



Press Release

DDPM Considering Disaster Declaration for Animal Pandemic in Phitsanulok Province

November 26, 2010

On November 22, 2010, Phitsanulok Provincial Livestock Office was informed by pig farmers in Bang Rakum District that over 600 farm pigs got sick and died after showing less energetic, increased body temperature, loss of appetite, skin rash, abortion, and weak piglets and died after birth. The official collected samples for diagnosis at Veterinary Research and Development Center (Lower North Region), Phitsanulok province, which will report the result soon. However, based on the symptoms and information gathered from pig farmers, it is possible that these pigs are infected with Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS). Its cause is under investigation, but probably comes from van higlers, buying and selling pigs in the area.

So far, the Livestock Office of Bang Rakum District has provided immediate assistance to pig farmers, including giving antibiotics and vitamins to the herds to prevent further infection and improve their health. The official also undertakes a number of measures to prevent spreading of the disease, including giving advice to pig farmers; controlling the proper way to destroy and bury remains of the infected pigs; recording and quarantining ill pigs; monitoring and searching for ill pigs; and informing farmers and local authorities to disseminate information to the public. In addition, for farmers who are going to take their farm pigs to the slaughterhouse, those finishing pigs must be checked by officials in charge to ensure that they are not ill or if ill and receive vaccination, the drug residue and withdrawal period should be in consideration.

Phitsanulok Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Provincial Office now keeps watching the situation and coordinates closely with the Phitsanulok Provincial Livestock Office for preparing disaster declaration (animal pandemic) in the affected area to support the provincial disaster prevention and response.