

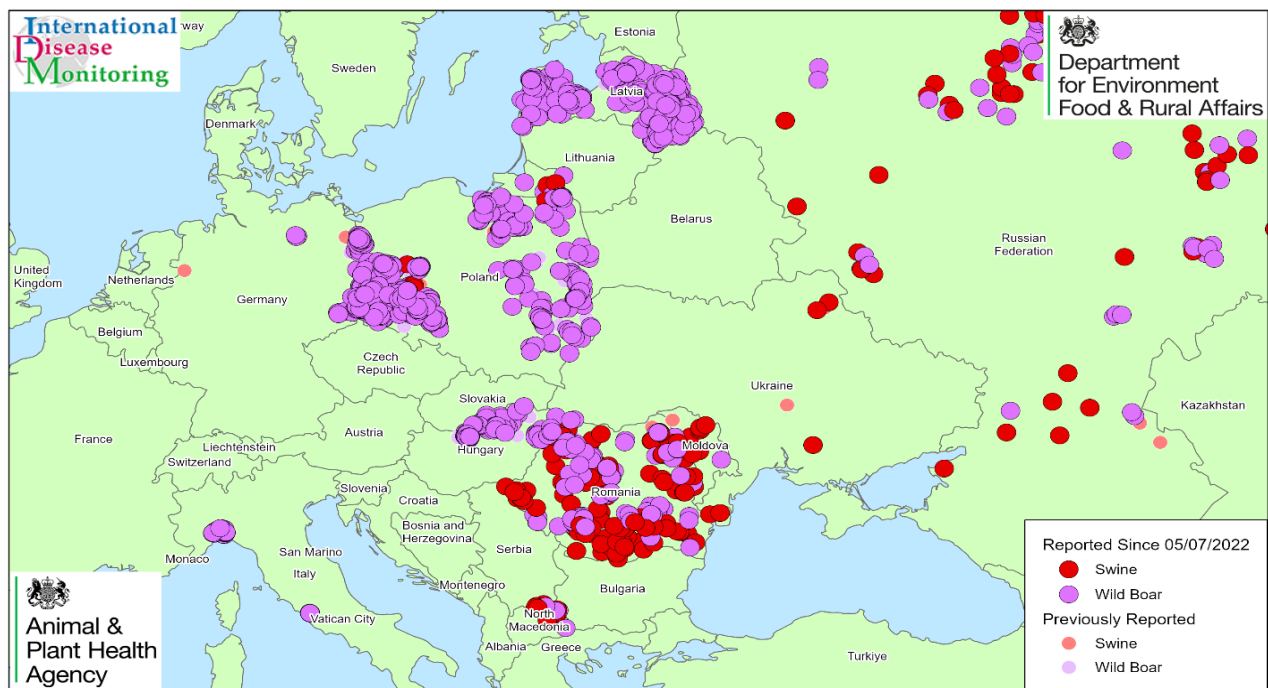
## Updated Outbreak Assessment #28

# African swine fever in Europe

15 December 2022

### Disease report

African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in wild boar in Eastern Europe and north-west Italy. Since our last report on 05 July 2022, ASF has been confirmed in a wild boar carcass from a road traffic collision in the Czech Republic. This is the first report of ASF in the Czech Republic since April 2018. The carcass was found in the Liberecký region in the north of the country just 2.5 km from the border with Poland and approximately 20 km from the nearest ASF wild boar report from Poland. Elsewhere, according to WOAH reports, outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Latvia, Moldova, Poland, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. Bulgaria, Lithuania, Serbia, and Slovakia have all reported ASF in wild boar and/or domestic pigs via ADIS.



Map Prepared by IDM  
Date: 14/12/2022  
Absolute Scale: 1:20,000,000

African Swine Fever  
June 2022 to December 2022  
(WOAH Data Only)

0 375 750 1,125 Km

**Map 1 showing outbreaks and cases of ASF in Europe reported by WOAH between June 2022 and December 2022**

## Outbreak data

Details of all outbreaks and cases provided in the tables and map in this report were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formally OIE), unless stated otherwise. Additional information has been provided, where available, from the EU Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) summary tables (ADIS, 2022), and information from relevant PAFF presentations.

**Table 1: Number of reports for domestic and wild boar from Europe, August – December 2022. N.B – These are individual reports, animal numbers are not considered. WOAH data only.**

Country	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild
Czech Republic												1
Germany		11		25		2		15		31		
Hungary		35		34		13		15		28		8
Italy		21		11		2		3		9		4
Latvia	3	91	2	136	1	88		72		132		22
Moldova	2		3	1	1						2	
Poland	6	63	3	64	1	102		115		175		39
Republic of North Macedonia	1	1	15		5		5	1	1	4	1	
Romania	12	12	22	9	32	17	33	20	42	36	2	12
Russia	17	9	28	18	5	5	3	6	3	5	1	3
Ukraine	1		1									

## Situation assessment

### Bulgaria

There have been no outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Bulgaria since January 2022. Approximately 500 official surveillance visits were conducted between January and June 2022 with no positive results returned (PAFF, 2022a). Awareness campaigns and enhanced biosecurity checks are underway in high-risk zones.

