

# VEBS ASF Facilitator Project SA/Qld Pilot Launched

## Project

APIQ® Option C VEBS-ASF Facilitator Project to support sustained adoption and increase national coverage of Accredited farms

## Funded by

Australian Pork Limited and Pork SA

## Background

- The APIQ® Option C VEBS-ASF (Voluntary Enhanced Biosecurity Standards – African swine fever) were introduced into APIQ® in 2022 as an optional verification module.
- The VEBS address established pathways of ASF transmission and aim to:
  - Reduce the likelihood of ASF introduction to a farm
  - Reduce the likelihood of spread of ASF and in doing so reduce the size of an outbreak, increasing the likelihood of rapid, effective eradication response
- The VEBS in combination with APIQ® core standards represent the minimum biosecurity standard approved by regulators to support risk assessments for movement of live pigs and semen (from certified boar studs) during an ASF outbreak.
- The VEBS support business continuity and recovery in an ASF outbreak and response.

**Adoption of the VEBS helps PREVENT the introduction and spread of ASF, and PREPARES producers to for the least possible disruption to live pig and semen dispatch and receipt in an ASF outbreak**

## Project Aims

- Develop national VEBS Facilitator capability and capacity
- Provide clear compliance guidance, tools and other resources for producers, facilitators and auditors
- Support production entities to adopt and be accredited for APIQ® Option C VEBS-ASF
- Demonstrates biosecurity practice change at an industry level
- Lessons learned and tools developed in the pilot project to inform a national scale-up

## Facilitators

### *What will the project involve for participating Facilitators?*

- Experience in pig health or production consultancy or service provision
- Proven producer engagement skills
- Willingness to:
  - recruit 1-2 farms needing VEBS-ASF facilitation – system must include breeding operation but there is no minimum herd size
  - visit site/s to undertake VEBS-ASF gap assessment, identify gaps to VEBS-ASF compliance and develop compliance plan including milestones
  - liaise with site to monitor progress and provide support
  - assist development, review and piloting of VEBS-ASF compliance documentation (verification checklist)
  - undertake an internal VEBS-ASF audit and assist resolution of corrective actions
  - participate in regular project Working Group meetings

- raise issues and contribute solutions in project Working Group meetings
- assist resource development, piloting and refinement
- liaise with project team
- develop a new skillset that can be transferred to other farms as part of the national Phase II of the project and more broadly to farms outside the project
- There is NO restriction on you also being involved in Phase II of the project
- There is NO restriction on the application of skills and learnings acquired to farms outside the project, including on a commercial basis
  - Facilitators are encouraged to apply skills and learnings acquired to support other (non-project) producers to adopt VEBS-ASF under usual business arrangements

### *Financial support and reimbursement (Facilitators)*

- \$1500 at entity sign-on (irrespective of accreditation outcome) Experience in pig health or production consultancy or service provision
- \$3500 at successful entity VEBS-ASF accreditation
- Payments will be initiated as APL-generated recipient created tax invoices at confirmation of entity commencement and successful accreditation, respectively

### **Producers**

#### *What will the project involve for participating production sites?*

- Progressive biosecurity site/s
- Breeder site as a minimum
- Existing high levels of biosecurity literacy and action
- Willingness to:
  - in good faith, commit to becoming VEBS-ASF accredited
  - conduct VEBS-ASF gap assessment with Facilitator, identify gaps to VEBS-ASF accreditation and develop compliance plan including milestones to address
  - adapt and adopt compliance guidance on farm
  - assist Facilitator by providing information required to develop site VEBS-ASF compliance documentation
  - participate in an internal VEBS-ASF audit
  - participate in an external VEBS-ASF audit

#### *Financial support and reimbursement (participating producers)*

- \$3000 toward time and cost at successful entity VEBS-ASF accreditation
- Payment will be initiated as APL-generated recipient created tax invoices at successful accreditation

### **Important Dates and Actions**

Phase 1: SA (6 production sites) and QLD (2 sites) Pilot	Commences Feb 2025	Concludes June 2026	<i>Facilitators appointed (4) and selecting sites now</i>
Phase 2: National Implementation (application submitted)	Commences July 2025	Concludes Dec 2026	<i>Call for Facilitators (3) to select sites (3) in each state</i>