

Updated Outbreak Assessment #26

African swine fever in Europe

26 May 2022

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Europe

Disease report

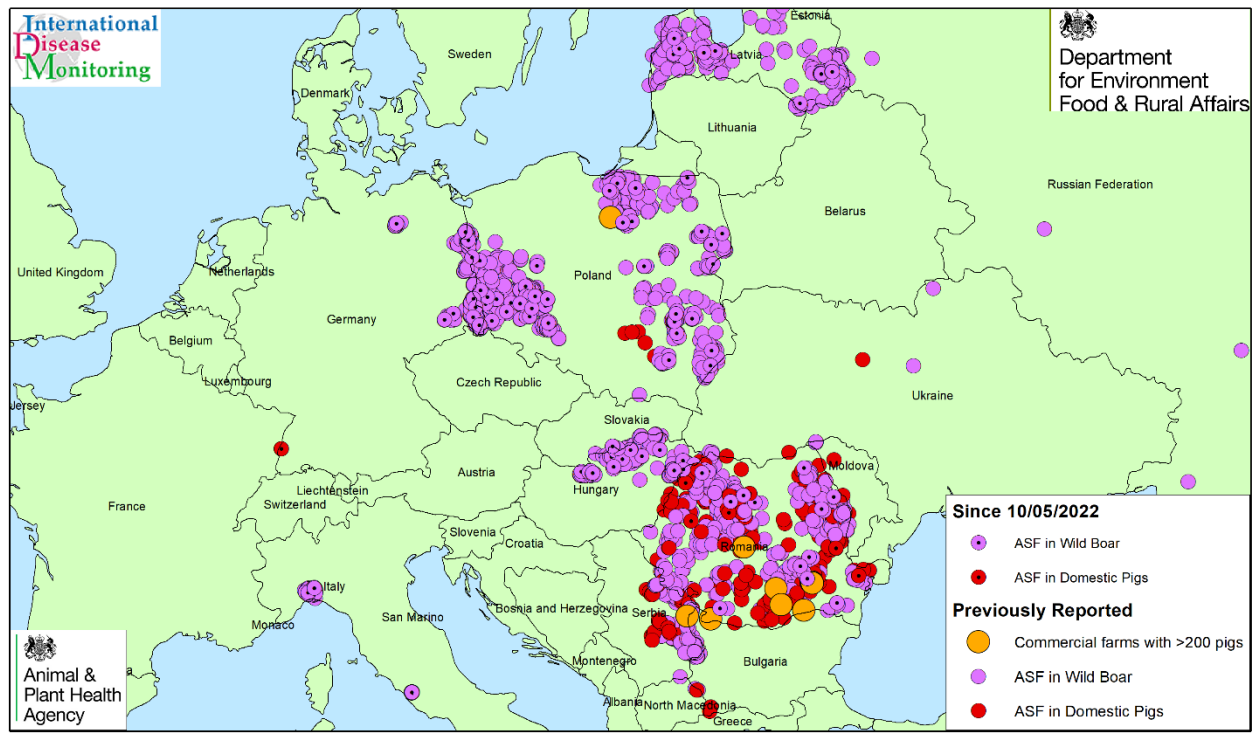
Since our last report on 09 May 2022, a case of African swine fever (ASF) has been confirmed in domestic pigs in a new region of Germany, near Forchheim in the Emmendingen region (Baden-Württemberg), very close to the border with France (Map 1). This is approximately 600km from the last report of ASF in Germany, representing a significant westward jump across the country. This most recent development serves as a reminder of the ability of ASF to spread long distances to a previously unaffected region, often via human-mediated routes, as was observed in Belgium in 2018 and more recently in Italy.

Elsewhere, and according to World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) reports, frequent outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Romania. ASF also continues to be reported in wild boar across Europe.

The outbreak in Germany was confirmed in a backyard farm with 35 animals, 16 of which died between 19 and 24 May 2022. Data from the Import of Products Animals Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) indicated that there have been consignments of relevant products of animal origin (POAO) from Germany in the last two months, though IPAFFS is not comprehensive enough to assess which region they came from. However, there have been no cases reported in domestic pigs in the region previously, with the last domestic swine case reported in northeast Germany in November 2021. Two restriction zones have been created around the farm at 3km and 10km from the infected premises. Infection is likely to have originated from human mediated sources, and there is no indication that ASF has been passed on to the wild boar population in the area (PigProgress, 2022a). The new restrictions under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 will prevent any further imports from the infected region. The same regulation covers the prohibitions, derogations, and requirement for certification from any region affected by ASF, for consigning live pigs, or products of porcine origin, or associated animal by-products, to EU Member States and third countries.

