

Updated Outbreak Assessment #05

African swine fever in Europe (Eastern Europe & Belgium)

14 November 2019

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

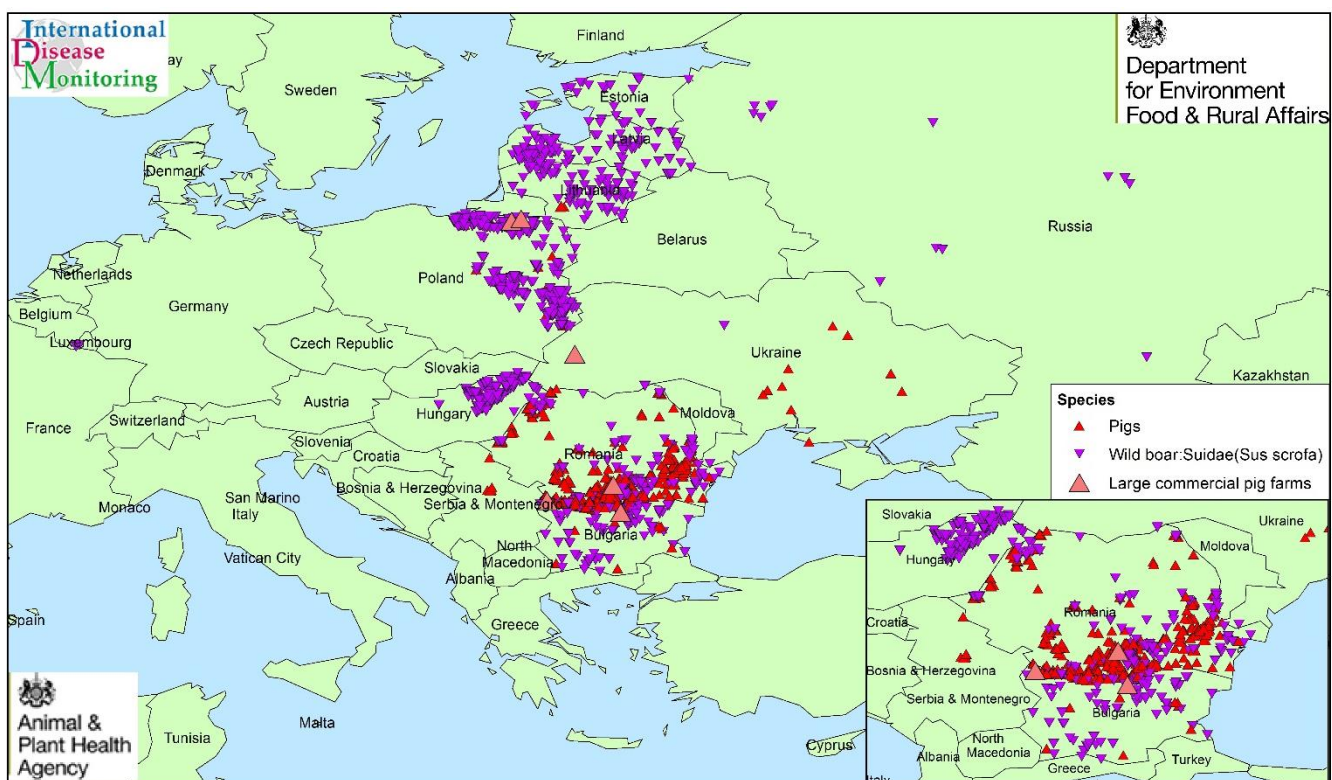
Disease report

Since our last report on the 19 August 2019

[\[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/826324/asf-europe-update4.pdf\]](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/826324/asf-europe-update4.pdf), there have been new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Eastern Europe, and cases in wild boar in Eastern Europe and Belgium. These include outbreaks in domestic pigs in larger, commercial holdings (with more than 500 pigs) in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and Russia.

The number of outbreaks in domestic pigs in Eastern Europe peaked in August and dropped significantly thereafter (see table below). This seasonality is not unexpected and the pattern is similar to what we have reported in previous years and may be due in part to fewer contacts with wild boar following the end of the harvesting period:

[\[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754040/asf-eastern-europe-update18.pdf\]](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754040/asf-eastern-europe-update18.pdf). The largest number of outbreaks in domestic pigs each month continues to be in Romania, with 617 outbreaks observed in domestic pigs since our last report on 19 August, including 20 in large, commercial holdings, with four in October and one in November to date. The majority of recent outbreaks involve backyard holdings and infected piglets; this could be due to increased piglet production for consumption during the winter festive period.



Map prepared by IDM
 Date: 15/11/2019
 Absolute scale: 1:18,753,705

African swine fever in Europe since August 2019

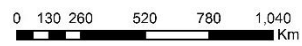


Table: Numbers of ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) since May. All data from ADNS and OIE.

