

# SWINE

VOL. 18 NO. 1 • FEB-APR 2021



## No to EO 128!

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Landbank doubles funds to P30B for distressed swine industry
- Negros Oriental sends 25K hogs monthly to NCR, other provinces
- P10M swine multiplier farm to rise in Bohol



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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Edwin Chen**

*President, Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines, Inc.*

**I** have always tried to maintain a positive attitude whether it's about business or life in general. And in these times when our resilience seems to be tested left and right, it is more important that we stand firm in our conviction to look for the silver lining towards a better tomorrow.

Ending 2020, I looked forward to a better 2021. But this year has its own set of challenges. We continue to battle Covid-19 where we have seen cases rise to as high as the 11,000 level a day. And this has brought us to another lockdown starting last March.

Our beloved pork industry continues to be beset with the African swine fever (ASF) that has caused many of our members to close their piggeries—hopefully, only temporary—because they can't afford to repopulate after having to slaughter their ASF-infected pigs.

And in recent months, we have had to fight tooth and nail with government, the Department of Agriculture (DA) in particular, to save our local pork industry.

Aside from fighting for better and faster indemnification for those of us whose farms have been hit by ASF, the DA slapped us with SRP and now President Duterte's EO 128 which brings down tariff rates on imported pork and the subsequent increase in the minimum access volume.

We are not against importation, but we are opposing EO 128 because it benefits only the importers who will get away with paying lower tariff for products they will sell at current prices, NOT lower prices—shoring up their profits.

Despite all these, we continue to fight! I am thankful to all of you, and our allies in the private sector and in government who are helping us in our quest for a better future for our industry.

Our VP for Luzon Nicanor Briones has been very vocal and always present for print, radio, television, and social media interviews to bring our points across. And this is the way to get our issues to the people. We need to let our voices be heard,

and acting as one coherent body.

### Passing on the baton

This April, we also held our election of officers—and I'm happy to announce that we have a new set of leaders: Chairman Nicanor "Nikki" Briones and President Rolando "Nonon" Tambago. Watch out for our next issue where we will feature our new set of officers.

Chairman Eliseo Yu and I will serve as advisors along with several "veterans" of our federation.

Since our federation was founded in 1990, our leaders have upheld our mission to always push for the promotion and development of our industry—which has evolved from being just hog raisers then to being pork producers now where our members have expanded their businesses into the various aspects of pork production like feedmilling and all the way to retail sales direct to consumers.

Our evolution is part of the legacy that our founders have bestowed on us. And this we hope the new and future generations will continue to uphold.

I am thankful to the late Albert Lim, our first Pork Producers Chairman Emeritus, who paved the way for my entry into a leadership role with our federation. And equally thankful to Chairman Eli for his support through the years that we have been in tandem as Chair and President.

It was both challenging and fulfilling to take on this role. I have learned a lot through these years, and hope to learn more. And as we pass on the baton to our new leaders, we wish them all the best.

Special mention goes to the people who started all this—Nemesio Co, Loretta Galang, Lina Typoco Chai, Frank Ortiz, Jake Sta. Ana, Salvador Valbuena and Antonio Tomlin—who went around the country to listen to the plight of other hog producers. And it was during those meetings where hog raisers led by Nemesio Co (our first Chairman) realized the need for hog raisers all over country to organize and form themselves into a cohesive national group so their voices and opinions will be heard.



## SWINE

Vol. XVIII No. 01  
Feb/Apr 2021

SWINE MAGAZINE is published bi-monthly by the Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines, Inc., the largest hog farmers group in the Philippines.

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Validity Date: 31 December 2021



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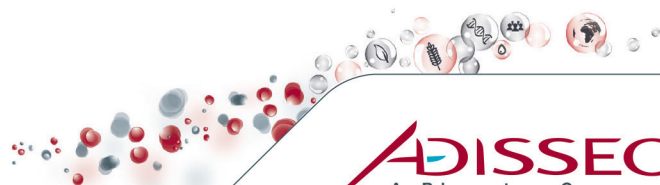
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# Pork Producers rejects EO 128



PHOTO: Business Insider

**The Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines, Inc. (Pork Producers) strongly opposes President Duterte's Executive Order (EO) 128 which significantly lowers tariff rate on imported pork products.**

Pork Producers Vice-President for Luzon Nicanor Briones pointed out that reducing tariff rates on imported pork will only flood the market with imported products, easing out those produced by the local market.

"As it is, Philippine pork producers are already having the most difficult time not only because we are in a pandemic caused by Covid-19, but more so because of the African swine fever (ASF) that has hit our domestic industry."

He pointed out that even before the pandemic started, "many pork producers have been hit by ASF. We had to slaughter of thousands of pigs to help ensure that the disease does not spread to other farms."

Unfortunately, he said there was minimal to no help from the government when it came to assisting pork producers to get back on their feet.

## Making life harder

"And now, the government gives us EO 128! The Department of Agriculture is supposed to help the local sector, but it seems that with proposals to the President

like EO 128, it is bent on making our lives harder," Briones said.

He noted that there's no need to reduce tariff rates and increase importation quota to 400,000 metric tons from the current 54,000 metric tons because pork importers are already earning a lot even with the current tariff rate.

EO 128 reduces tariff rates on pork imports to 15% from the current 40% for minimum access volume (MAV) out-quota and to 5% from 30% for in-quota for a period of one year.

## Protect local farmers

Pork producers all over the country are complaining that instead of protecting local farmers, the DA seem to be more keen in protecting importers, even going as far as setting aside a budget of about Php45 million to buy freezers to be placed at the wet markets for the imported pork products.

This move came after local producers noted that imported pork cannot be sold in wet markets because thawed frozen meat if left on tables can grow bacteria and cause health problems for consumers.

The government should instead focus on how to help the domestic pork sector. If government can provide grants of Php45 million for freezers, it should be able to provide funds to quickly indemnify hog raisers who have had to slaughter their pigs because of ASF.

## Wrong figures

In interviews with the press and during congressional hearings, Briones noted that the figures being floated by the DA regarding the shortage of pork supply is wrong.

He noted that consumer demand has gone down by about 25% so the importation may go up to about 150,000 metric tons but not 400,000 metric tons.

Briones added that the government figures are based on 2018 data when demand was high and everything was still normal.

"Last year, lockdown na tayo at nagmahal ang baboy kaya siyempre may pagbaba sa demand ng baboy. And iba gulay na muna or de lata o noodles. Kaya hindi puwedeng gamiting ang lumang data."

## EO 128 is bad for sector, gov't

The federation is firm in its stand rejecting EO 128 because it does not take into account the plight of the local pork producers.

There is no need to increase the MAV because there is already no limit to the volume that importers can bring in. They just have to pay the appropriate tariff rate.

Briones said increasing the MAV will only allow importers to pay lower tariff, flood local markets with imported pork to the detriment of domestic producers, and deprive government coffers of billions of pesos in revenues.



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## Landbank doubles funds to P30B for distressed swine industry

**The Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank) is raising its available loan window in support of local pork producers and feed millers to Php30 billion from Php15 billion for distressed swine industry reeling from the adverse impact of the Asian swine fever (ASF).**

Top officials of the Department of ThThis came following the directive from Finance Secretary and Landbank chairman Carlos Dominguez III for the state lender to double its support for hog raisers, feed millers, and other industry players dealing with supply shortfalls and retail price spirals of pork products.

“Landbank is doubling its funds available for financing swine repopulation, feed milling operations and facility upgrades in order to help address at the soonest the supply shortfalls and subsequent retail price spirals affecting both hog producers and pork consumers,” Dominguez said in a statement.

He said the Landbank is taking steps to ease the supply and price pressures with additional funding support for stakeholders, as the steep rise in pork prices is partly responsible for the current elevated inflation amid the pandemic.

The funds will be available under the Landbank SWINE (Special Window and Interim Support to Nurture Hog

Enterprises) lending program for commercial hog raisers registered as cooperatives or farmers’ associations, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and large enterprises or corporations.

On 17 March 2021, the state-run bank, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), launched the SWINE lending program to support the local hog industry amid threats from the ASF outbreak and assist hog raisers in sustaining and increasing pork production.

As of 15 April 2021, Landbank said it is already processing six loan applications for the SWINE lending program from the provinces of Tarlac, Cavite, Rizal, Bukidnon and South Cotabato amounting to Php2.96 billion combined.

Loans under this program shall be used for swine production, which includes the acquisition or importation of semen or breeding animals; feed milling operations; the construction, improvement or retrofitting of necessary facilities that are compliant to biosecurity protocols of DA, the industry or integrators; acquisition of fixed assets; and as working capital.

Eligible borrowers may avail of a short-term loan line or a term loan for up to 80% of their total project cost or financing requirement, with an affordable fixed interest rate of 3% per annum for three years, subject to annual repricing thereafter.

