

Updated Outbreak Assessment #17

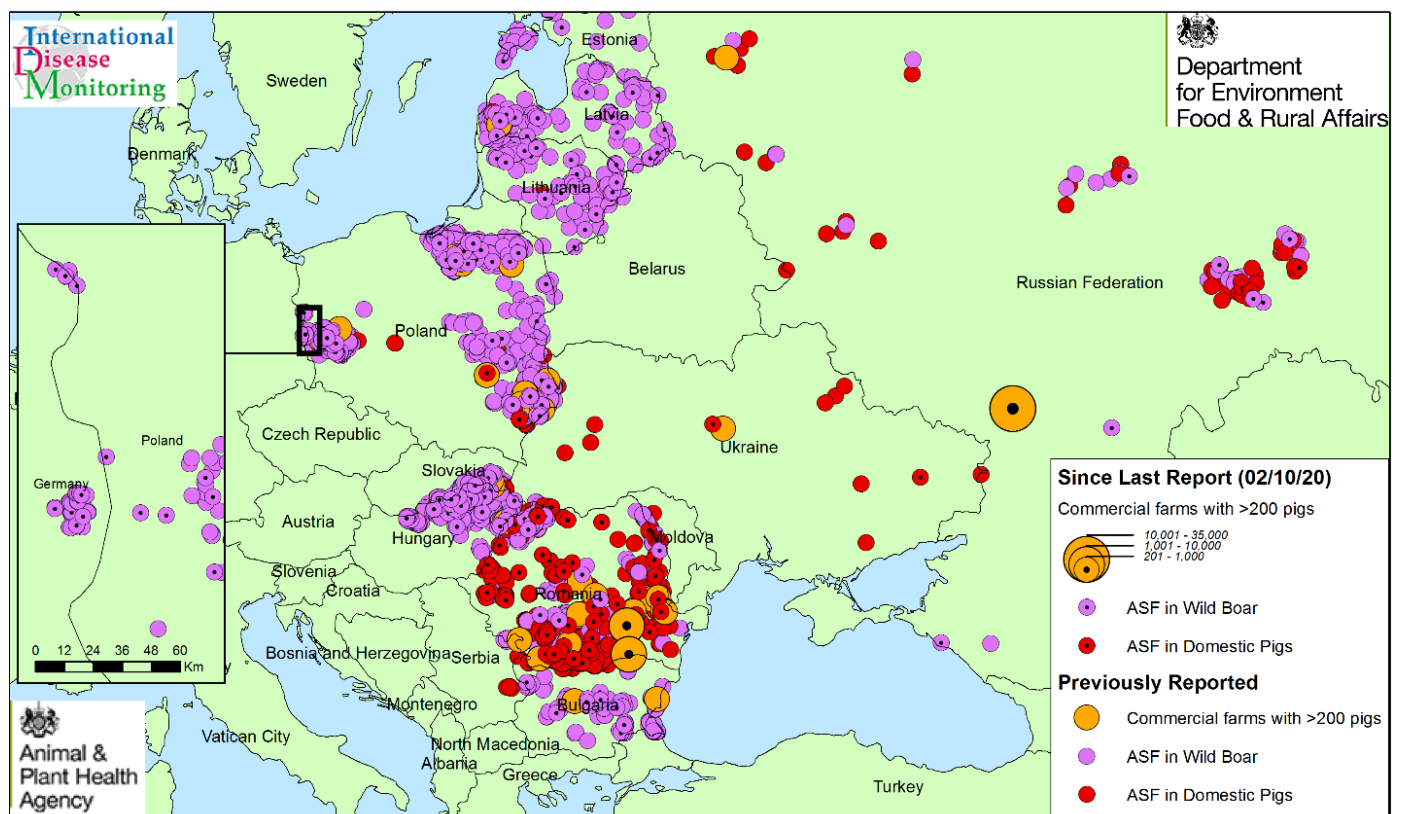
African swine fever in Europe (Eastern Europe and Germany)

27 October 2020

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Europe (Eastern Europe and Germany)

Disease report

Since our last report on the 02 October, ASF continues to be reported in wild boar across Europe, including in Germany. A large number of outbreaks in domestic pigs has been reported in Romania during this time, with a small number of domestic pig outbreaks in Ukraine, Poland and Russia.



