Disease Report

Poland has reported 8 more outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update on the 27th June. Two outbreaks were on commercial farms in Wysokomazowieki (566 pigs) and (110 pigs). Both are just within the western edge of the existing Part I control zone. The first was detected on the 1st August and the second on the 10th August, and six further outbreaks in backyard pigs have been reported; one in Siemiatycki (97 pigs) very near the border with Belarus but not within any existing control zone; one in Bielski region (36 pigs), one in Bialostocki (20 pigs) both just outside the area where backyard holdings have been depopulated; a one in Zambrowski (12 pigs) and a further outbreak in Wysokomazowieki (14 pigs) within the surveillance zone for the first outbreak and finally one in Bialski region (34 Pigs), both at the southern edge of the control zones, on the border with Belarus. In all cases, disease control measures are in place.
Situation Assessment

This is the second outbreak of ASF in Poland on commercial premises. All previous outbreaks have been on small backyard farms. The frequency of reporting cases in wild boar has remained lower than in the EU Baltic States, with only 24 cases being reported into ADNS this year, of which 9 was since our last report. In Estonia, there have been 128 wild boar cases, 154 in Latvia and 90 in Lithuania.

There is no trade in live pigs to other member states from the Part I restriction zone unless strict biosecurity measures are met and for the other restricted areas, no trade in live pigs is allowed at all to other MSs. For products of animal origin, these are allowed from the Part I zone, but for other zones, they must be treated and consigned with an intra-community trade certificate. In the case of the commercial outbreak, Poland has reported that they have recalled all meat from this particular premises which was produced in the two weeks before the outbreak was detected.

Conclusion

Despite these outbreaks in commercial pigs, the risk of ASF introduction to the UK from this region remains very low (that is, “rare but could occur”), as the disease itself is still relatively contained in the restriction zones, and EU rules cover the movement of live animals and the safe trade in meat and other products of animal origin. However if the spill over into commercial pigs herds becomes a frequent occurrence and restriction zones do not cover the areas where these herds are present then the risk of some products entering the single market from affected farms can increase as products could leave the premises before suspicion of the disease.

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