The epidemiological characterization of the surroundings of a pork compartment in Chile and its uses in front of an exotic disease event

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Recently the first pork compartment in Chile, based on OIE standards, was approved. This includes Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, and Aujesky’s Disease, all of them exotic for the country. High standard risk management, including bio-security and surveillance, has been applied for all the possible introduction routes of those diseases to the compartment if the country faces an exotic disease event outside of it. The knowledge and management of physical or spatial factors that could affect the compartment bio-security is one of the key elements to successfully overcome the management of a sanitary emergency. The herds, wildlife, pests, and routes of the compartment surrounding based on different administrative zones, were carefully identified and epidemiologically characterized. Herd information was generated through direct visits and semi-structured interviews: location, distance to compartment site, number of animals and species, health practices, origin of inputs and destiny of outputs, movements, slaughtering and official surveillance results were included. Wildlife species and habitats and other free-movement animals were also characterized. Risk herds, wildlife and pests were qualified according the threat they represent to the compartment, assuming the presence of an exotic diseases in any of the administrative zones defined. The results of this epidemiological characterization were used for the construction of the private and official contingency plans to be applied in case of an exotic disease event. This product involves target surveillance of herds, wildlife sites and compartment units, movement restriction, and the activation of an official preventive zoning to strengthen bio-security.