

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #22

# African swine fever in Eastern Europe and Germany

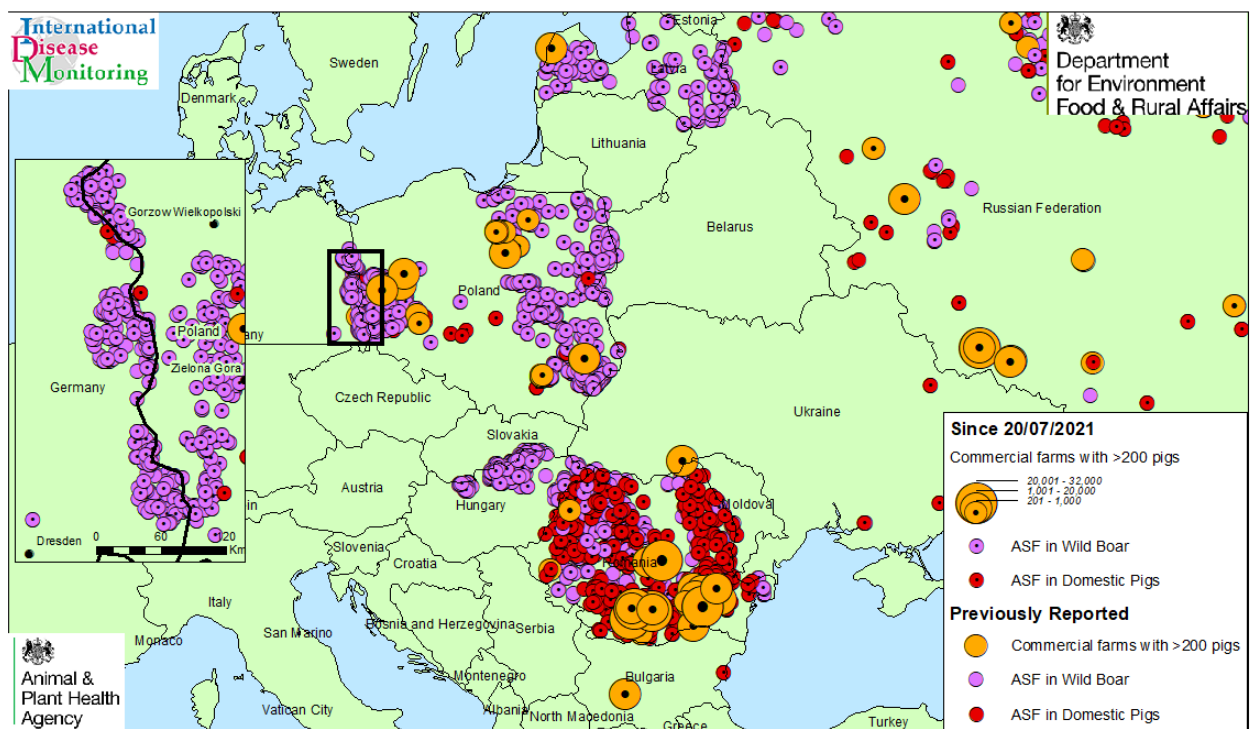
25 October 2021

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern Europe and Germany

## Disease report

Since our last report on 20 July 2021, ASF continues to be reported in wild boar across Europe, including in the east of Germany; where there has been westward spread, with ASF appearing in Radeburg for the first time (70km west of previous reports). Elsewhere, and according to OIE reports, frequent outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Poland, Romania and Russia.

Map 1 showing outbreaks and cases of ASF in Germany and Eastern Europe



Map prepared by IDM

Date: 25/10/2021

Absolute scale: 1:17,402,799

African swine fever in Europe  
April - October 2021  
(OIE Data Only)

0 120 240 480 720 960 Km

## 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), unless stated otherwise. Additional information has been provided, where available, from the EU Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) summary tables (ADIS, 2021), and information from relevant PAFF presentations (PAFF, 2021).

## Situation assessment

**Bulgaria** has reported four outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last report; these have been reported via ADIS and PAFF presentations and are yet to be reported by OIE.

The first report was from a farm with 124 pigs in late July, information from PAFF presentations (PAFF, 2021a) concludes that the farm is located in a forest area where contact with wild boar is possible and has been implicated as the source of infection. The second was reported in late August; a larger farm, with approximately 13,000 susceptible animals. This farm, as outlined in the PAFF presentation, observed increased mortality in the sow sector, and subsequently tested positive for ASFV in fattening and weaner pigs, with no clinical signs. Introduction of infection to this farm is considered to be due to a break in biosecurity measures and a possible link with another ASF positive farm (Farm 4, described below).

The third farm was a small backyard farm with five affected animals; three of which died with clinical signs suggestive of ASF, and epidemiological investigations are ongoing.

The fourth farm is a family commercial farm with 40 affected animals. The epidemiological investigation is ongoing, but links with the second farm via workers have been identified and are being considered as a source of infection for this farm. Official controls and surveillance of commercial farms is ongoing, and an action plan for backyard holdings is being developed, consisting of registration, clinical examinations, and biosecurity checks.

