

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

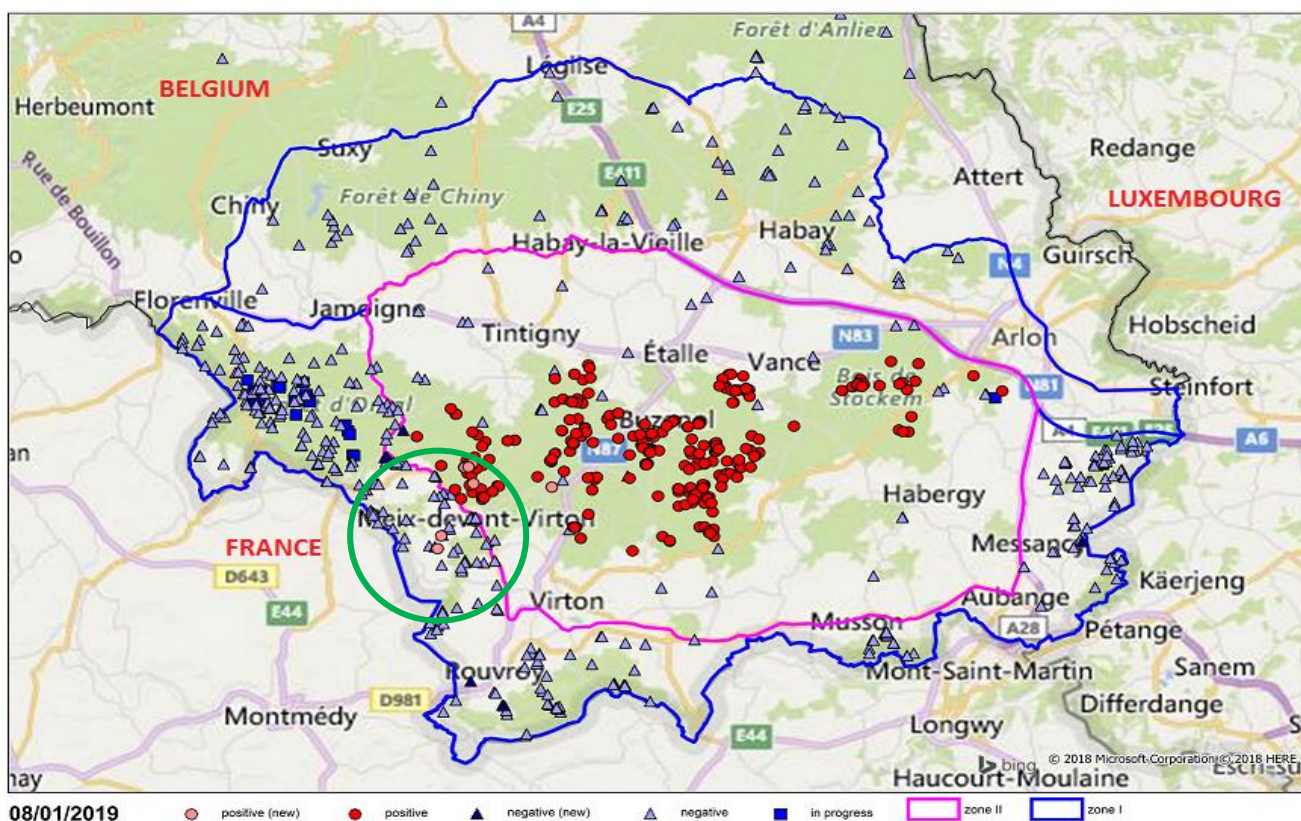
16TH January 2019

Belgium – Wild Boar

As detailed in the last update of 14 September 2018, the first case of African swine fever (ASF) was confirmed in wild boar in the Etalle region of South Belgium on 13th September 2018. The control zones established by the Belgian veterinary authorities are comprised of two separate zones. Zone II (pink perimeter) is a high risk zone where infected wild boar have been found. Zone I (blue perimeter) is an outer observation or vigilance zone where until recently no infection was found but increased control and surveillance measures are implemented (see Map 1 below).

