

Taiwan culls 1,000 pigs in foot-and-mouth outbreak

December 22 2011

Taiwanese authorities said Thursday they had slaughtered nearly 1,000 pigs following the island's worst outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in more than 14 years.

The pigs were culled earlier this week at a farm in the southern city of Tainan after showing symptoms of the disease.

Altogether 983 out of the 2,667 pigs on the farm were culled and the rest were vaccinated, the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine said in a statement.

No foot-and-mouth symptoms have been found so far in animals at 11 other farms within a three-kilometre (1.8-mile) radius of the affected farm, it said.

More than three million pigs were slaughtered in 1997 in the wake of a foot-and-mouth epidemic.

The highly contagious virus affects [cattle](#), pigs, sheep and other cloven-hoofed [livestock](#). It is not usually fatal, but an [outbreak](#) leads to losses in the production of meat and milk.

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