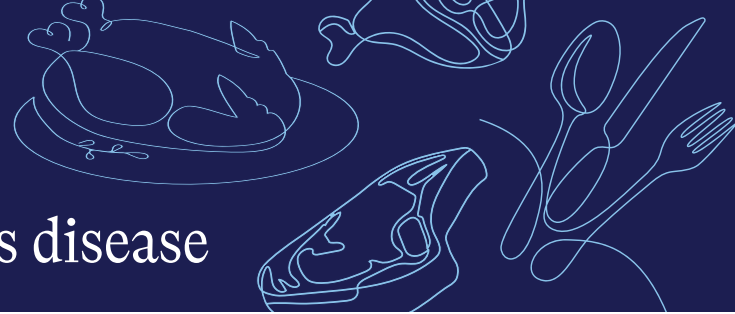




Nourishing Today  
Sustaining Tomorrow

## FACT SHEET

# Pseudorabies (PRV), also known as Aujeszky's disease



### What is PRV?

PRV, also known as suid herpesvirus-1 (SHV-1), is a contagious disease primarily affecting swine, its natural host, though it can infect many other mammals (e.g., cattle, sheep, dogs, and cats).<sup>1,2</sup> The virus targets the central nervous system and other organs. PRV establishes lifelong latent infection in swine, similar to other herpesviruses.<sup>1,2</sup> Although animals may recover clinically and appear healthy, the virus persists in a dormant state within the body. During periods of stress, it can reactivate (recrudescence), leading to renewed viral shedding and potential spread into susceptible herds.<sup>3</sup> Because of this, once swine have been identified as actively infected or a latent carrier, they are depopulated. In the United States, PRV is a reportable disease.<sup>3</sup>

### How is PRV spread?

In swine, PRV is spread by animal-to-animal contact between an infected swine that is shedding virus and an uninfected swine. PRV is also venereal disease and can be spread during breeding. The virus can also be spread on inanimate objects such as boots, clothing, and equipment.<sup>2</sup>

### How is PRV treated?

There is no treatment for PRV. Herds that test positive for PRV must be depopulated.<sup>3</sup>

### Can animals be vaccinated for protection against PRV?

PRV vaccines are available but require Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and State animal health officials' (SAHOs) approval for use. Approval may be granted during an outbreak or another emergency situation.<sup>3</sup>

### Why is PRV such a concern to the U.S. pork industry?

While sows and boars primarily develop respiratory signs, the virus is devastating to pregnant sows and piglets because the virus can cross the placenta resulting in abortions or stillborn piglets. Furthermore, live piglets less than two weeks of age are highly susceptible with mortality rates reaching 100%.<sup>1</sup>

### Has the U.S. had PRV before?

PRV has been in the U.S. for at least 150 years.<sup>3</sup> The virus is primarily found in feral swine in the U.S., making them a potential source of infection for domestic swine. Until recently, (April 30, 2026), PRV had been eradicated from the U.S. commercial swine herd since 2004<sup>3</sup> through the implementation of APHIS minimum [program standards](#) for eradicating PRV.<sup>4</sup>

### Does PRV pose a risk to humans?

PRV has long been considered to not be zoonotic (transmissible to humans). However, variant PRV has recently been associated with encephalitis and ophthalmic disease in people who have extensive contact with swine or pork in China.<sup>2</sup> While this variant strain has not been detected in the U.S., those who work at PRV positive facilities should wear appropriate PPE to protect themselves from swine bodily secretions and excretions.

### PRV has recently been detected in the commercial swine in the U.S., what will happen next?

There will be an immediate quarantine of the affected sites. Movement controls around infected sites are likely to be implemented at the discretion of APHIS and the impacted state's SAHO. Federal and impacted state officials will work together to conduct epidemiological trace back to determine affected animal movement. Affected swine herds will be depopulated. Slaughter facilities may see increased surveillance and testing, and companies should expect some trade restrictions imposed by international trade partners.

## How will PRV impact international export trade of pork products?

Pork fresh meat and meat products from PRV infected countries or zones that do not contain offal (head, and thoracic and abdominal viscera) should not require any PRV related conditions.<sup>5</sup>

## How are swine with PRV kept out of the food supply chain?

All swine presented for slaughter at federally inspected facilities are inspected by the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) personnel to ensure all food safety regulations are met. According to [9 CFR 309.4](#), any swine showing symptoms of PRV shall be identified as U.S. Condemned and disposed of in accordance with [9 CFR 309.13](#).

## Helpful Links:

National Pork Board Animal Disease Prevention in Swine: [Foreign Animal Disease Prevention - Pork Checkoff](#). Accessed April 30, 2026

World Organization for Animal Health: [Aujeszky's disease - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#). Accessed April 30, 2026.

## References:

- <sup>1</sup> World Organization for Animal Health: [Aujeszky's disease - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#). Accessed April 30, 2026.
- <sup>2</sup> Swine Health Information Center: Pseudorabies Virus. 2024. [shic-factsheet-PRV-June2024-4-2026.pdf](#). Accessed April 30, 2026.
- <sup>3</sup> United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: [Disease Alert: Pseudorabies](#). Accessed April 30, 2026
- <sup>4</sup> United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Pseudorabies Eradication. [State-Federal-Industry Program Standards](#). 2003. Accessed April 30, 2026.
- <sup>5</sup> World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) International Standards. Terrestrial Animal Health Code Section 8. Multiple Species. *Chapter 8.2. Infection with Aujeszky's disease virus – Article 8.2.3 Safe commodities*. [Codes and Manuals - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#). Accessed April 30, 2026