Under the program, short-term loans have a tenor of one year; term loan for

permanent working capital is payable up to five years; and fixed asset acquisition is payable based on the cash flow or payback period of the project, with a grace period on the principal and interest.

The DA will provide the list of eligible program borrowers and assist them in the preparation of a business plan, enrollment in the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC), and in securing necessary permits.

The DA will also provide loan recipients training on biosecurity management and breeding or rearing of hogs, while engaging the services of different organizations in capability building and implementation of biosecurity protocols.

Landbank, for its part, will accept and evaluate loan applications of eligible borrowers and facilitate the release of loan proceeds.

The bank will also monitor the performance of the program and provide monthly reports to the DA.

The Landbank SWINE lending program will be available until 31 December 2026 in support of the DA’s hog repopulation plan. capability building and implementation of biosecurity protocols.

Landbank, for its part, will accept and evaluate loan applications of eligible borrowers and facilitate the release of loan proceeds.

The bank will also monitor the performance of the program and provide monthly reports to the DA.

### Repopulation Program offered to Cagayan Valley hog raisers

**BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya – The Department of Agriculture will be offering a swine repopulation program to increase the supply of pork in the Cagayan Valley region.**

Arsenio Apostol, Nueva Vizcaya Experimental Station Officer-In-Charge, said the repopulation program will be implemented among hog raisers through

clustering with a minimum of 50 to 60 farmers.

“This is one of our programs to help our hog raisers to recover and to increase the hog population in the region,” he said.

The African swine fever (ASF) that wrecked havoc in the region has severely affected hog raisers, causing the DA in Cagayan Valley to roll out a Php21-million assistance for those categorized as immediately affected and another Php75 million more those

directly affected hog raisers since last year.

DA figures show that due to the devastation brought by ASF, the region had only 262,000 in hog population for 2020 compared with the 400,000 population in 2019.

In Nueva Vizcaya, only the towns of Alfonso Castaneda, Dupax del Sur and Bambang remain free from ASF infection. – **Benjamin Moses M. Ebreo, MDCT/ BME/PIA 2-Nueva Vizcaya**



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# DL-Methionine - Driving swine performance through quality

Dr Balachandar Jayaraman and Dr Pradeep Krishnan, Evonik (SEA) Pte Ltd, Singapore



## Dry DL-Methionine – Defining the Best Quality Standards

DL-Methionine (DL-Met) and 2-Hydroxy-4-methylbutanoic acid (HMTBa) are frequently used as feed supplement to balance swine diets to meet sulfur amino acids requirements. Animal feed production must guarantee homogenous mixability of critical and expensive nutrients including feed grade AA. The physical properties of DL-Met such as particle size distribution and flowability allows for homogenous mixing in commercial feed milling operations. DL-Met is 99% pure methionine, while

HMTBa comes as 88% liquid form or 84% in dry form. Moreover, liquid HMTBa is a mixture of monomers (65%), dimers (18%), trimers (3%), and oligomers (2%) of which dimers and higher polymers are poorly absorbed in intestine (Mitchell and Lemme, 2008). Unlike DL-Met, HMTBa is corrosive and is classified as dangerous in accordance with Directive 1994/45/EC and needs handling considerations.

## Bioavailability of HMTBa or HMTBa-Ca is lower than DL-Met in pigs

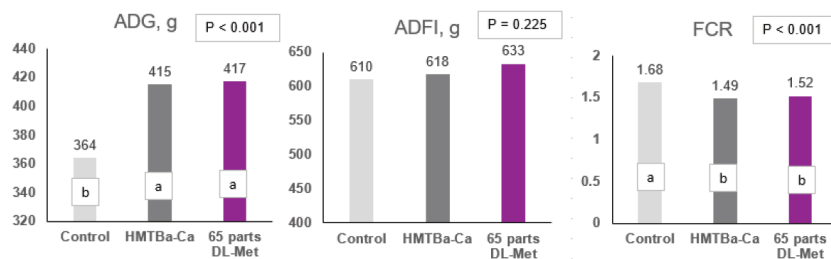
Previous studies have consistently demonstrated that the bioavailability of HMTBa/HMTBa-Ca is around 65% compared to DL-Met on product basis. The lower RBA of HMTBa relative to DL-Met was confirmed in the recent European Food Safety Authority (EFSA, 2018) report. The lower estimated bioavailability of HMTBa for non-ruminants could be attributed to the following reasons as per EFSA report (i) the gut microbiota of the non-ruminants competes with the host for HMTBa and its salts compared to DL-Met, and (ii) commercial HMTBa and its salts may contain significant amounts of dimers, trimers and oligomers, which is considered to have lower bioavailability.

A feeding study was conducted in a commercial swine farm in USA to evaluate the growth performance of 65 parts DL-Met and 100 parts HMTBa-Ca supplemented diets in nursery pigs (n=1,296; 5.02 kg initial BW) for a period of 49 days (Facts and Figures 14143). Results indicated that pigs fed the control diet had lower final body weight (BW), average daily gain (ADG) and higher feed conversion ratio (FCR) compared to pigs fed HMTBa-Ca and DL-Met diets. Pigs fed 65 parts of DL-Met showed similar performance as 100% HMTBa-Ca (Fig 1).

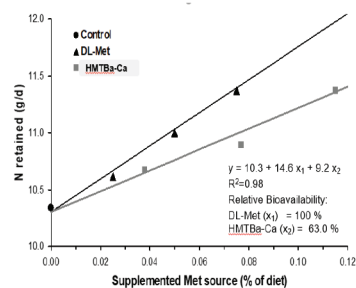
Another feeding study conducted in Vietnam (Facts and Figures, 1496) showed that the nitrogen retention was not different among pigs fed similar inclusion levels of two Met sources added to the Met-deficient diet at a DL-Met to HMTBa-Ca ratio of 65:100 on a product basis. Basal diet was supplemented with three graded levels of DL-Met (0.025, 0.05 and 0.075 %) or HMTBa-Ca (0.038, 0.077 and 0.115 %) on a product basis at DL-Met to HMTBa-Ca ratio of 65:100. In this study, the bio-efficacy of HMTBa-Ca relative to DL-Met was 63 % on a product-to-product basis for N retention (g/day) when added to a Met-deficient diet (Fig 2).

Application of dry DL-Met in animal production delivers consistent results and easy compliance with regulatory standards. Based on the above published data, the relative bioavailability of liquid HMTBa and/or dry HMTBa-Ca is around 65% on a product-to-product basis compared with DL-Met in pigs. It is very clear that HMTBa does not only have a lower nutritional value compared to DL-Met but also need completely different handling, dosing and feed formulation concepts. Overall, selecting the best quality Met source as well as applying the correct bioavailability is important for cost-effective and precise diet formulation to optimize pig production.