According to ADIS summaries 319 ASF positive wild boar have been detected in Bulgaria since 1 January 2022, with the most recent update of 23 wild boar being submitted on 25 November 2022. No updates have been provided by WOA. Active and passive surveillance of wild boar is ongoing in all regions, with a total of 4.5% of wild boar testing positive via active surveillance (35 out of 769 wild boar) from 2 October 2022 (the start of the hunting season) to 20 October 2022. No infection dynamics in the north of Bulgaria have occurred since October 2020, with all infected pigs found in the south of the country.

The main risks continue to be to backyard pig farms which have minimal impact on live pig or pig product trade.

### Czech Republic

Following the first report of ASF in wild boar in the Czech Republic since April 2018, the Czech state veterinary services have established an [‘infected zone’ in accordance with the Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/687](#) in the area. Within the zone, entry to the forests and hunting will be prohibited and all farmers who keep pigs for non-commercial purposes must send their animals to slaughter within 10 days. There has been 8 farms (one currently without pigs) identified in the zone, with a total of 72 domestic pigs. It is also prohibited to house pigs outdoors in the infection area (ProMed, 2022).

Emergency measures will also be placed on the whole Czech territory, including a ban on feeding wild boar, importing, or exporting wild boar (including as trophies), intensive hunting of wild boar for a year, a ban on feeding catering and kitchen waste to domestic pigs and a ban on using hay and straw from ASF affected countries (PAFF, 2022b).

### Germany

There have been no further reports of ASF in domestic pigs in Germany since our last outbreak assessment in July 2022.

In wild boar, since 05 July 2022, there have been 84 reports comprising of a total of 529 animals. There is no significant reporting of large distance spread since our previous update, all cases have continued to be reported in the Saxony, Brandenburg, and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania regions. Core areas and restriction zones are in place, and these have been extended slightly in recent months to account for the spread of ASF within these regions (PAFF, 2022c). Since October 2022 to date, the majority of reports are still very close to the Polish border, with the most westerly case just north of Dresden, approximately 50 miles west of the border.

Restricted zones in the west of the country have been lifted. The zone in Baden-Württemberg near the French border was lifted in August 2022, and as of October 2022 the restricted zone in Lower Saxony (in the northwest of the country) has also been lifted.

## **Italy**

Since our last report on 05 July, there have been 66 more cases in wild boar in the north-west near Genoa, all of which have been within the Infected Zone. All found dead wild boar in this region are being tested, with 610 and 253 samples taken in Liguria and Piedmont respectively, yielding 65 and 119 positives respectively to 18 October 2022 (PAFF, 2022d).

Near Rome, since our last report in July 2022, there have been a further 8 cases of ASF reported in wild boar, all near to the Insugherata Nature Reserve to the north of the city. The last of these reports near Rome was from 29 September with none reported there since.

The rate of positive samples is decreasing in recent months, with only 1 case per week during September and October, compared to approximately 10 per week during June and July (PAFF, 2022d).

In October 2022, Italy informed the European Commission that the continuous and detailed passive surveillance of kept and wild porcine animals demonstrated the absence of the circulation of the African swine fever virus in the Rieti province, following a suspected case reported in May 2022. The Italian competent authority concluded that the suspected case of African swine fever in the Rieti province should not be considered as a confirmed case of African swine fever in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 because, although nucleic acid specific to the disease was identified in the results of tests on the animal, the animal did not show any clinical signs consistent with the disease, and any epidemiological links with other suspected or confirmed cases was ruled out.

## **Latvia**

Since our last report, Latvia has reported six outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. Three of these outbreaks were reported to WOAHA in early July, shortly after our last outbreak assessment. Of the six reports, five were on backyard premises with fewer than 30 animals. The remaining farm was a commercial pig premises with 1,460 animals.

Latvia also continues to report ASF in wild boar, with 541 reports to WOAHA since our last update, comprising of 703 animals.

## **Moldova**

Moldova has reported 8 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs to WOAHA since July. Of these, seven farms were backyard premises with 40 or fewer pigs. One farm, reported in early December 2022, was a large commercial premises with 29,500 animals.

Alongside these reports in domestic pigs, one wild boar report was also submitted to WOA. Comprising of a single wild boar, shot by hunters in the Tighina hunting ground, in the east of the country near the Ukrainian border.

