

Updated Outbreak Assessment #20

African swine fever in Eastern Europe and Germany

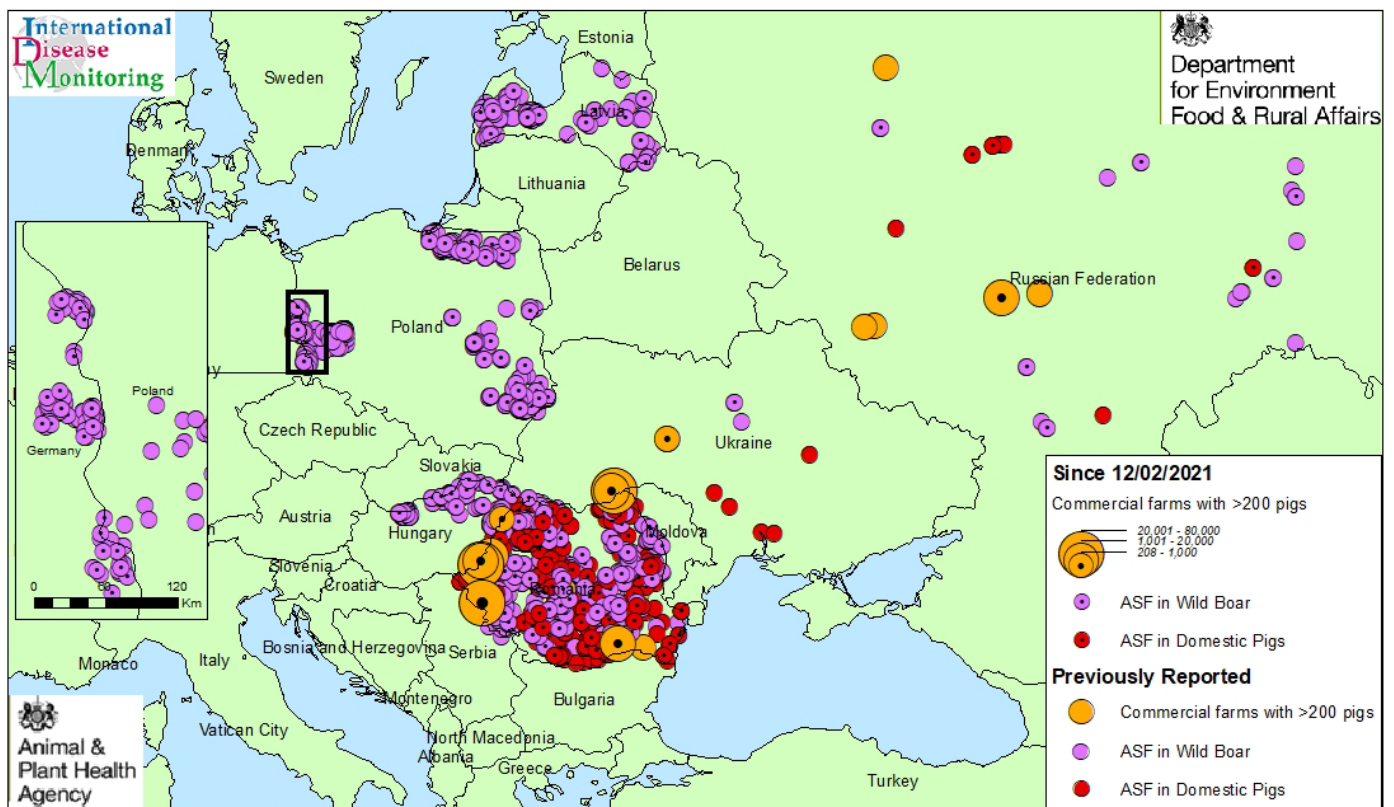
12 May 2021

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern Europe and Germany

Disease report

Since our last report on 12 February 2021, ASF continues to be reported in wild boar across Europe, including in the east of Germany. According to OIE, frequent outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Romania, with small numbers of outbreaks also reported in Ukraine and Russia.

Map 1 showing outbreaks and cases of ASF in Eastern Europe



Map prepared by IDM

Date: 13/05/2021

Absolute scale: 1:20,000,000

African swine fever in Europe December 2020 - May 2021 from OIE data

Outbreak data

Details of all outbreaks and cases provided in the tables in this report were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Additional information has been provided in the Situation assessment text where available from monthly Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) presentations, and ADIS summary tables and indicated as such.

Situation assessment

Bulgaria has not reported ASF to the OIE since October 2020, though their March 2021 PAFF presentation (PAFF, 2021a) confirmed that there had been 43 cases in wild boar between 20 February and 12 March 2021. These cases were identified as part of their passive surveillance programme. Bulgaria have decreased their wild boar population by 60% compared to previous years and continue to see a reducing trend in ASF cases across the country.

Estonia has not previously reported ASF to the OIE. The latest ADIS summary table (ADIS, 2021) confirms that Estonia have reported 26 cases of ASF in wild boar from 2 January to 8 May 2021.

