

## Updated situation assessment #4

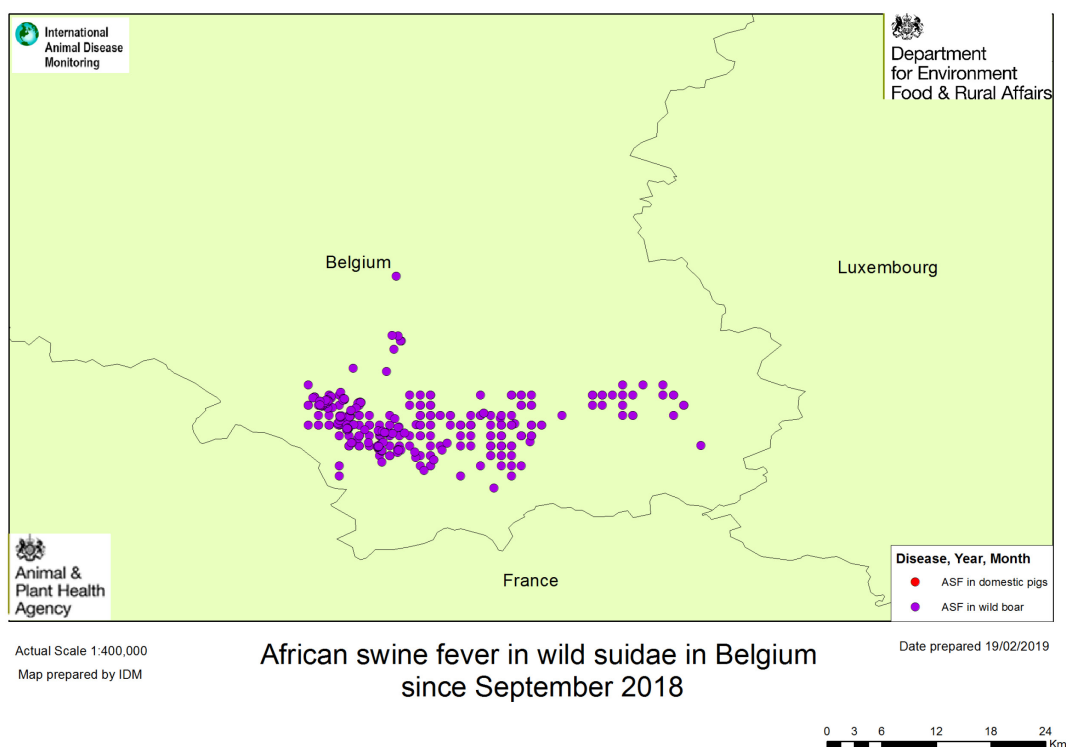
21 February 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in wild boar in Belgium

# African swine fever in wild boar in Belgium

## Disease report

Since the first case of African Swine Fever (ASF) was reported in wild boar found dead on 13 September 2018, the Belgian Authorities have reported 494 cases of ASF in wild boar, all in the Luxembourg region of Belgium (AFSCA, 2019). There is heightened concern that ASF will spread into wild boar in France. There have been no cases in domestic pigs, commercial or otherwise. The commercial pig sector is located over 200km away, in the Flanders region. **There have been no cases of ASF reported in domestic pigs in Belgium.**



The original source and route of virus incursion into Belgium 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.

## Situation assessment

In Belgium, in zone I in the south (the buffer zone) all wild boar culled or found dead to date have tested negative for ASFV. In zone I in the north, one wild boar tested positive for ASFV. Following this positive case, zone I and zone II were extended to the north. The current (newly extended) zones I and II are shown on the map below.



The map above shows buffer zones in Belgium (taken from <http://www.favv-afsca.be/ppa/actualite/belgique/>) (AFSCA, 2019)

As reported previously, France has implemented controls in a reinforcement zone (ZOR), comprising 53 communes in Ardennes, the Departments of Meuse and Meurthe-et-Moselle, which are within 10km of the Belgium infected zone, where hunting (without dogs) is being used to reduce the wild boar population. In a wider observation zone (ZO), comprising 60 communes in the same Departments, there has been increased surveillance for dead wild boar, and where there are also measures for hunting, passive surveillance and awareness raising (Ministère d'Agriculture, 2019). As of 15<sup>th</sup> February, 49 wild boar carcasses have been tested for ASFV with negative results (Ministère d'Agriculture, and, ONCFS, 2019).

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 required to be housed.

The overall risk to the UK given the current distribution of ASF in the EU and neighbouring countries is still **medium**. With ASF established in Eastern Europe, there are ongoing concerns around pork products from non-EU countries entering the EU in passenger luggage and then being discarded in areas where wild boar or domestic pigs are present. Publicity campaigns are in place to inform the public and discourage individuals from bringing pork products into UK, with targeted messages to key people such as road hauliers, hunters, pig keepers and veterinarians. See:

[http://web.oie.int/rr-europe/eng/regprog/en\\_asf\\_depository.htm](http://web.oie.int/rr-europe/eng/regprog/en_asf_depository.htm)

<https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/emerging-diseases/african-swine-fever/>

## Conclusions

The risk level for entry of ASFV to the UK from Europe 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. Under winter conditions, it is more difficult to effectively disinfect vehicles and equipment, and, the ASF virus persists at low temperatures for many weeks.

We would like to highlight to all pig keepers and the public to ensure 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>

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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## References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

Ministère d'Agriculture (2019) Actions to prevent ASF (in French).

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

Portail de la Wallonie (2019) Control measures for African swine fever (in French)

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

ONCFS (2019) <http://www.oncfs.gouv.fr/Reseau-SAGIR-ru105/Actualites-PPA-ar2059> (in French)



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