

Updated Outbreak Assessment #1

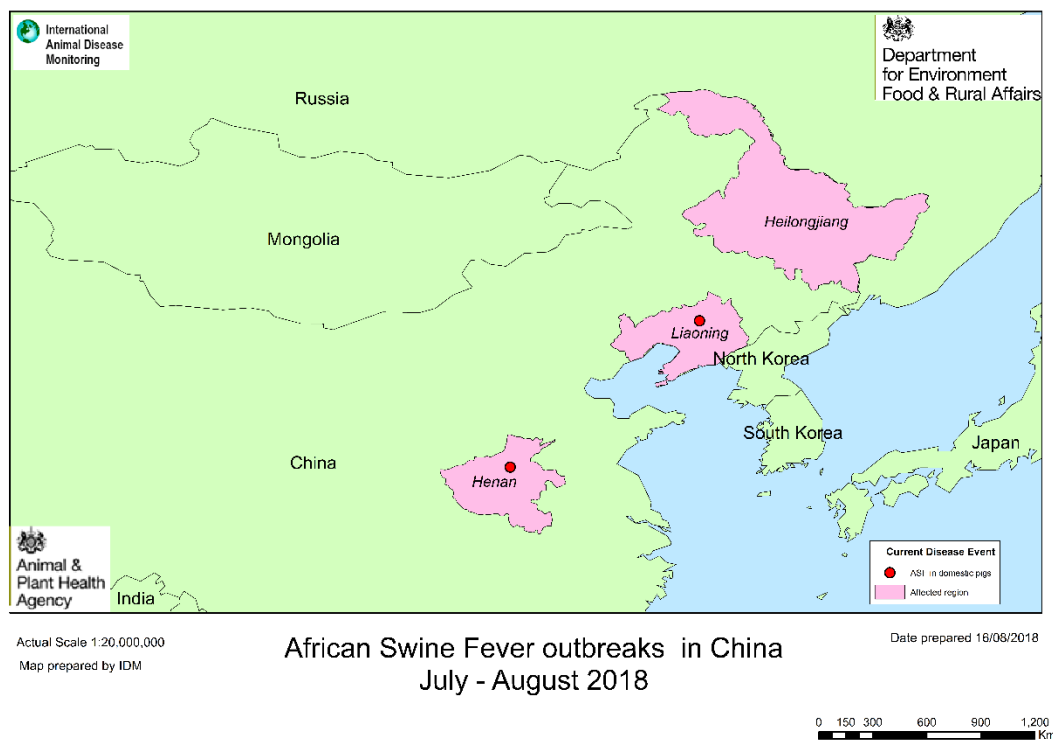
African Swine fever in China

17 August 2018

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in China

Disease report

The Chinese authorities have reported a further outbreak of ASF, this time in a slaughter house in Henan city (OIE, 2018a, see map below). According to the disease report, infected pigs were legally transported from a live swine market in Heilongjiang Province. Thirty cases out of 260 pigs were detected during ante-mortem inspections. Disease control measures are in place including culling affected and susceptible animals. There is no information about the live swine market, but epidemiological investigations are taking place. This is a region where expert advice suggested disease was most likely to enter China (see our Preliminary Outbreak Assessment on the 6th August).

