

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #06

# African swine fever in Europe (Eastern Europe & Belgium)

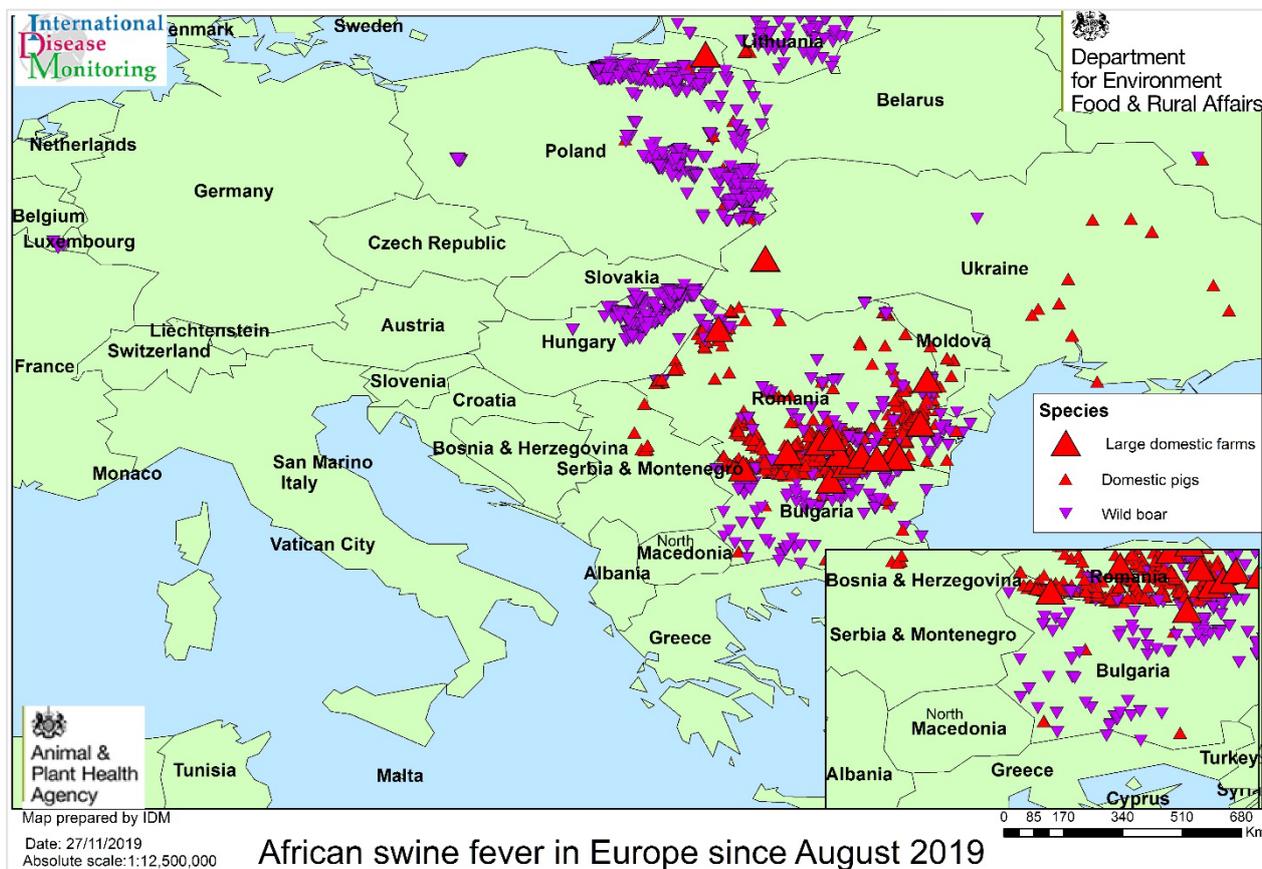
26 November 2019

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

## Disease report

Since our last report on the 14 November 2019

[\[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/846901/asf-europe-update5.pdf\]](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/846901/asf-europe-update5.pdf), there have been new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar in Eastern Europe. Most notably, cases of ASF in wild boar have been identified in the west of Poland, 75km away from the German border. This represents a large geographical jump within Poland. Further south, there have been new reports of ASF in wild boar in southern Bulgaria, close to the border with North Macedonia.



