

Updated Outbreak Assessment #14

African swine fever in Europe (Eastern Europe and Germany)

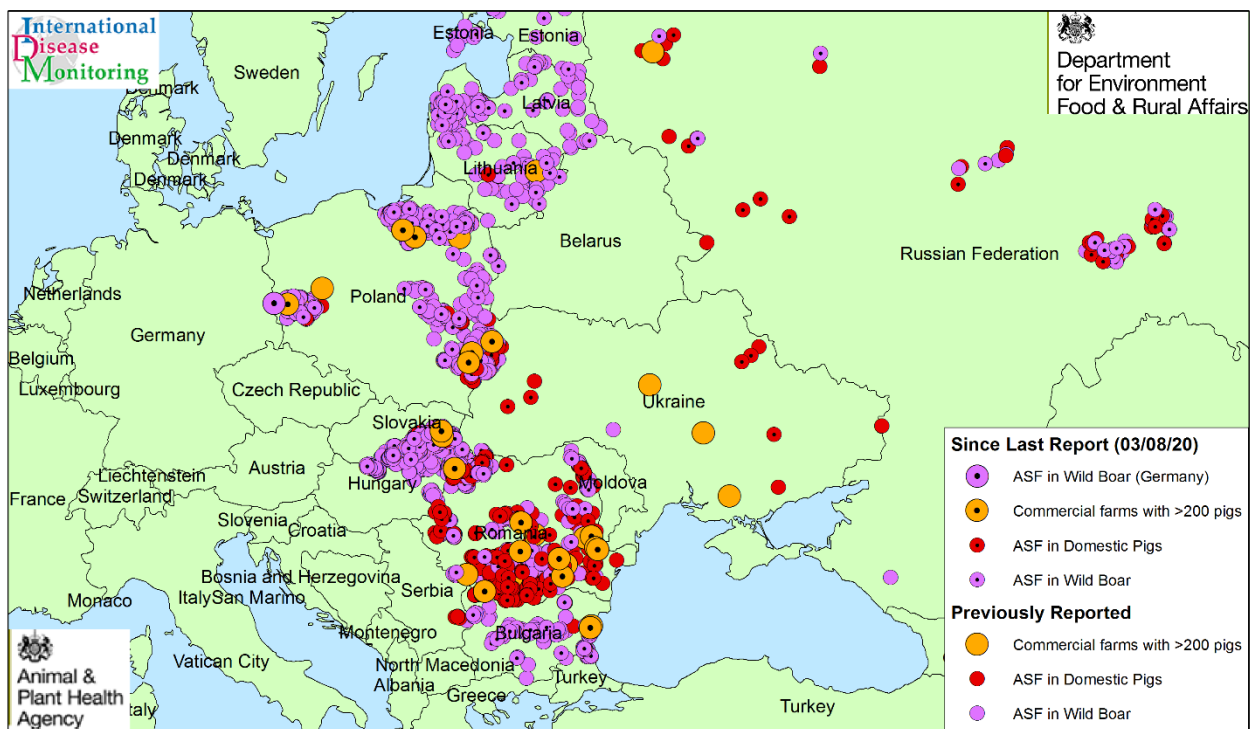
10 September 2020

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

Disease report

The number of outbreaks of African swine fever in domestic pigs in Eastern Europe has continued to increase since our last report on the 03 August. The main countries affected are **Poland, Romania and Russia**. These countries have also reported a significant increase in cases in wild boar in the same period. On 10 September, the **German** authorities have reported ASF in a wild boar carcass. This decomposed carcass was found in Brandenburg, approximately 6km from the German-Polish border. This is the first case of ASF in Germany in wild boar or domestic pigs.

The map below shows the outbreaks of ASF in Europe in domestic pigs, and the cases in wild boar, reported from January to 10 September 2020.



Map prepared by IDM

Date: 10/09/2020

Absolute scale:1:20,000,000

African swine fever in Europe April - September 2020

Situation assessment

In **Germany**, the carcass of a (largely decomposed) female wild boar was found on 09 September and tested for the presence of ASFV by PCR (FLI, 2020). It is therefore assumed that entry of the virus took place some weeks ago. The distance of this report from the nearest confirmed case of ASF in Poland is approximately 30 km. The wild boar was found in Brandenburg, around 6 km from the German-Polish border, which makes entry into the country from Poland by a migrating wild boar likely. Although there is fencing in place across the border in this area, it is unclear if there is potential for boar to contact across the fence, directly or indirectly. The origin is therefore unclear, however, human introduction via contaminated food cannot be ruled out at this stage.

