

Updated Outbreak Assessment #39

African swine fever in Europe

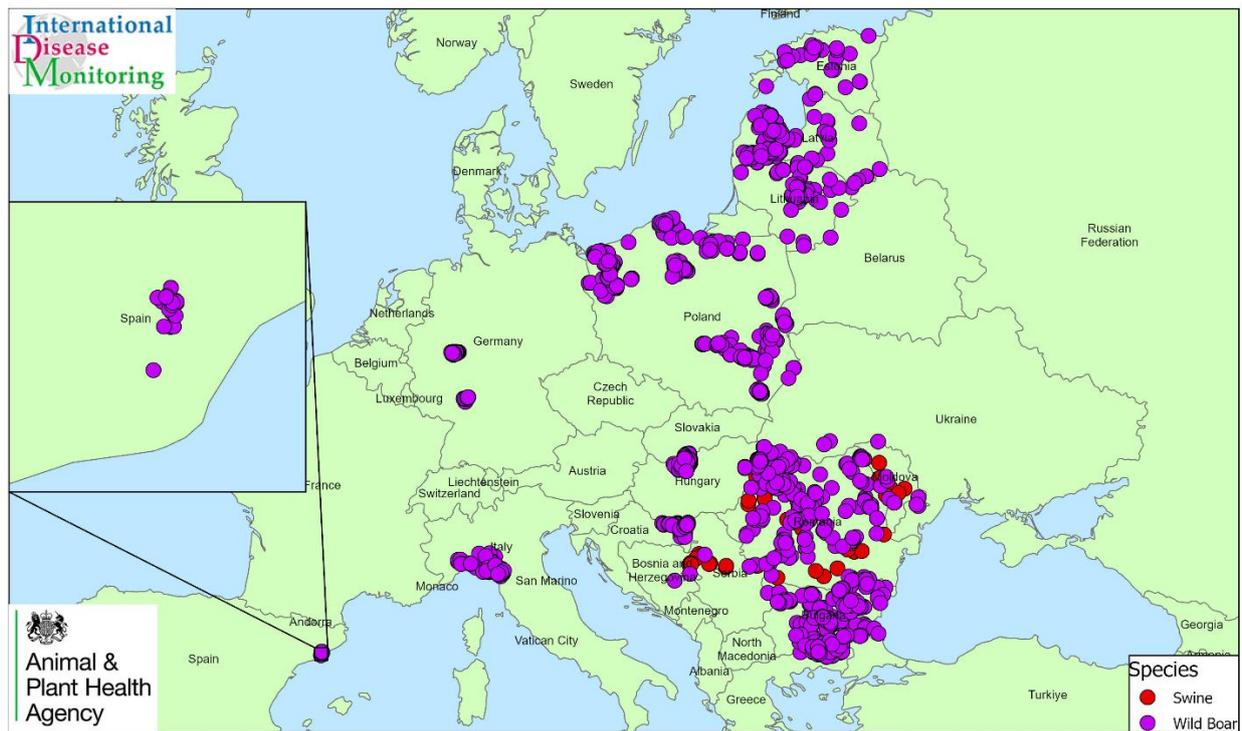
24 February 2026

Disease report

Since our [last update](#) on 5 January 2026 African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in domestic pigs and wild boar across Europe. Most notably there have been additional detections of ASF in Spain in wild boar, with a further expansion in the restriction zone towards the south, and implementation of RZI and RZII zones. There has also been spread west in Germany with the first detections of ASF in wild boar in the Hochsauerland district (North Rhine-Westphalia).

According to reports published by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), additional outbreaks of ASF have been reported in domestic pigs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, and Serbia (Figure 1). Additionally, WOAH has reported additional cases of ASF in wild boar across Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Spain and Ukraine. In January and to 24 February 2026, the total number of ASF cases in wild boar in Europe were 1,119 and 752 respectively. This continues a recent trend in increased reports of ASF cases in wild boar in Europe from 2025 onwards (Figure 2).

In contrast to cases in wild boar, the number of outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs across Europe has remained consistent with the lower reports in 2024 and 2025 (Figure 3) compared to the peak in 2023 (Figure 3). In January and February, the total number of ASF cases in domestic pigs in Europe were 12 and 52 respectively. The number of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar by country and year (2023-2025) are available in Appendix A.