**Figure 1.** Growth performance did not differ in pigs fed 100 parts of HMTBa-Ca and 65 parts of DL-Met



**Figure 2.** RBA of HMTBa-Ca relative to DL-Met was 63 % on a product-to-product basis for N retention (g/day)



# Average Farm Gate Price | AS OF 30 APRIL 2021

| PROVINCE              | JAN    | FEB    | MAR    | APR    |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>LUZON</b>          |        |        |        |        |
| BATANGAS              | 230.00 | 221.25 | 231.20 | 245.00 |
| BULACAN               | 234.38 | 210.00 | 220.00 | 238.33 |
| BULACAN - CS          | 155.00 | 135.00 | 157.50 | 155.83 |
| CAVITE                | 215.74 | 211.67 | 218.00 | 226.67 |
| LAGUNA                | 227.50 | 225.00 | 215.00 | 235.00 |
| LAGUNA - CS           | 140.00 | 133.33 | 143.00 | 160.00 |
| MARINDUQUE            | 157.50 | 175.00 | 154.00 | 160.00 |
| MARINDUQUE - CS       | 93.75  | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| METROVIGAN            | 163.75 | 171.88 | 174.00 | 171.67 |
| METROVIGAN - CS       | 125.00 | 145.00 |        |        |
| MINDORO - BANSUD      | 183.75 | 145.00 | 176.00 | 202.50 |
| MINDORO - BANSUD - CS | 77.50  | 98.75  | 79.80  | 100.00 |
| NAGA, BICOL           | 170.00 | 166.25 | 191.50 | 208.33 |
| NAGA, BICOL - CS      | 86.25  | 106.67 | 110.00 | 110.00 |
| NUEVA ECIJA           | NA     | 240.00 | 220.00 | 218.83 |
| NUEVA ECIJA - CS      | NA     | NA     | NA     | NA     |
| PAMPANGA              | 200.00 | NA     | NA     | NA     |
| PAMPANGA - CS         | NA     | NA     | NA     | NA     |
| PANGASINAN            | 227.50 | 215.00 | 213.33 | 250.83 |
| PANGASINAN - CS       | 155.00 | 150.00 | 133.33 | 160.00 |
| PHIL P.I.G.           | 191.75 | 192.67 | 192.67 | NA     |
| PHIL P.I.G. - CS      | 125.75 | 111    | 129.30 | NA     |
| QUEZON                | 217.00 | 205.63 | 220.00 | 233.33 |
| QUEZON -CS            | NA     | 145.00 | 150.00 | 160.00 |
| RIZAL                 | 215.00 | 225.00 | 212.50 | 230.00 |
| RIZAL-CS              | 95.00  | 140.00 | NA     | NA     |
| TARLAC                | 230.63 | 230.00 | 210.00 | NA     |
| TARLAC-CS             | 167.50 | NA     | NA     | NA     |
| <b>VISAYAS</b>        |        |        |        |        |
| BACOLOD               | 123.75 | 130.00 | NA     | NA     |
| BACOLOD-CS            | 65.00  | NA     | NA     | NA     |
| CEBU                  | 123.75 | 145.00 | 155.00 | 155.00 |
| CEBU-CS               | 65.00  | 72.50  | 78.00  | 78.33  |
| ILOILO                | 136.25 | 126.25 | 131.00 | 151.67 |
| ILOILO-CS             | 72.50  | NA     | NA     | 96.67  |
| NEGROS ORIENTAL       | 122.50 | 133.75 | 130.00 | NA     |
| NEGROS ORIENTAL - CS  | 107.50 | NA     | NA     | NA     |
| <b>MINDANAO</b>       |        |        |        |        |
| AGUSAN DEL SUR        | 118.13 | 153.33 | 155.50 | 155.00 |
| AGUSAN DEL SUR - CS   | NA     | 90.00  | 100.00 | 97.50  |
| BUTUAN                | 95.00  | 135.00 | NA     | NA     |
| BUTUAN - CS           | 52.50  | NA     | NA     | NA     |
| CAGAYAN DE ORO        | 154.75 | 175.00 | NA     | NA     |
| CAGAYAN DE ORO - CS   | 78.33  | 100.00 | NA     | NA     |
| BUKIDNON              | 152.50 | 156.25 | 163.00 | 165.00 |
| BUKIDNON-CS           | 105.00 | 103.75 | 91.92  | 95.00  |
| DAVAO                 | NA     | 177.50 | NA     | 180.00 |
| DAVAO-CS              | NA     | 107.50 | NA     | NA     |
| GENSAN                | 164.17 | 190.00 | NA     | NA     |
| GENSAN-CS             | 100.00 | 105.00 | NA     | NA     |



## PRICE WATCH

|                        |        |        |        |        |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| KORONADAL              | 150.00 | 148.33 | 146.00 | NA     |
| KORONADAL - CS         | 88.18  | 88.33  | 90.00  | NA     |
| OZAMIS                 | 133.13 | 162.50 | 167.50 | 167.50 |
| OZAMIS - CS            | 88.75  | 100.00 | NA     | NA     |
| PAGADIAN               | 139.38 | 165.83 | 163.00 | 165.00 |
| PAGADIAN - CS          | 70.00  | 71.67  | 75.00  | 75.00  |
| SURIGAO                | 117.50 | 133.75 | NA     | NA     |
| ZAMBOANGA              | 135.25 | 152.50 | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| ZAMBOANGA - CS         | NA     | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY      | 121.25 | 155.00 | 154.00 | 152.50 |
| ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY - CS | 65.00  | 96.67  | 95.00  | 91.67  |

## Raw Materials | BULACAN PRICES; AVERAGE MONTHLY BASED ON WEEKLY REPORT, SOURCE: PAFMI

|                          | JAN         | FEB         | MAR         | APR         |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Yellow corn              | 15.25-17.75 | 14.95-17.50 | 14.90-17.50 | 14.65-17.25 |
| Feedwheat AUS            | 16.82       | 16.40       | 16.36       | 16.20-16.43 |
| Feedwheat                | 16.10-16.45 | 15.85-16.13 | 15.55-16.15 | 15.70-16.24 |
| USSBM                    | 28.50-29.31 | 28.23-29.33 | 27.43-28.63 | 26.95-28.26 |
| ArgSBM                   | 28.17-28.67 | 27.75-28.25 | 26.75-27.25 | 26.50-27.00 |
| Rice Bran from N. Ecija  | 8.40        | 9.60        | 9.57        | 8.70        |
| Rice Bran from Bocaue    | 8.45-12.25  | 8.83-12.50  | 9.48-12.50  | 8.13-11.25  |
| Pollard Hard             | 6.40-8.00   | 7.00-8.00   | 6.63-8.00   | 6.69-9.18   |
| Pollard Soft             | 7.03        | 7.15        | 7.03        | 7.85        |
| Local Fish Meal - 55% CP | 57.25       | 14.25       | 55.25       | 55.00       |
| Local Fish Meal - 60% CP | 61.25       | 61.00       | 59.50       | 56.50       |
| Full Fat Soya            | 33.65-34.70 | 34.18-35.10 | 35.50-36.25 | 36.45-37.15 |
| Copra Meal               | 12.55-13.33 | 10.85-11.88 | 10.50-11.65 | 11.40-13.08 |
| Coco Oil                 | 71.50-72.50 | 68.63-69.75 | 73.25-74.13 | 73.38-75.25 |
| Crude Palm Oil           | 49.63       | 49.50       | 55.25       | 56.00-57.00 |
| Refine Palm Oil          | 51.50-53.25 | 51.25-52.67 | 56.50-58.25 | 57.00-58.60 |
| Molasses                 | 12.93       | 12.90       | 12.78       | 12.88       |
| DDGs                     | 19.63       | 20.58       | 21.28       | 21.00-22.50 |

## Pork Importation | AS OF 28 FEBRUARY 2021, SOURCE: BAI-NVQSD

| Sum of Weight in kgs. | JAN               | FEB               | TOTAL             |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bellies               | 3,110,300         | 2,556,200         | 5,666,500         |
| Fats                  | 3,812,200         | 4,752,488         | 8,564,688         |
| Offals                | 11,756,542        | 11,952,790        | 23,709,332        |
| Pork Cuts             | 6,915,019         | 8,702,933         | 15,617,951        |
| Rind/Skin             | 2,463,900         | 2,704,700         | 5,168,600         |
| Whole Pork            |                   | 30,000            | 30,000            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>28,057,961</b> | <b>30,699,111</b> | <b>58,757,072</b> |

TWO vaccines

ONE shot

TWO routes of administration

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**UniSTRAIN** Composition: Each dose contains: Live attenuated Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV), strain VP-046 BIS 10<sup>3.5</sup>-10<sup>5.5</sup> CCID<sub>50</sub> (cell culture infectious dose). **Indications:** **Breeding females:** For active immunisation of breeding females from farms PRRS virus to reduce reproductive disorders, incidence and duration of viraemia, transplacental virus transmission, virus tissue load and clinical signs associated with infection with strains of PRRS virus. Moreover, vaccination reduces the negative impact of PRRS virus infection on piglet performance (mortality and weight gain) within the first weeks of life. **Pigs:** For active immunisation of pigs from farms affected with PRRS virus to reduce the incidence and duration of viraemia and virus tissue load. A significant improvement on mortality, daily weight gain and respiratory clinical signs are observed under field conditions. The onset of immunity is 4 weeks after vaccination and the duration of immunity is until the end of the fattening period. **Dosage and administration route:** Intramuscular or intradermal route using a suitable device. Dosage: Intramuscular use: 2 ml/animal. Intradermal use: 0.2 ml/animal. **Interaction with other medicinal products:** Safety and efficacy data are available which demonstrate that this vaccine can be mixed with HIPRA inactivated vaccine against Porcine Parvovirus and Erysipelas administered intramuscularly and also can be mixed with AUSKIPRA GN administered intramuscularly or intradermally. The product literature of ERYSENG PARVO and AUSKIPRA GN should be consulted before administration of the mixed products. No information is available on the safety and efficacy of this vaccine when used with any other veterinary medical product except the products mentioned above. A decision to use this vaccine before or after any other veterinary medicinal product therefore needs to be made on a case by case basis. **Special Precautions:** Vaccinate healthy animals only. Vaccinated females may excrete the vaccine strain for up to nine days following vaccination by nasal secretions. In some cases, faecal excretion can also occur. The vaccine strain can spread to non-vaccinated cohabitant animals, including the fetus during pregnancy and piglets after partum without any clinical consequence. If necessary, special precautions should be taken to avoid the transfer of the virus within the herd or spreading to susceptible animals. Newly introduced PRRSV-naïve females (e.g. replacement females from PRRSV-negative herds) should be vaccinated prior to mating. **Packaging:** IM: 10, 25, 50, 100 and 125 doses. **ID:** 50, 100 and 125 doses **Marketing Authorisation Holder:** LABORATORIOS HIPRA, S.A. **Local representative:** Hipra Philippines, Inc. **Marketing Authorization number:** VBPR No. R-2126.

