

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #07

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

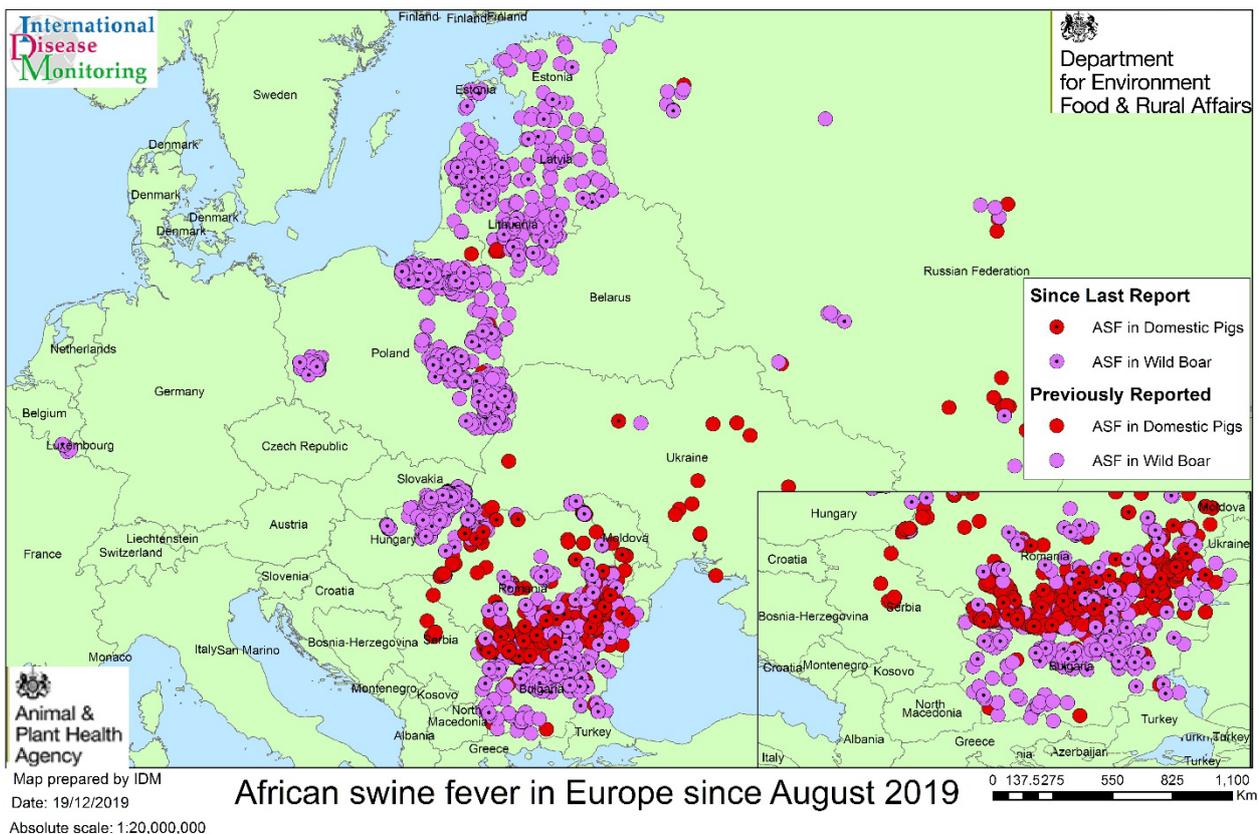
19 December 2019

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

## Disease report

Since our last report on the 26 November 2019

[\[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/846901/asf-europe-update6.pdf\]](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/846901/asf-europe-update6.pdf), there have been new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar in Eastern Europe. ASF-infected wild boar continue to be found in the west of Poland and are now 40km away from the German border. Further south, there have been new reports of ASF in wild boar in southern Bulgaria, close to the border with North Macedonia.



## Situation assessment

There continues to be a general decrease in the number of outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar in Eastern Europe. Since November, outbreaks in domestic pigs have only been observed in Romania, Russia and Ukraine (Table 1). The majority of these involved piglets in backyard small holdings, though there have been a small number of outbreaks in commercial holdings (three in Romania, one in Ukraine).

Poland and Hungary continue to report high numbers of cases in wild boar (Table 2). Following the large jump west in Poland reported in our last update, there have been almost 70 cases of ASF in wild boar reported in the surrounding area. The furthest west of these is now just 40km from the German border (see map). Poland has constructed a 120km fence between the provinces of Lubusz and Greater Poland to limit wild boar movement (PigProgress, 2019) and Germany is on high alert for the disease, expecting further cases and spread in the coming weeks. The German Agriculture Minister has stated that the country had made intensive preliminary arrangements over the past two years including dissemination of relevant information and materials, and local authorities are reportedly instructed to increase their efforts to search for dead boars (Focus, 2019).

There have been 82 cases of ASF in wild boar in Bulgaria since November 2019 to date, including reports extremely close to the borders of currently ASF-free North Macedonia and Greece. Both of these countries are currently on high alert, having 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).

Belgium has reported one more case of ASF in wild boar since our last report on 26 November. The carcass was discovered within the fenced area of Luxembourg and had been dead for over three months (OIE, 2019).

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

Country	Number of Outbreaks in domestic pigs Jun-Dec 17 2019)							
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	25	7	3	3	0	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lithuania	5	8	2	2	2	0	0	19
Moldova	0	3	16	4	0	0	0	23
Poland	7	24	12	1	2	0	0	46
Slovakia	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	10
Serbia	0	0	16	1	0	0	0	17
Romania	76	441	550	199	103	103	42	1514
Russia	1	4	24	40	7	2	0	78
Ukraine	4	8	7	3	2	3	0	27

Total	93	515	643	253	119	108	42	1773
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Table 2: Numbers of ASF cases reported in wild boar since June. All data from ADNS and OIE.

Country	Number of cases in Wild Boar (Jun 2019 – Dec 17 2019)							
	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Belgium	9	2	1	0	1	1	0	14
Bulgaria	1	13	29	11	18	44	38	154
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	4	5	5	5	8	4	0	31
Hungary	37	64	122	165	191	156	77	812
Latvia	16	41	28	20	41	52	10	208
Lithuania	38	48	23	22	41	23	19	214
Moldova	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	6
Poland	114	148	177	97	174	210	156	1076
Romania	36	59	90	56	50	57	38	386
Russia	0	8	9	6	4	2	9	38
Slovakia	0	0	6	5	1	3	5	20
Ukraine	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
Total	255	390	495	387	530	553	353	2963

## 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.

Travellers from an affected area in the EU or anywhere in Asia and Africa must not bring back products of pig origin – including ham, sausages or pâté – or any equipment or other goods which could potentially be contaminated with ASF virus to the UK. 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.

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

## Authors

Dr Lauren Perrin

Dr Francesca Gauntlett

Alastair George

Joe Bowen

## References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

EFSA (2019) <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/african-swine-fever-early-detection-key-controlling-spread>

Focus (2019) [https://www.focus.de/wissen/natur/phase-des-maximalen-wachstums-afrikanische-schweinepest-wuetet-in-westpolen-brandenburg-baut-schutzzaun\\_id\\_11466456.html](https://www.focus.de/wissen/natur/phase-des-maximalen-wachstums-afrikanische-schweinepest-wuetet-in-westpolen-brandenburg-baut-schutzzaun_id_11466456.html)

PigProgress (2019) <https://www.pigprogress.net/Health/Articles/2019/12/ASF-Poland-Germany-gearing-up-defence-514645E/>



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [iadm@apha.gov.uk](mailto:iadm@apha.gov.uk)