

Updated Outbreak Assessment #01

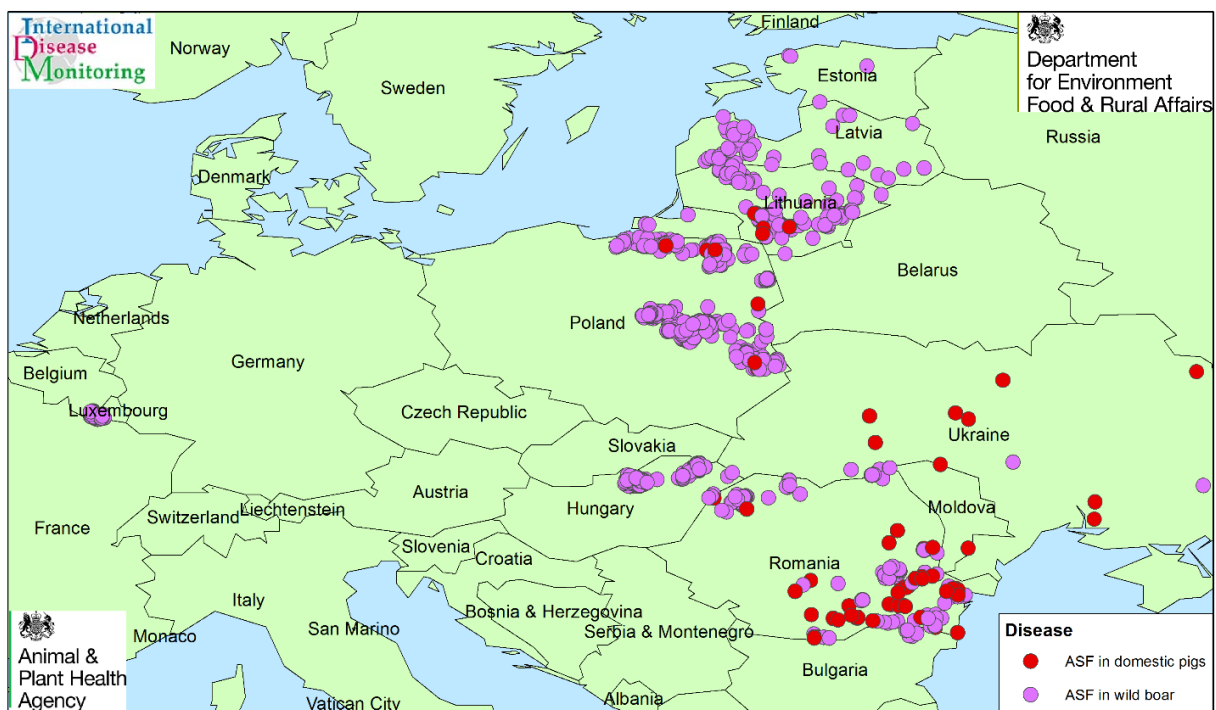
African Swine fever in Europe (Eastern Europe and Belgium)

25 June 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Europe (Eastern Europe & Belgium)

Disease report

Since our last report on the 30 April 2019, there have been new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar in Eastern Europe, and further cases in wild boar in Belgium. The numbers of outbreaks in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) since July 2018 are summarised in Table 1 for each country. Generally, with the exception of Romania, there has continued to be low number of cases reported in domestic pigs over the past 6 months. Reports in May and June are restricted to Poland (6), Romania (52), Lithuania (4) and Ukraine (6). Although the largest number of outbreaks in domestic pigs each month continues to be in Romania, these were mainly backyard pig small-holdings. In contrast, the number of cases in wild boar has remained high in May and June (Table 2), with the exception of Hungary. The number of reported cases in wild boar in Eastern Europe has been decreasing through 2019, though further monitoring is required to confirm if this is part of a larger trend or seasonality. There have been no new large geographical jumps so far in 2019, and increased numbers of ASF-positive wild boar may be related to increased wild boar culling and surveillance activities. The last significant jump of ASF within Europe was the emergence of ASF in Belgium in September 2018, where there have been 823 cases of ASF in wild boar (reports of ASF in wild boar to 25/06/2019 (Wallonie, 2019).



Map prepared by IDM
Date: 21/06/2019

Absolute scale: 1:12,500,000

African swine fever in domestic pigs and wild suidae since March 2019

0 85 170 340 510 680 Km

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

The map shows the ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar since March 2019.

The epidemiological situation of ASF in Belgium has previously been reported in a standalone report (Gov.uk, 2019). To allow for completeness and consideration of the disease on a more appropriate scale, the ongoing situation in Belgium will be considered and reported along with areas in Eastern Europe where the virus is known to be circulating.

Table 1. Numbers of ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) between January 2019 and June 2019.

Number of Outbreaks in domestic pigs (Jan-June 25 th 2019)							
Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Moldova	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Poland	1	0	0	0	2	4	7
Romania	29	32	12	8	22	30	133
Russia	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ukraine	3	3	1	4	3	3	17
Total	33	35	15	12	27	41	163

Table 2. Numbers of ASF cases in wild boar between January 2019 and June 2019.