**AUSKIPRA GN** Live vaccine, against Aujeszky's Disease gE negative strain. **Composition:** Aujeszky's Disease virus, strain gE negative Bartha K61 10<sup>5.5</sup> TCID<sub>50</sub>. **Indication:** Swine: to prevent Aujeszky's Disease. **Dosage and administration route:** Intramuscular or intranasal. **Fattening pigs:** One dose by intramuscular route, at approximately 12-13 weeks old, i.e. when passive maternal immunity has decreased to very low levels. In endemic areas, it is recommended to vaccinate at 10-11 weeks of age and revaccinate at 13-14 weeks of age. **Sows and Boars:** Two vaccinations at 3 to 4 week intervals in future breeders when entering the premises or in breeders which have not been previously vaccinated. Thereafter, revaccinate every 4 months, or at 4 to 6 weeks before each farrowing. In case of an Aujeszky's disease outbreak, it is recommended to vaccinate the entire herd (sows, boars and piglets) with one dose. **Packaging:** Vials of 50 and 100 doses. **Marketing Authorisation Holder:** LABORATORIOS HIPRA, S.A. **Local representative:** Hipra Philippines, Inc. **Marketing Authorization number:** VPBR No. R-823.



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## Negros Oriental sends 25K hogs monthly to NCR, other provinces

**D**UMAGUETE CITY – Hog farmers in Negros Oriental are now bouncing back from the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic as they now supply around 25,000 live pigs per month to the National Capital Region and other areas at competitive prices.

Dr. Alfonso Tundag, quarantine officer and head of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) here, said the continuing threat posed by the African swine fever (ASF) that has affected many provinces, allowed local hog raisers to expand their markets in the past few months.

In a recent meeting with the local

association of hog farmers and traders, Tundag said they now supply 24,000 to 25,000 pigs to areas outside of the province each month.

“The prices of live weight hogs are pegged between Php140 to Php145 per kilo, and this is just the buying price,” he said.

Last year, at the height of the pandemic and due to strict quarantine restrictions, pork was being sold in Negros Oriental at a low price of Php99 per kilo, as these could not be transported outside of the province.

Trading is now brisk between Negros Oriental suppliers and buyers from Cebu, Manila, and other places because pork meat prices in these areas have spiraled due to the ASF scare, Tundag said.

He assured, though, that there is still

enough pork meat for local consumption despite the upward supply trend for other provinces.

Meanwhile, Negros Oriental continues to keep a tight watch against ASF by restricting the entry of pork products via the airport and sea ports, Tundag said.

The Bulado Port in Guihulngan City and the wharf in Sibulan town, which have reopened in recent months after being closed at the height of the pandemic last year, are now being closely monitored by BAI teams, he added.

Tundag said local government units (LGUs) have been alerted to keep an eye on the possible illegal entry of banned pork by-products, such as chorizo, from areas where ASF cases have been reported. –

**Mary Judaline Partlow, PNA**

## Guidelines for transboundary animal diseases center approved

**S**hipments of live hogs and frozen carcass or “pork-in-a-box” from Visayas and Mindanao (Vis-Min) have been increased to address the current low supply and artificial high prices of pork in public markets in Metro Manila and other areas in Luzon.

According to Memorandum Order No. 05 signed by Dar on April 8, CenTrad will serve as center for risk analysis, investigation, diagnosis, mapping, and emergency management of the Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs).

“This project envisions the creation and operation of CenTrAD that shall lead the conduct of surveillance, diagnosis and control, mapping, epidemiology, timely information dissemination, research and emergency management in case of emergence transboundary animal diseases (TADs),” the order read.

The project’s source of fund shall be through the Republic Act 11494

(Bayanihan to Recover as One Act), adhering the disbursement rules set by the Department of Budget and Management subject to auditing rules and regulation.

Among the specific objectives of the CenTrad include:

- Provide a venue for focused animal disease diagnostics, monitoring and surveillance particularly of TADs in the country;
- Serve as a hub for risk analysis, development of plans and the management and implementation of interventional veterinary assistance in times of TADs outbreak;
- Serve as a hub for multidisciplinary capacity building particularly for animal health workers, and render expert consultancy service needs on all facets of animal health, more importantly on One-Health, risk communications, and biosecurity;
- Perform relevant and competitive research programs that directly address TADs, conduct socio-economic and value chain studies, improved advocacy,

risk communication, and the needs to poultry and livestock farming communities; and

- Serve as the central storage facility for animal vaccines, supplies and equipment for emergency and disease management.

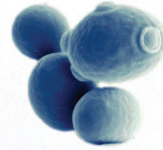
Aside from BAI, the major SUC partners in CenTrad project implementation are Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Cavite State University, Central Bicol State University, Central Mindanao University, Isabela State University, Visayas State University, Tarlac State University, Cagayan State University, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, and Pampanga State Agricultural University.

The CLSU in collaboration with other SUCs shall supervise the establishment of the project in coordination with the BAI which shall take the lead in periodic monitoring and evaluation of the project, according to the memorandum order.

>>>page 17

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## Local governments banned from collecting transport fees

**L**ocal government units (LGUs) are now banned from collecting fees and taxes for cross-border transport of goods.

The departments of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Finance (DoF) and the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) on 28 April 2021 signed Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021-01.

The memorandum prohibits LGUs from imposing “fees and taxes on goods passing through their jurisdictions in the guise of charges for toll, sticker, discharging, delivery or mayor’s permit fees.”

“We remind local governments of the limitations on the imposition of fees and other charges on the transportation

of goods in their areas,” said Finance Undersecretary Antonette Tionko.

Violators will be subpoenaed, investigated and may face charges for violating Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services Act.

“By bridging public service to answer to the needs of the people, we are doing our mandate by implementing efficient government service delivery,” said ARTA director general Jeremiah Belgica.

The DILG said there are at least 30 LGUs that have local orders imposing fees and taxes on truckers.

The department is reviewing these ordinances.

“LGUs violating the memorandum will be sanctioned. We can also ask the ombudsman and the courts if there is basis

for filing of cases,” said Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

A Joint Oversight Committee—composed of the DILG, DOF, ARTA and public and private stakeholders—is tasked to monitor the implementation of the memorandum.

Meanwhile, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said his department is inclined to reject the proposal of the Philippine National Police to require a national police clearance for workers, adding that it goes against the principle of ease of doing business in government.

According to Bello, the initial response of the stakeholders to the proposal is unfavorable. “But it is not yet final,” he said. — **Romina Cabrera, Czeriza Valencia, Elizabeth Marcelo, Sheila Crisostomo, Philstar.com**

## NMIS implements digital licensing application

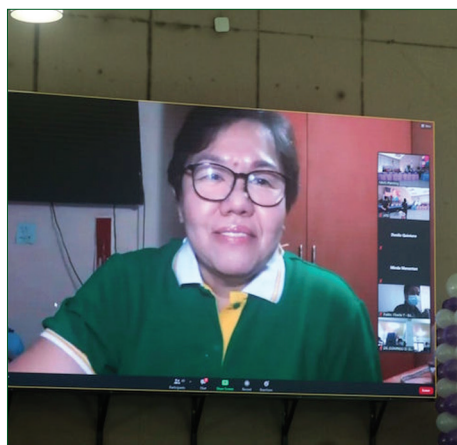
**T**he National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) has recently launched its NMIS Accreditation and Registration Information System (NARIS), an online application system for the issuance of license to operate meat establishments.

Establishments covered by the system include slaughterhouses, poultry dressing plants, meat cutting plants, and cold storages and warehouse.

The NARIS aims to establish an effective practice and efficient turn-around of the delivery of licensing services by the NMIS.

NARIS is also a support to Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Business Delivery Act which seeks efficiency in doing business in the government by reducing processing time in application of permits.

The implementation of NARIS will streamline the processing time of



*Dr. Jocelyn Salvador, the NMIS OIC Executive Director, Photo from NMIS*

evaluation of application from three days to only 20 minutes. One of the advantages of the system is that it allows the applicants to submit the documentary requirements and sign up to the system when and where it is most convenient to them. NARIS is also designed to eliminate the step on the

submission of incomplete requirements.

Dr. Jocelyn Salvador, NMIS OIC Executive Director, said the development of NARIS is a “timely innovation as we are ushering into new normal way of doing things where face to face interaction is being limited.”

She added that the information system will deliver a faster and more efficient way of responding to clients.

