

Updated Outbreak Assessment #17

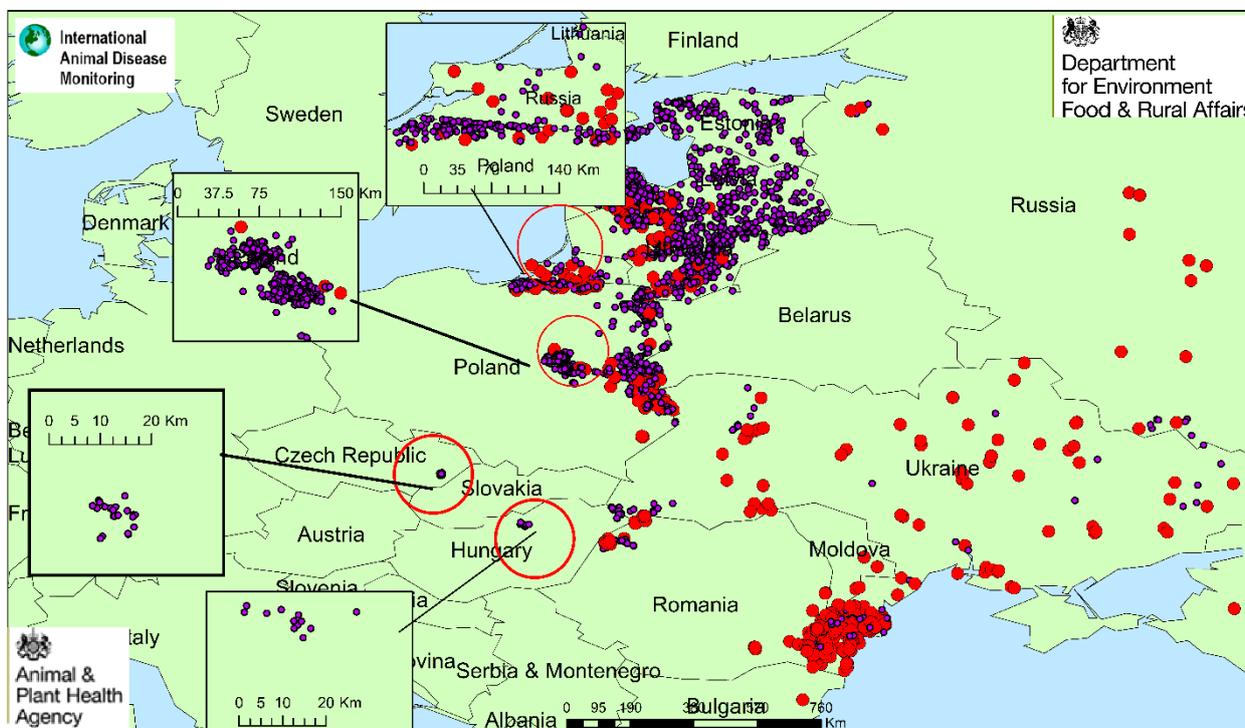
African Swine fever in Eastern Europe

31 August 2018

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern Europe

Disease report

Since our last report on the 23rd August, there have been several outbreaks in large commercial pig farms in Romania and Poland. In addition, Bulgaria has reported the first outbreak in backyard pigs in Varna region.



Actual Scale 1:12,500,000
 Map prepared by IDM

Date prepared 31/08/2018

ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar since January 2018
 [Insets: Czech Republic, Kaliningrad, Poland & Hungary]

The numbers of outbreaks in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) in July and August are summarised in the table below for each country.

Table. Numbers of outbreaks in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) in July and August 2018

	July	August	Total
Bulgaria	0	1	1
Czech Republic	0	0	0
Latvia	4	3	7

Lithuania	20	7	27
Moldova	4	2	6
Poland	36	27	63
Romania	343	248	591
Russia	18	4	22
Ukraine	12	15	27
Hungary	0	0	0
Total	437	303	744

Bulgaria: Reported their first outbreak in backyard pigs on the 31st August in four out of seven pigs.

Poland: Since 22nd August, 2 further outbreaks in domestic pigs, one in a commercial farm of nearly 3,000 pigs, on the northern border with Russia near Kaliningrad.

Lithuania: Since 22nd August, 1 further outbreak in backyard pigs.

Romania: Since 22nd August, 42 new outbreaks in several regions. Four of these were in large commercial pig farms with over 140,000 pigs in total on affected premises, which were all culled. As an additional response, the Romanian authorities have been carrying out preventive culling around the commercial farms in Braila, Constanta, Bihor, Ialomita and Galati regions (over 40,000 pigs). Control points are set up around the affected regions to increase biosecurity and enforce movement restrictions.