Map Prepared by IDM
 Date: 26/02/2026
 Absolute Scale: 1:22,000,000

African Swine Fever
 05 January to 24 February 2026
 (WOAH Data Only)



Figure 1: Map of African swine fever outbreaks in domestic pigs (red points) and wild boar cases (purple points) across Europe from 18 June to 31 December 2025. (WOAH data only).

'Restricted zone III (RZ III)' means an area of a Member State listed in EU legislation due to an outbreak of African swine fever in a kept porcine animal with a precise geographical delimitation subject to special disease control measures.

'Infected Area' means an area in which any RZ restrictions have been applied, but the boundaries of the RZs are yet to be implemented into legislation.

Situation assessment

Spain

Spain reported its first cases of ASF in wild boar since 1994 on 28 November 2025. As of 24 February, the [ministry of agriculture for Spain](#) (MAPA) reported a total of 162 cases (up from 11 on the 5 January). All cases have been reported in Catalonia. MAPA have identified 3 primary outbreaks with 28 secondary outbreaks in surrounding areas. The most recent update showed detections near Sant Feliu de Llobregat 7km south of known cases in wild boar and the restricted zone was extended as a result. No farms have been affected at this time.

On 20 February the zoning proposals put forward by Spain were officially recognised by the EU. Under the new control measures, areas where ASF virus has been detected in wild boar population are subject to RZII regulations and a RZI zone has been established around the active zone where the virus has not been detected. This new zoning allows for the movement of domestic pigs and wild boar products outside of the restricted zones which was previously not possible. Control measures as part of the restricted zones include, fencing of affected zones to prevent wild boar from moving, 100% sampling of wild boar culled by trained hunters, active searches for carcasses, and pig traps.

EU Veterinary Emergency Teams (EUVET) visited Spain twice, in early and mid-December. They determined that cases likely first started occurring in Spain in October 2025, indicating the epidemic was likely in its initial exponential phase. The second visit was to investigate the Animal Health Research Centre (Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal (CReSA), following concerns that the virus may have been released from these laboratories. Based on their findings, EUVET could not identify any obvious routes for virus release from the facilities.

According to [December 2025 PAFF presentations](#), the initial cases in wild boar in Spain were confirmed as genotype II. This is the genotype circulating across Europe. However, there is a novel nucleotide change in the sequence, making it a new subgroup of genotype II. These genetic differences mean it is not possible to narrow down the origin of the strain. The [January 2026 PAFF presentation](#) has highlighted a low mortality rate in wild boar in Catalonia. It is being considered that a possible deletion event could be affecting the virulence of the virus, but this could also be due to low transmissibility in the area.

Germany

Since our last report, WOAAH has reported 80 cases of ASF in wild boar in Germany. These reports were largely historical cases from 2025. Cases were reported in Hesse (12), and in North Rhine-Westphalia (68). Cases of ASF in wild boar have continued in North Rhine-Westphalia since the first detection on 16 June 2025. Within North Rhine-Westphalia, the core area has been fenced to prevent spread of the disease. Despite these restrictions, there have been the first detections in the town of Olpe (18 km from recent reports in Kirchhundem), this marks a small expansion further to the west within North Rhine-Westphalia. Olpe is 60 km from Cologne. Media articles have also confirmed the first detections of ASF in wild boar in the Hochsauerland district (North Rhine-Westphalia) ([WDR, 2026](#)).

The [PAFF presentation in February](#) confirmed that in wild boar, 23 cases occurred in January, and 21 occurred in February, this is much lower compared to data from January (325) and February (300) 2025. The [PAFF presentation in January](#) also highlighted that, between 14 June 2025 up to 20 January 2026, there were 311 PCR positive cases of ASF in wild boar. This brings the total number of cases to 2003, for 2025. These include carcasses that had been hunted, found dead, shot because they had clinical signs, or reported from car accidents.

On the 5 February 2026 Saxony was declared free from ASF by the German Ministry of Social Affairs, following no cases in the area for over 12 months ([DieSachsen News, 2026](#)).

Italy

Since our last report, Italy has reported 189 cases of ASF in wild boar. Of these 189 cases, 128 occurred in Tuscany, 44 in Liguria, 12 in Emilia-Romagna, 4 in Piemonte and 1 in Lombardi. All reports occurred in areas already affected by ASF.