Elsewhere in Germany there have been a further 24 reports of ASF in wild boar, comprising of 60 individual cases, concentrated in the north-east of the country, near the border with Poland.

Map 1 showing outbreaks and cases of ASF in Europe reported by OIE between December 2021 and May 2022



Map prepared by IDM
 Date: 27/05/2022
 Absolute scale: 1:17,402,799

**African Swine Fever in Europe
 December 2021 - May 2022
 (OIE Data Only)**

0 120 240 480 720 960 Km

Outbreak data

Details of all outbreaks and cases provided in the tables and map in this report were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), unless stated otherwise. Additional information has been provided, where available, from the EU Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) summary tables (ADIS, 2022), and information from relevant Products Animals Food and Feed (PAFF) presentations (PAFF, 2021 and PAFF, 2022).

Situation assessment

Germany

ASF was confirmed on 26 May 2022 on a small outdoor pig farm in the state Baden-Württemberg, in the south of Germany, close to the French border. Between 19 and 25 May, 16 of the 35 finisher pigs had died, suggesting that the virus had been on the farm for a few weeks.

The farm was described as “exemplary,” with strict biosecurity, a double fence as well as a hygiene sluice. The 3 and 10 km restriction zones will be in place from 27 May and overlap the border with France. In the restriction zones there are two other farms with a total 316 pigs, and in the wider zone there are 56 farms with 700 pigs in total. Under these restrictions, pigs and animal products, such as pork or manure cannot be moved from one farm to another.

Epidemiological investigations are ongoing, although given the large geographic jump, with no nearby detections in wild boar, human mediated spread is likely. Additionally, there are currently 140 casual and seasonal workers picking fruit and vegetables on the same premises, which may put pressure on the biosecurity measures in place.

German authorities controlled previous outbreaks in domestic pigs, including a similar ‘ASF jump’ in Mecklenburg, Western Pomerania in late 2021.

Reporting in wild boar has continued by the OIE, with a further 24 reports of ASF in wild boar, comprising 60 individual wild boar cases. The majority of these were in Saxony and Brandenburg, though there have been further cases reported in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, leading to enlargement of the Restriction Zones (RZ) I and RZ II. There is no hunting permitted in these restricted areas, and a ban on access to land and agricultural use of land (with exceptions dependant on permanent fence construction) in RZII, alongside regular carcass searches (PAFF 2022a).

Hungary

To date, there have been no outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs reported by OIE or ADIS. Since 09 May, OIE has reported 48 cases of ASF in wild boar, affecting 54 individual animals. Cases continue to be reported in the north of the country, close to the Slovakian border, although the number of cases reported through Spring 2022 are much lower than those reported through Spring 2021.

Italy

Since our last report on 09 May, Italy has reported 18 more cases in wild boar (nine in the north near Genoa and nine in Rome). The Italian government has devised a plan to implement fences in the Piedmont and Liguria regions to control disease spread, with work beginning on 06 May. In Rome, the source of infection is most likely to be human mediated, with garbage management, passages between parks and the city, and feeding by people, all implicated (PAFF 2022b). An ‘Infected Zone’ and a ‘Attention Zone’ have been implemented by Order of the President of the Lazio Region on 07 May. This involves enhanced passive surveillance and active searching for carcasses, enhancement of checks on pig movements, movement bans (other than to slaughter), regulation of outdoor activities, a pig census and communication to the public in the Infected Zone; with a

hunting ban, pig census and active carcase searching in the Attention Zones (PAFF 2022b).

Latvia

There have been 20 reports of ASF in wild boar from OIE since 09 May 2022, comprising 23 animals in total. There have been no reports of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs.

Poland

Since our last report on 09 May 2022, there have been no outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs reported in Poland by OIE, ADIS or PAFFs.

There have been 68 cases of ASF cases in wild boar in Poland reported by OIE, comprising of 86 individual wild boar.

Romania

Since 09 May, OIE has reported eight outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Romania. All reports were from backyard farms, with between 2 and 37 animals. There were 16 reports of ASF in wild boar by OIE in the same timeframe, comprising 16 individual wild boar.

The whole of Romania is currently in [RZ III](#), hence there are strict measures in place regarding the exportation of live pigs and pork products from the region, as per [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/605](#) (Europa, 2022). Pig holding inspections are to be performed at least once per year, with advice being offered to small farmers by veterinarians, on biosecurity measures and the obligation to notify of health issues (PAFF, 2021c).

