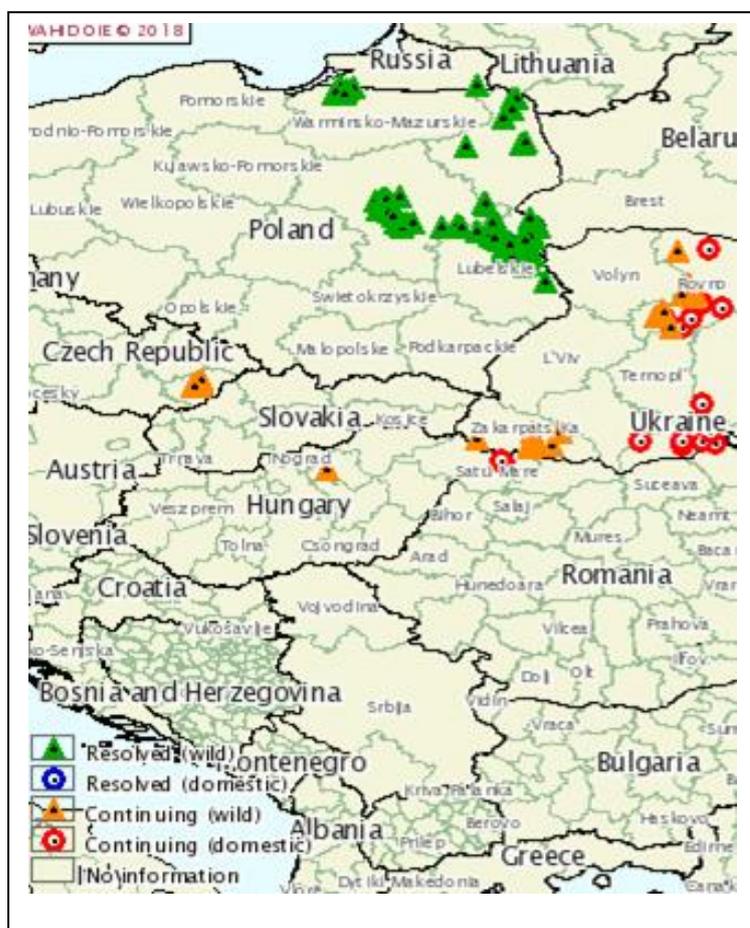


UPDATE ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

3 May 2018

Hungary

The Hungarian veterinary authorities confirmed the **first outbreak of African swine fever (ASF)** in the country on 21 April 2018. The disease was found in a dead wild boar located in Heves, a province in the Northern Hungary near the Slovakian border. The area of Heves where the dead boar was found is an industrial area that employs a lot of staff from other EU and third countries. It is suspected that the virus may have been transmitted to the boar through food waste contaminated with infected meat although the investigation is ongoing to determine the exact source of the infection. Since the initial case, the Hungarian authorities have confirmed ASF in **a further three wild boar** from the same area (approximately 2.5km from the first case).



Above: Location of wild boar case in Hungary on 21 April 2018 (source: ADNS – European Commission)

Left: OIE WAHIS map showing ASF events in Hungary and surrounding countries from 01 April to 27 April 2018.

Czech Republic

ASF was confirmed for the first time in the Czech Republic in June 2017 in wild boar. Despite a huge effort by the authorities there to contain the disease using electric and smell fences for example, a small cohort of wild boar escaped and consequently, new cases of ASF were found in wild boar further south in the country.

African swine fever situation in the rest of the European Union

Romania reported 3 further outbreaks of ASF in backyard pig farms in January 2018 in the Satu Mare region in the north of the country. However, to date there have been no cases in wild boar in Romania. Poland and the Baltic countries of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia continue to be affected by cases of ASF in wild boar with 4 outbreaks occurring in domestic pig farms in Poland also in 2018.

African swine fever in the EU 2018 (01/01/18 to 25/04/18)*

Country	Date of last outbreak in domestic pigs	ASF Domestic Pigs No. outbreaks	Date of last cases in wild boar	No. of ASF positive wild boar events (involving 1 or more animals)	Total No. of wild boar events & outbreaks in pigs
Romania	13/03/2018	3	N/A	0	3
Czech Republic	N/A	0	19/04/2018	28	28
Estonia	N/A	0	18/04/2018	152	152
Latvia	N/A	0	20/04/2018	297	297
Lithuania	N/A	0	21/04/2018	784	784
Poland	23/02/2018	4	20/04/2018	1091	1095
Hungary	N/A	0	21/04/2018	4	4
TOTAL		7		2356	2363

*Excludes Italy and Ukraine

The role of hunters in the control and eradication of African swine fever in Eastern Europe

The role of hunters in the management of ASF has been examined at a greater level in the EU and many of the affected countries have implemented specific measures in relation to hunting of wild boars such as:

- Introduction of training and information campaigns on biosecurity for hunting wild boar including management of wild boar carcasses.
- Limiting the hunting of wild boar in the infected areas to hunting by individual trained hunters only.
- Banning /controlling collective hunts (for all types of game) in are banned in the infected areas.
- Use of dedicated dressing and cold storage facilities to prevent the removal of carcasses or meat from infected areas until a negative result for the virus has been returned including use of dedicated vehicles which do not leave the infected area to transport carcasses from where they are shot to the dressing facilities.
- Use of disinfectants on the ground where the boar was shot or found.
- Provision of financial incentive to hunters to report wild boar that are found dead in order that they may be removed, tested and processed by the authorities quickly and the site disinfected to reduce the environmental virus load.
- Measures to reduce the wild boar density in infected and adjacent areas including a ban on the feeding of wild boar and restricted use of baiting using feed for trapping or shooting purposes and in some cases compensation for wild boar shot.



Left: dressing facilities located in a hunting area in Lithuania to prevent the removal of meat until a negative ASF result has returned



Above Top: A dedicated transport vehicle in Lithuania used to transport the boar carcass from the kill site to the dressing area in an infected area

Above: Veterinary authorities in Lithuania removing dead wild boar that were found in a river



Right: Type of container located in the hunting area used in Latvia (grey) and Czech Republic (blue) to store the offal and animal by products from wild boar that are shot in the infected area.

Reference: Photos are from a TAIEX Workshop Presentation, Sofia, Bulgaria- Hunters and Biosecurity. Safe wild game carcass management, Strategic approaches for strengthening biosecurity measures courtesy of Dr. Marius Masiulis, Emergency Response Department, State Food and Veterinary Service of Lithuania

Actions in Ireland

As Ireland does not have a wild boar population and as we do not normally import pigs from the countries affected by ASF, the risk to Ireland is low. However DAFM does implement an ongoing awareness campaign in relation to ASF. Further information on ASF can be found at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrol/africanswinefever/>

In addition DAFM is producing multilingual posters to increase awareness of African swine fever among staff and visitors to Irish pig farms in order to highlight the risk of bringing pork or pork products into Ireland which may be infected with the virus from infected regions of the EU. DAFM is also planning to produce information material for hauliers and transport operators who may travel through infected regions of the EU.

NDCC and Border Inspection Points

03/05/2018