Dr. Orlando Ongsotto, NMIS OIC Deputy Executive Director for regional field operations, shared his personal experience when he tried the system during a simulation activity. “The system is user friendly and fast.”

But he also advised prospective applicants to scan the documentary requirements needed for the application before they log into the system. This will enable the participants to seamlessly go through the system.

The NMIS Accreditation and Registration Division is tasked to manage the system. — **RLR/DA-NMIS**





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## BOI approves Biotech Farms P1.3B hog expansion project

**The Board of Investments (BOI) has approved the P1.33-billion project of Biotech Farms, Inc. to expand its live hog production.**

The BOI, in a statement, said Biotech Farms would add 2,500 sow-level piggery farms in its swine facility in South Cotabato.

The expansion project will boost the farm's annual swine production by 48%, the BOI said. The current swine production capacity of the facility is at 114,400 hogs (11.44 million kilograms).

Biotech Farms will have an additional capacity of 54,600 hogs (5.46 million kilos), increasing its annual production to 169,000 hogs (16.9 million kilos).

The investment promotion agency said the expansion project would also put up "state-of-the-art facilities with the latest pig production system similar to what is implemented in the United States and Australia" to ensure healthy and efficient hog production.

"Once operational, the project will help in the arrest of the continuously increasing pork importation," the BOI said.

Since the start of the year, consumers have been facing high prices of pork meat due to the lack of local production as pigs have been affected by African swine fever.

According to the Department of Agriculture, the country incurred a deficit of pork meat last year, as demand was higher than the available supply.

Annual growth of local production was averaging at 2.5%, while pork importation grew at a faster rate of 7%.

Biotech Farm's new facility will be operational by April 2022, the BOI said. – **Kris Crismundo, PNA**

## DA confirms first ASF outbreak in Samar Island

**The African swine fever (ASF) has spread to Lope de Vega, Northern Samar, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has confirmed.**

Elvira Torres, DA Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) Technical Director, said it was the first confirmed outbreak outside Leyte province, prompting the agency to send teams to investigate how ASF reached one of the town's backyard farms.

"There are reports that the virus was carried by a person who visited the hog farm. Traveling from a place with ASF could

lead to new outbreaks without proper biosecurity practices," Torres said in a virtual press briefing.

Authorities have identified over 200 pigs in Lope de Vega that will be subjected to depopulation to stop the spread of the virus. They are located within the 500-meter radius from the confirmed case.

Lope de Vega recorded the first ASF case in Samar Island more than two months after the highly-contagious animal disease plagued Leyte province, with the first case detected in Abuyog town on 14 January.

In Leyte, ASF has been affecting the towns of Abuyog, Javier, Dulag, La Paz, Burauen,

MacArthur, Palo, Pastrana, Tanauan, Tacloban City, Mayorga, and Jaro. About 16,000 pigs have been depopulated in those areas.

Initial investigation showed the ASF virus could have been transmitted to local farms in Leyte through an infected boar used for natural mating and by hog traders who may have fed their stocks with contaminated food products.

Pigs affected by ASF usually manifest high fever, distinct reddish areas on the skin of the neck, chest, and extremities, and bleeding of internal organs that could lead to death within two to 10 days. – **Sarwell Meniano, PNA**

## Guidelines for transboundary... continued from page 13

The CLSU shall also be responsible for allocation of at least 10,000 square meters for the construction of the CenTraD project building.

"BAI will be mainly accountable in the allocation and fund transfer for CenTraD's establishment and operation; in monitoring the fund utilization and the project's progress; and in providing

further technical assistance to strengthen the disease diagnosis in the country," the order read.

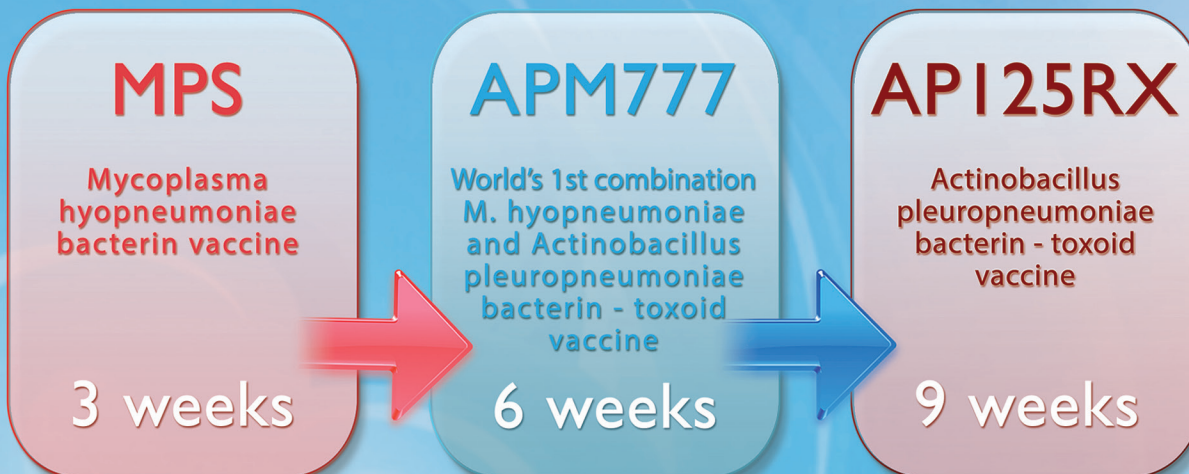
The DA has sought for the declaration of national emergency in a bid to mobilize local government units to prevent the further spread of African swine fever (ASF).

When declared, the LGUs will allocate funds to address the threat of the disease.

The fight would also require concerned government agencies to address the problem. Unlike Covid-19, ASF is harmless to humans but is deadly to pigs and there is currently no vaccine or cure. Data from the agriculture office said that the ASF has so far spread to 12 regions, 40 provinces, 466 cities and municipalities and 2,425 barangays. – **Christine Cudis, PNA**



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## GenSan bans entry of live hogs from outside Soccsksargen

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY** – The city government has temporarily banned the entry of all live hogs from other regions, especially in Mindanao, due to the continuing threats posed by the spread of African swine fever (ASF).

Dr. Antonio Ephrem Marin, head of the City Veterinary Office, said the ban was directed by City Mayor Ronnel Rivera through Executive Order 15, which further strengthened the city's precautionary measures against the disease.

Marin said it specifically expanded the prohibition on the entry of live hogs and pork products, which previously included ASF-hit areas in Luzon and the Davao region.

Under EO 15, he said all live hogs coming from outside Region 12 (Soccsksargen) would not be allowed entry in the area while the ASF outbreak persists.

Marin said his office, in coordination with

hog producers, requested such a move in the wake of the continuing attempts by some traders to bring in hogs from other areas in Mindanao.

He said they monitored hog shipments from Bukidnon, which is still considered free from ASF but practically “boxed in” by “red” or infected zones.

He added that some local farms have been sourcing grower hogs from several breeders based in Bukidnon.

Their monitoring and enforcement teams have already intercepted at the city entry checkpoints three trucks that were loaded with 51 hogs.

“The shipments have veterinary and transport permits but we still did not allow them to enter the city as they failed to present laboratory test results showing that the animals are ASF-free,” he said in an interview.

Marin said they are worried about the adoption of the “tooth extraction” approach by some hog raisers in the other regions that were affected by the ASF outbreak.

The practice, which is widely adopted in China, focuses on “spot elimination” or removing only the affected animals instead of depopulating.

“We need to implement stricter measures to protect our hog industry from these threats,” he said.

Cases of ASF were detected in Sarangani province last year and parts of North Cotabato but these have been contained as reported by the Department of Agriculture.

Hog producers in this city and nearby South Cotabato province ship some 25,000 to 30,000 heads of live animals and frozen carcass every month to Metro Manila and other key markets in the country.

The area's commercial hog inventory is pegged at about 490,000 heads while those in backyard farms are estimated at 37,000 heads, making it among the top producers in the country. –Richelyn Gubalani, PNA affected by the ASF.

The swine multiplier farm is situated inside the Jagna Eco Park in barangay Tubodmar in Jagna, Bohol. – **Carlo Lorenciana, PNA**

## PCIC doubles indemnity to P10K per ASF-culled hog

**The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) is increasing to Php10,000 its indemnity for hogs culled due to the African swine fever (ASF).**

The move is part of government's efforts to encourage hog raisers hit by ASF to get back to business and subsequently stabilize pork supply and prices.

“Through the PCIC insurance program, we are doubling the indemnification payout for every pig that contracts ASF from Php5,000 to Php10,000. With the increased indemnity, hog raisers are encouraged to report affected pigs, thus controlling the ASF from spreading,” Agriculture Secretary

William Dar said.