There continues to be reports of ASF in wild boar in Bulgaria, with 15 of 438 wild boar testing positive between July and 21 September 2021 (PAFF 2021a).

ASF in **Estonia** has not been reported by the OIE, however, recent ADIS summary tables (ADIS, 2021), show that Estonia have reported a further 16 cases of ASF in wild boar 22 July to 21 October 2021, bringing the total to 46 in 2021. The September 2021 PAFF presentation (PAFF 2021b) described five outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last report. Confirmation of ASF on the first farm was via passive surveillance of blood samples submitted, and an epidemiological investigation was instigated on 15 July 2021. The second farm was a commercial full cycle farm with 1,769 animals. All pigs were housed indoors, and all required biosecurity measures were implemented, though it was noted that some shortcomings were observed. No further information is currently available on the possible source or size of outbreaks for the third and fourth farms, but ASFV was

confirmed in a wild boar found 9km from the fourth farm on the day of confirmation of disease.

The fifth farm is situated between fields and woodland and indirect introduction from wild boar could not be ruled out. Possible routes of infection being considered include transportation, workers, feed (the farm grows its own crops) or transmission via flies.

Disease control planning includes farm control checks (of which 203 checks have been performed across 129 farms to September 2021). Non-compliance was identified in 6 farms, including inadequacies in biosecurity and record keeping.

**Germany** has not reported any further outbreaks in domestic pigs since those included in our last update, though further information regarding the epidemiological investigations indicates that the virus was brought into the establishments by indirect means from the local wild boar population (PAFF 2021c). Germany is continuing with a robust surveillance programme with approximately 8,300 samples tested from domestic pigs, the majority of these (4,296) have been from Saxony. Germany have implemented a thorough control programme, with no feeding material to come from core areas (areas where ASF has been detected) unless heat treated or stored for six months, a purchasing programme for backyard holdings (where the State offers to buy pigs from farmers with less than 10 pigs, for €200 each, if they agree to not to keep pigs on the premises for a period of 2 years); 15 backyard holdings have accepted this offer so far. There has been a prohibition of events/exhibitions with pigs, and further work to identify pig owners that are also hunters with increased controls on their holdings. The three previously reported ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs have now been reported by the OIE and appear in Map 1.

Reports have continued of ASF in wild boar via OIE. Since 22 July, in Brandenburg there have been 80 reports of ASF in wild boar, and in Saxony there have been 64 reports, including the most westerly boar found near Radeburg. These findings of ASF positive wild boar are not unexpected given their thorough surveillance and measures implemented; there is an obligation for hunters to search for carcasses using canine teams in infected areas, places have been set up to allow for the safe disposal of carcasses, an increased hunting allowance, and prohibition of movement of all wild boar meat from the infected zone. All shot and found dead wild boar are being sampled.

Wild boar fencing is ongoing in Germany, with over 1,300km of permanent fencing established in Brandenburg (1061km), Saxony (250km) and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (63km).

Since the first reported case of ASF in wild boar (in September 2020) there have been 520 cases reported in Germany by OIE.

**Hungary** has yet to report any outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. Since our last report on 20 July, there have been 59 reports of ASF (by OIE) in wild boar. These reports in wild boar consist of a total of 62 animals. The first report of a boar found in Fejér county was

reported on 10 August 2021; no further new cases have been reported in Fejér since. A case in Komárom-Esztergom, under the M1 highway, led to a proposal to increase the size of zones, with new game management units (areas of land) added to restricted zone II in Fejér based on risk assessment (PAFF, 2021d).

**Latvia** has reported two outbreaks in domestic pigs since 20 July 2021 (via OIE). One was in a backyard fattening farm with four pigs, and all pigs presented clinical signs. Wild boar are present in the area but direct contact was ruled out according to the PAFF presentation (PAFF, 2021e), and the source of infection remains unclear.

The second outbreak was in a larger farm with 2,100 pigs and was confirmed as part of Latvia's enhanced passive surveillance system. Wild boar are present in the area, and indirect contact via grain harvesting is thought to be the source of infection. There have been 116 reports of ASF in wild boar by OIE since 20 July 2021, comprising 127 animals in total.

**Lithuania** has not reported any incidents of ASF, according to OIE, since our last report. However, the latest ADIS summary confirmed 35 cases in wild boar between 20 July and 20 October (ADIS, 2021). Lithuania's last reported case via ADIS was on 15 October 2021.

**Moldova** has reported one outbreak of ASF since August 2021, in a backyard farm with ten pigs. There have been no further reports in wild boar.

**Poland** has batch reported ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs via OIE, beginning in September 2021. Some reports are indicated to have begun in March (1), May (1) and June (10) 2021, but the majority of the reports are from July onwards (108). In total, 120 cases have been reported: affecting between one and 16,500 pigs.