Map prepared by IDM

Date: 27/10/2020

Absolute scale:1:20,000,000

African swine fever in Europe May - October 2020

0 137.5275 550 825 1,100 Km

Situation assessment

The total number of confirmed cases of ASF reported in **Germany** is now at 91, since the first report on the 10 September. All are in wild boar (either shot or found dead) in the State of Brandenburg, with no domestic pig farms affected so far.

Following the finding of an infected wild boar in the Märkisch-Oderland district on 29 September (approximately 60km north from the first cluster of cases), a further five infected wild boar have been found in this area, suggesting the virus is circulating in the wild boar population here. A second core area of 45km² has been established around these cases, including the Oder river wetlands with a large number of water courses, which can make fencing and carcass collection more difficult (PAFF, 2020a). The wider infected area across the State of Brandenburg has been enlarged to 2,183km². A further 42 cases have been found in the Oder-spree district and four cases in the Spree-Neisse district, with two cases in Oder-spree right on the outer perimeter of the core area here. Germany has introduced new “white zones” as 5km buffer zones around each of the core areas, which will be fenced off on the inside and outside, with the intention of creating a wild boar-free corridor (Pig Progress, 2020).

As of 16 October, 30km of the intended 55 km outer ring fence has been constructed for the white zone around the first core area (150km²), while the exchange of the inner electrical ring fencing to wire fencing is ongoing. The existing electrical fence along the Poland/Germany border is also being replaced with wire fencing, however only 20km of 200km has so far been changed.

In the core zone, systematic searching for cases continues, including investigation of all fallen wild boar, and safe collection and disposal of carcasses. There is monetary incentive for notification of carcass findings, but only qualified individuals have permission to collect the carcasses. There is a preliminary ban on hunting of all species in these areas and of use of the area for agricultural purposes, including a ban on access for any non-authorised persons to the forests and surrounding area. Free-roaming dogs and movement of wild boar meat from the infected area is also prohibited (PAFF, 2020a).

Measures have also been implemented for domestic pigs in the infected area, including: increased biosecurity; no free-range holdings or use of paddocks; no use of hay, straw or green feed; investigation of all pigs dead or with fever; restrictions on movements. Following the ban on export of pig meat from Germany to China and other countries in Asia, pig prices across Europe decreased, but German officials are hoping to reach an agreement on resuming pig meat exports on a regional basis to these countries (Farmers Weekly, 2020). At present, pig prices are being kept stable in Germany by selling pork previously intended for the Asian market to other buyers in the EU.

Romania has reported 76 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update. All were in backyard pigs, with the exception of two outbreaks on commercial premises. One of these, reported on 08 October in Buzau County, held 6,586 pigs. The second, reported on 26 October, held 5,975 pigs. Both premises are in the southeast, within the restricted areas set out by the EU. Also included in the domestic pig count was an outbreak in a collection of captive wild boar, in a zoo in Mures County, after four out of seven died. Romanian authorities have investigated a number of issues on backyard premises, which may be responsible for continued outbreaks, including: non-compliance with identification

and registration rules, insufficient documentation for commercial activities and non-compliance with national biosecurity requirements, including feeding with household waste (PAFF, 2020b).

In some areas of Romania where outbreaks of ASF on commercial premises have been reported, outbreaks in surrounding backyard premises have subsequently been confirmed. This has led to movement restrictions on pigs in these areas for more than 40 days, resulting in negative consequences for animal welfare. This includes overcrowding and high temperatures in pens, lack of time for pigs to rest or eat simultaneously, and behavioural issues, such as aggression and cannibalism. As such, the Romanian authorities have approved the movement of live pigs on commercial farms to other premises which are close by and in a similar epidemiological situation, provided this is in accordance with conditions set out in the legislation (PAFF, 2020b).

On 15 October, **Russia** reported an outbreak of ASF in a commercial pig farm of 38,960 pigs, of which 31 were reported to be infected and died. There are no further updates regarding the outbreak at present.

