

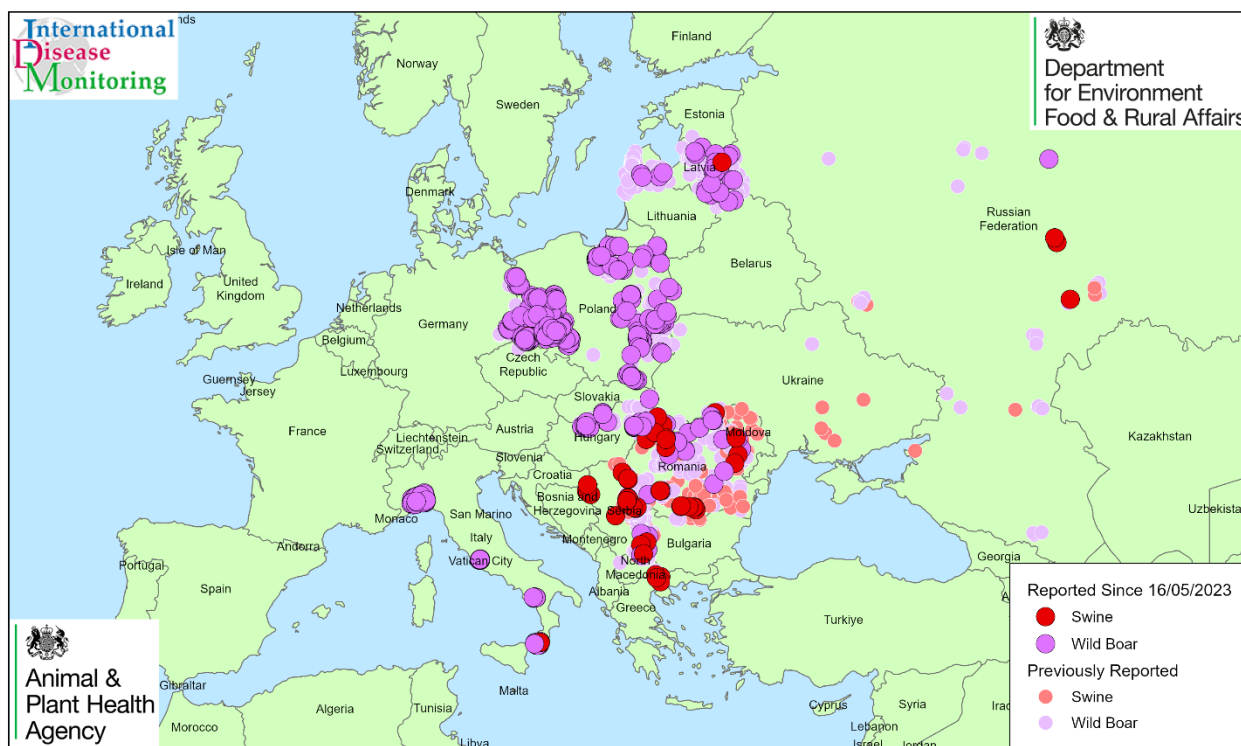
Updated Outbreak Assessment #32

African swine fever in Europe

28 June 2023

Disease report

African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in domestic pigs and wild boar in Europe. Since our last report on 16 May 2023, ASF has been confirmed for the first time on domestic pig farms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia. ASF in wild boar has been confirmed in two further regions in Italy with Lombardy and Campania now affected. Furthermore, ASF has been confirmed in domestic pigs on 4 more premises in Italy, 4 more premises in Greece, and in 5 more premises in Poland.



Map Prepared by IDM

Date: 29/06/2023

Absolute Scale: 1:28,800,000

African Swine Fever
November 2022 to June 2023
(WOAH Data Only)

Map 1 Showing ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar across Europe from November 2022 to June 2023

Elsewhere, according to WOAH reports, outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Latvia, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia and Serbia. Since our last report the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania,

Russia, Serbia and Ukraine have all reported ASF in wild boar, according to WOAAH reports (Map 1).

Outbreak data

Details of all outbreaks and cases provided in the map in this report were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE), unless stated otherwise. Additional information has been provided, where available, from the [EU Animal Disease Information System \(ADIS\) summary tables](#), and information from relevant PAFF (the EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed) presentations.

Situation assessment

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina has reported ASF for the first time. According to WOAAH, the outbreak was in 1 pig on a domestic pig farm in Bijeljina in the north-east of the country, close to the borders with Serbia and Croatia. Several more outbreaks in domestic pigs in Bosnia and Herzegovina are yet to be reported to WOAAH. Movement controls, surveillance within restricted zones and wildlife controls are being applied.