Number of Outbreaks in Wild Boar (Jan 2019 – June 25 th 2019)							
Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Belgium	76	195	94	58	44	8	475
Bulgaria	0	3	7	1	0	1	12
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	28	16	1	0	0	3	48
Hungary	104	148	226	128	62	33	701
Latvia	87	22	10	9	16	11	155
Lithuania	81	29	58	24	43	31	266
Moldova	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Poland	284	224	246	229	199	84	1266
Romania	59	66	48	36	33	24	266
Russia	0	2	2	0	3	0	7
Ukraine	0	4	1	1	0	0	6
Total	719	709	693	486	401	195	3203

Belgium:

Since the first reported outbreak of ASF in Belgium, there have been 823 cases reported in wild boar, while domestic pigs, including the commercial sector, remain free of the disease. The original source and route of virus incursion into Belgium has not been confirmed, and investigations are continuing. The European Commission has confirmed that interim protective measures under 2002/60/EC Article 15 are in place, delineated by the border with Luxembourg and France. Belgium recently presented their ASF eradication plan to the European Commission (PAFF) including wild boar hunting and testing, and the construction of fences to prevent the movement of potentially infected wild boar. The number of outbreaks in wild boar has been decreasing in recent months (just 44 in June 2019, compared to 195 in February 2019), and may be as part of a general downward trend and we will continue to monitor the situation.

France has also undertaken surveillance sampling of wild boar carcasses across the country, with the highest numbers of samples collected from wild boar carcasses along the border with Belgium, with 311 negative samples to 16/05/2019. In January, the French government put in place a zone along the Belgium border (referred to as the Zone Blanche) from where there has been depopulation of wild boar (Calavas, 2019).

In Luxemburg, hunting is carried out in about 85% of the country, and wild boar hunting is allowed throughout the year without quotas. From September 2018 to end April 2019, 173 carcasses were tested for ASF, collected from across the country all with negative results. Fencing has been built between Luxemburg and Belgium along the Zone Blanche, which reaches into France (PAFF, 2019).

Bulgaria:

In 2019, there has been one outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs (OIE), despite several outbreaks in backyard pigs and cases in wild boar in southern Romania along the border with Bulgaria. Since our last report on 30th April, there has been one case in wild boar in the north east of the country, close to the Romanian border (ADNS),

Czech Republic:

Following no reported outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs or wild boar since February 2018, the eradication of the disease in Czech Republic was confirmed in February 2019 (Europa 2019).

Hungary:

There was an increase in the number of cases observed in wild boar in Hungary in March (226), though this now appears to be slowing, with 62 cases reported in May and 33 in June so far. The majority of the cases have been observed in the northern counties, near the Slovakian border, where the disease has not yet been reported, and Romanian border, within the surveillance zone of Romanian outbreaks, and a likely source of infection.

Lithuania:

Lithuania has reported four outbreaks in domestic pigs in June to date. It has also increased its Part II Protection Zone, due to ASF cases near Part I.

Moldova:

Moldova has reported one outbreak in backyard domestic pigs in March, and one new case in wild boar in May

Poland:

Poland has reported six new outbreaks in domestic pigs in 2019, with two in May and four in June (so far). However, the number of wild boar cases has been generally increasing (Table 2). The main areas with infected wild boar remain the eastern border with Belarus, the area around Warsaw and the north near the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. Poland has also increased the area of its Protection Zone, resulting in additional surveillance and culling, which explains the observed increase in cases (shown at: https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_pl-lt-regionalisation.pdf).

Romania:

There has been a slight increase with the number of outbreaks reported in domestic pigs in Romania with 22 and 24 being reported in May and June (to date) respectively. Additionally, ASF is still circulating in the wild boar population, though numbers of cases appear to be decreasing (Table 2). The majority of the cases observed in Romania in 2019 have been within close proximity to a country border, particularly Bulgaria, and Hungary, where the disease has also been reported. In control efforts, Romania have assessed biosecurity on every commercial and non-commercial pig farms and provided information via multiple media platforms. Additionally, an amended law allows for strengthened penalties for farmers who continuously fail to comply with biosecurity requirements (PAFF, 2019).

Russia:

The number of reported outbreaks in Russia in 2019 has been low. The most recent outbreak in domestic pigs was reported in March, with three outbreaks in wild boar reported in May.

Ukraine:

Ukraine has reported six new outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last report on 30th April (four backyard and two commercial).

Situation assessment

Eastern Europe is continuing to report outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs, although this appears to be restricted to the south-east region; namely Ukraine, and Romania, with a small number of outbreaks reported in Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Russia. However, while control efforts may be reducing incidence in domestic pigs, the wild boar population represents a significant reservoir in Eastern Europe which may hinder eradication, and serve as a source for further geographic jumps.

Conclusion

There has been a slight increase in the number of outbreaks reported in domestic pigs in Eastern Europe in June compared to recent months, the disease is still present across much of the region,

with large numbers of cases in wild boar. The risk therefore remains at **medium** for the entry of contaminated or infected products into UK, given the ongoing situation in Eastern Europe, and continued reports of ASF in wild boar in Belgium. The risk of exposure to the pig population in the UK is still highly dependent on the level of biosecurity on individual pig premises but is still considered to be **low**, although the situation is being kept under review. We will continue to monitor the situation.

We would like to highlight to all pig keepers and the public the importance of ensuring 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. See: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever>

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>

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