Russia

Since our last report on 10 January 2022, Russia has reported to OIE one outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs, in a backyard farm with 6 pigs. There was also one report of ASF in wild boar, comprising 4 animals.

Slovakia

Though yet to be reported by OIE, the latest PAFF presentation from Slovakia confirms that they have had no new outbreaks in domestic pigs since January 2022. However, detections in wild boar carcasses continue with 288 reports in 2022 to date, with reports in three new regions in May (PAFF 2022f). This has led the enlargement of the part II zone in the infected regions of Banská Štiavnica, Krupina, and Žiar nad Hronom.

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Table 1: Domestic pig outbreaks reported from June 2021 to 2626 May 2022 in Europe (OIE only)

| Country | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Total |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Bulgaria | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Germany | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Latvia | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Moldova | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| North Macedonia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Poland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 106 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 125 |
| Romania | 57 | 208 | 311 | 253 | 201 | 102 | 85 | 44 | 42 | 29 | 28 | 412 | 1372 |
| Russia | 4 | 43 | 29 | 33 | 33 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 164 |
| Serbia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 114 | 0 | 0 | 115 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Total | 61 | 257 | 346 | 393 | 242 | 117 | 92 | 53 | 50 | 147 | 29 | 15 | 1802 |

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Table 2: Wild boar cases reported from June 2021 to 26 May 2022 in Europe (OIE only)

| Row Labels | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Total |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Bulgaria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Estonia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Germany | 35 | 29 | 59 | 31 | 43 | 39 | 49 | 43 | 31 | 102 | 50 | 24 | 535 |
| Hungary | 173 | 66 | 42 | 8 | 12 | 20 | 35 | 56 | 51 | 108 | 51 | 74 | 696 |
| Italy | | | | | | | | 26 | 15 | 31 | 31 | 29 | 132 |
| Latvia | 16 | 32 | 44 | 20 | 31 | 48 | 74 | 62 | 66 | 54 | 22 | 25 | 494 |
| Lithuania | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moldova | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| North Macedonia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Poland | 0 | 0 | 4072 | 134 | 109 | 110 | 0 | 335 | 0 | 500 | 874 | 113 | 6247 |
| Romania | 51 | 44 | 22 | 33 | 21 | 55 | 103 | 114 | 91 | 42 | 31 | 21 | 620 |
| Russia | 2 | 21 | 13 | 3 | 19 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 85 |
| Serbia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 172 | 0 | 0 | 200 |
| Slovakia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 277 | 193 | 4252 | 221 | 236 | 278 | 266 | 670 | 258 | 1013 | 1066 | 287 | 9017 |

Conclusion

ASF has been confirmed in a backyard holding of domestic pigs in a new region of Germany, approximately 600km from the nearest cases in eastern Germany, as reported by OIE. This is in a small holding with stringent biosecurity and human mediated spread is strongly suspected. The development is concerning to Germany, who did well to control the last outbreak in domestic pigs in the northeast of the country. Though their trading status is already blocked for pork exports to many third countries, the latest outbreak is in a new state and restriction zones have to be re-designated.

Control strategies have been implemented around the new outbreak area to prevent further spread, and active surveillance is being carried out to confirm no wild boar involvement.

ASF continues to be present in domestic pigs across eastern Europe. While the outbreak and case numbers of ASF in domestic pigs in Romania have declined since our last report, wild boar cases have increased, and Romania continues to be considered under RZ III restrictions and unable to export pork products. ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe, therefore the risk of entry of ASF virus in products of animal origin from affected countries, including from illegal imports, remains at **medium**.

Although the UK has now left the European Union, as part of our ongoing commitment to ease the burden felt by businesses and travellers and allow ports of entry longer to prepare, there has been no change to the rules for passengers travelling into GB from the EU with products of an animal origin from January 2021; however, Great Britain will be bringing in changes towards the end of 2023. Nevertheless, all travellers are strongly advised to avoid bringing, ordering, or requesting any pork products – for example, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis, or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. Travellers from Asia and other third country areas who bring meat or dairy products can also face prosecution and a large fine.

We would like to emphasise to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders, and the general public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby observing the swill feeding ban.

All pig keepers, whether commercial holdings or not, should remain vigilant and ensure that any visitors or seasonal workers have not had any recent contact with pigs, pig products, pig premises, wild boar (including hunting) or equipment associated with such activities in the affected regions in Europe or other affected parts of the world. As with all biosecurity, these measures are only as effective as the people using them, so proper training should be provided.

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Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF. Any suspect cases must be reported promptly. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

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