

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #18

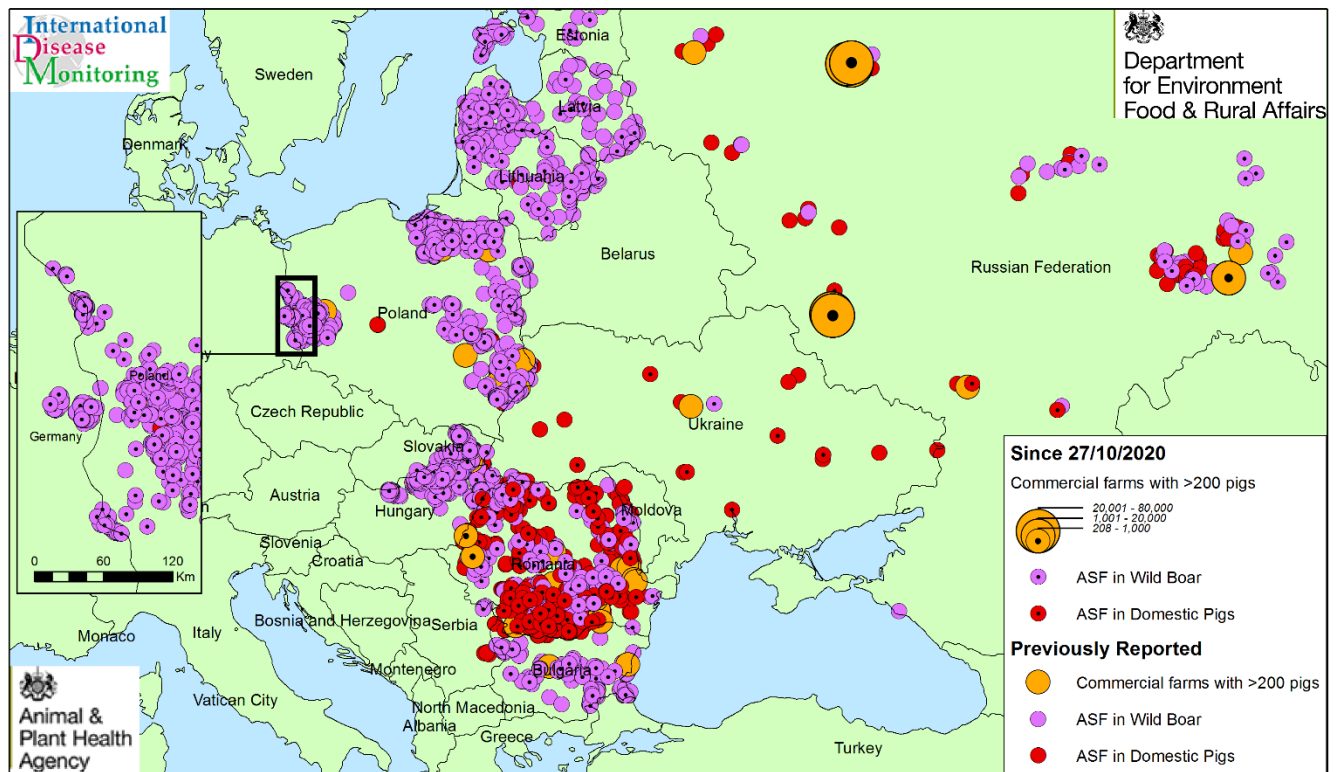
# African swine fever in Eastern Europe and Germany

06 January 2021

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern Europe and Germany

### Disease report

Since our last report on the 27 October, ASF continues to be reported in wild boar across Europe, including in the east of Germany. A large number of outbreaks in domestic pigs have been reported in Romania during this time, with small numbers reported in Ukraine, Poland and Russia. Please note, this report summarises all reports up to, and including, 31 December.