Hunting of wild boar is prohibited in the inner Zone II and access to the forests in this area is limited to searches for wild boar carcasses. Activities such as the harvesting of timber is either banned in some parts or strictly controlled in other areas of Zone II. Since the first case of ASF was reported in Belgium a total of 390 wild boar have been tested in this inner infected zone of which 294 were found to be positive (red dots on map). In the outer zone (Zone I) all wild boar carcasses either found dead or hunted have been tested for ASF. Until recently all were found to be negative. **However, on the 8th January 2019, two hunted wild boar found in zone I between the fenced inner zone II and the French border also tested positive (pink dots on map). This raises increased concerns about the possibility of further spread into France through the movement of wild boar.** France is currently free of ASF.

Map 1: ASF in wild boar in Belgium 8th January 2019 (Source: Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain)



Belgium – Domestic Pigs

There have been no outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Belgium. All pigs within zone II and the southern and south western part of zone I were culled following the detection of disease in wild boar and repopulation of these farms is prohibited. There are increased levels of surveillance in the domestic pig sector nationally in conjunction with other control measures such as:

- the banning of all marts or gatherings for pigs
- direct transport requirements for pigs from source to final destination
- prohibition of contact with domestic pigs for 72 hours where there has been contact with wild boar e.g. hunting
- the keeping of pigs outdoors is prohibited unless the farm perimeter is double fenced
- increased levels of biosecurity on pig farms.

Other Parts of the European Union

TABLE: AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN EU MEMBER STATES 2016 -2018*

Country	ASF in Domestic Pigs			ASF in Wild Boar		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	161
Bulgaria	0	0	1	0	0	5
Romania	0	2	1163	0	0	170
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	202	28
Estonia	6	3	0	1052	637	230
Latvia	3	8	10	865	947	685
Lithuania	19	30	51	303	1328	1443
Poland	20	81	109	80	741	2438
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	138
TOTAL	48	124	1334	2300	3855	5298

* Excludes Sardinia

The table above summarises the situation with ASF in the EU in the last 3 years. The large increase in the overall number of outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs during 2018 is attributable to the rapid spread of the disease amongst small pig holdings in Romania with the occasional outbreak in large commercial units there also. There have also been increases in the number of outbreaks in Eastern European Member States such as Poland, Latvia and Lithuania in both domestic pig and wild boar.

Hungary and Bulgaria also confirmed their first cases of ASF in wild boar in 2018. The outbreaks in both Hungary and Belgium represent large geographical jumps of the disease and it is thought that food waste discarded by people and subsequently consumed by wild boar was the cause of introduction to both countries.

China

ASF continues to spread across China since it was first confirmed there on 3rd August 2018. The disease currently affects 23 provinces in China. Chinese authorities have introduced control measures which include the banning of feeding swill to pigs. Epidemiological studies carried out in China concluded that from a group of 68 outbreaks 3 main causes of disease spread were identified: 46% indirect spread by vehicles and workers, 34% directly by swill feeding, and 19% by transport of infected live pigs and their products across regions (*Source: FAO United Nations*).

Map 2: ASF in China 14th January 2019



Mongolia

On 10th January 2019 government authorities in Mongolia confirmed its first case of ASF in a backyard pig farm containing 85 animals located in the central province of Bulgan.

Disease Prevention

Pig farmers big and small should be vigilant to the threat of ASF and:

- Be aware of the clinical signs of ASF and consult your vet or contact your local [DAFM - Regional Veterinary Offices](#) or the National Disease Hotline at **1800 200 456**.
- Ensure that pigs particularly backyard or outdoor farmed pigs do not get access to rubbish or waste food products.
- Implement stringent biosecurity on your premises including ensuring that unauthorised persons do not have access to your pigs at any time.
- If they employ personnel from affected countries they should discuss the issue with them, asking them not bring back food products. If personnel have visited pig farms or been engaged in wild boar hunting in affected countries they should avoid contact with pigs here for at least 72 hours and ensure that any clothing that might have been used on farms in the affected country is not used on farms here.

Biosecurity and disease information along with posters, leaflets and guidelines for vets and both commercial and non-commercial farmers are available on the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine website - [DAFM - African Swine Fever](#).

National Disease Control Centre and Border Inspection Posts Division