The PCIC swine industry insurance program complements the twin program of Bantay ASF sa Barangay to effectively control, contain and manage the ASF, and the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) or hog repopulation program to revive the country's swine industry.

Relaxed version of insurance program PCIC President Atty. Jovy Bernabe said the swine insurance program is a relaxed version of the agency's regular livestock insurance program, offering free premium payments for backyard raisers and discounted premium for commercial hog raisers, and increased indemnity payments for culled hogs.

“For backyard swine raisers, the subsidy will be 100% of the premium cost,

provided they are listed in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture, while for commercial swine raisers, the premium subsidy will be discounted,” said Bernabe.

For backyard farmers, PCIC provides 1.75% premium for fatteners and 3.5% for breeders, which are waived as free. Commercial farmers pay the same premium rates, discounted from the regular rates of 2.25% and 4%, for their stocks to be covered.

He added that the insurance covers Php10,000 per head for fatteners, Php14,500 per head for breeders, and Php34,000 per head for parent stocks.

### LGU, SUC coverage

Bernabe said that aside from backyard swine raisers and farmers' cooperatives, >>>page 28

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## PRRD signs EO 128 reducing pork import duty

**P**resident Rodrigo Duterte has issued Executive Order (EO) 128 modifying the rates of import duty on pork products.

Duterte approved the National Economic and Development Authority's (NEDA) proposed temporary reduction of the Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariff rates on fresh, chilled, or frozen pork products.

Under EO 128, he noted the need to take steps to allow the domestic swine industry to “fully recover and attain sufficient local pork production.”

“There is an urgent need to temporarily reduce the Most Favored Nation tariff rates on fresh, chilled or frozen meat of swine to address the existing pork supply shortage,

stabilize prices of pork meat, and minimize inflation rates,” the EO read.

EO 128 reduces tariff rates for both in-quota and out-quota imports of pork to boost pork supply in the country and tame prices of pork products.

Duterte's latest EO reduces the MFN tariff rate on pork imports within the minimum access volume (MAV) to 5% for the first three months upon the effectivity of the order and to 10% for the fourth to 12th month from the current rate of 30%.

On the other hand, pork imports outside MAV will be slapped with a lower tariff of 15% for the next three months and 20% for the succeeding nine months from the current 40%, based on EO 128.

EO 128, which is effective for a period of one year, takes effect immediately upon its

complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Last month, Duterte asked Congress to approve the proposed increase in pork imports to 250,000 metric tons from the present 54,210 MT to address the rising food prices and boost the supply of pork in the country.

On 1 February, Duterte signed EO 124, which imposes a price ceiling of Php270 per kilogram for pork kasim and pigue, Php300 per kilogram for pork liempo, and Php160 per kilogram for dressed chicken until 8 April.

The DA has also submitted to Duterte a draft proclamation declaring a state of national emergency in the country to address the severe impact of African swine fever on the hog industry. — PNA

## Senate resolution urges PRRD to withdraw EO 128

**T**he Senate Committee of the Whole on 15 April adopted a resolution urging President Rodrigo Duterte to withdraw Executive Order 128, which provides for the temporary modification of the rates of the import duty for fresh, chilled, or frozen meat of swine, and to recall the recommendation to increase the minimum access volume (MAV) of pork.

The committee asserted that “the power to fix tariff rates and import quotas fall within the realm of the power of taxation, a power which is within the sole province of the legislature under the Constitution.”

“Under our system of laws, the setting of the MAV and the power to set the tariff rates are the functions of Congress. The exercise of the President of the power to increase the MAV and to lower the tariff are delegated authorities of Congress, which may be withdrawn or terminated by Congress through a joint resolution,” Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon,

author of the resolution, said in a news release.

Drilon said the two policies under EO 128 “can potentially spell the demise of our local hog industry, most of them belong to what we call backyard hog raisers.”

The bipartisan resolution was co-authored by Senate President Vicente Sotto, Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto, Majority Leader Miguel Zubiri, and senators Sonny Angara, Nancy Binay, Pia Cayetano, Leila de Lima, Risa Hontiveros, Lito Lapid, Panfilo Lacson, Imee Marcos, Manny Pacquiao, Francis Pangilinan, Grace Poe, Richard Gordon, Ramon Revilla Jr., Joel Villanueva, and Cynthia Villar.

On 7 April, Duterte issued EO 128 reducing the tariff rate on pork imports.

On 26 March, when Congress was no longer in session, Duterte also sent Congress a letter to convey his proposal to increase the MAV to 350,000 metric tons (MT) from 54,210 MT.

The Senate, however, believed that the proposal to set the MAV from the current 54,210 MT to 350,000 MT for 2021 could not take into effect because the recommendation was sent to and received by the Senate when it was no longer in session.

“Section 6 of the Agricultural Tariffication Act (Republic Act 8178), which provides that the President's recommendation to revise, modify or adjust the MAV in case of shortages or abnormal price increases in agricultural products is deemed approved if Congress fails to act after fifteen (15) days from receipt is not applicable in this case because the President's recommendation was sent to and received by the Senate when it was no longer in session and thus cannot act on the recommendation,” it said.

The resolution also hit the Department of Agriculture for its failure to satisfactorily establish through accurate and reliable data that the country will have 388,790 MT of deficit in the supply of pork for the year, which necessitates the increase in MAV.

The resolution stated that based on the testimonies of the resource persons during the first hearing of the committee, there is reasonable basis to conclude that the new set of tariff rates and the huge increase in the MAV can cause the demise of the local hog industry and cost the government billions in foregone revenue.

It was reported in the media that the foregone revenue could reach up to Php11 billion. — PNA



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## PI0M swine multiplier farm to rise in Bohol

**A** Php10-million swine multiplier and technology demonstration farm will soon rise in the province of Bohol, the Department of Agriculture in Central Visayas (DA-7) said.

The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), local hog farmers and the local government unit of Jagna town in Bohol have partnered for this project, which recently broke ground. It will improve the swine industry in the island and Central Visayas region.

The multi-million-peso multiplier farm which was awarded by the DA National Livestock Program through ATI-7 to Jagna, Bohol will have a 60-sow level capacity.

In a statement, DA Undersecretary for Livestock Dr. William Medrano said this is part of the government's initiative to help hasten recovery and restoration



*Groundbreaking ceremony for the Php10-million swine multiplier and technology demonstration farm in Jagna town, Bohol province. The farm is aimed at sustaining a reliable source of quality hogs that would be available and accessible to local farmers. (Photo courtesy of DA-7)*

of livelihood of farmers especially hog growers affected by the pandemic and African swine fever (ASF).

“The establishment of this multiplier farm is aimed at sustaining (an) eligible source of quality hogs that would be available and accessible to the local farmers,” Medrano said.

DA-7 regional director Salvador Diputado said the project is also part of the department's Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) and Bantay ASF sa Barangay (BABay ASF) programs.

Diputado also said the BABay ASF program institutionalizes the quick response team against the ASF in the barangay level which is also aligned with the establishment of the multiplier farm for the repopulation of hogs in areas not affected by the ASF.

The swine multiplier farm is situated inside the Jagna Eco Park in barangay Tubodmar in Jagna, Bohol. – **Carlo Lorenciana, PNA**

## Legazpi veterinary office urges hog raisers to insure pigs

**T**he City Veterinary Office (CVO) in Legazpi City is encouraging hog raisers who have not registered yet with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) and the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) to soon enlist their swine for insurance coverage.

City Veterinary Officer Dr. Emmanuel Estipona said around 1,500 hog raisers had already registered, but more have yet to enlist.

“They should immediately register in order for them to avail of the insurance benefits for their pigs,” Estipona said.

Under the new insurance coverage scheme, he said, the PCIC would pay Php10,000 per hog that is insured if it

becomes ill.

“If a pig becomes infected with ASF (African swine fever) after it was placed under the insurance coverage, the owner could file a claim for the ill but covered hog,” Estipona said.

Meanwhile, he said the CVO has offered Mayor Noel E. Rosal the purchase of live hogs from ASF-free localities to be distributed to all the meat vendors at a reasonable price to help solve the problem regarding the very low supply of pigs resulting in high prices of pork in the market.

“Buying of more pigs from other places would be considered as one of the economic enterprises that will bring additional income on the part of the city government. This scheme can also control the continuous increase of prices of meat products that burden the consuming public,” he added.

Estipona said the mayor earlier issued an Executive Order (EO) preventing hog buyers from outside Legazpi to buy pigs in the city to prevent scarcity of meat supply.

“We are also encouraging the hog raisers to engage in ‘Babuyang walang amoy’ to help increase the volume of pigs in the community”, he added.

He commended the inspection team and all the barangay officials for always monitoring the stockyards within their respective villages as part of preventing the entry of the infected pigs, which has made Legazpi an ASF-free city.

