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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

National Disease Control Centre
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African Swine Fever in Mainland Italy

- Italy has confirmed the first case of African swine fever (ASF) in a wild boar carcass on the Italian mainland on 7th January 2022
- The Italian National Reference laboratory for African swine fever in Perugia confirmed the presence of the African swine fever virus found in the Municipality of Ovada, in the Province of Alessandria (Piemonte Region)
- The strain has been identified as ASF Genotype II virus which is the same genotype first detected in the EU in 2014 and currently present in 9 other EU Member states (see table 1 below) and several Eastern European countries
- ASF has been endemic on Sardinia since 1978 but has been confined to the island. However, Sardinia has been affected by a different genotype of the ASF virus – ASF Genotype I
- Italian veterinary authorities are carrying out an epidemiological enquiry have begun to carry out surveillance in the wild boar population in the region
- There has been no movement of live pigs into Ireland from Italy in the past six months

Figure 1: Location of African swine fever case in wild boar in mainland Italy 7th January 2022 (courtesy of Animal Disease Information System (ADIS))

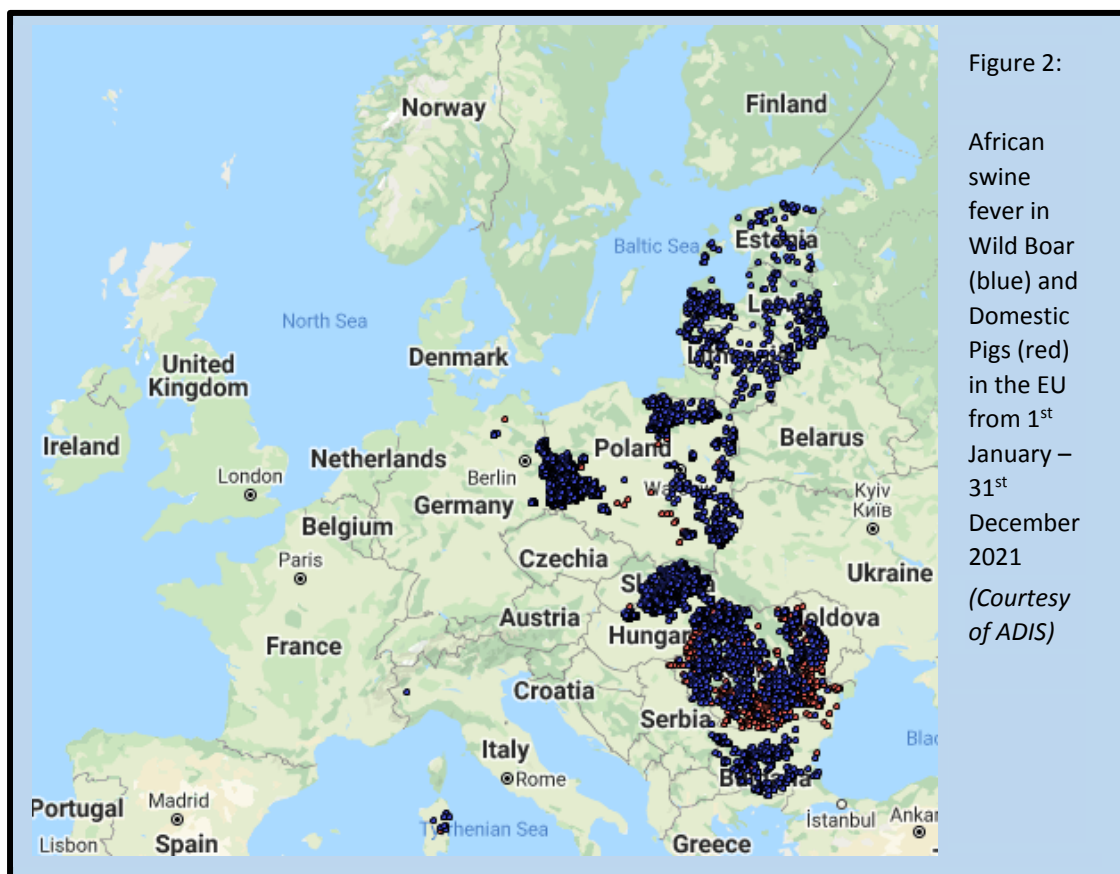


Rest of Europe – Current Situation

- Since ASF first entered Lithuania in 2014, a total of 13 EU Member States have been affected by the disease. Czech Republic and Belgium are the only two Member States who have successfully eradicated ASF from the wild boar population. Greece confirmed outbreaks in domestic pigs only in 2020 and was successful in preventing further spread of the disease.
- Germany confirmed its fourth outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs in a commercial fattening pig farm containing 4218 pigs in the province of Mecklenburg West Pomerania on 15th November 2021. Surveillance carried out in the area surrounding the outbreak has not detected the presence of ASF in wild boar in this part of Germany (see map in figure 2)
- Romania reported the highest number of domestic pig outbreaks in 2021 with a total of 1,665 pig herds affected. Lithuania and Hungary did not detect any ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs in 2021 but continue to report cases in wild boar
- North Macedonia confirmed its first outbreak of ASF in a domestic pig herd comprising 18 pigs on 6th January 2022. ASF continues to be reported in other parts of Eastern Europe and the Balkan region including Russia, Moldova, Ukraine and Serbia
- The EU has legislation in place to prevent the spread of ASF within and between Member States through the implementation of control measures on the movement of pigs and pig products and prohibits the movement of wild boar between Member States (Commission Implementing Decision 2021/605)

