

Pork prices may rise after closure of abattoirs

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KUALA LUMPUR: Consumers in the Klang Valley may have to fork out more for pork following a disruption in supply due to the temporary closure of abattoirs in Perak and Pahang since Wednesday.

The Federation of Pork Dealers Association president Chan Nyen Loong said the decision by the respective state veterinarian departments had caught pork dealers by surprise.

"There was no prior written notice but a verbal order given to say that the abattoirs in Ipoh, Taiping and Kuantan will be closed for at least a week.

"No reasons were given for the order," he said.

Chan added that the order also includes a temporary restriction against movement of pigs to the abattoirs in Perak that supply about 900kg of pork a day and Kuantan, with about 150kg.

"The abattoirs account for about 60% of pork supply for the Klang Valley and Selangor and some 1,000 butchers are likely to be affected by this," he added.

For the moment, Chan said butchers were expected to maintain their current prices of pork.

"How much the situation will affect pork prices will depend on how long the abattoirs remain closed," he said.

Chan said the department should clarify if the temporary order to close the abattoirs was aimed at disease control.

At present, prices of pork vary between RM15 and RM16 per kilo for lean meat and between RM23 and RM24 per kilo for pork belly.

The price of pork in the market has gone up by as much as 15% compared with about a year ago.

Currently, 100kg of pork costs an average of RM850 whereas it was between RM700 and RM800 last year.

On Wednesday, seven pig farms in Penang were reported to face fines up to RM25,000 for concealing some 690 pigs that were found to have foot-and-mouth disease.

The Penang Department of Veterinary Services has since quarantined the animals and prohibited their movement.