



# FAAILOA



*“....enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries....”*

**DECEMBER 2019.**

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**FRONT PAGE:** NUTRITION CONCERNS.

**PAGE 01:** MAF STAFF ASSIST IN MASS VACCINATION FOR MEASLES.

**PAGE 02:** AWARENESS INFORMATION FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

**PAGE 05:** CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**END PAGE:** MAF CONTACT DETAILS

## **Nutrition Concerns.**

Micronutrient deficiencies are still being recorded for children with intake of Vitamin A, Iron, Iodine and Folic acid intake affecting the health status of children and mothers. A NHS report provides some information about the incidence of micronutrient related morbidity and mortality.

Malnutrition cases are reported as increasing with 7-18 months of age indicating the most vulnerability. Malnutrition is associated with early weaning, delayed introduction of complementary foods, a low-protein diet and severe or frequent infections; further impacted by the prevalence of persistent hookworm, poor sanitation and household food insecurity.

In addition to the malnutrition rates the incidence of anaemia are of concern and of public health significance; being children 0-2 yrs and pregnant women reported as the most vulnerable groups<sup>xi</sup>.

Of the malnutrition cases reported in 2006-2010<sup>xii</sup>, 51% were reported to have anaemia. The incidence of pneumonia, infectious diseases and food borne related conditions are also an indicator of poor health in the community and possible co-morbidity related to food and nutrition issues.

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STAFF MEMBERS**  
**ASSIST IN THE DOOR TO DOOR MASS VACCINATION FOR**  
**MEASLES.**

On December 4, 2019 the Public Service Commission circulated a memorandum to all the Government Ministries advising the participation of the Government employees in the Door to Door Mass Vaccination Plan for Samoa. This was facilitated and mobilized by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries staff members contributed and showed support for this initiative with about 30 participants.

This plan also directed the closure of all Government Agencies and the Private exception of Agencies providing essential services and emergencies to continue operating their services as noted in the FK and Order of State documents. With the said dates the government employees are to be on special leave with pay.

The MAF staff that participated in the execution of this plan resumed work on Monday 9, December 2019.

**MEASLES**  
**IT'S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK**

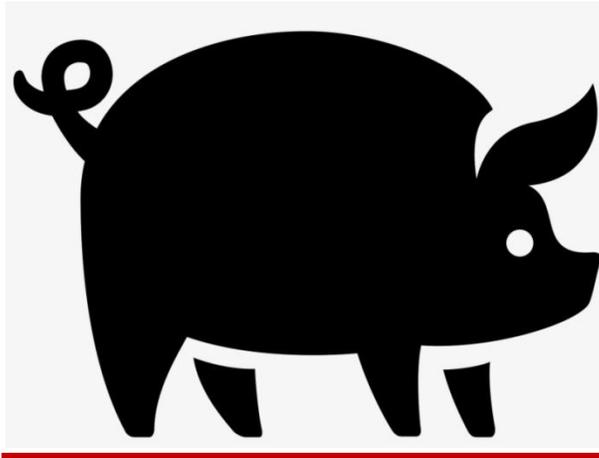
<b>SYMPTOMS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Cough</li><li>• Running Nose</li><li>• Red Eyes</li><li>• Rash</li></ul>	<b>MEASLES CAN CAUSE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pneumonia</li><li>• Deafness</li><li>• Permanent Brain Damage</li><li>• Premature Birth</li><li>• Death</li></ul>
--	--

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO!**

- **Make sure your CHILDREN ARE VACCINATED**
- **See a doctor immediately**
- **Report your symptoms to a nurse on arrival at the hospital**
- **Ask for a mask or cover your mouth**
- **Avoid large gatherings**

**PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN**  
**PROTECT YOURSELF**  
**PROTECT OTHERS**  
**PREVENT MEASLES!**

MOH



## **AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

### **HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF)?**

It is a viral disease of pigs and wild boar that causes severe economic losses to the pig sector. Originally restricted to Africa, it was introduced into Georgia 2007, from where it spread westwards (reaching Eastern and Central Europe) and eastwards within Europe. The disease has now been reported in China, seriously threatening countries in East and Southeast Asia.

The ASF virus exclusively infects suids, e.g. pigs and wild boar.

### **DOES ASF HAVE ANY EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH?**

No the virus does not human beings.

### **WHAT CAUSES ASF?**

The disease is caused by a virus that is very resistant and can survive for long periods, even months, in feces, meat products (frozen, salted and smoked or undercooked), and carcasses of dead animals. The virus, however, can be killed with several disinfectants such as 1% formaldehyde, 2% NaOH or paraphenylphenolic disinfectants.

### **HOW IS THE DISEASE TRANSMITTEED?**

Wild boar and pigs can infect each other by direct contact, particularly when blood is present.

Healthy animals can also get infected when they consume undercooked pork products, either while scavenging or when fed uncooked swill. They can also become infected by feeding on infected pork or carcasses, or through contaminated tools and equipment (clothes, needles, vehicles, etc.).

## WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF ASF?

In the backyard sector, pigs show a lack of appetite followed by sudden death. Rarely other clinical signs are observed.

In commercial farms, you may also see depression, weight loss, hemorrhages in the skin (tips of ears, tail, legs, chest and abdomen), lameness and abortion in pregnant sows.

Clinical signs may be more difficult to see in wild boar because of their long dark hair.



*Bloody diarrhoea and distinct hyperaemic (red) areas on skin of neck, chest and extremities.*



*Cyanosis (bluing) at the tips of ears.*



*Haemorrhagic lymph node*

## WHAT CAN HUNTERS DO TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ASF?

In at risk areas, hunters should look out for dead or sick wild boar and notify immediately to their Veterinary or Animal health department. Each dead wild boar should be reported and ASF ruled out by laboratory diagnostic tests.

In affected areas, wild boar products, leftovers and trophies pose a significant risk of being infected. This is why all hunters are required to place particular emphasis on hygiene measure when hunting in affected areas:

- Do not leave any leftovers from the hunted wild boar in the forest.

- Avoid getting in contact with pigs after hunting a wild boar.
- Ensure that the clothes worn, tools and equipment used (eg. Knives, car) that may be contaminated by blood while hunting are cleaned and disinfected and don't get in contact with pigs.

### **CONTACT PRECAUTIONS**

- Leftovers fed to pigs that may contain meat (i.e. swill feeding) should be boiled before.
- If you notice any clinical signs, including sudden death in your pigs, you should immediately report it to the Veterinary or Animal Health departments in your country.
- Pigs should be kept indoors all the time, not allowing them to comingle with other pigs or wild boar.
- Buy pigs from a trusted source and keep them separated from your animals during two weeks (quarantine).
- Avoid unnecessary visitors getting in contact with your pigs.

### **IS THERE A VACCINE OR TREATMENT?**

No vaccine. No effective treatment either.

### **TRANSPORTING MEAT PRODUCTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES CAN RESULT IN SPREADING ASF.**

To prevent the incursion of ASF and other animal diseases, do not bring back home meat, or meat products from other countries, particularly those infected with ASF.

Travelers should always make sure that food waste is only discarded in closely sealed waste containers where pigs and wild boar will have no access.