Our last report on 14 November 2019 provided a full situation assessment on ASF in Eastern Europe and in Belgium. The purpose of this report is primarily to comment on the epidemiologically significant changes noted in Poland and Bulgaria, and provide a brief

update on the current situation for ASF in other affected countries in Eastern Europe and including Belgium.

Though there continues to be a general decrease in the number of outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar in Eastern Europe, this large geographical jump of ASF should serve as a reminder of the threat of ASF, and the requirement to be vigilant in biosecurity, to help mitigate disease risk.

Table 1: Numbers of ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) since May. All data from ADNS and OIE.

	Number of Outbreaks in domestic pigs Aug-Nov 25 2019)							
Country	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
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	2	25
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	78	1469
Russia	0	1	4	24	40	7	2	78
Ukraine	3	4	8	7	3	2	2	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1734</b>

Table 2: Numbers of ASF cases reported in wild boar since May. All data from ADNS and OIE.

	Number of cases in Wild Boar (May 2019 – November 25 2019)							
Country	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Belgium	44	9	2	1	0	1	1	58
Bulgaria	0	1	13	29	11	18	28	100
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	4	5	5	5	8	2	29
Hungary	62	37	64	122	165	191	63	704
Latvia	16	16	41	28	20	41	34	196
Lithuania	43	38	48	23	22	41	17	232
Moldova	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	6
Poland	199	114	148	177	97	174	93	1002

Romania	33	36	59	90	56	50	46	370
Russia	3	0	8	9	6	4	9	39
Slovakia	0	0	0	6	5	1	3	15
Ukraine	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	4
Total	401	255	390	495	387	530	297	2755

## Situation assessment

### Belgium:

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, although the animal had died more than six months prior to its identification. Further to our last report, another ASF-positive wild boar carcass has been found in the Luxembourg region, again the carcass was over six months old. As a result, the Walloon Government has once again decided to ban cyclists and walkers in woodland in this area, following a partial reopening over the summer (Walloonie, 2019).

### Bulgaria:

Since our last report on 14 November, there have been no further outbreaks in domestic pigs. A further 22 cases have been reported in wild boar. Cases in wild boar have been reported in the south of the country in the Blagoevgrad region, and are now in the Kyustendil region, 20km from the North Macedonian border (see map above). North Macedonia has been identified as one of nine Balkan countries to have a very high chance (66-100%) of disease spread within one year of introduction in a recent EFSA risk assessment (EFSA, 2019). The other countries were: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. We will continue to monitor the situation.

### Poland:

Cases of ASF in wild boar have now been identified in the west of Poland. This is a significant jump west (300km) and relatively close to the German and Czech borders. The first confirmed case was found on Monday 4 November, following the sampling of a female wild boar killed in a road accident (PigProgress 2019). As an initial measure, a 5km fence was put around the site where the boar was found, and a second fence is now being considered. Foot patrols of the area by volunteers and the Polish army discovered a further 20 cases of ASF in wild boar (Web.de, 2019; Wetgiw, 2019). The ASF-positive wild boar cases are also of note as the neighbouring region of Wielkopolskie province has the largest pig industry in Poland with 30% of the Polish pig population (Ministry of Agriculture, Netherlands, 2019). The disease has caused distress among local farmers, leading to protests in several areas demanding fair compensation and a reform of hunting law, to allow the reduction of the wild boar population by hunters (Ministry of Agriculture, Netherlands, 2019). This is the favoured choice by Polish farmers, although Belgium

banned wild boar hunting in areas as part of their ASF eradication programme in an effort to prevent further spread by perturbation.

## 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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