Over the past months, Germany has undertaken enhanced national surveillance of wild boar; where every found carcass is tested for ASFV, and has intensified hunting of wild boar. Until now, all wild boar tested have been negative for ASFV. A range of preventative measures have been performed in the three Länder along the German-Poland border, namely Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Saxony (PAFF, 2020). All involved stakeholders and authorities are kept informed of current status by regular meetings. In particular, hunters, farmers and land owners are involved directly and via their associations. In Brandenburg, forestry staff and hunters search the forest for wild boar carcasses. More recently, drones have been used to do this. In June, the installation of 120 km of electric fence with odour components had been completed along the whole border between Brandenburg and Poland, along the rivers Oder and Neisse, and expenses have been paid to hunters for every additional wild boar retrieved and for transport of wild boar carcasses to the laboratory. However, given the numbers of cases of wild boar and, more recently, outbreaks in domestic pigs on the Polish side of the border, it is perhaps unsurprising that there has been this first report of ASF in wild boar in Germany. Indeed, according to the FLI, the risk of incursion of ASF by direct spread through infected wild boar into areas of Germany close to the affected regions in Belgium and Poland, was assessed as high prior to this event (FLI, May 2020).

Germany is one of the leading countries in pig husbandry and pig meat production, both in the EU and worldwide. With a production volume of 5 million tonnes, it ranks third behind China and the USA, and, with an export volume of 2.9 million tonnes it is the leading pig meat exporting country (Pig Progress, 2018). Any outbreak in the domestic pig population would have serious consequences for the industry.

ASF cases in wild boar continue to be reported in **Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania**, Russia, and **Slovakia**, in August and September (see Table 2). Hungary, Poland and Romania continue to report the highest monthly totals of wild boar cases. ASF in wild boar is slowly spreading westwards towards Austria.

In **Poland**, domestic pig outbreaks have continued, with 54 reported outbreaks since our last report on 03 August. This is a significant increase on previous months which, up until

July, had shown single-digit increases only (Table 1). Since our last report there have been 227 cases among wild boar. This is an increase since July.

The number of domestic pig outbreaks in **Romania** has continued to increase in August and September; with Romania reporting the highest monthly number of domestic pig outbreaks, reflecting the large number of backyard operations.

Russia has also shown an increase with 63 outbreaks among domestic pigs and 26 cases among wild boar. Both of these are increases compared to previous months this year.

In **Slovakia**, outbreaks have continued, with 15 outbreaks reported since our last report. Its first report this year was a single outbreak in July, so again monthly outbreak reports are increasing. Cases among wild boar are roughly in line with previous months, with 17 cases reported since our last report.

In **Ukraine**, outbreaks among domestic pigs remain relatively low, with four outbreaks since our last report. There have been no reported cases among wild boar.

In **Bulgaria**, there has been one outbreak among domestic pigs. This was the first reported outbreak since April. Cases among wild boar continue, with 42 since our last report.

In **Lithuania**, there has been one outbreaks among domestic pigs and eight cases in wild boar.

Hungary has still not reported any ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs to date, despite having by far the highest number of wild boar cases every month (see Table 2).

Table 1: Numbers of confirmed ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) 01 January – 10 September 2020. (All data from ADNS and OIE.)

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Bulgaria	6	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	18
Greece	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Lithuania	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Moldova	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Poland	0	0	1	1	0	3	16	56	7	84
Romania	93	56	47	30	37	53	92	165	48	621

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Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Russia	2	2	3	0	2	5	26	50	13	103
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	0	0	12
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	5	16
Ukraine	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	5	0	14
Total	102	65	58	35	41	65	149	288	73	876

Table 2: Numbers of ASF cases reported in wild boar 01 January – 10 September 2020. (All data from ADNS and OIE.)

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Belgium	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bulgaria	148	70	63	25	20	14	30	33	9	412
Estonia	7	5	6	2	2	5	11	4	3	45
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hungary	425	413	533	777	495	327	251	201	33	3455
Italy	28	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Latvia	44	19	22	18	12	26	36	20	12	209
Lithuania	38	13	18	15	15	21	26	12	0	158
Moldova	0	2	15	9	4	0	0	0	0	30
Poland	559	563	713	461	287	203	131	212	32	3161
Romania	176	111	99	59	54	45	48	54	13	659
Russia	13	12	3	1	1	2	6	23	3	64
Serbia	22	12	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	41
Slovakia	12	8	30	37	28	10	13	14	5	157
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	1475	1234	1509	1406	918	653	552	573	111	8431

Conclusion

The number of domestic pig premises reporting ASF is increasing; and outbreaks reported per month increased during August, particularly in Poland, Romania and Russia. ASF is still present in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe, and now Germany; and continues to increase, particularly in Poland, Romania and Russia. Therefore, there still remains a risk of entry of ASFV 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 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

Tony Pacey
Dr Lauren Perrin
Dr Francesca Gauntlett

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

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All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

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