

UPDATE ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

13th August 2018

CHINA

Chinese authorities reported that an outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) had occurred in the country on 3rd August. The outbreak occurred in domestic pigs in the Liaoning region in the Northeast of the country (see map). It is the first time that the disease has been found in China. The source of the outbreak has not yet been reported but the location of the outbreak represents a large geographical jump of the disease as the nearest known area of infection is in Central Russia. Authorities have introduced control measures in the area such as the culling of infected and susceptible animals. China is the largest producer of pork in the world. It is estimated that over half of all pigs in the world live there. It is also home to a population of wild boar but it is not yet known if they have been infected with the African swine fever virus.



EUROPE

Romania

The EU Commission Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) carried out an epidemiological investigation as a result of the dramatic increase in the number of outbreaks in the Tulcea region of Southeast Romania near the Ukrainian border in the past few months. The investigation suggested that large numbers of wild boar had crossed the Danube delta which is a large marshy area which is difficult to monitor and control. Most of the outbreaks have occurred in backyard pig holdings which in general have low levels of biosecurity. CVET has recommended that changes in legislation to increase biosecurity measures and allow for pre-emptive culling of susceptible animals are introduced in Romania in order to curtail the spread of the disease. ASF outbreaks have also occurred in a few large commercial farms with one farm containing 43800 pigs affected. It is not yet known how the virus entered this farm which contained separate breeding and fattening units and its own slaughterhouse where the disease was detected. Pigmeat originating from this farm had been exported to 3 other EU Members States including the UK, Spain and Italy where it was traced and destroyed. Bulgarian authorities intend to construct a border fence with Romania in addition to increased border checks on personal luggage for pigmeat products and information campaigns to try to prevent entry of the disease to that country.

African swine fever in the EU 2018 (01/01/18 to 05/08/18)*

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	05/08/2018	619	03/08/2018	21	640
Czech Republic	N/A	0	19/04/2018	28	28
Estonia	N/A	0	03/08/2018	190	190
Latvia	02/08/2018	8	03/08/2018	482	490
Lithuania	04/08/2018	40	04/08/2018	1133	1173
Poland	04/08/2018	83	04/08/2018	1743	1826
Hungary	N/A	0	03/08/2018	29	29
TOTAL		750		3626	4376

*Excludes Italy

African swine fever situation in the rest of the European Union

There have been further outbreaks of ASF in both wild boar and domestic pigs in other affected Member States some involving large commercial farms. The most recent commercial farm outbreak occurred in Lithuania on 7th August in a breeding unit containing approximately 19500 pigs. The total number of outbreaks in domestic pig farms in the EU in the first seven months of 2018 (750) has already surpassed the total number of outbreaks for all of 2017 which numbered 265 in total. This is largely due to the incursion of the disease into Romania and also a slight increase in the number of cases in Poland.

DISEASE AWARENESS

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has produced a multilingual poster for people who work on or visit Irish pig farms informing them of the risks of bringing pigmeat or pigmeat products such as sausages, salami etc. into Ireland from affected or high risk areas of Europe. The poster is translated into six languages including Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Czech and Romanian. It is available to view and download from the Animal Health and Welfare Section of the Department website in both the disease control section at [DAFM - African Swine Fever](#) and the biosecurity section at [DAFM - Biosecurity](#).

Advice concerning African swine fever is also available for livestock transporters and this information leaflet is also available to download from the Department website in the Trade in Live Animals/Poultry Section [DAFM - Animal Health & Welfare](#) and the [DAFM - African Swine Fever](#) section.

Herdowners are reminded to familiarise themselves with the clinical signs of ASF and preventative measures that can be taken to prevent the disease. Information material regarding African swine fever and biosecurity measures to prevent disease entry can be found the DAFM website as outlined above.