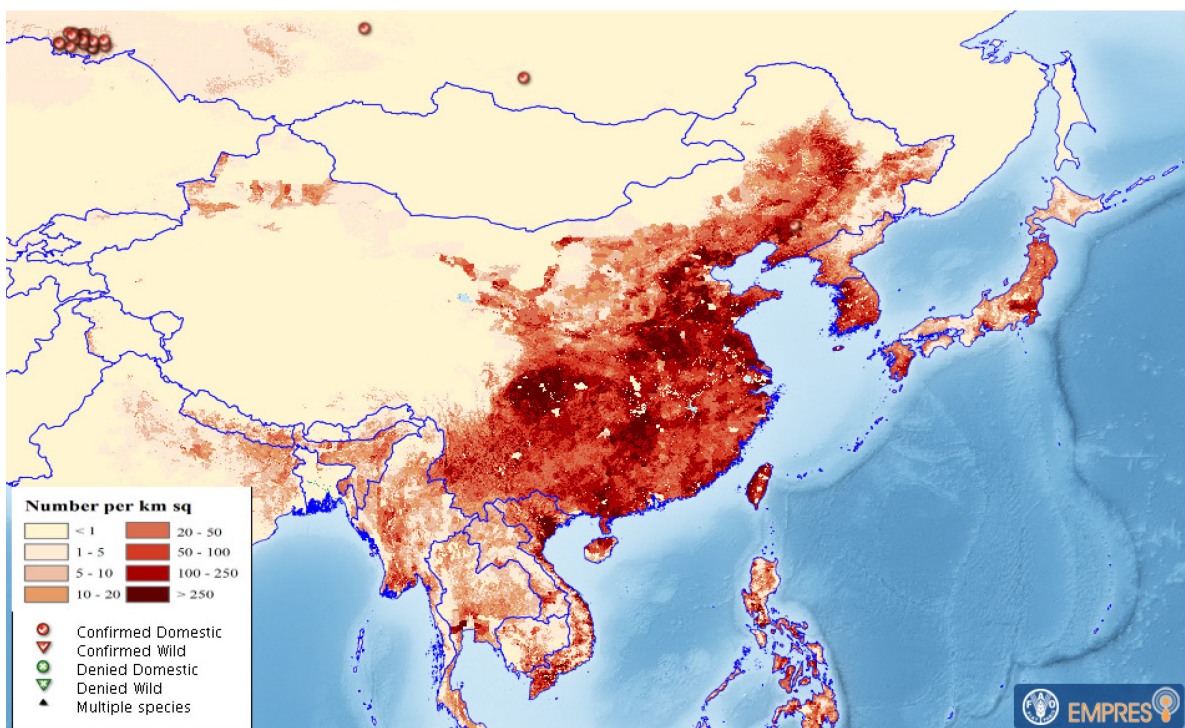


In terms of the previous outbreak in Liaoning province, the updated OIE report explains there were initially two farms involved under the same ownership, where pigs had died and the farms were depopulated (OIE, 2018b). Since then, apparently more than 35.5 million pigs in the region have been checked, over 10,000 samples have been tested and seven samples were positive from two villages nearby in which all the live pigs have now been depopulated. Transport of live pigs in and out of Shenyang City is not allowed.

Situation assessment

A recent study by Zhou et al. (2018) has genotyped the virus involved in the Liaoning outbreak. The strain belongs to genotype II group and shares 100% identity with strains isolated in Georgia in 2007, Krasnodar, 2012 and Irkutsk, 2017, among others. The ASF virus is a double stranded DNA virus so mutations occur less frequently than other single stranded RNA viruses, such as avian influenza, therefore this high degree of similarity over several years is not unexpected. However, it is also important to note that the Georgia 2007 virus was introduced from East Africa and was the source of infection in the Eastern Europe region, therefore this means it is difficult to pinpoint the exact source of infection. The authors also state that the farms involved in the outbreak had been swill feeding the pigs since mid-June and that the 400 pigs all died over the period of a month, which would be considered fast for inter-herd transmission if there was only a single point of infection.

It is concerning that the latest report in Henan involves the long distance movement of live pigs to a slaughter house. According to news reports, the slaughter house was part of the largest pork production company in the World. The map below shows the estimated pig density for the SE Asia region, according to the FAO Empres-I mapping tool and includes the ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs and wild boar since January 2018.



Currently, China is not approved for the import of fresh or frozen pig meat to the EU. Some animal feed products are imported from China, and we are investigating other possible pathways.

Conclusion

The risk to the UK is assessed to be **negligible** in terms of this particular new report. The overall risk given the current distribution of ASF in the EU and neighbouring countries is

low. As with ASF in western Russia, Belarus, Moldova and the Ukraine, there are 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 discourage individuals from bringing pork products into UK. This includes reminding people that it is illegal to swill feed any sort of kitchen scraps, pork products or catering waste to domestic pigs, whether commercial or smallholdings, to feral pigs and to wild boar.

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.

A campaign to highlight the dangers of swill feeding has been launched and more information can be found at this [link](#). Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information. 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.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

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References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

OIE (2018a) African Swine Fever, China, Immediate Notification http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=27568 Accessed 16/08/2018

OIE (2018b) African Swine Fever, China, Follow-up Report no. 3 http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=27570 accessed 16/08/2018

Zhou, X., Li, N., Luo, Y., Liu, Y., Miao, F., Chen, T., Zhang, S., Cao, P., Li, X., Tian, K., Qiu, H. & Hu, R. (2018) Emergence of African Swine Fever in China. *Transboundary Emerging Diseases*

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