In addition to Romania and Russia, there have been reports from Bulgaria, Poland, Moldova and Ukraine of domestic pig outbreaks of ASF during October (Table 1). Wild boar cases continue to be reported across Europe (Table 2).

Table 1: Domestic pig outbreaks in 2020 in Eastern Europe

| Country | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Total |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Bulgaria | 6 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 19 |
| Latvia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Lithuania | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Moldova | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Poland | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 56 | 21 | 4 | 102 |
| Romania | 93 | 56 | 47 | 30 | 37 | 53 | 92 | 165 | 169 | 97 | 839 |
| Russia | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 39 | 68 | 15 | 9 | 146 |
| Serbia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 15 |
| Slovakia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 17 |
| Ukraine | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 16 |
| Total | 100 | 62 | 55 | 35 | 39 | 60 | 123 | 238 | 199 | 105 | 1162 |

Table 2: Wild boar cases in 2020 in Europe

| Country | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Total |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Belgium | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Bulgaria | 148 | 70 | 63 | 25 | 20 | 14 | 30 | 33 | 22 | 22 | 447 |
| Estonia | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 52 |
| Germany | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 53 | 91 |
| Hungary | 425 | 413 | 533 | 777 | 495 | 327 | 251 | 201 | 134 | 72 | 3628 |
| Latvia | 44 | 19 | 22 | 18 | 12 | 26 | 36 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 238 |
| Lithuania | 38 | 13 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 21 | 26 | 12 | 12 | 19 | 189 |
| Moldova | 0 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Poland | 559 | 563 | 713 | 461 | 287 | 203 | 131 | 214 | 186 | 111 | 3428 |
| Romania | 176 | 111 | 99 | 59 | 54 | 45 | 48 | 54 | 30 | 16 | 692 |
| Russia | 13 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 20 | 3 | 7 | 74 |
| Serbia | 22 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 |
| Slovakia | 12 | 8 | 30 | 37 | 28 | 10 | 13 | 14 | 24 | 18 | 194 |
| Ukraine | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 1447 | 1228 | 1508 | 1406 | 917 | 654 | 561 | 572 | 477 | 341 | 9111 |

Conclusion

In Germany, ASF in wild boar is continuing to be reported in Brandenburg, close to the border with Poland, following the finding of a positive wild boar shot at the end of September. Romania is still reporting high numbers of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs, with the number of outbreaks in domestic pigs in Poland appearing to decrease in the last two months. ASF is still present in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe. Therefore, there still remains a risk of entry of ASF virus in products of animal origin from affected countries, including from illegal imports.

The current risk of ASF being introduced into the UK through the entry of contaminated or infected pork or pork products, remains at **medium**.

All travellers are strongly advised to avoid bringing any pork products – for example, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis 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.

We would like to emphasise to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders and general public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby observing the swill feeding ban.

All pig keepers should remain vigilant and ensure that any visitors to their premises have not had any recent contact with pigs or pig premises in the affected regions. People returning from any ASF-affected areas of the world should avoid any contact with domestic

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

pigs in commercial holdings, smallholdings or even household pet pigs. Habitats where feral pigs or wild boar exist should also be avoided. All clothing, footwear or equipment should be disinfected before entering pig areas.

Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF. Any suspect cases must be reported promptly. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information

We will continue to monitor the situation

Authors

Charlotte Coxon
Anthony Pacey
Dr Lauren Perrin
Dr Alastair George

References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

PAFF (2020a)

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/reg-com_ahw_20201020_pres_asf_deu.pdf

PAFF (2020b)

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/reg-com_ahw_20201020_pres_asf_rou.pdf

Pig Progress (2020)

<https://www.pigprogress.net/Health/Articles/2020/10/ASF-Germany-Hotspot-vanished-count-at-70-wild-boar-657087E/>

Farmers Weekly (2020)

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/business/markets-and-trends/meat-prices/germany-pins-hope-on-regional-resumption-of-pigmeat-exports>

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



© Crown copyright 2020

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>

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