

African swine fever kills hundreds of pigs in Bali

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Balinese men preparing pork sate for a traditional wedding on Indonesia's resort island of Bali. Hundreds of pigs have died from African swine fever on the island

Hundreds of pigs have died from African swine fever in Bali, authorities

said Wednesday, marking the Indonesian holiday island's first recorded outbreak and after the virus claimed some 30,000 hogs in Sumatra.

Ida Bagus Wisnuardhana, Bali's agriculture and food security agency chief, said nearly 900 [pigs](#) succumbed to [swine fever](#) since mid-December.

"The results are positive for African swine fever," Ida told reporters, referring to tests performed on the dead animals.

The string of deaths had appeared to stop over the past week, Wisnuardhana said, adding Bali would go ahead with a pork festival on Friday in a bid to ease concerns over the outbreak.

The announcement comes after Indonesia said this week it would temporarily ban some livestock imports from China over fears about the coronavirus, which has killed almost 500 people in China, where it originated.

In December, Indonesian officials said tens of thousands of pigs died from African swine fever in North Sumatra province.

While Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation—and eating pork is forbidden by the Koran—the country also boasts a small Christian majority in North Sumatra and Bali is a Hindu island whose signature dish is roast pig.

Swine fever cannot be transmitted to humans, but it is almost 100 percent fatal in pigs and has devastated swine herds in China and elsewhere in Asia.

Unlike China, where huge herds are reared and processed in factory-like conditions and outbreaks can be contained, in Indonesia most pigs are

raised in backyard sties or on small farms, and sold at markets where the virus can easily spread.

Outbreaks of African [swine](#) fever have also been recorded in Myanmar, Laos, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and East Timor.

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