Estipona said he requested the 70 village chiefs to monitor stockyards in their respective localities, and issue a barangay clearance certifying the origin of the hog as it would serve as a reference for accepting pigs for slaughtering services at the Class AA abattoir in order to prevent the entry of ASF in Legazpi. – **Emmanuel Solis, PNA**

## P600M swine repopulation program for roll out in ASF ‘pink’ and ‘yellow’ zones

**A**s the African swine fever (ASF) incidence is at its lowest level since August 2020, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to implement the government’s P600-million swine repopulation program, focusing initially on previously affected areas that are no longer under quarantine and now classified as “pink” and “yellow” zones.

“... the ASF incidence is waning, which as of 26 March 2021, has registered 253 cases versus 358 cases in January 2021, 330 cases in February 2021, and the highest level at 1,773 cases in August 2020,” said Agriculture Secretary William Dar.

The favorable development was reported by Director Reildrin Morales of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), during a recent meeting presided by Secretary Dar with DA regional directors, Director Jocelyn Badiola of the DA-Agricultural Credit and Policy Council (ACPC) and President Jovy Bernabe of the DA-Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

The news gives boost to the government’s swine repopulation program — or the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) — that will be implemented in ASF “pink” and “yellow” zones, and more extensively in ASF “green” zones.

As per ASF color-coding scheme, Morales said “pink” zones serve as buffer, where ASF is not present but adjacent to an infected zone. It may also be an area previously infected but the ASF virus has not been detected for at least 90 days, and thus has recovered from infected status.

Other areas where the INSPIRE program will be implemented are the: “yellow” or surveillance zones, which are ASF-free but adjacent to “yellow” zones; and “light green” and “dark green” zones, which are free from ASF.



### Sentinel approach

“We will implement INSPIRE through the ‘sentinel’ approach initially in the first eight regions affected by ASF, benefiting 8,000 backyard raisers, who will be grouped into 500 clusters,” said the DA chief. The eight regions are: 1, 2, 3, 4A, 5, 11, 12, and Cordillera.

The sentinel approach is the limited placement of pigs to ascertain if there is still ASF virus present in a test area.

DA Undersecretary for Livestock Dr. William Medrano said the project beneficiaries will each receive three to five “sentinel” piglets — including feeds, veterinary drugs, biologics and anti-viral agents — during the six-month fattening period. The sentinel component entails an initial budget of P400 million under the INSPIRE program.

Another P200 million is allocated for the INSPIRE multiplier breeder component to ensure continuous source of piglets for the subsequent expansion of the swine repopulation program, said Medrano, who oversees the DA National Livestock Program.

### Concerted effort

Dar said reviving the country’s swine industry is a huge challenge, and requires a concerted effort among all stakeholders.

“We need the strong and sustained support of backyard and commercial raisers, local government units (LGUs), and the private sector to revive the industry,” said the DA chief.

“First, by effectively controlling the ASF and preventing its spread via strict biosecurity measures, and secondly, by embarking on a massive swine repopulation program.”

This early, he thanked several private companies, led by the Univet Nutrition and Animal Healthcare Company (UNAHCO), that recently partnered with the DA to implement the “Bantay ASF sa Barangay” program, and the Land Bank of the Philippines as it launched a SWINE financing program to support the initiative. The Development Bank of the Philippines has also set aside P12 billion for lending to commercial hog raisers.

Several LGUs are also joining the campaign to revive the hog industry, like the city government of Lipa in Batangas that is investing an initial P1.6 million to embark on a gilt (young female breeder pig) dispersal program, according to DA-4A regional director Vilma Dimaculangan. It also allocated P1 million for animal disease monitoring and prevention.

The DA through its International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH) is also establishing swine breeder multiplier farms, initially in eight provinces, namely: Ilocos Norte, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Mindoro, Sorsogon, Southern Leyte, Bohol, and Bukidnon.

Further, the DA-ACPC is extending a P500 million credit program for backyard raisers in “green zones” to expand their operations.

Finally, the DA through the PCIC will provide free insurance premium to backyard raisers listed under the RSBSA, and subsidized premium for commercial raisers. Should their fatteners die due to ASF, they will be indemnified at P10,000 per head.

“This early, we sincerely thank our partners — local chief executives, the private sector, hog raisers’ groups, and veterinary associations — for extending their strong support to revive the country’s swine industry,” Dar said. — **DA StratComms**



## JANUARY GMM.

The Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines, Inc. (Pork Producers) continued to hold its regular general membership meeting through Zoom, with the world still in the middle of a pandemic. The meeting held on 07 January 2021 was hosted by President Edwin Chen and sponsored by Newgen Marketing, Inc.

Opening remarks was given by Pork Producers Chair Eliseo Yu while the opening prayer was made by CEVIPPCO President Paul Holaysan. To start the webinar series for 2021, the presentation titled “2021: Fresh Start and New Beginnings” was given by Dr. Rodger Campbell of Jefe/Newgen.

After the presentation, Pork Producers officers and members discussed the current situation of the pork industry. Members from the different parts of the country were asked to provide an update on the state of the pork sector in their respective areas, especially on the effects of the African swine fever.



Pork Producers  
Federation of the  
Phils. Inc  
Presents

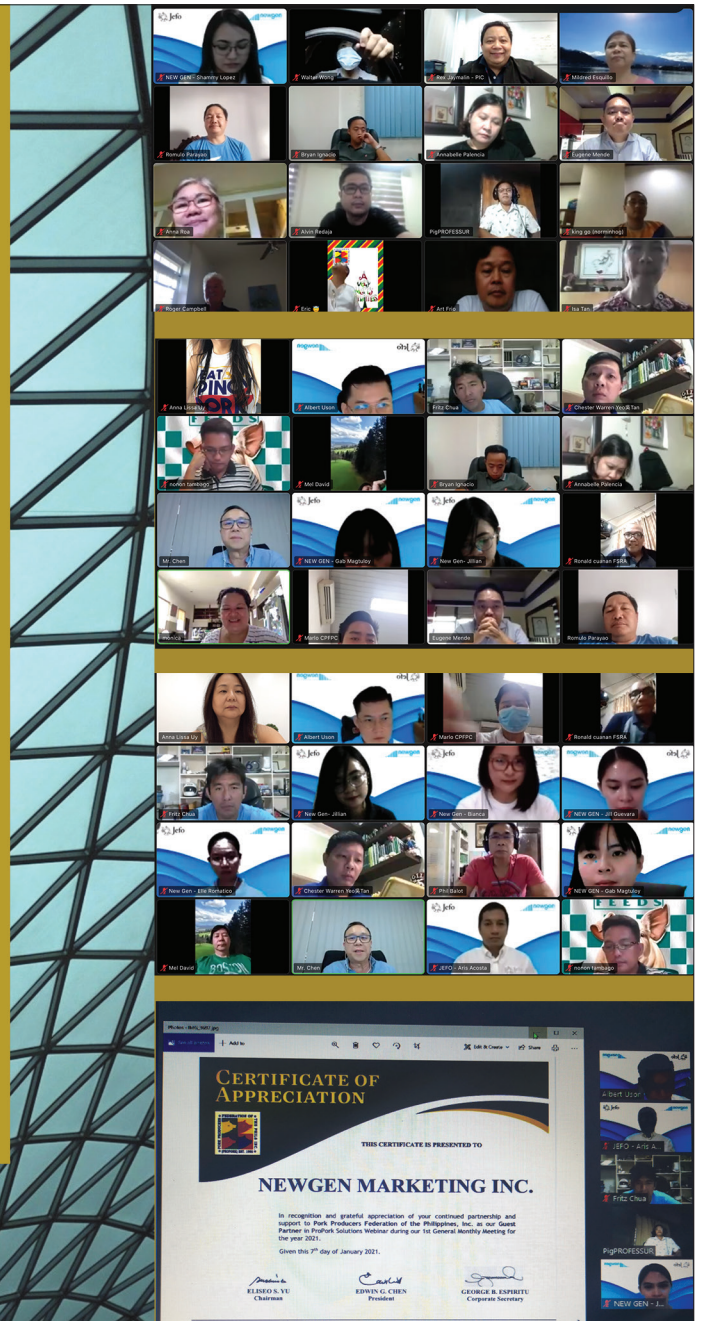
# ProPork Solutions Webinar



Topic  
“2021: Fresh Start  
and New Beginnings”

SPEAKER: Dr. Rodger Campbell

JANUARY 7, 2021



**FEBRUARY GMM.**

The Pork Producers Solutions Webinar topic during the February general membership meeting through Zoom was presented by Michael Felipe E. Quilitis, DVM, DPCSP. Held on 04 February 2021, Dr. Quilitis discussed the topic “Are you confident with your piglet’s haemoglobin level? A 2020 Philippines Initial Survey.”