Situation assessment

Romanian origin meat represents less than 0.5% of the total pig meat consigned to the UK from EU MSs, but nevertheless that still represents several thousand tonnes per annum. Fresh or frozen pig meat from any ASF-restricted zone cannot be consigned to other EU member states, but commercially produced fresh or frozen pig meat derived from pigs raised outside the restriction zones can continue to be traded. Live pigs originating in Part III areas (Decision 2014/709/EC) can be slaughtered for fresh or frozen meat for the internal market only, but a derogation in the decision allows pigs from Part III areas and the free area to be slaughtered in the same establishment, provided there is complete separation of the two groups of pigs within the slaughter house throughout the process.

There is a valid concern amongst some pig farmers in Romania that ASF virus-contaminated water may be a route of entry of infection into farms; for example if an infected carcase or infected blood, tissues, urine or faeces contaminate the source of drinking water. Experimental data suggest an infectious dose via the oral or nasal route of 1×10^2 - 10^3 50% haemadsorbing doses (HAD₅₀) and blood from an infected pig can contain between 10^6 and 10^8 HAD₅₀/ml (Pietschmann *et al.* 2015). The survival of ASF virus in skin, fat or putrefied blood is many weeks (Davies *et al.*, 2015; EFSA, 2010). The rate of decay or release of virus with time from a carcase in water is not known, but the dilution factor could be 10^3 to 10^5 fold and if the minimum infectious dose for ASF virus was assumed to be a single infectious particle, there would still be a large dilution effect in

water. Nevertheless the daily water intake of a 20-40 kg pig is estimated at 5 to 6 litres of water a day

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69369/pb7950-pig-code-030228.pdf) therefore this is a credible risk route for pigs for which the drinking water vulnerable to contamination by infected pigs or wild boar.

According to the EU Trade Notification System, TRACES, there have been six consignments of frozen pig meat from Romania consigned to the UK in the last month and we are following up on the origin of the animals, vis à vis the restriction zones.

Conclusion

The risk of ASF introduction to the UK was previously raised to “low” in August 2017. This was because, despite the relatively low level of legal trade in live pigs or commercially produced pig products, there could be a risk from the fomite pathway involving movement of people and vehicles from affected Eastern EU countries and the evidence around the findings of contaminated / infected non-EU origin pig products detected in the EU.

We have reassessed the risk and consider that, on a temporary basis, given the increase in ASF outbreaks in commercial pigs in the last two weeks and the continued import of frozen pork meat from affected countries, the risk is increased to **MEDIUM** for the entry of contaminated or infected products into UK both over the last month and looking forward. This risk level will be reassessed every two weeks.

The risk of exposure to the pig population in the UK is still dependent on the level of biosecurity on pig premises and is still considered to be “**LOW**”, although the situation is being kept under review.

We would like to highlight to all pig keepers and the public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby observing the swill feeding ban. All pig keepers should be aware that visitors to their premises should not have had recent contact with affected regions. Anybody returning from the affected EU MSs should avoid contact with domestic pigs, whether commercial holdings or smallholdings, areas with feral pigs or wild boar, until they are confident they have no contaminated clothing, footwear or equipment. Although mortality in infected animals is almost 100%, the initial rate of ASF spread in a pig farm can be slow, therefore the possibility of ASF should be considered even for single pigs with haemorrhagic lesions, lethargy, skin discolouration or petechiation and high fever. Pigs suspected to be affected with African or classical swine fever must be reported immediately to APHA - please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information. Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF and images and descriptions of clinical signs and pathology of ASF are provided on this link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/defragovuk/sets/72157694954571532/>

A campaign to highlight the dangers of swill feeding and more information can be found on this [link](#). 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. A poster for pig keepers summarising actions they can take can be downloaded here: <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/surveillance/diseases/african-swine-fever-poster.pdf>

Please also see the EFSA ASF animation which has been translated in several languages (BG, ES, HU, LT, RO, UK, CS, ET, HR, LV, SK, SL, DA, EL, FI, NL, PT, SV, EN, IT, FR, DE, PL) and the subtitles are now available on [YouTube](#). Click on settings and subtitles to change to your preferred language.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

Davies, K., Goatley, L.C., Guinat, C., Netherton, C.L., Gubbins, S., Dixon, L.K. & Reis, A.L. (2015) Survival of African Swine Fever virus in excretions from pigs experimentally infected with the Georgia 2007/1 isolate. *Transboundary Emerging Diseases* 2017 Apr;64(2):425-431. doi: 10.1111/tbed.12381. Epub 2015 Jun 24.

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