

Updated Outbreak Assessment #11

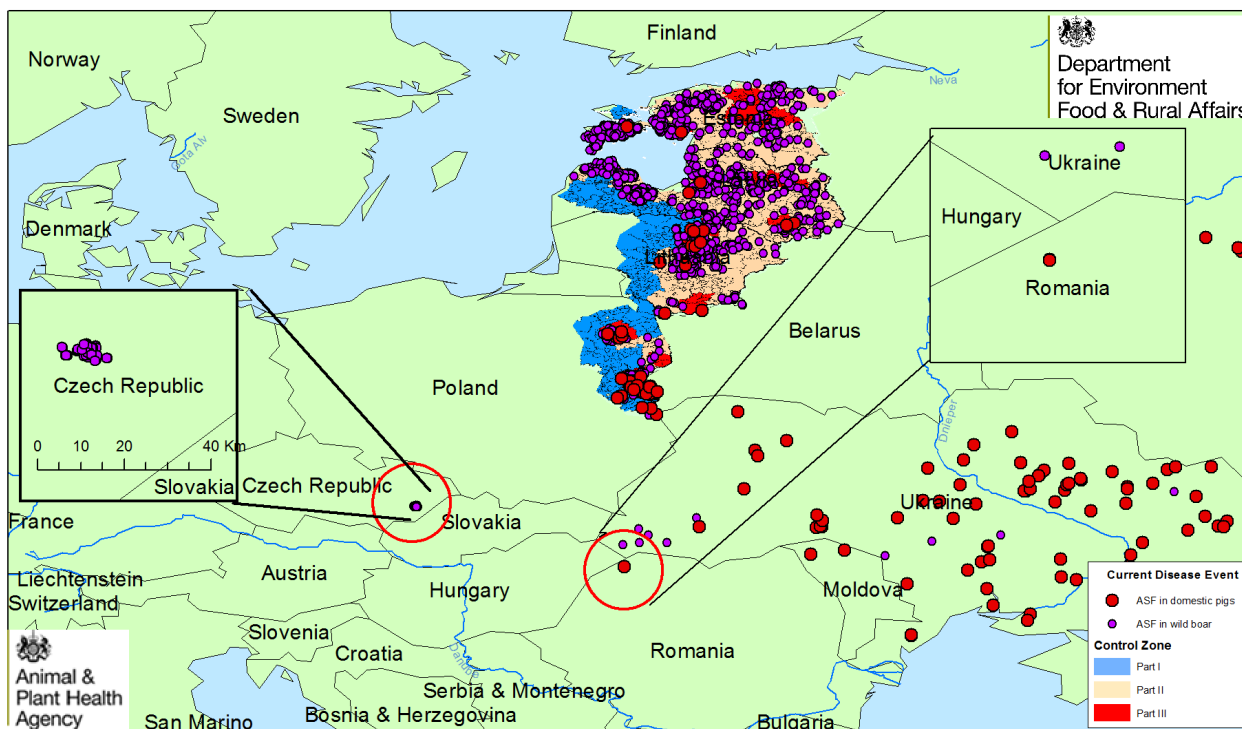
African Swine fever in Eastern Europe

3rd August 2017

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern Europe

Disease Report

Romania has reported African Swine Fever (ASF) for the first time in Satu Mare in Northern Romania in a small backyard farm (4 pigs), which is within the enhanced surveillance zone for ASF along the border with the Ukraine (OIE, 2017). A second outbreak was reported on a contact farm of three pigs on the 1st August. The Romanian authorities have released a press statement stating that imports of meat products from the Ukraine are a possible source of infection, but further epidemiological studies will be undertaken (ANSVA, 2017). Disease control measures are in place.



Actual Scale 1:11,800,000
Map prepared by IDM

Recent African Swine Fever outbreaks
domestic pigs and wild boar in 2017

Date prepared 03/08/2017

[Insets: wild boar cases in Czech Republic and backyard outbreaks in Romania]