Croatia

Croatia has also reported ASF for the first time, on 5 domestic pig farms near Drenovci in the south-east of the country. These farms are around 30km from the outbreak in Bosnia and Herzegovina and are also close to the border with Serbia. All farms contained fewer than 10 pigs. An ASF surveillance plan has been in place in Croatia since 2019, and legislation for prevention and early detection and control has been in place. Since 2019, there has been passive surveillance of over 29,000 domestic pigs and over 250 wild boar, along with active surveillance of over 12,000 wild boar. There have also been biosecurity categorisation of all pig establishment to improve biosecurity, along with public awareness campaigns ([PAFF March 2023 Croatia](#)).

Greece

In January 2023, we reported on the re-emergence of ASF in two wild boar in the Serres region of Greece. This was the first report of ASF since a single outbreak on a backyard farm in the same region of Serres in February 2020. Surveillance continues in the area, with 450 wild boar tested for ASF to date ([PAFF May 2023 Greece](#)) and no new cases in wild boar have been detected to date. However, since our last report, Greece has reported 4 further outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Central Macedonia, with Kilkis, Sindiki, Serres and Langadas now affected. These outbreaks were on farm premises with between 2 and 81 pigs. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to try and determine the most likely source of infection.

Italy

In our last assessment, we reported ASF cases in wild boar detected for the first time in Calabria, southern Italy. Subsequently, ASF was also confirmed on 4 pig farms in Calabria which contained between 2 and 11 pigs. It is suspected that disease has been introduced via human-mediated routes such as through movement of contaminated pork products or fomites, since there is a major road trade route through the area with considerable human traffic ([PAFF May 2023 Italy](#)).

Since our last report on 16 May 2023, ASF has been reported in wild boar in 2 new regions of Italy, Lombardy and Campania. This brings the total number of affected regions to 7, including Sardinia, where ASF genotype I has circulated since the 1970s. There have been 138 more cases in wild boar in the north-west near Genoa, all of which have been within the existing Restriction Zones (RZs). There have been 2 ASF cases in a wild boar in the neighbouring region of Lombardy. There have also been a further 34 cases in Lazio, central Italy. In Calabria, there have been a further 7 ASF cases in wild boar, and in the newly affected Campania, there have been 24 wild boar cases.

Control and surveillance measures in accordance with Regulations (EU) 2020/687/ and 2023/594 have been applied. Protection and surveillance zones have been implemented around the affected farm premises and the wild boar cases. There is currently no evidence of an epidemiological link between cases in Calabria and Campania and disease clusters in northern or central Italy, although phylogenetic analysis is ongoing ([PAFF May 2023 Italy](#)).

In Sardinia, where ASF genotype I has been present since the 1970s, there have been no seropositive cases in wild boar in the RZ II since November 2021, and the last positive PCR result was in 2019.

Poland

In Poland, since 16 May 2023, there have been 6 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs reported. This comes after a decrease in reports with just single outbreaks in April 2023 and September 2022. One of these recent outbreaks has been reported to WOA and was on a farm premises with 5 animals in Lubań in south-west Poland in April 2023. A further outbreak occurred on a pig farm with 94 pigs in the north-west of the country, and 3 were in eastern Poland on farms with between 109 and 1,216 pigs ([PAFF June 2023 Poland](#)). All outbreaks were in RZ II zones. Since our last report, according to WOA, there were further 504 reports of ASF in wild boar in the east and the west of the country (where there is high domestic pig density) comprising a total of 880 animals. Of these, 318 had start dates of May and June 2023 with the remainder starting in March and April 2023.

Czech Republic

In December 2022, [the Czech Republic reported the first case of ASF since April 2018](#). The Czech Republic have reported 21 more cases of ASF in wild boar involving 27 animals since our last assessment in May 2023. All cases were in the Liberec region,

close to the Poland border. The Czech Republic is yet to report any outbreaks in domestic pigs.

Germany

Since 16 May 2023, there have been 12 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising of a total of 66 animals. There is no significant reporting of large distance spread since our previous update, all cases have continued to be reported in the Saxony and Brandenburg regions, close to the border with Poland. The permanent double fences between Brandenburg and Poland, and between Saxony and Brandenburg are now completed ([PAFF March 2023 Germany](#)). Construction of a double fence between Saxony and western Germany is ongoing. It has been concluded that there is no longer any active ASF activity in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania ([PAFF April 2023 Germany](#))

Hungary

Since 16 May 2023, there have been a further 40 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising a total of 46 animals in Hungary. Around half of these were in the east of the country close to the border with Romania, with the remainder of reports west of Budapest, within the RZ II.

Latvia

Since our last report, Latvia has reported 1 outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs to WOA, on a farm premises with 1 animal.

Latvia continues to report ASF in wild boar, with 32 reports to WOA since our last update, comprising of 37 animals.

Moldova

Since our last report, Moldova has reported no outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs or wild boar.

