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## ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR

No: 08

Series 2024

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF THE ASF VACCINE PROCURED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY (DA-BAI) FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS AND SWINE HERDS UNDER THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL SWINE PRODUCTION INITIATIVES FOR RECOVERY AND EXPANSION (INSPIRE) PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, Department of Agriculture Administrative Circular No. 05, Series of 2024, entitled "*Guidelines on the Controlled Use of Vaccine for African Swine Fever*," mandates the provision, distribution, and monitoring of the controlled use of the ASF vaccine in coordination with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Local Government Units (LGUs) to curb the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the country;

**WHEREAS**, the said Circular initially prioritizes the vaccination of healthy animals in smallhold farms situated in ASF-negative barangays within designated Red Zones, as well as in cities or municipalities classified under Pink Zones;

**WHEREAS**, the low participation rate of smallhold farms presents a significant challenge, making it necessary to expedite the vaccination program for commercial farms and swine herds covered by the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) Program;

**WHEREAS**, to effectively increase the vaccination rate, achieve the desired coverage, and facilitate the assessment of the vaccine's efficacy for ASF prevention and control, there is an urgent need to fast-track the implementation of the ASF vaccination program, particularly for commercial farms and swine populations under the INSPIRE Program;

**WHEREAS**, there is also a need to ensure the participation of BAI-accredited laboratories in the collection and testing of blood samples from smallhold and commercial farms;

**WHEREAS** the DA-BAI, in coordination with the DA-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) and Provincial Veterinary Offices (PVOs), shall ensure the orderly implementation of the vaccination program through stringent monitoring and compliance measures.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.**, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by the power vested upon me, do hereby issue the following supplemental guidelines to accelerate the implementation of the ASF vaccination program for commercial farms and swine herds under the INSPIRE Program:

## SECTION I. DEFINITION OF TERMS

As used in this Circular, the following terms are hereby defined:

1. **Swine herds under the INSPIRE Program** – refers to swine populations managed by farmers who are participants to the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) Program under the DA-National Livestock Program.
2. **BAI-accredited laboratories** – refer to private laboratories that have received formal accreditation by the BAI to conduct testing services for ASF.

## SECTION II. COVERAGE

This supplemental guidelines is issued in conjunction with DA Administrative Circular No. 05, Series of 2024, which provides overarching guidelines for the controlled use of the ASF vaccine. This Circular serves to enhance the provisions outlined in AC No. 05, ensuring a comprehensive framework for the implementation of the ASF vaccination program in commercial farms and swine herds under the INSPIRE Program.

## SECTION III. VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

1. Commercial farms interested in participating in the vaccination program must submit a letter of intent to the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office (DA-RFO). The Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be duly notified of the farm's intent to participate in the controlled use of vaccines. Farms intending to vaccinate must submit all the requirements to their respective local government authorities, copy furnishing the DA-RFO.
2. Participating commercial farms shall allow authorized personnel from BAI and the Provincial Veterinary Office to conduct an inspection of the farm. The inspection shall assess the biosecurity measures and readiness of the farm to implement the vaccination program.
3. In addition to government veterinarians, the duly licensed veterinarian of the commercial farms may also collect and submit blood samples from 8% of the pig population to either the BAI-Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL), DA-Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL), or BAI-accredited laboratories, for testing against ASF using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Only farms with negative test results for ASF shall be eligible to receive ASF vaccine allocation. Vaccine monitors from BAI/DA-RFO must be present during the initial blood collection (Day 0) and subsequent monitoring on Days 14, 28, and, if necessary, on Days 60 and 120.
4. The ASF vaccine shall be administered only to grower pigs (six [6] weeks of age or older) by the farm veterinarian or farm technician under the supervision of the farm veterinarian.



## SECTION IV. MONITORING AND POST-VACCINATION TESTING

1. The commercial farm shall regularly collect blood samples from 8% of the vaccinated pigs for ASF testing in either the BAI-ADDRL, DA-RADDL, or BAI-accredited laboratories to determine the level of immunity conferred by the vaccine. Sample collection intervals shall adhere to the provisions under Section 8 of AC No. 05 concerning the monitoring of vaccinated farms and the submission of samples. In the event that the vaccinated pigs test positive for ASF, Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals (DIVA) testing shall be conducted exclusively at the BAI-ADDRL.
2. The commercial farm shall submit regular reports on the progress of the vaccination program, including the number of pigs vaccinated, sample collection details, test results, and any observed adverse events. Reports shall be submitted to DA-RFO and the Provincial Veterinary Office in a timely manner. All vaccination activities and any ASF-related issues shall be reported by the DA-RFO and LGU to the BAI. The BAI shall maintain a comprehensive database of vaccination activities and is responsible for submitting reports to the FDA, in compliance with the conditions set forth by the FDA under the monitored release registration of the vaccine.
3. The farm shall grant DA-RFO and Provincial Veterinary personnel access to conduct monitoring activities. All such activities shall be performed in accordance with the biosecurity protocols of the farm.

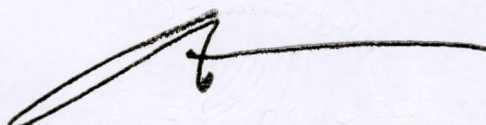
## SECTION V. REPEALING CLAUSE

This Circular shall serve as an addendum to the existing policies governing the ASF vaccination program, and any conflicting provisions in prior issuances shall be considered repealed or modified accordingly.

## SECTION VI. EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Done this 18<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER 2024.



**FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.**  
Secretary



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