Map prepared by IDM

Date: 05/01/2021

Absolute scale: 1:20,000,000

## African swine fever in Europe July - December 2020

0 137.5275 550 825 1,100 Km

## Situation assessment

**Belgium** has regained its ASF-free status after demonstrating 12 months with no evidence of virus circulating in the country. Increased surveillance in domestic pigs continues and intensified hunting of wild boar to reduce population levels is ongoing. Belgium has also successfully installed over 300km of fencing across the country to limit wild boar movements, which will be kept in place until at least March 2022 (PAFF, 2020b).

Since our last report on 27 October, **Germany** has reported 299 cases of ASF in wild boar (either shot or found dead) in the east of the country. No domestic pig farms have been affected so far. ASF has now been reported in three separate regions in Brandenburg: Märkisch-Oderland (112 cases), Oder-Spree (156 cases) and Spree-Neisse (15 cases). These are all neighbouring regions, along the eastern border of Brandenburg with Poland. On 01 November, ASF was reported in a new state, Saxony, for the first time. A wild boar was shot during a hunt, showing no signs. This animal then tested positive for ASF in routine screening by the Friedrich-Loeffler Institute (Pig World, 2020). Since then, sixteen cases of ASF have now been reported in the Görlitz region of Saxony, which shares its northern border with Brandenburg.

It is considered likely that ASF was initially introduced into Görlitz by migrating wild boar from Poland. However, it is not clear whether subsequent cases in Görlitz are a result of spread within Germany or new introductions from Poland, as all disease reports are very close to the border. Continuing reports from affected areas in Brandenburg suggest the virus is circulating in the wild boar population here.

Three core zones have now been established in Brandenburg, around clusters of cases in Bleyen (50km<sup>2</sup>), Neuzelle/Sembten (150km<sup>2</sup>) and Freidland (230km<sup>2</sup>), with a combined buffer zone of 2,232km<sup>2</sup>. A core zone of 135km<sup>2</sup> has been established around the new cases in Görlitz, with a buffer zone of 309km<sup>2</sup> (PAFF, 2020a). The state of Saxony has announced that its temporary fence along the border with Poland will now be replaced with permanent fencing, to join up with that of Brandenburg. Germany has completed the fencing surrounding a 5km 'white zone' around the Neuzelle/Sembten core area, which covers parts of both Oder-Spree and Spree-Neisse. Shooting of wild boar in this area was permitted from mid-November, with the intention of creating a wild boar-free corridor to prevent spread of ASF from the core area through infected wild boar. It is intended that such 'white zones' will be established in the same way around all core areas currently in place (Pig Progress, 2020).

In the core zones, systematic searching for infected wild boar 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. In Brandenburg, seven carcass search-dogs have been trained and employed to assist hunters in locating dead wild boar. They are particularly

useful in searching wetland and forest areas, which are less easily accessible to humans (Pig Progress, 2020).

Since our last report, **Poland** has reported one outbreak in domestic pigs, on backyard premises, and 598 new cases in wild boar.

**Romania** has reported 202 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update, all were in backyard pigs, and 182 cases reported in wild boar since our last report.

Since our last report, **Russia** has reported thirteen outbreaks in domestic pigs, including six backyard premises and seven commercial premises. Of these commercial premises, one reported over 79,000 pigs present and another three had over 55,000 pigs present.

In **Ukraine**, there have been seven reports of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update. Though not detailed in ADNS reports, all appear to be in backyard premises, with between one and 74 pigs present. Although this is a relatively low number of reports compared with other countries, the last three months have seen a higher number of reports for Ukraine than for all other quarters in 2020.

**Hungary** has yet to report any outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs, but cases in wild boar have been rising over the last quarter of 2020, with 373 cases reported since our last update. In December, Hungary reportedly reached an agreement with Japan to allow exports of pork to Japan from regions of the country unaffected by ASF, making it the first ASF-affected country to reach a regionalisation agreement of this kind with Japan (Hungary Today, 2020).