Republic of North Macedonia

Since the last outbreak assessment, the Republic of North Macedonia has reported 1 outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs on a village premises containing three pigs in the north of the country.

North Macedonia has continued to report ASF in wild boar, with 1 case since our last report.

Romania

Romania has reported 29 outbreaks in domestic pigs across the whole of the country since our last assessment. Of these, 3 outbreaks were on farm premises with between 1,600 and 13,700 animals. One outbreak involved two dead pigs found in a public place, and the remaining 25 outbreaks were on backyard premises with between 1 and 46 animals. The whole of Romania remains under RZ III restrictions.

Romania also reported 20 cases of ASF in wild boar, comprising of 25 animals.

Russia

Russia has reported 6 outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last assessment according to WOAHA reports. Of these, 3 were on farm premises with between 120 and 160 animals, 1 was on a village premises with 16 animals and 2 were on backyard premises with fewer than 13 animals.

There were also 2 cases of ASF in wild boar in Russia since our last assessment.

Serbia

Serbia has reported 31 outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last assessment according to WOAHA reports. These were all on backyard premises with between 1 and 129 pigs.

There were also 15 cases of ASF in wild boar in Serbia which affected 18 animals.

Ukraine

Ukraine has reported no outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update. Ukraine has reported 1 case of ASF in wild boar.

ADIS outbreaks

Some Eastern European countries including Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, and Slovakia have reported ASF outbreaks and cases via ADIS only (to date), which are available via ADIS summaries (ADIS 2023).

Conclusion

The introduction of ASF into domestic pigs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia so soon after ASF re-emergence in Greece and the Czech Republic is disappointing though not surprising. These outbreaks were detected close to the border with Serbia which has, according to ADIS, reported over 160 outbreaks in domestic pigs so far in 2023, and is not subject to European Commission ASF restrictions. Additionally, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia were two of nine Balkan countries (which included Greece) identified by EFSA as having a very high chance (66- 100%) of disease spread inside their borders, within a year of introduction (EFSA, 2019). It is of note that the initial outbreaks have been reported in domestic pigs, albeit in smallholdings, rather than wild boar, and close to borders with known ASF affected countries. The EFSA (2019) report predicted that the natural median spread of ASF due to wild boar movements was between 2.9-11.7 km/year, but that human mediated translocation of ASF remains an important contributing factor to disease spread. It is unclear whether these introductions have been from movements of wild boar or through human-mediated transmission. Further confirmations are expected following the initial reports.

ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of eastern Europe, although the number of outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases reported in wild boar decreased considerably in 2022, for the first time ([African swine fever decreases in pigs and wild boar in the EU during 2022 | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#)). However, ASF still remains a threat with EU pork production at its lowest level in almost a decade according to recent reports, with ASF (which limits export opportunities), input costs and consumer cost of living being given as reasons ([AHDB 2023](#)). The first outbreaks of the year in domestic pigs in Poland and Latvia are consistent with seasonal increases in domestic pig outbreaks seen in previous years in Poland, Romania, Lithuania and Slovakia (EFSA, 2022). The cause of these seasonal increases is yet to be determined. However, previous long-distance 'jumps' of ASF to domestic pigs in western Germany in summer 2022 were thought to have been facilitated by movements of seasonal workers.

The latest cases in wild boar in new regions across Italy demonstrates the difficulty of containing the disease. The likely pathways of introduction to these regions are human mediated transport of infected products or contaminated equipment / products (fomites) with subsequent exposure of susceptible animals, although movement of wild boar from nearby regions cannot be ruled out. The recent incursion of disease to the regions of Lombardy and Calabria are of particular concern as these are areas with a higher proportion of pig producers.

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

The potential high risk for non-commercial imports of pork products from ASF affected areas remains of high concern. 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. 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

Dr Sonny Bacigalupo

Anthony Pacey

Dr Lauren Perrin

References

ADIS (2023) Animal Disease Information System. Available from: https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/animal-disease-information-system-adis_en. Accessed 18 April 2023

AHDB (2023) <https://ahdb.org.uk/news/eu-pork-prices-and-production-so-far-this-year>. Accessed 29 June 2023

EFSA (2019) <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5861>. Accessed on 29 June 2023

EFSA (2022), Baños, J.V., Boklund, A., Gogin, A., Gortázar, C., Guberti, V., Helyes, G., Kantere, M., Korytarova, D., Linden, A. and Masiulis, M.. Epidemiological analyses of

African swine fever in the European Union: (September 2020 to August 2021). EFSA Journal, 20(5), p.e07290.

EFSA (2023), Ståhl, K., Boklund, A., Podgórski, T, Vergne, T., Abrahantes, J.C., Papanikolaou, A., Zancanaro, G. and Mur, L. Scientific report on epidemiological analysis of African swine fever in the European Union during 2022. EFSA Journal 2023;21(5):8016, 50 pp. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.8016>