

Updated Outbreak Assessment #5

African swine fever in South East Asia

17 April 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in South East Asia

Disease report

Since our last report on 22nd February, China and Vietnam have reported more outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs, and Cambodia has now reported its first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs. Disease control measures are in place including culling affected and susceptible animals.



Map prepared by IDM
Date: 18/04/2019
Absolute scale: 1:30,000,000

African swine fever in China, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cambodia since August 2018

0 205 410 820 1,230 1,640 Km

Situation assessment

China

The Chinese authorities reported the first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs on 3rd August 2018. Since then, a total of 125 outbreaks in domestic pigs have been reported. See map for location of the outbreaks (OIE, 2019). Since our last report in February, 13 new

outbreaks in domestic pigs and one reported case in a dead wild boar have been reported by the Chinese authorities. Eight of these outbreaks were reported in March and three in April to date suggesting a decrease in the rate of transmission between pig farms. However, two of the more recent outbreaks in early April show a spread to the far west of China in Xinjiang Province. In March, three outbreaks in village pigs in Tibet in the far south of China were reported for the first time (see map). Most of the provinces in China have reported ASF in domestic pigs with cases in the autonomous regions of Tibet and Inner Mongolia.

Taiwan

Taiwan remains officially free from ASF, and no reports of disease in domestic pigs or wild boar have been made to OIE.

Vietnam

The first case of ASF in Vietnam was reported in early February 2019. Since our last report in February, there has been a further 112 outbreaks reported (no new outbreaks have been reported in April to date) with much of the north and central parts of the country now affected. The majority of reports were in small village pig herds. ASF outbreaks have been reported in 23 provinces and cities and more than 89,600 pigs have been culled. Pork accounts for 3/4 of total meat consumption in Vietnam, and most of its 30 million farm-raised pigs are consumed domestically.

Mongolia

Since our last report in February there have been no new outbreaks reported in March or April. The last cases was in backyard pigs in early February. To date, 11 outbreaks have been reported in Mongolia: Bulgan, Darkhan-Uul, Dundgovi, Orkhon, Selenge, and Tov provinces and Ulaanbaatar, involving 105 farms/households. According to media sources, more than 10% of the total pig population in Mongolia, have died/been destroyed due to the ASF outbreaks.

Cambodia

Cambodia reported its first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs in a backyard farm in Ratanakiri province on 23 March 2019. This was on the eastern border with Vietnam and in this respect was not surprising although it represents a jump south. A total of 400 of the 500 pigs died.

Other factors

The presence of ASFV in China, Mongolia, Vietnam and now Cambodia shows the potential for further spread into the domestic pig and wild suid populations in south-eastern Asia, where the presence of soft-bodied argasid ticks could also hinder eradication if found to be able to transmit ASFV. In China, for example, there are 13 species of argasid ticks (Yu et al. 2015), belonging to three genera: *Argas* (seven species), *Carios* (four species), and *Ornithodoros* (two species). The overall risk to the UK given the current distribution of ASF in Belgium, Eastern Europe and neighbouring countries is still **medium**. There are ongoing concerns around pork products from non-EU countries entering the EU in passenger luggage and then being discarded in areas where wild boar or domestic pigs

are present. With regular direct flights to the EU and UK from China and eastern Asia, there is a risk of entry of ASFV in POAO from Asia. Indeed, according to ProMED, Japan reported on the 2nd April that ASF virus was discovered in sausages brought into the country from China. The sausages were brought into Japan, apparently as souvenirs, by two passengers arriving separately at Chubu airport near Nagoya on planes from Shanghai and Qingdao on 12 January 2019, according to the Japanese authorities.

Publicity campaigns are in place to inform the public and discourage individuals from bringing pork products into UK, with targeted messages to key people such as road hauliers, hunters, pig keepers and veterinarians. See: http://web.oie.int/rr-europe/eng/regprog/en_asf_depository.htm, and, <https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/emerging-diseases/african-swine-fever/>

Conclusion

The risk of ASF introduction to the UK was 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. With the number of outbreaks of ASF being reported in Eastern Europe in August 2018, and subsequent detection of ASF in wild boar in Belgium in September 2018, the risk to the UK was elevated to **medium**. Despite the spread of ASF to China, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cambodia, the current risk of ASF introduction to the UK is still considered to be **medium** although the situation is being kept under review and depends on how ASF spreads both within China and across other parts of south-east Asia.

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 pigs and pig premises in the affected regions. Anybody returning from any ASF-affected area 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. Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF. Any suspect cases must be reported promptly. 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. A poster reminding pig keepers of this is available:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/surveillance/diseases/african-swine-fever-poster.pdf>

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

Dr Francesca Gauntlett

Dr Paul Gale

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Advice Services - International Disease Monitoring

Josef Bowen

Anthony Pacey

Dr Lauren Perrin

References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

Yu et al. (2015) Tick-borne pathogens and the vector potential of ticks in China. *Parasites & Vectors*, 8:24.



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