**Slovakia** has also seen a large increase in cases of ASF in wild boar, with 181 new cases reported since our last update. The numbers of cases in wild boar reported in Slovakia in November and December were higher than for any other months in 2020.

## Annual Summary

Outbreaks of African swine fever in domestic pigs have been continually reported throughout 2020, in Eastern Europe. The main countries affected are Poland, Romania, Russia and Ukraine, with Romania reporting the highest number of cases in domestic pigs in 2020, with a high proportion of outbreaks on backyard premises. Bulgaria reported very few cases after the first quarter of 2020 and Moldova reported none after this period. Slovakia and Serbia reported outbreaks in domestic pigs during the summer months, but not during the rest of the year. There have been no outbreaks in Latvia or Lithuania in the final quarter of 2020.

The number of outbreaks in domestic pigs in Eastern Europe peaked in late summer, between July and October, and dropped thereafter (see table below). This seasonality is not unexpected, the pattern is similar to what we have reported in previous years and may be due in part to fewer contacts with wild boar following the end of the harvesting period

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/754040/asf-eastern-europe-update18.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754040/asf-eastern-europe-update18.pdf)).

ASF cases in wild boar continue to be reported in Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Slovakia, in November and December. Numbers of cases reported in wild boar have been increasing across the final quarter of the year in Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Hungary and Poland reported the highest number of cases in wild boar in 2020 by a significant amount.

**Table 1: Domestic pig outbreaks in 2020 in Eastern Europe (ADNS data)**

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bulgaria	6	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	19
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Lithuania	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Moldova	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Poland	0	0	1	1	0	3	16	56	21	6	0	0	104
Romania	93	56	47	30	37	53	92	165	169	123	93	97	1055
Russia	3	2	2	0	2	6	39	68	15	14	6	7	164
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	0	3	0	0	0	15
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	6	0	0	0	17
Ukraine	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	5	0	3	3	3	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1408</b>

**Table 2: Wild boar cases in 2020 in Europe (ADNS data)**

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Belgium	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bulgaria	148	70	63	25	20	14	30	33	22	22	3	83	533
Estonia	7	5	6	2	2	5	11	4	7	8	9	6	72
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	76	76	200	390
Hungary	425	413	533	777	495	327	251	201	134	95	145	228	4024
Latvia	44	19	22	18	12	26	36	20	21	27	26	49	320
Lithuania	38	13	18	15	15	21	26	12	12	21	12	27	230
Moldova	0	2	15	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Poland	559	563	713	461	287	203	131	214	186	178	236	329	4060
Romania	176	111	99	59	54	45	48	54	30	24	71	104	875
Russia	13	10	2	1	0	3	15	20	5	13	14	20	116
Serbia	22	12	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Slovakia	12	8	30	37	28	10	13	14	24	21	64	114	375
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>1228</b>	<b>1508</b>	<b>1406</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>1161</b>	<b>11074</b>

## Conclusion

ASF is still present in domestic pigs across Eastern Europe, where Romania in particular has continued to report high numbers of outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in 2020, albeit in small holdings. ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe, and Germany (Brandenburg and now Saxony), close to the border with Poland. Therefore, the risk of entry of ASF virus in products of animal origin from affected countries, including from illegal imports remains at **medium**.

Although the UK has now left the European Union, as part of our ongoing commitment to ease the burden felt by businesses and travellers and allow ports of entry longer to prepare, there will be no change to the rules for passengers travelling into GB from the EU with products of an animal origin in January, but Great Britain will be bringing in controls in July 2021. Nevertheless, 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, whether commercial holdings or not, should remain vigilant and ensure that any visitors or seasonal workers have not had any recent contact with pigs, pig products, pig premises, wild boar (including hunting) or equipment associated with such activities in the affected regions in Europe or other affected parts of the world. As with all biosecurity, measures are only as effective as the people using them so proper training should be provided.

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

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