Table 1: African swine fever in the European Union (1st January - 31st December 2021)				
Country	Date of Last Outbreak in Domestic Pigs	ASF Domestic Pigs No. Outbreaks	Date of Last Cases in Wild Boar	No. of ASF Wild Boar Events Involving 1 or More Animals
Bulgaria	05/11/2021	6	10/12/2021	318
Estonia	14/07/2021	1	28/12/2021	71
Germany	16/11/2021	4	30/12/2021	2525
Hungary	N/A	0	27/12/2021	2584
Italy (Sardinia)	29/12/2021	2	27/12/2021	15
Latvia	11/08/2021	2	30/12/2021	368
Lithuania	N/A	0	31/12/2021	244
Poland	17/12/2021	124	31/12/2021	3221
Romania	30/12/2021	1676	30/12/2021	1059
Slovakia	09/12/2021	11	30/12/2021	1671
TOTAL	-	1826	-	12076

Source: Animal Disease Notification System



Current Situation - Worldwide

- The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) have been promoting the control of ASF for several years and developed a five - year global initiative in 2020 to control ASF which can now be found on four continents – Europe, Asia, Americas and Africa. The initiative established [a Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases \(GF-TADs\)](#) as a platform to develop and promote national, regional and global partnerships and to strengthen disease preparedness measures in an effort to control the disease and prevent further spread

Asia & Pacific

- Government authorities in Thailand have detected the first positive case of ASF in domestic pigs a surface swab sample taken in a pig slaughter plant ([Reuters](#)). Authorities intend to trace the source herd and introduce a 5km disease control zone. Official report of the outbreak to the OIE is pending
- Since ASF first entered China in August 2018, ASF has been confirmed in a total of 16 countries including Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

(North Korea), Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Timor-Leste, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Bhutan and Thailand

- More than 60% of the world's domestic pig population is located in East and Southeast Asia

Americas

- ASF was confirmed during 2021 in both the Dominican Republic and in Haiti which share a land border
- This is the first confirmation of ASF in the Americas in nearly 40 years, with the last known report from the Americas dating from 1982 in Haiti
- ASF was first detected in June in Haiti although it is suspected that the virus may have been circulating for several months

Africa

- Historically, the disease was first described in East Africa in the 1920s. Since 2005 the disease has been reported in 32 African countries and is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. All known genotypes of the ASF virus are believed to be present on the continent. At the time of the entry of Genotype II into Georgia in 2007, it was thought to be present in Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Southern Tanzania.
- In 2021 South Africa reported 39 reports of ASF to the OIE which included 4 immediate notifications of outbreaks in previously uninfected areas of the country. ASF sequencing by South African Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Transboundary Animal Diseases laboratory has identified that both Genotype I and II are active

Risk to Ireland

- ASF continues to spread into new regions such as mainland Italy and Thailand
- Wild boar and feral pigs play an important role in the spread of the disease worldwide
- Ireland does not have a sustainable wild boar or feral pig population
- EU legislation (Article 15 of Commission Delegated Regulation 2021/605) prohibits the trade of wild boar between EU Member States and implements control measures on the movement of live pigs within ASF affected areas of the EU which is a risk factor for the introduction of the disease
- ASF outbreaks in the EU must be reported to the European Commission and there is Animal Health Law legislation in place (Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687) to implement control measures for outbreaks in domestic pigs to prevent further spread

- Food waste infected with the ASF virus being consumed by pigs represents the most significant risk pathway for a disease incursion into Ireland
- Other risk factors include clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment contaminated with the ASF virus

Advice for Pig Owners



NEVER FEED FOOD WASTE TO PIGS

- Food waste (swill) including kitchen waste and catering waste must be disposed of carefully away from livestock. Bins must be located in a secure location and sealed to ensure that vermin, birds or other animals do not carry food waste into areas where pigs are kept
- Pig owners in Ireland are advised to implement biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of an outbreak of the disease in this country such as establishing disinfectant points and implementing a pig-free period of 72 hours for anyone coming from an ASF affected region to prevent the risk of contaminated clothing, footwear, vehicles or equipment coming into contact with pigs
- Vigilance for any unexplained disease patterns or unusual presentations of disease should be maintained. Any suspicions of ASF must be reported to your [Regional Veterinary Office](#) during normal office hours or the National Disease Emergency Hotline at 01 4928026 (outside of normal office hours) without delay
- A dedicated page of useful information including clinical signs of ASF and biosecurity information is available at www.gov.ie/asf

Advice for Travellers

- The ASF virus can survive for a several months in pork and pork products such as sausages, cured meats, smoked meats (meat/meat products can also carry other animal diseases such as Foot & Mouth Disease)
- Do not bring meat products into Ireland from outside the EU, and never bring home pork or pork products if travelling abroad to regions affected by ASF
- Do not bring meat or meat products onto Irish pig farms
- Always use a secure bin to dispose of waste food, so that it cannot be accessed by farm animals, wild animals, or wild birds

Further Information

- Further biosecurity advice, ASF videos, posters and disease updates can be viewed and downloaded from the gov.ie website at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/249e9-african-swine-fever/>

[SGE ASF18 23rd of November 2021 - Teleconference](#)

[African swine fever \(europa.eu\)](#)

[African swine fever - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

References:

[FAO ASF situation update - African Swine Fever \(ASF\) - FAO Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health \(EMPRES-AH\)](#)

European Commission's Animal Disease Information System (ADIS)

[SGE ASF18 23rd of November 2021 - Teleconference](#)

[USDA statement on confirmation of ASF in the Dominican Republic](#)

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