Poland

Since the last update, Poland has reported 434 cases of ASF in wild boar throughout the country. A further 11 cases were published since our last update resulting in a further expansion of the Restriction Zones in the Łódzkie region in central Poland.

Hungary

Since the last update, there have been a further 202 reports of ASF in wild boar in Hungary. Compared to previous years this is relatively high, in 2023 and 2024 there were less than 450 cases in total (Table 2A). There continues to be 3 main clusters of cases, one being just to the north of Budapest, another in Salgótarján and the final cluster around Debrecen.

The [PAFF presentation in February](#) showed that as of the 15 February 2026, a total of 1,240 boar have been culled in this county since the campaign started on the 11 December 2025, the RZ in Baranya has been extended and further measures have been put in place to prevent wildlife movements. The presentation also confirmed that there have not been any detections of ASF in domestic pigs in Hungary.

Romania

Since our last assessment, Romania has reported 43 additional outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs across the whole of the country. Of these 43 outbreaks, 1 outbreak involved domestic pigs found on public land, 1 was on a pig farm, the remaining 41 outbreaks occurred on backyard premises with fewer than 70 animals. Compared to previous years this is relatively low, in 2025 there were 478 outbreaks (Table 1A). The whole of Romania remains under RZ III restrictions. Since our last update, Romania also reported 206 cases of ASF in wild boar which is almost as much as the total number of cases for 2024 and 2025 (256 and 206 respectively).

Estonia

Since our last update, Estonia has reported 26 outbreaks of ASF in wild boar throughout the country. Additionally, the entire of Estonia is now under RZI and RZII ([EU Commission, 2026](#)).

Serbia

Serbia has reported an additional 15 cases of ASF in wild boar across the entire country which is consistent with previous years (Table A2).

Latvia

Since our last report, one outbreak of ASF was reported in domestic pigs, this outbreak was located in Vaiņodes pagasts in the southwest, bordering Lithuania. This farm had 4 positive cases out of 2,000 susceptible animals. Furthermore, 192 cases of ASF in wild boar were reported throughout the country. The [PAFF presentation for January](#) highlighted that Latvia put in an application for reverting RZ III to RZ II for the restriction zone for Bauska Country.

Lithuania

Since our last report, Lithuania reported 186 cases of ASF in wild boar across the entire country. The [PAFF presentation for January](#) highlighted that no outbreaks of ASF have been reported in domestic pigs for 2026. The country is proposing to change the area to an RZII in surrounding the Panevėžys district.

Greece

Since our last report, Greece has reported 1 case of ASF in wild boar. This occurred in Kato Nevrokopi along the northern border, 12 km from Bulgaria.

Bulgaria

Since our last update, Bulgaria has reported 273 cases of ASF in wild boar, this is a large number of cases compared to recent years (Table 2A). The large number of cases highlights a recent worsening in the epidemiological situation for ASF in Bulgaria. In 2023 and 2024, no reports of ASF in wild boar were published by WOA. In 2025, there were a total of 668 reports for the year, compared to 273 in the first 2 months of 2026. No outbreaks of ASF were reported in domestic pigs.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Since our last report, Bosnia and Herzegovina have reported 4 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. All 4 outbreaks occurred in Vlasenica, in the east of the country, 23km from the border of Serbia. Out of these 4 outbreaks, 3 were estimated to have occurred in December 2025, while 1 occurred in January 2026. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported 2 cases of ASF in wild boar, 1 occurred in Vlasenica where recent domestic outbreaks have occurred, and the other occurred in Sarajevo towards the centre of the country.

Croatia

Since our last report, Croatia has reported 1 outbreak of ASF on a small farm containing 22 pigs. The farm was tested after a sow aborted. This farm is located in Osijek an area where ASF cases have been documented recently in wild boar. Osjecko-Baranjska is close to the borders with Hungary and Serbia

Croatia also reported an additional 33 cases of ASF in wild boar. 32 of which occurred in Osjecko-Baranjska County. The other case occurred in Vukovarsko-Srijemska County which is next to Osjecko-Baranjska. Almost all of these reports occurred in recent weeks. This marks a notable increase compared to previous years, with 9 cases being reported in wild boar for the whole of 2023 and 33 for 2024. From the February [PAFF Presentations](#), Croatia has proposed to extend the RZI to cover the municipality of Čađavica in response to recent cases of ASF in wild boar along the Hungary Croatian border.