Germany has continued to report ASF in wild boar across the states of Brandenburg and Saxony since our last report. There continues to be no reports in domestic pigs to date.

In Brandenburg, there have been 44 reports of ASF in wild boar since 12 February, comprising 349 individual boar cases. In Saxony there have been 12 new wild boar reports, representing 108 animals, bringing the total here to 33 cases to date.

Intensive searches are being carried out in the core area and buffer zones in Saxony, and all core areas across Brandenburg and Saxony have been surrounded by permanent fencing. Mobile fencing is still in place along much of the border with Poland, which is being updated to permanent fencing (PAFF, 2021b).

Hungary has yet to report any outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs but has reported 1,344 cases of ASF in wild boar since our last report. These reports in wild boar consist of 2,000 animals. Hungary published their ASF eradication plan in January 2021, with a main strategic goal to reduce wild boar density to 0.5 wild boar/km² by the end of February 2025 (PAFF, 2021c).

Latvia has not reported any outbreaks in domestic pigs since July 2020. There have been 45 reports of ASF in wild boar to the OIE since 12 February 2021, comprising of 66 animals.

Lithuania has not reported ASF to OIE within the last six months. The latest ADIS summary confirmed 46 cases in wild boar between 2 January and 8 May 2021 (ADIS, 2021).

Moldova has not reported any outbreaks or cases of ASF since October 2020.

Poland reported its first outbreak in domestic pigs since October 2020 on 17 March 2021, this is yet to be reported to the OIE (PAFF, 2021d). The holding was located in the Lubuskie region in the west of the country, with almost 16,000 pigs. Wild boar cases had been reported in the surrounding area, the closest of which was just 0.5km away from the holding, in February. The suspected route of infection is the feeding of fodder, containing maize from the surrounding fields where ASF wild boar are known to roam, the grain was harvested in October 2020. The pigs were fed with this maize from the beginning of March.

According to OIE reports, Poland have confirmed 124 cases of ASF in wild boar since our last report, comprising of 392 animals. The majority of these have been in the north (Kaliningrad border) and east (Ukrainian border) of the country.

Romania has reported 264 new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since 12 February to OIE. Five of these were on large commercial premises in the west (three outbreaks) and south (two outbreaks) of the country, affecting over 81,000 pigs. The remainder were on backyard premises across the country (approximately 3,500 pigs total). There were 331 reports of ASF in wild boar, comprising 813 individual wild boar.

Since our last report on 12 February, **Russia** has reported 12 outbreaks in domestic pigs to OIE, including 11 backyard premises and one commercial premises (15,000 pigs). There were also 13 reports of ASF in wild boar, comprising 33 wild boar.

Serbia has not reported ASF to OIE since September 2020. The latest ADIS summary confirmed 33 outbreaks in domestic pigs and 71 cases in wild boar between 2 January and 8 May 2021 (ADIS, 2021).

Slovakia has not reported any outbreaks in domestic pigs since September 2020. Since our last report on 12 February, there have been no reports of ASF in wild boar in Slovakia to OIE. During a presentation in April, Slovakia confirmed that there had been a total of 747 wild boar reports in 2021 up until 20 April. One new region had reported infection in this time, resulting in a new Part II area. A total of 16 regions have now reported infection, though infection remains in the east and south of the country (PAFF, 2021e).

Ukraine has reported three outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last report, all of these were in commercial holdings. Two were near the Romanian border (with approximately 2,000 and 22,000 pigs) and one in the middle of the country (368 pigs). There has been one report in wild boar.

Table 1: Domestic pig outbreaks in 2020-21 in Eastern Europe (OIE data only)

| Country | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Bulgaria* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Latvia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lithuania** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moldova | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Poland | 0 | 21 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Romania | 91 | 131 | 86 | 80 | 117 | 7 | 512 |
| Russia | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 29 |
| Serbia** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slovakia* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 11 |
| Total | 101 | 163 | 96 | 84 | 122 | 10 | 576 |

*See PAFF presentations in references **See ADIS summary in references

Table 2: Wild boar cases in 2020-21 in Europe (OIE data only)

| Country | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Total |
|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Bulgaria* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Estonia** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Germany | 26 | 38 | 24 | 0 | 28 | 13 | 129 |
| Hungary | 98 | 615 | 315 | 575 | 453 | 238 | 2294 |
| Latvia | 37 | 29 | 25 | 22 | 16 | 3 | 132 |
| Lithuania** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moldova | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Poland | 85 | 172 | 103 | 0 | 141 | 0 | 501 |
| Romania | 100 | 211 | 158 | 100 | 165 | 1 | 735 |
| Russia | 18 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 38 |
| Serbia** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slovakia* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 365 | 1070 | 631 | 700 | 808 | 257 | 3831 |

*See PAFF presentations in references **See ADIS summary in references

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 mainly in small holdings. ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe, and Germany (Brandenburg and 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 has been no change to the rules for passengers travelling into GB from the EU with products of an animal origin from January 2021, but Great Britain will be bringing in controls in January 2022. Nevertheless, all travellers are strongly advised to avoid bringing, ordering or requesting 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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References

All OIE disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

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