

Updated Outbreak Assessment #23

African swine fever in Eastern Europe and Germany

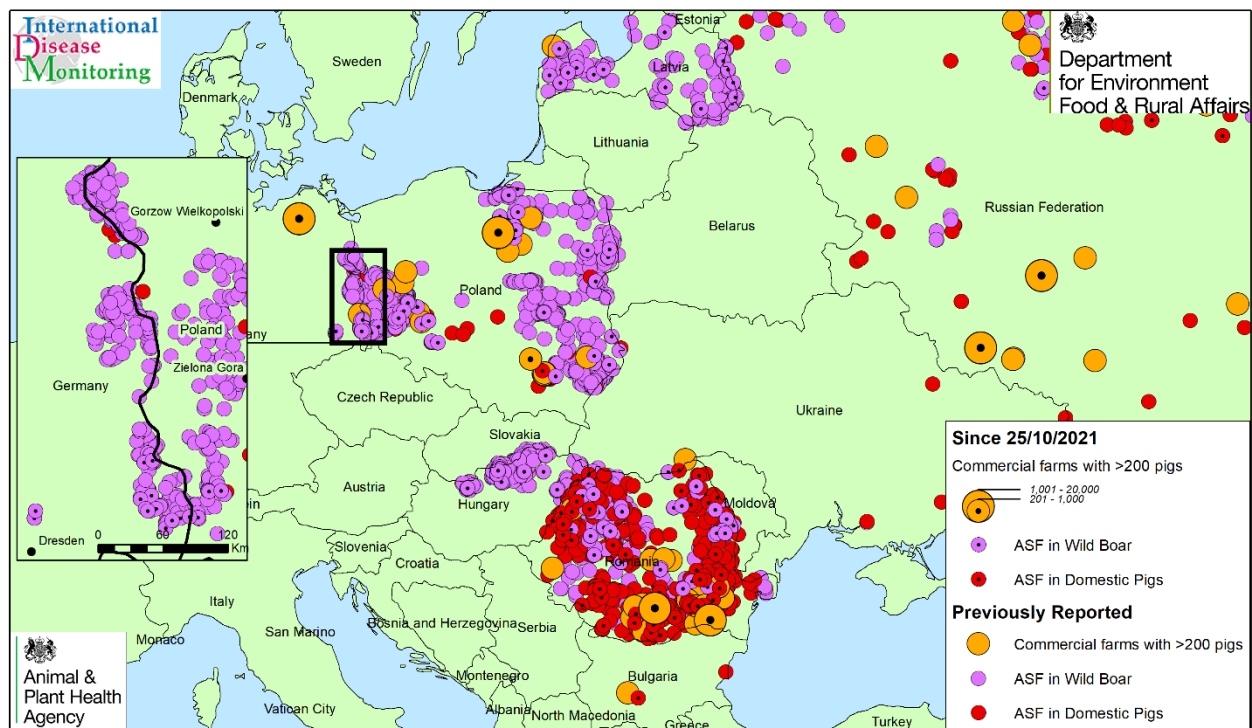
16 November 2021

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Eastern Europe and Germany

Disease report

Since our last report on 25 October 2021, a new outbreak of ASF has been confirmed in domestic pigs in Germany, at a large commercial premises, in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. This is the first report of ASF in this state and is approximately 120km from previous reported cases in wild boar, and 150km away from the nearest outbreak in domestic pigs in Germany. Elsewhere, and according to OIE reports, frequent outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Poland, Romania and Russia. ASF has also continued to be reported in wild boar across Europe.

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



Map prepared by IDM

Date: 17/11/2021

Absolute scale:1:17,402,799

**African swine fever in Europe
June - November 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 one outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs since our last report; according to OIE. The outbreak was reported on 8 November, comprising of one farm with 181 susceptible animals in total.

There continues to be reports of ASF in wild boar in Bulgaria since our last update, with 26 cases reported by ADIS between 21 October and 10 November 2021 (ADIS, 2021).

ASF in **Estonia** has not been reported by the OIE, however, recent ADIS summary tables (ADIS, 2021), show that Estonia have reported a further six cases of ASF in wild boar between 21 October and 10 November 2021, bringing the total to 52 in 2021. No outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Estonia have been reported by OIE or ADIS since our last report on 25 October 2021.

Germany has reported a new outbreak in domestic pigs since our last update. The outbreak occurred on a farm in near Rostock in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (next to Brandenburg), where no ASF cases had been previously reported in farm animals or wild boar, and was confirmed by Germany's federal agriculture ministry on the 15 November (Reuters, 2021). According to OIE, the farm was located in Lalendorf, comprising a total of 4,038 fattening pigs, of which 45 were confirmed positive for ASF after displaying suspicious clinical symptoms and dying (PigProgress; Nov 2021). Domestic and wild control measures have been applied including culling, tracing, zoning and surveillance, which may result in further ASF reports. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to determine the most likely source of infection. The outbreak demonstrates a shift of ASF into a new region in Germany (see Map 1), having been reported only in the Brandenburg and Saxony regions previously, with the closest previous report approximately 150km away, in wild boar.

