



## MARKET NEWS

### African swine fever hits the home of half the world's pigs

African swine fever, harmless to humans but fatal to porkers, has spread across China. The epidemic has affected colossal numbers of pigs, impacting on pork supply and increasing in 40% the meat prices in comparison to the past year.

The virus spreads easily between pigs, which can also catch it from ticks, contact with contaminated surfaces or by eating infected food. It causes hemorrhaging and often kills in less than a week. The death rate is at least 90% and there is no effective vaccine.

Since 2016 outbreaks have occurred across Europe and Asia. But nowhere have they been more devastating than in China, which at least until recently was home to half of the world's pigs.



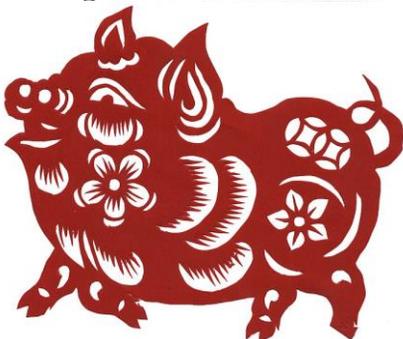
More on source:  
<https://www.economist.com/china/2019/05/25/aporkalypse-now>

## #TOLSAFUNFACT

### DID YOU KNOW..

...this is the Chinese zodiac year of the pig?

In Chinese culture, pigs are the symbol of wealth. Their chubby faces and big ears are signs of fortune as well.



Coincidentally, it has also been a year in which China farmers are suffering with the African Swine Fever.

One reason why the virus has affected China so badly is that so much of the industry is small-scale. This has made it difficult to enforce biosecurity standards. Small operators usually lack the expertise or funds necessary to protect their herds.

Out of a total herd that was nearly 500m-strong before the epidemic, the government says just over 1Mill. pigs in China had been culled to stop the disease spreading. But experts says that more than 150Mill. animals in China may have been infected and that the country will lose one-third of its pigs, roughly the number there are in the European Union.

## INNOVATION

### TOLSA'S R&D:

In order to provide our customers with the best products that generate both nutritional and economic benefits, TOLSA's Animal Feed team is continuously working to improve feed quality.

Our products are the result of exhaustive investigation and a shared sense of love for animals.



Our animal feed technician, Sara Martín, holding a piglet (above) and with some cows (below).

