

Updated Outbreak Assessment #12

African Swine Fever (ASF) in South East Asia

23 September 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in South East Asia

Disease report

Since our last report on 12 September, South Korea has reported its first outbreaks of ASF in domestic swine in the north of the country (see map below). Two outbreaks have been reported on commercial pig farms close to the border with North Korea, which reported ASF earlier in the year.



Map prepared by IDM
Date: 23/09/2019
Absolute scale: 1:32,000,000

African swine fever in south-east Asia since August 2018

0 220 440 880 1,320 1,760 Km

The map shows the ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar since August 2018.

Situation assessment

Since our report on 15 August 2019, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in North Korea, Cambodia or Mongolia, though it is likely that the virus is still circulating in these areas. Taiwan remains officially free from ASF. Between 15 August and 12

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

September, there were low numbers of new outbreaks reported in the Philippines (7), China (1), Vietnam (1), Myanmar (2) and Hong Kong (1), and a large increase in the numbers of outbreaks reported in Laos (84). Since our last report on 12 September, South Korea has reported two outbreaks, with no new reports elsewhere.

The confirmation of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, North Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, and now South Korea, demonstrates the potential for further spread into and within 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.

The epidemiological situation of ASF across South East Asia remains of concern. New outbreaks continue despite the control campaigns implemented, which is possibly a result of illegal movements of both animals and pork products.

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 products of animal origin (POAO) from Asia.

Publicity campaigns are in place to inform the public and discourage individuals from bringing pork products into UK, including targeted messages to key stakeholders 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 **medium** in August 2018 as a result of the number of outbreaks of ASF being reported in Eastern Europe, and subsequent detection of ASF in wild boar in Belgium in September 2018. Despite the spread of ASF to China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, North Korea, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, and now South Korea, the current risk of ASF introduction to the UK is still considered to be **medium**, 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 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>

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

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

Anthony Pacey

Dr Francesca Gauntlett

References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.



© Crown copyright 2019

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>

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