

China officials dismissed over diseased meat scandal

December 29 2014

China has dismissed eight officials after pork from pigs infected with a "highly contagious virus" was found to have entered the market, state media said Monday.

The country's latest food scandal was revealed in an investigation by state broadcaster China Central Television which said the annual revenue of the tainted pork was more than 20 million yuan (\$3.2 million).

The meat had come from slaughterhouses in the city of Gaoan in central Jiangxi province and had entered at least seven provinces in total, said the report, which was first broadcast Saturday.

"Some of the [pigs](#) had a highly contagious virus," added the report, which contained grisly images inside slaughterhouses of scattered pig carcasses, many with their bellies cut.

The state-run China Radio International (CRI) said Monday: "Eight officials... have been dismissed for negligence, over sales of pork from pigs that were sick, or had already died."

Strict health standards are required for dead pigs under Chinese food production laws.

A report by state news agency Xinhua said the dismissed officials work in "animal husbandry and commerce authorities" in Gaoan.

CRI also quoted an official from Gaoan saying 12 suspects had been detained while an "illegal slaughtering site" had been destroyed and another sealed. It did not say whether the eight dismissed officials were included in this figure.

The city is one of China's major [pork](#) producers with more than two million pigs slaughtered every year, reports say. The meat is a staple in the Chinese diet.

Poor food safety is a major concern in China, where standards are lax and scandals involving tainted products are common.

China was rocked by one of its biggest-ever [food](#) safety scandals in 2008 when the industrial chemical melamine was found to have been illegally added to dairy products, killing at least six babies and making 300,000 people ill.

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