Moldova

Since our last report, Moldova has reported 7 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs across the country. All outbreaks were on backyard holdings with the number of animals unspecified in most cases. Moldova has also reported 10 cases of ASF in wild boar.

Slovakia

Since our last report, according to ADIS summaries, there have been no outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs or wild boar.

From the January [PAFF Presentations](#), the surveillance for 2025 has been concluded with 446 positive cases in wild boar compared to 679 and 306 cases reported in 2023 and 2024 respectively. Between January and December 2025, 321 cases of wild boar found dead were positive for ASF and 125 cases were found in wild boar that were hunted. The positive cases were largely concentrated around the southern border near Hungary up to central Slovakia. The RZII in this area has been expanded further southeast covering an additional 39 municipalities. For 2025, the number of cases of ASF in domestic pigs was 13 out of 10,120 samples, down from the peak of 201 positives in 2023, and slightly higher than the 1 positive case in 2024. No cases of ASF have been reported in domestic swine since May 2025.

Ukraine

Since our last report, Ukraine has reported 2 cases of ASF in wild boar. These 2 cases occurred in Chernivtsi and Ivano-Frankivsk, both of which are in the Oblast region in the west of the country near Romania.

Conclusion

ASF continues to circulate in wild boar across multiple regions in Europe. Overall, the number of ASF cases in wild boar has been increasing throughout 2024, 2025, and in the first months of 2026 (1119 cases in January and 752 cases in February) (Figure 2). Moreover, the continued detection of ASF in wild boar in Spain and expansion of the restricted zone, highlights the challenges of containing ASF and the continued threat to livestock. In contrast to wild boar, the number of ASF outbreaks in Europe in domestic pig farms has remained consistent with 2024 and 2025 (Figure 3).

The continued rise in cases among wild boar in western Germany, within 70 km of the French border, is concerning. However, the disease has remained largely contained within fenced regions, as the closest reported case to France has held steady at that distance for some time.

Human-mediated spread has been implicated in large geographical jumps previously (Sweden in 2023), and there could be gradual spread further west through movements of wild boar if they are not effectively controlled through fencing and culling. Disease spread has remained relatively slow in northern Italy with reduced numbers of cases in wild boar in 2025 compared to 2023 and 2024. Although there have been expansions of the disease

into new regions such as Tuscany and a substantial number of new reports in the first two months of 2026. Italy reported 644 cases of ASF in wild boar in 2025 and so far, this year, there have been 189 reports of ASF cases (Table A2).

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 unchanged at **MEDIUM (occurs regularly)**.

As of 18 December 2025, Great Britain has introduced an [EU-wide ban](#) for personal imports of fresh meat, meat products, milk, dairy products, colostrum, colostrum products and certain composite products and animal by-products of ruminant and porcine origin. This is in response to multiple disease outbreaks across the EU. These special measures will apply until revoked or amended and replace earlier safeguard declarations.

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 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.

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. Read guidance about [African swine fever: how to spot and report the disease](#) for more information.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at iadm@apha.gov.uk.

Appendix A- WOAHA data only

Table A1: Number of outbreaks in domestic pigs, 2023-2026

Country	2023	2024	2025	2026
Albania	0	1	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1508	36	52	4
Bulgaria	2	1	0	0
Croatia	9	290	53	1
Estonia	0	0	11	0
Germany	1	10	0	0
Greece	1	0	14	0
Italy	15	32	1	0
Moldova	19	13	53	7
North Macedonia	14	6	1	0
Poland	30	44	18	0
Romania	529	217	478	43
Serbia	604	304	249	8
Ukraine	37	69	21	0

Table A2: Number of cases of ASF in wild boar 2023-2026

Country	2023	2024	2025	2026
Albania	0	3	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	22	45	27	2
Bulgaria	0	0	668	273
Croatia	9	33	254	33
Czech Republic	49	27	1	0
Estonia	0	0	249	26
Germany	153	365	2075	80
Greece	2	18	80	1
Hungary	407	437	877	202
Italy	1029	1198	644	189
Moldova	4	4	24	10
Montenegro	0	1	1	0
North Macedonia	41	62	17	0
Poland	2746	2152	3491	434
Romania	291	177	256	206
Serbia	343	92	64	15
Spain	0	0	11	20
Sweden	60	8	0	0
Ukraine	10	15	34	2