

ASF hits 4th QC barangay

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Another barangay in Quezon City is the latest area to be hit by African swine fever (ASF) as the disease spreads in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has confirmed that the local government has started culling pigs in Barangay Tandang Sora following symptoms of ASF.

However, laboratory test results have yet to be released after the Quezon City Veterinary Office took blood samples from hogs in the area.

Department of Agriculture spokesperson Noel Reyes, on the other hand, said the DA has yet to receive reports from the National ASF Task Force on the case in Tandang Sora.

If positive, Tandang Sora will be the fourth area in Quezon City to be infected with ASF.

Just last week, the DA confirmed Barangay Tatalon is positive with the disease. Earlier, Barangay Bagong Silangan and Payatas were also positive.

Quezon City also culled pigs from the nearby barangays of Roxas and Pasong Tamo even without manifestation yet of the ASF virus.

Under the 1-7-10 protocol, the one-kilometer radius of the site of infection or ground zero will be prohibited from bringing in and out any hogs in the area which will eventually be depopulated.

Close to 5,000 pigs in Quezon City alone have died and culled since the ASF outbreak last month.

The ASF virus is now present in 17 areas nationwide and the government has so far culled more than 20,000 pigs. The Philippines has 12.8 million hogs.

Apart from Quezon City, the provinces of Rizal, Bulacan, Pampanga and Pangasinan are also part of the list.

The government recently activated a P1-billion fund to pay hog raisers whose pigs were culled due to the ASF to help them recover their losses.