CEVIPSCO President Paul Holaysan opened the meeting with a prayer. Pork Producers President Edwin Chen gave his report on the overall situation of the pork sector, and thanked the officers and members who always take time to attend the Zoom GMM meetings.

Pork Producers officers and members also gave a price update and reported on the state of the pork sector in their respective areas.


The February GMM was sponsored by Ceva Animal Health (Philippines), Inc.

**PORK PRODUCERS FEDERATION OF THE PHILS. INC PRESENTS**

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VIA 


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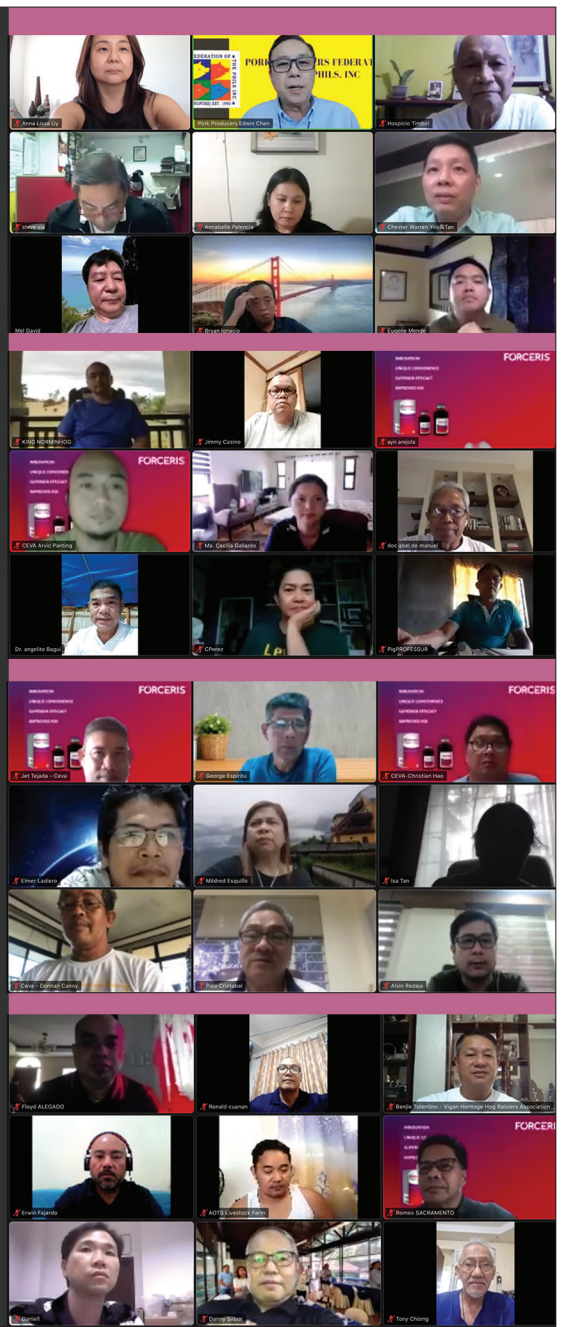
Michael Felipe E. Quilitis, DVM, DPCSP  
Veterinary Technical Services  
Ceva Animal Health (Philippines) Inc.





CEVA ANIMAL HEALTH (PHILIPPINES) INC  
ZOOM PARTNER







**MARCH GMM.**

The Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines, Inc. held its regular Zoom general membership meeting on 04 March 2021. CEVPPCO President Paul Holaysan opened the meeting with a prayer.

The month's webinar featured the Roadshow Presentation of the DA National Livestock Program. Dr. Ruth Micalat-Sonaco, ITCPH Director and National Livestock Program Director, discussed the Department of Agriculture's Repopulation Program followed by presentations by the Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines on available loan programs for pork producers. The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation also talked about the insurance program for pork producers being provided by the institution.

Pork Producers President Edwin Chen then gave his report, followed by a situation report and price update given by officers and members in their respective areas.

**PORK PRODUCERS FEDERATION  
OF THE PHILS. INC  
PRESENTS**

**A ROADSHOW PRESENTATION  
OF THE  
DA NATIONAL LIVESTOCK  
PROGRAM**

**IN COOPERATION  
WITH**

**PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION  
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The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The top section displays a grid of participants, including several individuals and logos for 'LAND BANK', 'PROPORK', and 'ASBAP - Ro...'. Below this, a larger video window features Dr. Ruth Micalat-Sonaco, Director of the National Livestock Program, speaking. Behind her are the logos of the Department of Agriculture and the Livestock Program. The bottom section shows another grid of participants, including the 'Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines, Inc.' logo and several members.

## Private firms join ASF control program to revive hog industry

**L** leading animal health and nutrition companies and agribusinesses concretized their strong support by forging a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Agriculture (DA) to jointly undertake a twin program to effectively control, manage and contain the African swine fever (ASF) and revive the country's hog industry.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar and Univet Nutrition and Animal Healthcare Company (UNAHCO) President Ricardo Alba led the signing of the MoU, along with several other private sector partners, to implement the Bantay ASF sa Barangay (BABay ASF) and the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) program at the DA-BSWM convention hall in Quezon City.

"I am confident that with this partnership, we can attain our goal of reviving the country's swine sector, which is very crucial in our food security efforts," Dar said.

UNAHCO will create a working group composed of its industry

partners and assign a focal person that will coordinate with the DA's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), National Livestock Program (NLP), and Regional Field Offices (RFOs).

The industry partners include the Philippine College of Swine Practitioners (PCSP), International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH), Pig Improvement Company (PIC), Provimi: Cargill, Novus International, Kemin Industries, Phil. Association of Feed Millers, Inc. (PAFMI), and SGS Philippines.

"The extent of ASF has reached an alarming proportion and the DA openly welcomes our help. This is a class example of public and private helping each other," Alba said.

Based on the MoU, UNAHCO will lead industry partners to support the DA in implementing the BABay ASF sa Barangay and INSPIRE twin program with the provision of breeders, gilts, and piglets, disinfectants, vitamin supplements, technology transfer, and technical manpower for coordination and mobilization.

"We stand committed, after being in the industry for 54 years. Again, we would like to reassure the DA under the leadership of Secretary William Dar, of our strong and continued support. We

will be with you Mr. Secretary, and hope we will jointly succeed," Alba said.

UNAHCO, a corporation engaged in the business of animal health care and nutrition, has been providing extension support services such as technical support to livestock raisers, conduct of seminars, and other information and education campaigns in rural areas.

In support of the ongoing DA programs to revive the hog industry, Alba said UNAHCO has earlier launched related programs such as the "Pigkitaan Natin Muli" swine repopulation under the Pigrolac Hog Feeds and the "Singko Kasado Biosecurity Campaign" for backyard hog raisers.

"I wish to reiterate my call on our partners – the local government units (LGUs), hog industry stakeholders, veterinary associations, universities, and research institutions, farmers' cooperatives and associations, and backyard and commercial hog raisers – to join us implement stringent and sustainable biosecurity measures from here on," Secretary Dar said.

He also highlighted the key role and responsibility of LGUs for the successful implementation of the BABay ASF program, as it is implemented right at the barangay level. – **Gumamela Celes Bejarin, DA-AFID**

## PCIC doubles indemnity... continued from page 17

the insurance program will also cover local government units (LGUs), and state colleges and universities, which implement respective hog fattening and breeding programs.

"The hog farms must be registered with the LGU, which in turn, must have organized the Bantay ASF sa Barangay. Also, their operations must be compliant with the Biosecurity Level 1 standards or a level of farm biosecurity in compliance with minimum standards

set by the Philippine College of Swine Practitioners," said Bernabe.

"The provincial and municipal governments that have jurisdiction over the farms of the beneficiaries must have adopted harmonized ordinance relevant to the prevention of ASF. Likewise, the municipal government must implement and regularly update the Municipal ASF Control and Prevention Plan, aligned with the initiatives of the DA Regional Field Office," he added.

The government is encouraging backyard and commercial hog raisers to secure insurance packages and take advantage of the free and discounted insurance premium offered by PCIC to regain the hog raisers' livelihood and businesses, and revive the ASF-stricken swine sector.

The PCIC is the sole and exclusive government agricultural insurance firm in the country. – **Rita dela Cruz, DA StratComms**





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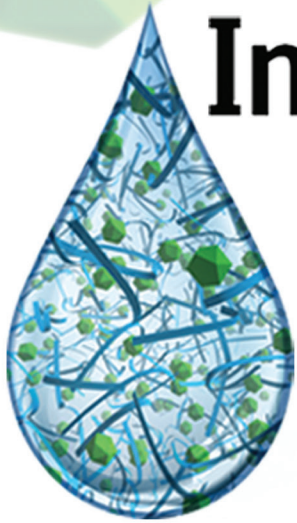
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