Updated Outbreak Assessment

Update on African Swine Fever in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

10th November 2014

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern EU – Update 3

Disease Report

We are continuing to monitor the disease situation in Northeast EU Member States as more cases in wild boar testing positive for ASF have been reported. However it is important to note that there have been no outbreaks on backyard farms or commercial premises since a single backyard premises in September and only limited spread in the wild boar within the established zones. The most recent jump, to the North of Estonia, is still under investigation but is possibly a result of human activity. To date, nearly 200 wild boar cases have been detected within the restriction zones in all four affected Member States, less than 40 back yard infected premises and only one large commercial premises.

Information is available at the OIE / WAHID website:
http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/WI
Situation Assessment

All the affected Member States have in place not only the minimal controls required by the legislation, but additional measures including a ban on keeping pigs outdoors in the restricted areas, biosecurity and awareness raising campaigns, preventive destruction and compensation of pigs in some high risk areas and additional rules for hunters. There are two types of infected animals which are being reported: hunted wild boar and wild boar found dead. The first group are most frequently found close to the border with Third Countries, in particular Belarus which indicates that disease is not under control there and that wild boar continue to move across into the EU. A number of the new cases in dead wild boar have been in carcases found following harvest and grass dying back in the autumn.

The Russian Veterinary Services have recently reported finding pork meat testing positive for ASF and originating in several Belarus cutting plants (Rosselkhodnazor, 2014). This suggests there is still disease present in commercial pigs herds in Belarus and therefore any meat products brought in to the EU as (not legal) personal consignments should be considered similarly infected; commercial legal trade in pig meat and products of pig origin from Belarus and Russia is not allowed.

Winter is approaching and this means the wild boar will become less active and therefore detection of dead or sick animals will become more difficult. This is typical for the region and this particular disease. In addition, as cleansing and disinfection also becomes more difficult in cold weather, containing disease will become more difficult.

Recent reports from affected countries are available from the EU Standing Committee on Plant, Animals, Food and Feed (formerly SCoFCAH) website at http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/scfcah/animal_health/presentations_en.htm#03022009

Conclusion

The risk of ASF introduction to the UK is still considered to be low (that is, “rare but does occur”), and has not changed. We would like to remind all pig keepers to be vigilant, maintain biosecurity including the swill feeding ban and report any clinical signs of suspect disease promptly to a veterinarian.

We will continue to report on the situation as regular updates or if significant changes in the epidemiology of the disease occur.

Authors

Jonathan Smith

Dr Helen Roberts
References


© Crown copyright 2014

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at iadm@defra.gsi.gov.uk