

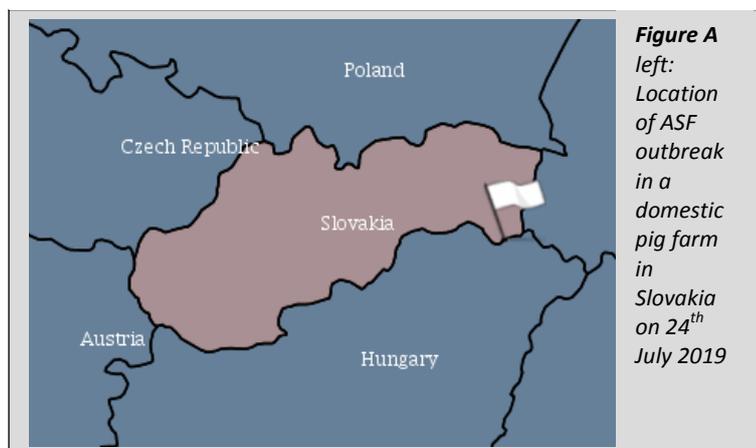
UPDATE ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

29TH July 2019

Slovakia

Slovakia reported its first case of African swine fever (ASF) on 24th July in a small domestic pig farm containing four fattening pigs. The affected farm is located within 500 metres of the Hungarian border. This border area of Hungary has reported several cases of ASF in wild boar since January 2019. Slovakian veterinary authorities are introducing 3km and 10km restriction zones surrounding the affected holding and applying control measures in line with Council Directive 2002/60/EC.

Slovakia has been carrying out surveillance for ASF in wild boar that are hunted, found sick or dead with all tests returning negative results. The outbreak in a domestic pig farm with no infection in the surrounding wild boar population is a concern and investigations are ongoing as to the cause of the outbreak.



Rest of EU

Table 1: Chronology of African swine fever Genotype II in the European Union

Country	Year 1 st detected	Swine affected	Currently Affected Yes/No
Lithuania (1 st incursion into EU)	2014	Domestic pigs & wild boar	Yes
Latvia, Estonia and Poland	2014	Domestic pigs & wild boar	Yes
Czech Republic - wild boar	2017	Wild boar only	No
Romania - domestic pigs	2017	Domestic pigs & wild boar	Yes
Hungary	2018	Wild boar only	Yes
Bulgaria	2018	Domestic pigs & wild boar	Yes
Belgium	2018	Wild boar only	Yes
Slovakia	2019	Domestic pigs only	Yes

The outbreak in Slovakia brings the total number of EU Member States that have been affected by this strain of the ASF virus (genotype II) to ten – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Belgium and Slovakia. Czech Republic has successfully eradicated ASF from the wild boar population and official restrictions were lifted in April 2019 (see Table 1 above). In Sardinia a different strain of the ASF virus (genotype I) has been endemic since the 1980's but the disease has never spread to mainland Italy.

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)
Belgium	N/A	0	18/07/2019	478
Bulgaria	26/07/2019	22	23/07/2019	20
Romania	28/07/2019	553	26/07/2019	334
Estonia	N/A	0	24/07/2019	55
Latvia	05/07/2019	1	26/07/2019	195
Lithuania	24/07/2019	12	25/07/2019	320
Poland	26/07/2019	30	25/07/2019	1434
Hungary	N/A	0	26/07/2019	786
Ukraine	23/07/2019	27	25/07/2019	9
Sardinia	25/01/2019	1	11/04/2019	26
Slovakia	24/07/2019	1	N/A	0
TOTAL		647		3657

ASF has been found in the wild boar populations of all affected Member States in 2019 with the exception of Slovakia (see Table 2 above). No outbreaks in the domestic pig sector have occurred in Hungary since the disease was first reported there in 2018 and Estonia have had not reported any domestic pig outbreaks since 2017.

Belgium reported its first case of ASF in wild boar in the Etalle region of the south of the country on 13th September 2018 which represented a large geographical jump of the disease. Belgian authorities introduced a range of control measures including fencing of the affected area, increased surveillance and targeted hunting of wild boar and restrictions on forest and recreational activities. In addition to applying the control measures outlined in the EU regionalisation legislation (Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU) the Belgian authorities also culled in excess of 4000 pigs to prevent the disease spreading to the domestic pig sector. There have been no reported cases of ASF in domestic pigs in Belgium and the disease has largely been confined to wild boar in the original affected area.

Asia

ASF continues to spread through Southeast Asia since the disease was first reported in China in August 2018. The disease can now be found in Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, North Korea, Hong Kong and Laos.

Since August 2018, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) in China has reported 149 outbreaks of ASF dispersed throughout 32 provinces of the country. More than 1,160,000 pigs have been culled in China in an effort to control the disease.



Vietnam has reported outbreaks in domestic pig farms throughout the country since it was first reported on 19th February 2019. Since then Vietnamese government authorities have reportedly culled 3,700,000 pigs and introduced new control measures on the transport of pigs whereby pigs from epidemic zones must be tested for ASF and undertake a quarantine period prior to transport.

Hong Kong reported its first case of ASF in a slaughter plant on 10th May 2019 and no further outbreaks have been reported to date. Cambodia, Laos and North Korea have all reported ASF for the first time in domestic pig farms located close to the borders of affected countries since March 2019.

Conclusion

The outbreak in Slovakia does not materially change the risk for Ireland. The illegal importation of meat infected with the ASF virus and subsequent feeding to pigs remains the main risk pathway for the introduction of ASF into Ireland. DAFM is currently undertaking a review of border controls in relation to the prevention of exotic animal disease entry into Ireland.

DAFM would like to remind all pig owners that it is illegal to feed food waste (swill) such as kitchen scraps or catering waste to pigs. In addition, all pig owners should take measures on their holding to ensure that pigs kept outdoors cannot get inadvertent access to food waste e.g. secure bins located away from pigs.

Farm personnel should be made aware of this risk and if returning from ASF affected countries should be asked not to bring back pork products. Furthermore, personnel who may have visited pig farms or engaged in wild boar hunting in ASF affected countries 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.

Funding is currently available to all commercial pig farmers, through the Targeted Advisory Service for Animal Health (TASAH) mechanism, to have a comprehensive and objective 'Biocheck.UGent' biosecurity review carried out on their farms by a trained private veterinary practitioner. This service is *free of charge* to pig farmers. Farmers are encouraged to contact their private veterinary practitioner or Animal Health Ireland (AHI) to avail of this free service.

It is imperative that all pig owners are registered with DAFM. Pig owners must have obtained a pig herd number in order to legally own or trade in pigs. Any suspected illegal trading of pigs or illegal swill feeding should be reported to the local Regional Veterinary Office where they can be investigated.

Pig farmers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the [clinical signs](#) of ASF and report any suspicious illness or deaths to your vet or contact your local DAFM Regional Veterinary Office or the National Disease Hotline at **1800 200 456**.

Biosecurity and disease information along with posters, leaflets and guidelines for vets and both commercial and non-commercial farmers are available on the [African swine fever page](#) of the DAFM website.