Since our last report on 20 July 2021 there have been 84 outbreaks in domestic pigs reported via ADIS summaries. In the same period, according to OIE, there have been 87 reports of ASF in domestic pigs. According to PAFF (PAFF, 2021f) biosecurity control checks are in place, with over 47,000 premises checked to date. 341 holdings have been banned from keeping pigs in 2021 due to irregularities found.

In wild boar backdated OIE reporting of ASF has also taken place. From 12 August 2021 over 1,100 occurrences of ASF have been reported by OIE, totalling over 4,200 wild boar deaths. Of these reports, 262 have start dates after our last report on 20 July 2021, totalling 286 wild boar deaths. According to ADIS summaries in the same period, 376 wild boar were affected. The Polish General Veterinary Inspectorate are continuing to use trained dogs in the search for dead wild boar.

**Romania** has reported 739 new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since 20 July according to OIE. Nineteen of the reports were in commercial premises, with between 1,100 and 31,000 animals (totalling 212,000 animals). Smaller premises with between 50

and 400 animals, accounted for 27 of the total cases. The remainder were in premises with <50 pigs (comprising a total of 414 farms with 3,678 animals). There were 63 reports of ASF in wild boar by OIE in the same timeframe, comprising 74 individual wild boar.

The whole of Romania is currently in [Zone III](#) and hence there is no exportation of pork products from the region (Europa, 2021) . Pig holding inspections are to be performed at least once per year, with advice being offered to small farmers by veterinarians on biosecurity measures and the obligation to notify of health issues (PAFF, 2021g).

Since our last report on 20 July, **Russia** has reported 126 outbreaks in domestic pigs to OIE, of which 14 were larger premises with >100 pigs (the largest containing 29,293 pigs). There were also 32 reports of ASF in wild boar, comprising 57 animals.

**Serbia** has had no reported outbreaks of ASF according to OIE since September 2020. The latest ADIS summary however, confirmed 33 outbreaks in domestic pigs and 71 cases in wild boar between 2 January and 20 October 2021 (ADIS, 2021). This is unchanged since our last report.

**Slovakia** has had no reported outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs according OIE, since August 2019. However, ADIS summaries have confirmed seven outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last report on 20 July 2021, bringing the total to eight outbreaks (ADIS, 2021). According to PAFF presentations (PAFF, 2021h) ASF has not been detected in any domestic pigs since 04 August 2021, movements of pigs is prohibited in the regions in accordance with the relevant legislation. One large commercial farm and six smaller farms (<100 pigs) were affected. Further details of these outbreaks are unavailable.

There have been no cases of ASF in wild boar reported by OIE in Slovakia (since April 2020), but ADIS reports that between 20 July and 20 October 2021 there have been 218 cases of ASF in wild boar (ADIS, 2021). The most recent is dated 18 October 2021.

**Ukraine** has reported three outbreaks of ASF since our last report on 20 July 2021, in domestic pigs; all since the beginning of August, and all are in backyard farms with fewer than 20 animals present. During this time ADIS summaries also indicate that a fourth domestic pig farm was affected, as well as one case being found in wild boar.

**Table 1: Domestic pig outbreaks in 2021 in Eastern Europe (OIE only)**

Country	OIE Data										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2

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	<b>OIE Data</b>										
<b>Country</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Total</b>
Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	113	6	<b>119</b>
Romania	131	86	79	117	51	57	162	0	198	142	<b>1023</b>
Russia	9	4	3	3	5	8	45	34	57	35	<b>203</b>
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Ukraine	2	0	1	2	0	0	3	2	1	0	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>1364</b>

**Table 2: Wild boar cases in 2021 in Europe (OIE only)**

	<b>OIE Data</b>										
<b>Country</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Germany	38	24	0	28	42	35	29	59	31	43	<b>329</b>
Hungary	615	315	575	453	431	173	66	42	9	7	<b>2686</b>
Latvia	29	25	22	16	11	16	32	44	20	20	<b>235</b>
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Poland	172	103	0	141	0	0	0	946	134	99	<b>1595</b>
Romania	211	158	100	165	89	51	44	22	33	10	<b>883</b>
Russia	5	6	3	5	5	2	22	13	3	16	<b>80</b>
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Ukraine	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>1126</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>5810</b>

## Conclusion

ASF in domestic pigs has now been officially reported by OIE in Germany, in line with descriptions in our previous report; to date no additional reports have been provided. The initial cases were detected through their ongoing active surveillance programme (as opposed to clinical signs being observed), and the intensive surveillance around these outbreaks may see further reports in the coming weeks.

ASF continues to be present in domestic pigs across Eastern Europe; where Romania in particular has continued, since May, to report high numbers of outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs, albeit mainly in small holdings. While the whole of Romania is considered as under Zone III restrictions and unable to export pork products, traditional pork dishes are common in Romanian cultural celebrations during the festive period, so personal imports may be a higher risk over the next few months. ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe, and in Germany where there has been a westerly jump (~30km outside previous control zones and 70km west of previous reports), although still contained within the same regions (Brandenburg and Saxony). 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.

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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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