Country	Number of Outbreaks in domestic pigs Aug-Nov 14 th 2019)							
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	25	7	3	3	0	38
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lithuania	0	5	8	2	2	2	0	19
Moldova	0	0	3	16	4	0	0	23
Poland	2	7	24	12	1	2	0	48
Slovakia	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	10
Serbia	0	0	0	16	1	0	0	17
Romania	22	76	441	550	199	103	32	1423
Russia	0	1	4	24	40	7	2	78
Ukraine	3	4	8	7	3	2	0	27
Total	27	93	515	643	253	119	34	1684

Table: Numbers of ASF cases reported in wild boar since May. All data from ADNS and OIE.

Country	Number of cases in Wild Boar (May 2019 – November 14 th 2019)							Total
	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
Belgium	44	9	2	1	0	1	0	57
Bulgaria	0	1	13	29	11	18	6	78
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	4	5	5	5	8	1	28
Hungary	62	37	64	122	165	191	37	678
Latvia	16	16	41	28	20	41	14	176
Lithuania	43	38	48	23	22	41	13	228
Moldova	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	1
Poland	199	114	148	177	97	174	28	6
Romania	33	36	59	90	56	50	20	937
Russia	3	0	8	9	6	4	2	344
Slovakia	0	0	0	6	5	1	1	32
Ukraine	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	13
Total	401	255	390	495	387	530	123	2581

Situation assessment

Belgium & bordering countries:

Belgium remains officially free of ASF in domestic pigs. Since the first reported case of ASF in Belgium in September 2018, there have been 829 further cases reported in wild boar. The number of reported cases in wild boar continues to decrease, with just one case reported in August, and one ASF-positive wild boar carcass discovered in October, when the bones of a wild boar were discovered on a military camp in the Arlon region, within the infective zone (Wallonie, 2019). The lack of detectable boar DNA indicated that the animal had died more than six months ago. Seropositive wild boar with no clinical signs have been identified in Belgium during the wild boar eradication programme. The significance of these results is uncertain and the ability of these seropositive animals to act as a source of infection is unknown (Wallonie, 2019; Cauchard, 2019).

Ongoing surveillance activities in France and Luxembourg, in close proximity to the Belgian border continue to yield negative results for ASF (Cauchard, 2019).

Bulgaria:

Since our last report on 19 August, a further 12 outbreaks in domestic pigs have been recorded in Bulgaria, with three of these in commercial farms. The majority of these outbreaks were observed in the north of the country close to the Romanian border. Cases in wild boar have been reported in the south of the country in the Blagoevgrad region,

close to the Macedonian border (see map above). Bulgaria has lost approximately 20 per cent of its domestic pig population as a result of ASF (Sofia Globe, 2019). As outbreaks have been confirmed across much of the country, forestry activities have been banned for two months (in October 2019) in an effort to control the disease.

Romania:

Though Romania continues to report the highest number of outbreaks across Eastern Europe, there has been a sharp decrease in the number of outbreaks in domestic pigs since August, with 103 reported in October, compared to 550 in August.

More robust control measures had been implemented since the influx of outbreaks in August including prohibiting pig raising in isolated areas, provision of portable disinfection devices at markets and vegetable fairs and increased traffic controls (PAFF, September 2019). These measures may explain, in part, the decrease in number of outbreaks observed in recent months. As the number of outbreaks observed continues to mirror the situation observed last year, it is unlikely that control measures are solely responsible and a degree of seasonality is being observed.

Serbia:

Since reporting its first outbreaks of ASF in August, Serbia has reported 13 more outbreaks in domestic pigs, all of which involved piglets in small holdings. The majority of these were reported in central Serbia, though the affected smallholding reported in September was close to the Romanian border. Disease control measures remain in place. Serbia is not approved for the export in live pigs or fresh or frozen pig meat into the EU (under Commission Regulation 206/2010/EU), however Serbia is approved for the export of certain processed products of animal origin. No such products have entered the UK in recent weeks.

Slovakia:

Slovakia reported its first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs at a backyard farm in Kosice in late July. Following this, nine outbreaks have been reported in backyard farms in Trebisov, in the east of the country, close to the Hungarian and Ukrainian borders. Following increased surveillance after the first outbreak, ASF was found in several wild boar in close proximity to the outbreaks in domestic pigs. Given the current epidemiological situation of ASF in the surrounding countries of Poland, Hungary and Ukraine, the discovery of the disease here was unsurprising, though disappointing given their surveillance and disease prevention efforts (PAFF, September 2019). Following the outbreaks, Slovakia has applied robust control measures and movement restrictions and is compiling an eradication programme to be sent to the European Commission in November.

Conclusion

The risk remains at medium for the entry of contaminated or infected products into UK at present. Border checks on passengers are paramount, as are publicity campaigns aimed at reaching the travelling public and reminding them that bringing back products of animal origin from outside the EU or from a region in the EU under disease restrictions is not allowed. Commercially produced products which can be safely traded in the EU will be labelled as such. Home produced products are a particular concern.

All travellers are strongly advised to avoid bringing any pork products – including ham, sausages or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. Travellers from Asia and other third country areas who bring meat or dairy products can also face prosecution and a large fine. Disease can be spread by pig keepers and members of the public feeding catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products to their animals. It is illegal to do so.

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**.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

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References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

Cauchard (2019) <https://www.plateforme-esa.fr/article/peste-porcine-africaine-situation-en-belgique-et-surveillance-en-france-point-au-12-11-2019>

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



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