

Updated situation assessment #2

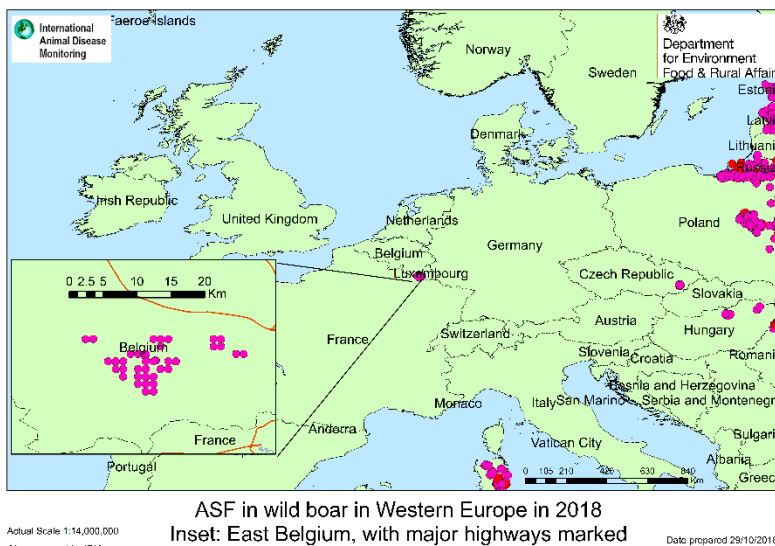
African swine fever in wild boar in Belgium

29th October 2018

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in wild boar in Belgium

Disease report

The Belgian Authorities have now reported 124 cases of ASF in wild boar in the Luxembourg region of Belgium (see map), close to the border with France, within a forested area of nearly 80km². There have been no cases in domestic pigs, commercial or otherwise. The commercial pig sector is located over 200km away, in the Flanders region. **Belgium remains free of ASF in domestic pigs.**



The source and route of virus incursion has not been confirmed, and investigations are continuing. The European Commission has confirmed that interim protective measures under 2002/60/EC Article 15 are in place, delineated by the border with Luxembourg and France. An Infected

zone has been established (of 630 km²), within which there are strict biosecurity measures.

Situation assessment

Belgium has preventively culled all domestic pigs within the infected area (~5,000 pigs) including 6 small commercial holdings (farms with more than 50 pigs) and implemented a series of strict control measures to limit the spread of the disease (Portail de la Wallonie, 2018).

Surveillance of Wild Boar

Outside the Infected Area:

1. Raising awareness of hunters and visitors to the forests
2. Passive surveillance: all wild boar carcasses must immediately be reported; sampling and analysis of dead wild boars, and disposal of the carcasses
3. Active surveillance: increased hunting, sampling and analysis of a proportion of hunted wild boars

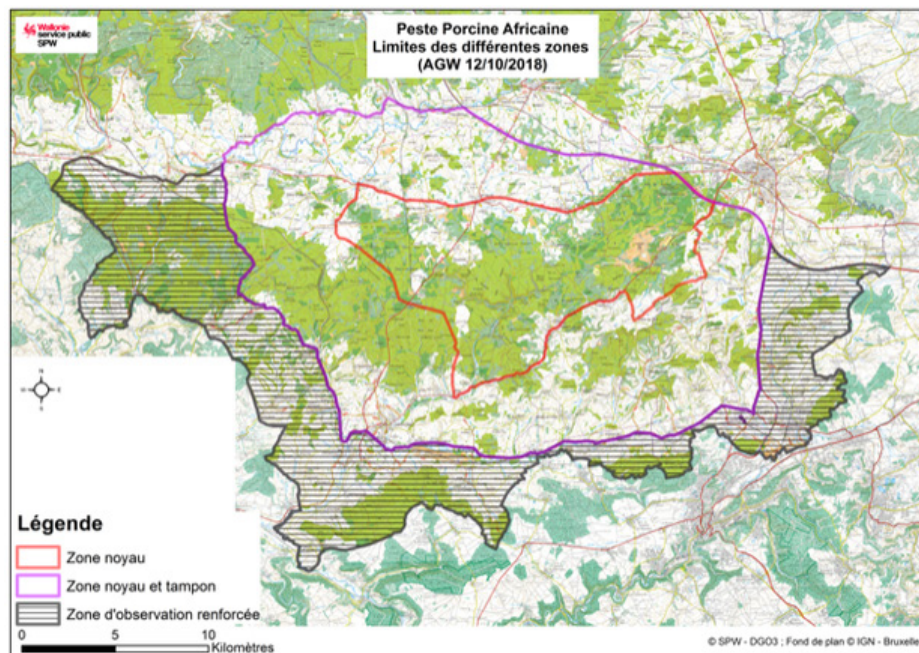
Within the infected area:

Phase 1 (15 September – 14 October 2018)

4. Ban on hunting, supplemental feeding of wild boar and other game.
5. Active searching for wild boar carcasses by trained personnel with secure removal of carcasses.
6. Controls on access to the forest, ban on all commercial and leisure activities with exemptions only for activities related to ASF control.
7. Setting up collection centres for carcass collection, sampling and disposal;
8. Collection and testing of all wild boar found dead.

Phase 2 (15th October – 14 November 2018)

Establishment of three zones inside the Infected Area:



Map courtesy of <https://www.chasse.be/files/Image/news/2018-ppa-carte-au-12102018.png>

1. Kernel zone (*Zone Noyau*; 12,562 ha)
 - a. Same measures as already in place for the infected area
2. Buffer zone (*Zone Noyau et Tampon*; 29,183 ha)
 - a. All of the above and:
 - b. Building a network of fences
3. Reinforcement Zone (*Zone d'Observation renforcée*; 21,101 ha)
 - a. Forest activities (logging and tourism) permitted in daylight hours;
 - b. Ban of feeding wild boar;

- c. Increased passive surveillance;
- d. Active surveillance + Eradication of wild boars: culling and testing wild boar and disposal of carcasses;

If ASF were to be detected in domestic pigs and captive wild boar/ feral pigs, the following measures would be introduced:

- No visitors are allowed access to establishments where pigs are held except for management of the holding;
- Access to establishments with pigs is forbidden for 72 hours following contact with wild boar;
- Increased surveillance: All sick pigs to be tested for ASF, regardless of clinical signs;
- Reinforced ban on swill feeding and no outdoor access for pigs unless property is double fenced;
- All assemblies and gatherings of pigs prohibited, including the loading of pigs of different origin on the same vehicle.
- Four week standstill for all newly introduced pigs;

France has also implemented controls in a reinforcement zone, comprising 53 communes in Ardennes, Meuse and Meurthe-et-Moselle départements, within 10km of the Belgium infected zone, where hunting (without dogs) will be used to reduce the wild boar population and increased surveillance for dead wild boar is in place and in a wider observation zone, where there also measures for hunting, passive surveillance and awareness raising (Ministère d’Agriculture, 2018). This comes after a period of observation and hunting bans, as recommended by the Europe Commission veterinary expert team. The observation zone consists of 60 more communes in the same départements.

In Luxemburg, there is a surveillance zone along the border with Belgium, in which there is increased surveillance for dead wild boar, hunting is allowed, and commercial outdoor pigs are being housed (Landwirtschafts portal, 2018).

Conclusions

The risk level remains at **MEDIUM**. 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. As the weather gets colder over the winter, it is more difficult to effectively disinfect vehicles and equipment, but the ASF virus can persist in cold temperatures for many weeks.

It is important to highlight that all products of porcine origin (including wild boar), unless processed in a certain way, is a high risk commodity from affected areas. These products include fresh or frozen pig meat, salamis and hams, skins and

bristles, germinal products, live animals, hunting trophies and any equipment which has had contact with an affected animal or the environment where they are found.

Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF and images and descriptions of clinical signs and pathology of ASF are provided on this link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/defragovuk/sets/72157694954571532/>

We will continue to closely monitor the situation.

Authors

Jonathan Smith

Dr Helen Roberts

References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

Landwirtschafts (2018) Task Force Peste porcine (in French)

<https://agriculture.public.lu/de/actualites/2018/peste-porcine-africaine01.html>

Ministère d'Agriculture (2018) Actions to prevent ASF (in French).

<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/ppa-les-mesures-specifiques-dans-la-zone-dobservation-renforcee>

Portail de la Wallonie (2018) Control measures for African swine fever (in French)

<http://www.wallonie.be/fr/actualites/mesures-de-lutte-contre-la-peste-porcine-africaine>



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