0 87.5 175 350 525 700 Km

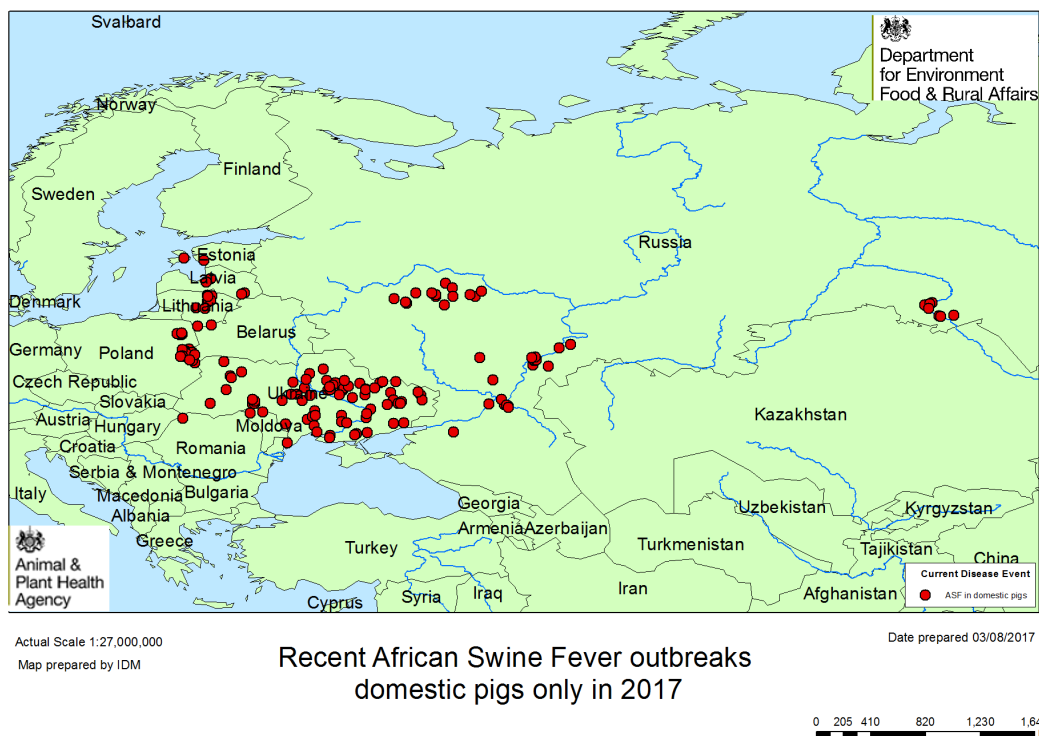
Situation Assessment

Since our last update on 21st July, there have been no further outbreaks in domestic pigs in the Baltic States but there have been ~150 more cases reported in wild boar. A further 18 cases in wild boar in the Czech Republic have been reported to the EU ADNS system, bringing the total to 76. They have all occurred in the Zlin region in the east of the country, 300 km south east of the capital, Prague. Control measures are in place covering the entire region on Zlin. Currently the disease is not present in areas with high density of commercial pigs. There have been no detections in domestic pigs. The Czech Authorities have announced plans to put a 45km electric fence around the infected area in Zlin province to contain the wild boar population.

Poland has reported 6 further outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs of which four are in the Part I zone including a commercial holding of ~2,000 pigs and 2 in the Part III control zone. Poland has also reported a case in wild boar just 2 km outside the Part I control zone in the Southern part of Lubelskie region (Communication from the European Commission). The outbreaks in Poland have been a result of poor on farm biosecurity and some have been attributed to shared grazing with cattle where wild boar have had access (PAFF, 2017). In response Poland has announced additional control measures on pig farms, such as keeping pigs apart from other livestock. Other measures include control of meat products in hand luggage of travellers returning from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine and increased checks on the main transport routes with these countries (PAFF, 2017).

Disease continues to be reported in East Russia in Omsk region, where 8 new outbreaks were detected, all in backyard pig holdings.

There has been an increase of reported cases of ASF in wild boar in Ukraine, in Zakarpatska province near the border with Romania and Hungary. In response to this the Hungarian authorities have further increased their surveillance along the border with the Ukraine (PAFF, 2017). These include the systematic searching for dead wild boar in all hunting areas, sampling of all dead wild boar and burial and disinfection of the wild boar at the site where it was found dead. Pig keepers must report all dead pigs regardless of whether ASF is suspected or not and Official Veterinarians are obliged to samples all dead domestic pigs.



According to Traces, the EU Electronic Trade Notification System, there have been no recent consignments of live pigs from the Czech Republic or Romania to the UK. In terms of pig meat, the UK imports only a very small percentage of pig products from the Czech Republic (~0.34% per annum) and Romania (~0.42% per annum). Romanian registered powered vehicles accounted for 12% of vehicles travelling through UK ferry ports in first quarter 2017 which is second only to Poland.

As a reminder, the EU disease control measures require designation of risk areas as Part I (wild boar at risk, but no cases found), Part II (wild boar testing positive but no spill over into domestic pigs), Part III (cases in wild boar and occasional spill over into domestic pigs) and Part IV which concerns the island of Sardinia only. Consignments of live pigs, live wild boars, meat of either source and animal by-products of either source are only allowed under certain derogations. For a full explanation, see European Commission Implementing Decision 2014/708/EU.

Conclusion

The continuing cases in the Czech Republic, the spread in Poland which appears to be due to several breakdowns in biosecurity and the new outbreaks in Romania are concerning. This signifies a spread in geographic distribution, a possible drop in biosecurity awareness and therefore an increase in the weight of infection in East Europe.

Despite the relatively low level of trade in live pigs, there could be a substantial movement of people, vehicles and personal imports of pork products, therefore the risk of ASF introduction to the UK has been raised to “low”.

We would like to highlight to all pig keepers that ensuring pigs are not fed catering waste or kitchen scraps or pork products in general thereby observing the swill feeding ban and reporting any clinical signs of suspect disease promptly to a veterinarian are all very important biosecurity measures. Anybody returning from the affected EU MSs should avoid contact with domestic pigs, whether commercial holdings, small holdings, areas with feral pigs or wild boar, until they are confident they have no contaminated clothing, footwear or equipment. Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF, which may not always be immediately obvious, as this virus appears to have reduced pathogenicity according to some disease reports.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information. We would like to remind the public that any feeding of meat products, including the feeding of swill, kitchen scraps and catering waste, to wild boar or feral pigs is also illegal.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

Jonathan Smith

Dr Helen Roberts

References

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http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=24464



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