Updated Outbreak Assessment

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

22nd May 2015

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern EU – Update 4

Disease Report

We are continuing to monitor the disease situation in eastern EU Member States as more cases in wild boar testing positive for ASF have been reported. However it is important to note that there has only been one outbreak on a backyard farm in Poland in January, since September 2014. There have been no outbreaks on any commercial premises since the one on a small commercial premises (~200 fattening pigs) in Latvia on the 5th August and only limited spread in the wild boar mainly within the established zones, with some small additions to the Part II control zone.

To date, over 400 wild boar cases have been detected within the restriction zones in all four affected Member States, less than 40 backyard infected premises, one large commercial premises and a smaller commercial premises.

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

Situation Assessment

The ASF situation in Belarus remains unclear as there have been no reports of outbreaks or cases of ASF and yet the border regions of the surrounding countries are still reporting disease (Rosselkhoznador, 2015a). As of May 12th Belarus has issued a ban on imports of pig products from the Kiev region of the Ukraine. The ban also applies to the delivery of previously used equipment for keeping, slaughterering and butchering of pigs. This is related
to a case reported on the 5th of May of a wild boar that was found dead testing positive for ASF in the territory of Grabov which borders Belarus (Rosselkhoznador, 2015b). Poland and the Baltic states have stepped up border controls and have seized meat products entering the EU in transport and luggage and which consequently tested positive for ASF. The PCR sequence identified in the products is very closely related to the serotype found in Belarus as opposed to the one that is found in Russia. Similarly, the Russian Authorities have reported detecting ASF viral genome in finished meat products originating in Belarus (Rosselkhoznador, 2014).

From recent PAFF reports, the controls implemented by Poland, Estonia and Latvia are working and ASF has not spread into new areas over the winter. As a result of this finding and previous intensive surveillance further Surveillance is being reduced, notably in Poland.

ASF outbreaks and wild boar cases often follow a seasonal pattern, with increased reports in the late spring to early summer, when populations of both wild boar and backyard pigs are at their most dense. At the same time, undetected, buried and frozen infected wild boar carcases can re-initiate the transmission cycle. In September to November there can be another wave as male boar move to rut (distances can be up to 30km) and pigs are culled for seasonal markets (FAO, 2013; EFSA, 2014). This seasonality however may not always be reflected in the disease reporting, which may follow hunting seasons and passive surveillance.

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**

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References


Rosselkhoznador (2015b) New Outbreak of African Swine Fever in Ukraine  

PAFF reports:  
http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/scfcah/animal_health/presentations_en.htm#03022009 accessed 13/05/2015