

Updated Outbreak Assessment #21

African Swine fever in Eastern Europe

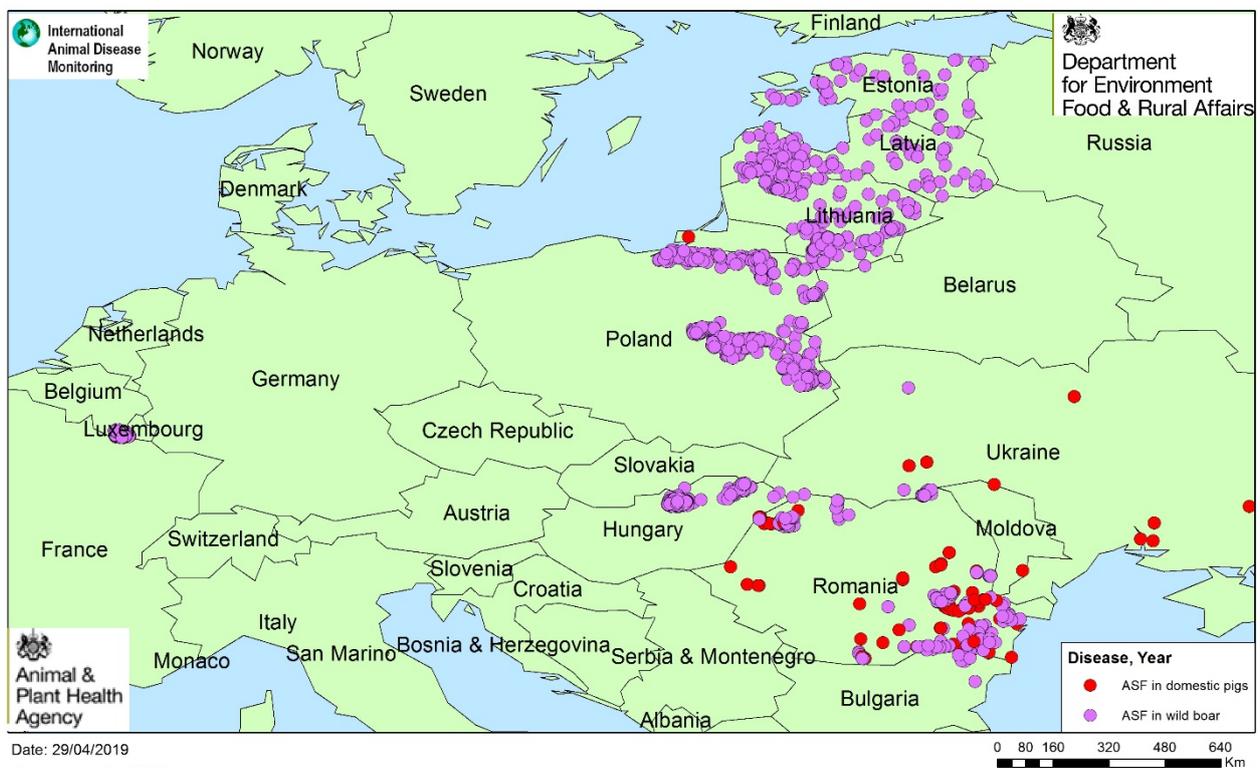
30 April 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern Europe

Disease report

Since our last report on the 18th March 2019, there have been new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar in Eastern Europe. The numbers of outbreaks in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) since July 2018 are summarised in Table 1 for each country. Over the past 6 months, there has continued to be a decrease in reports in domestic pigs, with reports in March and April, restricted to Romania (16), Ukraine (4), Moldova (1) and Russia (1). Although the largest number of outbreaks in domestic pigs each month is for Romania, these were mainly backyard pig small-holdings. In contrast, the number of cases in wild boar has remained high in March and April (Table 2). Although wild boar cases have been increasing from October 2018 in Eastern Europe, 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 719 reports of ASF in wild boar to 5/4/2019.

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



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

Table 1. Numbers of ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) between October 2018 and April 2019.

Number of Outbreaks in pigs (2018-2019)								
Country	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Moldova	9	0	1	0	0	1	0	11
Poland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Romania	94	69	22	29	32	12	8	266
Russia	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Ukraine	5	5	4	3	3	1	4	25
Total	111	74	27	33	35	15	12	307

Table 2. Numbers of ASF cases in wild boar between October 2018 and April 2019.

Number of Outbreaks in Wild Boar (2018-2019)								
Country	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Bulgaria	3	1	1	0	3	7	1	16
Czech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	8	9	16	28	16	1	0	78
Hungary	11	28	65	104	148	226	128	710
Latvia	37	38	54	87	22	10	9	257
Lithuania	56	61	82	81	29	58	24	391
Moldova	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Poland	108	173	206	284	224	246	229	1470
Romania	29	48	48	59	66	48	36	334
Russia	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	7
Ukraine	0	2	3	0	4	1	1	11
Total	259	362	476	643	514	599	428	3281

Bulgaria:

There have been several outbreaks in backyard pigs and cases in wild boar in southern Romania along the border with Bulgaria, so further spread into Bulgaria would not be unexpected. In March and April there were eight reports of ASF in wild boar, and none in commercial pigs.

Hungary:

There was an increase in the number of cases observed in wild boar in Hungary in March, as part of a general increasing trend. There has been an increase in cases observed in the Hajdú-Bihar County near the Romanian border, within the surveillance zone of Romanian outbreaks, and a likely source of infection. The infected area and high risk area have both increased in size in April, further extending surveillance efforts and a likely explanation for the increase in reported cases

Moldova:

Moldova has reported one new outbreak in backyard domestic pigs in March.

Poland:

Poland has reported no new outbreaks in domestic pigs in March and April. However, the number of wild boar cases has been generally increasing (Table 2). 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). Lithuania has also increased its Part II Protection Zone, due to ASF cases near Part I. 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.

Romania:

Romania reported twelve new outbreaks in domestic pigs (backyard premises) in March, and eight in April.

Russia:

Russia reported one outbreak in domestic pigs in March.

Ukraine:

Ukraine reported one new outbreak in domestic pigs in March, and four outbreaks in April (two backyard premises and two commercial premises).

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 one outbreak reported in Moldova, and one in Russia, in March and April. In many parts of Eastern Europe, the recent increase in reporting in wild boar is likely due to a severe winter which has caused the increase in size of surveillance zones, and as such is likely to continue. 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. While ASF has not been observed in Denmark at present, the threat of ASF from Germany has led to a prevention programme of building a fence along the Danish/German border as a way to protect the Danish pig industry. Additionally, Denmark has recently undertaken a cleansing and disinfection (C & D) control campaign, sampling transport vehicles. The Danish Authorities reported that C&D was insufficient, leaving remnants of manure, which could pose an ASF risk, in 42% of vehicles tested (PAFF, 2019).

Conclusion

Despite the significant reduction in the number of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs in Eastern Europe over the past six 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>

Authors

Dr Francesca Gauntlett

Dr Lauren Perrin

Dr Paul Gale

Josef Bowen

References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

PAFF

(2019), https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulatory_committee/presentations_en

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



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