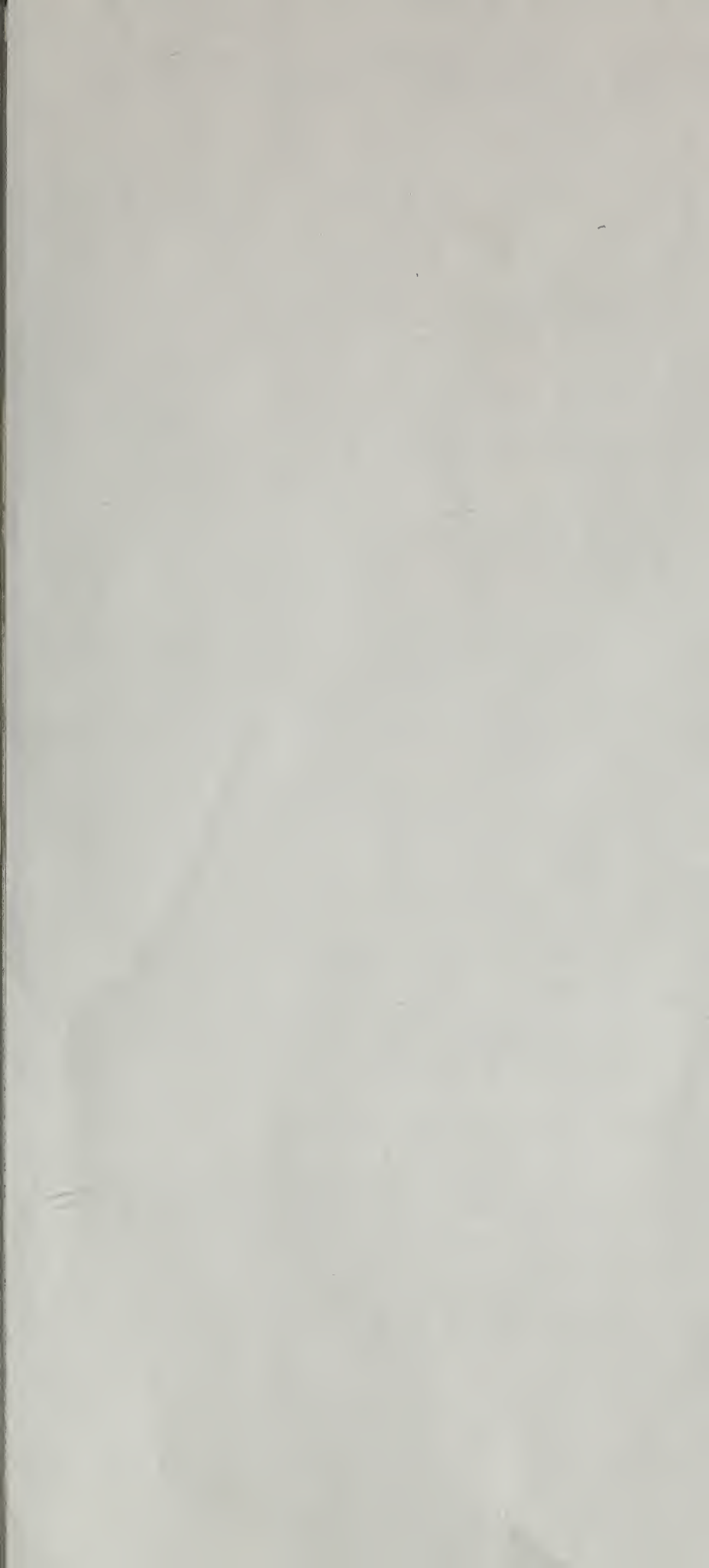
What YOU can do

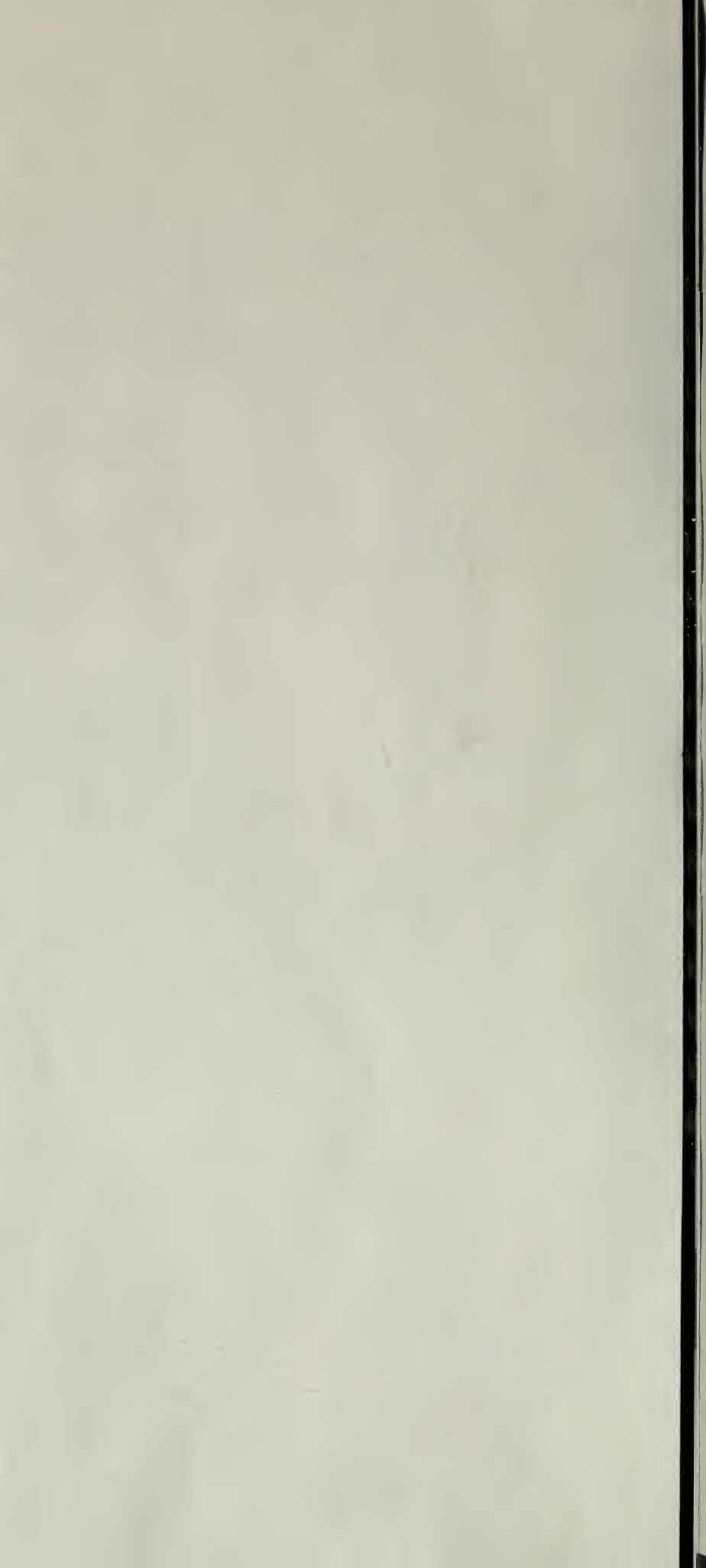
When travelling:

- Declare all pork products you wish to bring into Canada.
- Don't visit swine farms in countries where pigs are sick.
- If you must visit a farm while abroad, make sure that clothing and footwear you wear on the farm are free from soil and manure before entering Canada.
- If you visit a farm while abroad, do not go near a Canadian farm for 14 days.

On your farm:

- Don't feed garbage or foodscraps to your pigs, especially imported garbage.
- Should you notice symptoms of hog cholera in your livestock, contact your veterinarian or notify Agriculture Canada. By law you must report suspect cases. It's your moral obligation to Canada's swine industry. Don't let people, animals, vehicles or equipment enter or leave your farm until a veterinarian has examined your livestock.







Infected swine often pile up.

For more information, contact:

Animal Health Division
Agriculture Canada
2255 Carling Avenue
Ottawa K1A 0Y9

Telephone: (613) 995-5433

or the nearest Agriculture Canada veterinary inspection office.

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