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.

Reports have continued of ASF in wild boar via OIE. Since 25 October, there have been 17 reports of ASF in wild boar in Saxony and no reports in Brandenburg. The Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut has reported 169 cases of ASF in wild boar in Brandenburg and 55 cases in Saxony between 25 October and 15 November, indicating that the disease continues to circulate. No information on the application of restriction zones was available for these cases (FLI, 2021). Thorough surveillance and measures continue to be 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 534 cases reported in Germany by OIE.

Hungary has yet to report any outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. Since our last report on 25 October, there have been 13 reports of ASF (by OIE) in wild boar. These reports in wild boar consist of a total of 17 animals (down from 62) since our last report. 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, 2021a). There has been a steady decrease in reports of ASF in wild boar in Hungary throughout the year down from 615 to 12 between January and October 2021 (Table 2). A similar trend was observed in late autumn 2020 followed by [an increase of cases through the winter](#). However, the numbers of cases reported throughout autumn and in to winter this year, are much lower than those reported at the same time last year, suggestive of effective disease management measures.

Latvia has not reported any outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last assessment.

There have been 27 reports of ASF in wild boar by OIE since 25 October 2021, comprising 34 animals in total. This represents a decrease in the number of wild boar cases since our last report.

Lithuania has not reported any incidents of ASF, according to OIE, since our last report. However, the latest ADIS summary confirmed 38 cases of ASF in wild boar between 21 October and 10 November (ADIS, 2021). Lithuania's last reported case via ADIS was on 4 November 2021.

Moldova has not reported any outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs, or cases in wild boar (via OIE, PAFF or ADIS) since our last report.

Poland

Since our last report on 25 October 2021, there have been six outbreaks in domestic pigs reported via ADIS summaries. In the same period, according to OIE, there have been three reports of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs in which 213 animals were infected out of a total of 3,455 susceptible. According to PAFF (PAFF, 2021b) 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. Since our last report on 25 October 2021, 110 cases of ASF have been reported by OIE, totalling 118 wild boar deaths. According to ADIS summaries in the same period, there were 153 wild boar events. The Polish General Veterinary Inspectorate are continuing to use trained dogs in the search for dead wild boar.

Romania has reported 81 new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since 25 October according to OIE. Three of the reports were in commercial premises, with between 8,372 and 12,927 animals (totalling 21,299 animals as numbers only reported for two of the three premises). Smaller premises with between 50 and 400 animals, accounted for 2 of the total cases. The remainder were in premises with <50 pigs (comprising a total of 76 farms with 735 animals). There were 37 reports of ASF in wild boar by OIE in the same timeframe, comprising 51 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, 2021c).

Since our last report on 25 October, **Russia** has reported 12 outbreaks in domestic pigs to OIE, of which seven were larger premises with >100 pigs (the largest containing 17,888 pigs). There were also four reports of ASF in wild boar, comprising five 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 13 November 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 one outbreak in domestic pigs since our last report on 25 October 2021, bringing the total to nine outbreaks (ADIS, 2021). According to PAFF presentations (PAFF, 2021d) 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.

There have been no cases of ASF in wild boar reported by OIE in Slovakia (since April 2020), but ADIS reports that between 21 October and 10 November 2021 there have been 41 cases of ASF in wild boar (ADIS, 2021). The most recent is dated 8 November 2021.

Ukraine has reported one outbreak of ASF since our last report on 25 October 2021 (via OIE and ADIS) in a single domestic pig which was the only animal kept on the premises. There has also been a case in wild boar reported which again involved a single animal.

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

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	113	8	3	124
Romania	131	86	79	117	51	57	162	0	198	201	51	1133
Russia	9	4	3	3	5	8	45	34	57	33	6	207
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	2	0	1	2	0	0	3	2	1	0	1	12
Total	142	90	83	122	56	65	214	40	369	242	69	1479

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

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	38	24	0	28	42	35	29	59	31	43	17	346
Hungary	615	315	575	453	431	173	66	42	9	12	8	2699
Latvia	29	25	22	16	11	16	32	44	20	31	16	262
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Poland	172	103	0	141	0	0	0	946	134	109	110	1715
Romania	211	158	100	165	89	51	44	22	33	21	26	920
Russia	5	6	3	5	5	2	22	13	3	20	0	84
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Total	1070	631	700	809	578	277	194	1126	230	236	178	6029

Conclusion

ASF in domestic pigs has been confirmed for the first time in a new region of Germany, as reported by OIE. This new development is unfortunate given the intensive ASF control measures implemented in Brandenburg and Saxony and serves as a reminder of the ability of ASF to spread to a previously unaffected region.

. As intensive surveillance will be implemented around the new outbreak area, it is likely that further outbreaks within the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern state will be reported over the coming months.

ASF continues to be present in domestic pigs across eastern Europe. While the outbreak and case numbers of ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar in Romania have declined since our last report, Romania continues to be considered under Zone III restrictions and unable to export pork products. Therefore, the potential higher risk of personal imports of pork products from Romania for consumption during the Christmas and New Year period remains. ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe, 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 July 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.

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

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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