### **Republic of North Macedonia**

Since the last outbreak assessment, the Republic of North Macedonia has reported 28 cases of ASF in domestic pigs. According to WOA data, 22 of these farms were backyard premises with 70 or fewer animals. Three farms were larger premises with between 95 and 430 animals.

North Macedonia has continued to report ASF in wild boar, with 6 cases since our last report, comprising of 8 total animals. Four of these reports were from 24 November 2022.

### **Ukraine**

Ukraine has reported two cases of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update, one in July and one in August. Both reports were on backyard premises with one and two pigs, respectively. No cases of ASF in wild boar have been reported.

### **ADIS outbreaks**

Some Eastern European countries including Bulgaria, Lithuania, Serbia, and Slovakia have reported ASF outbreaks and cases via ADIS, which are available via ADIS summaries (ADIS 2022). Since 01 January 2022 to 10 December for wild boar cases, Bulgaria has reported 319, Estonia 48, Lithuania 298, Serbia 117, and Slovakia 528. In addition, for domestic pig outbreaks, Bulgaria has reported two, Lithuania 16, Serbia 102, and Slovakia five since 01 January 2022. In the week from 01 December 2022 to 07 December 2022, Serbia reported two more domestic pig outbreaks.

## **Conclusion**

ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of eastern Europe and in November crossed the border into the north of the Czech Republic with detection in a wild boar found dead after a road collision. This was not unexpected and most likely represents natural spread through movement of infected wild boar north of the border. The re-emergence of ASF in wild boar in the Czech Republic is notable following their continued efforts at remaining disease free after successfully eradicating the incursion around Zlin that emerged in 2018. Although no large geographical jumps have been reported in Europe since our last update on 05 July 2022 when ASF was reported in domestic pigs in western Germany 15 km from the border with the Netherlands, ASF continues sporadically in domestic pigs in several countries in eastern Europe with many pig outbreaks in Romania and to a lesser extent Serbia. There have been no further reports of ASF in domestic pigs in eastern or western Germany since our update on 5 July.

While the number of outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs across Europe has seen a general decline over the last few months, reported outbreaks of ASF in Romania seem to be

increasing again towards the end of the year with 33 domestic pig outbreaks in October and 42 in November. Romania continues to be under restrictions and unable to export pork products. The potential high risk for non-commercial imports of pork products from Romania during the Christmas period remains of high concern. We have observed increases in reports of ASF in Romania and Eastern Europe at this time of the year in previous years, as many weaners are bred in backyard premises in anticipation for Christmas.

We consider the risk of entry of ASF virus in live animals and products of animal origin (POAO) from affected countries, remains at **medium (occurs regularly)**.

Following the large geographical jumps in locations of disease as a result of human-mediated routes in western Europe (western Germany in particular) over the summer months, the risk from this particular pathway was considered heightened in our last update. Whilst there is data suggesting that the human-mediated, large distance jumps of ASF have slowed in the EU recently, with Restriction Zones in the west of Germany being lifted, evidence from inspections at Great Britain ports suggest that there are several vehicles illegally bringing pork meat into Great Britain from some regions of the EU affected by ASF. Some of these instances involved large quantities of porcine POAO, some of which appear to be home-slaughtered and arrive in Great Britain from an undisclosed origin as a non-commercial import, with poor levels of biosecurity and food hygiene. Therefore, the risk of ASF entering Great Britain, from the human-mediated pathway and moving porcine POAO, is considered to remain at **HIGH (occurs very often)**, though there is considerable uncertainty around this until data is fully collated and analysed and we will reassess as further information becomes available.

It remains a critical time for the spread of the virus throughout Europe as well as into other regions through human-mediated routes such as introduction from non-commercial imports (including illegal imports) or fomites. On 1 September 2022, strict new controls were introduced restricting the movement of pork and pork products into Great Britain from the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association states. It is no longer legal to personally bring in pork or pork products weighing over 2 kilograms unless they are produced to the EU's commercial standards. This does not apply to commercial imports, which remain unaffected by the control, but Great Britain will be bringing in further controls in late 2023. Although this legislation does not currently apply to non-commercial imports of pork products less than 2 kg from the EU, all travelers are strongly advised to avoid bringing, buying, ordering on the internet, or requesting any pork products – for example, fresh or frozen meat, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis, or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. It remains illegal for travelers to import meat or dairy products from Asia and other non-EU country areas.

Swill feeding any animal, whether pigs, poultry, ruminants, or wildlife is illegal and has the potential to cause substantial harm. We would like to emphasise to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders, and the 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, these 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

Joe Bowen

Dr Lauren Perrin

Dr Paul Gale

Anthony Pacey

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [iadm@apha.gov.uk](mailto:iadm@apha.gov.uk)