The eradication of classical swine fever in Japan

Classical swine fever, which is an acute infectious disease in pigs, existed throughout Japan but the outbreaks had decreased sharply with the improvement of the disease control and herd management technologies and the implementation of a live vaccine from 1969. No outbreak has been observed since 1992. Under such circumstances, eradication program has been introduced step by step since 1996 to establish control measures without vaccination and thus to fully eradicate this disease with the cooperation of prefecture and local governments, producers and all other related organizations.

As a part of the measures, we have completely banned vaccinations since April 1st, 2006, and watched the disease. One year had passed since then and we had reported the achievement of the eradication program to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). According to the requirement of the OIE code, Japan had become a classical swine fever free country on April 1st, 2007.

The history of classical swine fever in Japan including its countermeasures

1888 The disease whose main symptom was infectious pneumonia and enteritis broke out in Hokkaido. In the following year it was confirmed as the first occurrence of classical swine fever in Japan. It had occurred almost every year since then.

1920 The inactivated vaccine with carbolic acid glycerin was implemented and improved step by step.

1932 The greatest number of animals was affected in Japan. (41,018 heads)

1966 The greatest number of animals was affected in Japan following World War II. (24,406 heads)

1969 National Institute of Animal Health had developed inactivated live vaccine and implemented. Through the organizational vaccination campaign, the outbreak was sharply decreased.

1992 The last outbreak of classical swine fever in Japan had observed in Kumamoto Prefecture

1996 Classical swine fever eradication program began. Watching the disease, through-going vaccination, confirmation of eradication after stopping vaccination, and the reinforcement of import quarantine were planned.

1999 Vaccination had stopped in 3 prefectures (Tottori, Okayama, and Kagawa). 32 prefectures had stopped vaccination until April 2000.

2000 Except with the approval of governor of prefectural government, all vaccines were stopped in principle on October 1st.

2006 “The guidelines on control measures for specific domestic animals infectious disease with classical swine fever” was established in late March. All vaccinations were completely banned from April.

2007 On April 1st, according to the OIE code, Japan became a classical swine fever free country.

Note: Following requirement should be met under the OIE code:

a) Vaccination has been banned for at least 12 months.

b) Surveillance has been in place and no outbreak has been observed for at least 12 months